

GIVING TOGETHER
TO CHANGE THE WORLD
ON OUR DOORSTEP



ABOUT US



We're a grant-making charity that helps build strong communities where everyone can thrive. We do this by funding local charities and inspiring and facilitating local giving.

We provide simple, rewarding and impactful ways for donors to give locally, guided by research and our unrivalled local knowledge.

For small, local charities, community groups and social enterprises, we provide over £4 million of funding every year.

By inspiring local giving and funding social action, we support local communities to drive change and realise their dreams.

ABOUT THE SOMERSET FUND



The Somerset Fund is a great way for local people, businesses and charitable trusts to give to small, local charities. Donations to the Fund support a wide range of good causes in every community in Somerset from Wincanton to Watchet.

Every donation is boosted by an **incredible 50%** thanks to matched funding from Somerset Council, so your giving makes an even greater impact.

Since we launched the Fund in 2019, we've awarded over £400,000 of funding to local charities across the county. Our amazing supporters have funded everything from mental health support to youth sports clubs, social clubs for older people and so much more.



WHY SUPPORT THE

SOMERSET FUND?

Small, local charities and community groups are vital in helping those in need, but it's tougher than ever for them to raise the funds they need to keep going. Many are led by volunteers and most run on a very small budget. For them, a small, flexible grant from The Somerset Fund makes a huge difference and goes a long way.

By donating to The Somerset Fund, you'll support the unsung heroes who give their time, talent and expertise to build strong communities where everyone can thrive.

We'll share an annual Impact Report and regular email updates so you'll be able to read about difference you're making.

IMPACT STORY: SOMERSET AFRICAN CARIBBEAN NETWORK

“The funding we’ve received will enable us to reach out to residents in Somerset who may be experiencing isolation. We’re developing resources that offer insight into the African Caribbean experience, including a website to help us connect with more people and share stories. We’re planning to deliver a programme of events and activities that instil pride in our heritage, culture and legacy that are accessible, cross cultural, cross generational and improve community cohesion – and we need funding to bring that alive.



Thanks to our grant, more people will learn about our culture and gain a better understanding of the legacy and contribution we’ve made.”

Susann Savidge, Somerset African Caribbean Network

GIVING THROUGH YOUR BUSINESS

“As a business, we’ve often supported local sports clubs and schools, but we’ve struggled to identify local needs. We found SCF in 2019 through their Surviving Winter appeal and have supported them ever since, becoming supporters of The Somerset Fund in 2023.

There’s never been a more urgent need for organisations like SCF to connect local supporters with their communities to help them make a difference. We’re confident that our regular donation supports a wide range of local charities and we get opportunities to get involved and regular updates about the impact of our support.”

**Julia Pascu, Director,
Finger on the Pulse Research Ltd.**



Many small businesses tell us they like giving through The Somerset Fund because they know their donations are making a difference on a very local level.

As a supporter of The Somerset Fund you’ll benefit from a range of opportunities that celebrate local giving and bring like-minded people together:

- **Regular updates to bring your support to life:** you’ll receive regular case studies through our email updates that you can share on social media and with your team.
- **Brand awareness:** alongside our Annual Review, supporters are listed on our website and in our annual Somerset Fund Impact Report, helping to support brand awareness and demonstrate your company’s commitment to supporting local communities.
- **Networking opportunities:** you’ll be invited to our inspiring events where you can meet other SCF supporters and hear from local charities.

HOW YOUR DONATION CHANGES LIVES

IMPACT STORY: NORTH TAUNTON PARTNERSHIP

North Taunton Partnership is the charity that runs Priorswood Community Centre, supporting some of the most disadvantaged people in the local community. Manager Lesley Council told us how a £2,000 grant from The Somerset Fund supported their work.

“At the centre, we’re here for all residents of North Taunton, young and old alike; we’re totally inclusive. We have all sorts of social and educational activities: Lunch Club, Tai Chi, Menopause Support, Bereavement Support, Knit and Natter, Digital Support...the list goes on!

Our grant from The Somerset Fund supported our Pride in Priorswood Summer Youth Activities last year. Our summer holidays activities started 15 years ago, when we noticed there were young families that had nothing to do in the summer months. So we brought a few footballs along to the park, and it’s just grown organically over the years into what we have now.



Many families are unable to go on family days out or holidays. Our summer activities event is open access and runs for 5 weeks over the summer holidays and we have themed weeks, such as crafts, sports, activities, music and more. It brings the community together and no one has to pay.

Quite often parents and carers tell us it’s a lifeline to them. Parents make connections, and the children make friends from different schools. We see lots of new friendships and people building and strengthening their connections in the community.

Grants like the one we received from The Somerset Fund are hugely important and helps to ensure we’re able to run this hugely popular summer activities programme every year.”

IMPACT STORY: BROMPTON REGIS VILLAGE SHOP

Brompton Regis community shop serves a remote rural village. Chair Christine Cherry told us how a £1,325 grant from The Somerset Fund helped grow what they offer their community.

“Our nearest town is 4 miles away, but there isn’t a bus route so we’re really a remote part of Exmoor. When the village post office closed our community rallied together to set up the village shop, raising money through grant funding and selling shares. We employ a wonderful shop manager, supported by a team of amazing volunteers.

Many of our community are elderly and no longer drive, so the shop is a lifeline. For some customers when they pop into the shop, we may be the only people they see that day. They rely on us for their everyday needs. We also have a prescription delivery twice a week, and act as a foodbank collection point and parish magazine distributors.



Our grant from The Somerset Fund helped cover the costs of creating a warm and welcoming retail and meeting space, especially during the cold and wet winter months. We’ve brought our outside tables and chairs inside to offer people a space to meet, have a hot drink and a chat. And we’re buying a microwave so we can heat up pasties, soup and other snacks.

A village needs a shop and a pub; they are the heart of a village community. The Somerset Fund grant has helped keep our vital community facility alive.”

SUPPORT THE SOMERSET FUND TODAY

Join our community of generous people who want to change the world on their doorstep. Your gift will help small, local charities change lives at a time when their support is more needed than ever.

YOU DONATE
£1,000

IT BECOMES
£1,250
WITH GIFT AID

WITH MATCHED
FUNDING,
IT BECOMES
£1,875

- Every penny you give will make an even bigger difference thanks to matched funding of 50% on every donation.
- If you'd like to become a supporter of The Somerset Fund, or find out more about our work, please get in touch with **Fiona Foster, Senior Philanthropy Manager** on 01749 597128 or e-mail fiona.foster@somersetcf.org.uk

➤ Donate online today: somersetcf.org.uk/thesomersetfund ◀

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