

DIRECTING FUNDS

DRIVING CHANGE

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WELCOME FROM OUR CHAIR AND CEO

The stories in this report showcase the importance of community. Its spaces, its leaders, its services – and the real impact of what happens when people come together. We hope they leave you feeling as hopeful and inspired as they do us.

Across Somerset, local people are changing the world on their doorstep. They're running activities to help people feel less alone, creating opportunities for young people to build their future, supporting families through difficult times and helping communities feel strong for the benefit of all.

Thanks to you, this year we awarded more than £6.2 million to hundreds of local groups and individuals in every corner of Somerset – helping local people find brilliant ways to support their neighbours.

This report tells the story behind your support. It's also the first time we've reported our impact against our 10-year strategy, 'Strong Roots, Shared Futures'. We're showing not just what we've funded, but how it's helping us deliver the commitments we've made to Somerset's communities.

The organisations we support are incredibly diverse, but they share something important: they're rooted in their communities and led by local people who understand the unique challenges in their neighbourhoods. They're often the first to spot local problems – and the first to find practical solutions. They're also among the first to respond in an emergency, as we saw after the Exmoor coach crash in July 2025, when we launched the Together for West Somerset appeal.

The stories in this report showcase the importance of community. Its spaces, its leaders, its services – and the real impact of what happens when people come together. We hope they leave you feeling as hopeful and inspired as they do us.

Our work isn't only for today and we're determined to make sure

we're building the foundations for future generations too. This year, 4 charitable trusts – some centuries old – were transferred into our care, leading to a record year of growth for our endowment fund, which powers so much of our grant-making. You can read about one of these – the Bishop Fox's Educational Foundation – later in this report.

Finally, we'd like to thank everyone who makes this work possible. To our supporters, donors, fundholders and partners, thank you for your generosity and trust. To our Trustees and staff, thank you for your commitment to ensuring every pound entrusted to us creates the greatest possible impact.

Together, we're creating stronger communities across Somerset – now and for generations to come.




 ◀ Michael Samuel MBE
 Chair


 Justin Sargent OBE DL ▶
 Chief Executive



OUR IMPACT: GROWING PHILANTHROPY FOR SOMERSET

HIGHLIGHTS

8

New funds created

£4.1m

Secured for immediate impact

£6.4m

Added to our endowment for long-term support

WHAT OUR SUPPORTERS SAY

Mulberry



“

“It’s a highly effective and approachable way to give with purpose. They take the time to understand the business values and translate that into a genuinely impactful approach. It means you can focus on what you want to achieve, knowing your funding is being distributed thoughtfully and responsibly.”

Rosie Wollacott,
Head of Group Sustainability at Mulberry



“

“I feel it’s important that other groups of people, who are less provided for, through no fault of their own, can also receive help and benefit from my estate. Somerset Community Foundation can do that for me. That’s why I’m leaving a legacy gift in my Will.”

John,
Fundholder and Legacy Pledger

OUR IMPACT: FUNDING COMMUNITIES

The groups we fund typically have an annual income of £35,000. Our typical grant of £4,600 is worth more than 10% of that – often the difference between a group scaling back its services and continuing to support local people.

The numbers tell one part of the story. Every grant supports a local group or individual to continue vital work – reaching people facing hardship, isolation and disadvantage in towns and villages right across the county.

THE BIG PICTURE

£6.2m

Overall funding awarded

19%

Supported most deprived areas, home to 8% of Somerset

253

Grants awarded to individuals

85

Different Funds made awards

49%

Supported rural communities

£500

Typical grant size to individuals

GRANTS TO GROUPS

532

Grants awarded to groups

£4.6k

Typical grant size to groups

£35k

Typical annual income of a funded group

TRANSPARENCY WITH OUR DATA

We publish every grant we make through 360Giving, helping make grants data more open so funders, charities and researchers can better understand where funding is making a difference.

Find out more: somersetcf.org.uk/open

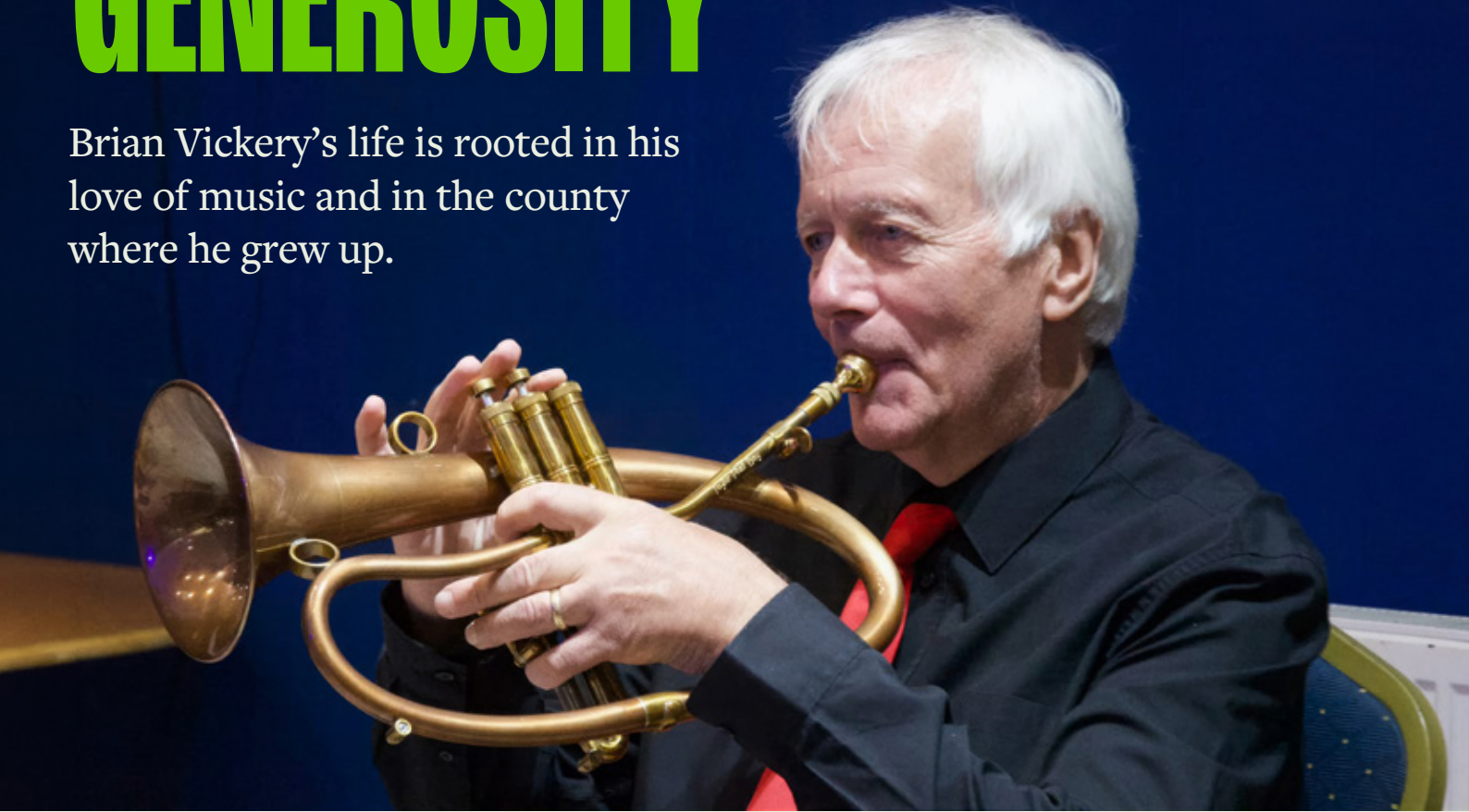


THINKING GLOBAL, ACTING LOCAL

Together with our own research and insight, the relevant UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) help guide how we distribute funding and demonstrate our impact.

MEET THE FUNDHOLDER: A STORY OF LOCAL GENEROSITY

Brian Vickery's life is rooted in his love of music and in the county where he grew up.



Born into a farm worker's family near Crewkerne, Brian spent the first years of his life on a farm until his family was made homeless when he was 14. Money was tight but the opportunity to join a local brass band aged 11 offered Brian and his brother a chance to travel and left them with a lifelong love for music.

Decades later, Brian established a Forever Fund with Somerset Community Foundation inspired by his love of music, with the funds carefully invested to provide reliable funding

every year for local musicians and community music groups.

Over the past year alone, the Vickery Fund has awarded £3,500 to 4 Somerset groups using music to bring communities together, with half of its funding also dedicated to supporting amateur music groups in Dorset.

The Fund supports everything from instruments and performances to workshops and training – with priority given to smaller organisations that might otherwise struggle to access funding.

MUSIC CAN UNITE A COMMUNITY

We spoke to Brian about his passion for music and what led him to set up his Fund.

“

“For 2 young boys from a farm in Somerset, joining the band was eye-opening. Most of the youngsters in the band I played in came from the council estates in Crewkerne. None of us came from affluent backgrounds but several of those youngsters went on to build successful careers and businesses around the world. For others lifelong friendships were formed.”

“When I think about what I’d like to help with, one thing is supporting young people whose families might not otherwise be able to afford music tuition. The other is about bringing people together. At a time when there’s so much discussion around immigration, I think music can be a powerful way to help people feel part of a community.”



HOW SCF EASED THE PROCESS

Brian’s decision to set up a charitable fund felt overwhelming, until he discovered the work of community foundations.

“

“Initially, I looked at setting up a trust myself. But once you start looking at what’s involved – finding trustees, doing the accounts, all the bureaucratic stuff one has to do – I wasn’t looking for another business at this point in my life.”

“Somerset Community Foundation takes away the personal responsibility, but you still have a say over where the money goes. There was a lot more flexibility than I expected.”

“I think a lot of people plan to leave money in their Will, rather than give while they’re still alive. What I’ve found, for my own peace of mind, is that it’s been good to set up the Fund now – because you can fine-tune it as you go.”

WHAT THE FUND MEANS FOR THE FUTURE

“

“It’s about giving back to groups like the ones that helped me. I hope that in 50 years’ time, there’ll still be money going towards brass bands and other music groups, paying for instruments, so amateur music continues in Somerset and Dorset.”

The Vickery Fund recently awarded a £1,000 grant to the North Curry Music Festival, which provided a platform for around 100 musicians to perform. The festival helped build the confidence of those taking part, while bringing the wider community together through the shared experience of live music.

FEELING INSPIRED?

Support the local people, places and causes that matter to you. Visit: somersetcf.org.uk/giving

GROWING IDEAS, BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES



This theme funds community-led ideas that help neighbourhoods thrive.

£1.01m

Funding awarded

63

Grants to groups

Every strong community starts with people who have an idea and the drive to make it happen.

In Somerset, fewer than 1 in 10 people take part in community action at least once a year (Community Life Survey, 2024/25). By backing local ideas, we're helping more people shape the places they live and build stronger, more connected communities.

➤ In Highbridge, Sedgemoor Community Partnership received £77,276 to run a community hub, warm space and targeted support for local people.

➤ In Chard, £58,900 helped Chard Community Hub provide year-round support while training volunteers to strengthen local capacity.

➤ In Bridgwater, £53,335 enabled Fuse Performance's Streetlinkz project to bring young people

together through creative arts, building confidence and connection.

➤ In Frome, Back to Nature received £5,000 to run a mentorship programme to share community growing skills, improving wellbeing and social connection.

Whether it's a community hub, a youth project or volunteer training, these grants all have one thing in common: they empower local people to lead change. By investing in ideas that come from the community itself, we're helping create stronger, more resilient places for the future.

Sustainable
Development
Goals:





HOW JESS IS CHANGING CREWKERNE

Communities are shaped by people with ideas and a deep understanding of the places they call home. Jess Wright is one of them.

Jess first got to know Crewkerne as a student. Years later, after moving back to Somerset from Bristol, she returned to the town as a fundraiser for what's now Open Doors Somerset, a community hub offering essential activities and services to local people.

Crewkerne has historically received relatively little funding attention. That's changing. Since 2023, we've awarded £69,766 through 23 grants across the town, and Jess has played a central role in that shift.

When she joined Open Doors Somerset, the organisation had no permanent home. Jess has since helped secure 6 grants for the charity, while helping spark wider community investment.

◀ Open Doors Somerset

A HUB FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY

In January, Open Doors Somerset opened a permanent hub in the heart of Crewkerne.

“Without SCF’s support, the hub simply wouldn’t exist. We couldn’t have turned the lights on, heated the space or offered free meals without funding,” Jess says.

“The number of people the hub supports each month has more than doubled, from around 150 to over 400.”

Alongside a community fridge, chat café, healthy eating sessions and a repair hub, the space has become somewhere people can drop in with almost any question – from local travel advice to immigration support or help navigating healthcare.

SPARKING A MOVEMENT

For Jess, the hub is one example of what happens when people come together around a shared vision for their town.

She points to Flagship Crewkerne, a new project delivered with Creative Crewkerne, where people choose a building or site and create a flag reflecting its past, present or future.

“It’s an example of what’s possible when a community believes in its own future,” Jess says. “Over 40 schools, businesses, community groups and artists have taken part – it’s been great to see that shared passion for our town’s heritage.”

“My hope is for residents to feel real pride in where they live – and every project we run is helping us get there.”



Jess Wright,
Development Manager and Fundraiser
for Open Doors Somerset

SPACES WHERE COMMUNITY HAPPENS

This theme funds the places where communities come together.

£1.90m

Funding awarded

72

Grants to groups

A village hall. A skate park. A church that doubles as a food bank. The places where people gather are often the quiet backbone of a community. Research shows that communities with more places to meet and connect have better health outcomes, less social isolation and stronger local economies.

By investing in community spaces, we're helping create places where people can connect, belong and thrive.

➤ In Stockland Bristol, £359,069 is helping St Mary Magdalene Church become a new community hub.

➤ South West Heritage Trust received £62,164 to improve access to its sites, so more people can enjoy Somerset's heritage.

➤ In Highbridge, £54,950 helped Burnham BMX Club repair and resurface its track, keeping it safe and open for local riders.

➤ In Exmoor, £5,000 went towards a new Rural Health Hub, facilitating medical appointments and healthcare for the farming and rural community on Exmoor.

Whether it's a village hall, a heritage site or a BMX track, these spaces do more than house activity – they make it possible. By investing in the places that bring people together, we're helping strengthen communities for years to come.

▼ Burnham BMX Club

Sustainable
Development
Goals:

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES





▲ Oakleaf Community Café at Ashwick and Oakhill Village Hall

PROTECTING THE PLACES PEOPLE RELY ON

This year, we awarded almost £200,000 in energy efficiency grants to 15 community buildings across Somerset. From village halls in Ashwick, Litton and Halse to community centres in Taunton, Bridgwater and Burnham-on-Sea. The upgrades are expected to save each building at least £500 a year – freeing up more money for local activities and services.

At Ashwick and Oakhill Village Hall, a £15,000 grant for solar panels now supplies around 80% of the building's electricity during the warmer months, saving almost £1,000 a year.



“

“Being as rural as we are means we’re the only space the community can depend on. The solar panels have taken the pressure off rising costs and given us the freedom to think about how we reinvest – giving us security and hope for the future.”

Caroline Ambrose,
Ashwick and Oakhill Village Hall



REACHING PEOPLE WHO NEED US MOST

This theme funds essential services that people rely on.

£2.48m

Funding awarded

128

Grants to groups

Some of the people facing the hardest circumstances in Somerset are also the least visible – coping quietly, often without knowing what support exists or how to reach it.

Behind Somerset's rural, picture-postcard image, around 49,000 people live in communities ranked among the 20% most deprived nationally.

This year, our funding helped essential services reach people when they needed them most.

➤ In Hamp, Bridgwater, £173,200 helped create a new games area, install solar panels and provide winter support for local families.

➤ The Nelson Trust received £96,407 to run a winter warm space for women alongside its exploitation support work.

➤ Somewhere House Somerset received £95,000 to provide targeted community support and warm space activities for people facing crisis.

➤ In Chard, £9,400 helped Chard CommuniTea Waffle to provide a warm space, meal deliveries for the housebound and a Christmas meal for the Chard community in winter.

Whether it's a hot meal, a safe space or transport to a GP appointment, these organisations are often the first – and sometimes the only – place people turn. By backing them, we're helping ensure support reaches people when it matters most.

Sustainable
Development
Goals:

1 NO
POVERTY



3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES





▲ Wivey Link

KEEPING RURAL COMMUNITIES CONNECTED

In an area with almost no bus services, Wivey Link in Wiveliscombe helps people who can't drive – including older people and people living with disabilities – get to GP appointments, hospital visits, shops and see friends.

We awarded them £5,000 this year, adding to more than £45,000 in grants since 2010.

The service now travels around 55,000 miles a year, completing more than 2,500 medical journeys and 586 shopping trips.

WHAT IT MEANS TO PEOPLE

“Looking after someone with early-stage dementia can be extremely stressful and anxious, especially if you're not nearby. Knowing that Wivey Link takes some of that pressure away is invaluable.”

Mary, whose mother has used Wivey Link since 2022

WHAT OUR FUNDHOLDERS SAY

“We set up a Fund with Somerset Community Foundation in memory of my parents, who farmed on Exmoor for most of their lives. In later years they were unable to drive but relied on friends and neighbours. Wivey Link, which we've supported through our Fund, is an excellent example of how communities help local people maintain their independence.”

Mary Smallwood, Fundholder



HELPING PEOPLE MOVE FORWARD

£850k

Funding awarded
to groups

30

Grants to groups

£232k

Funding awarded
to individuals

262

Grants to individuals

This theme funds individuals and organisations to overcome practical barriers and create new opportunities.

For some people in Somerset, the biggest obstacle to moving forward isn't a single crisis, but something practical – no bike to get to work, no equipment for a hobby, or no support to build independence.

Somerset faces significant challenges around social mobility, with people in some communities facing fewer opportunities to get ahead. By removing practical barriers, we're helping people build confidence, independence and the future they want.

➤ Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership received £119,620 for winter support grants, its Fit for Work programme and sports mentoring, helping young people build skills and confidence.

➤ On Your Bike received £82,900 to provide bicycle vouchers and run its Green Pathways project in Bridgwater, helping people access work, training and their communities.

➤ Ups and Downs Southwest received £52,325 for its Pathways to Inclusion programme and support for families of children with Down's syndrome.

➤ DofE Somerset Committee received £7,000 to purchase an all-terrain wheelchair, widening participation for those living with disability and offer employment, education and training opportunities for NEET young people.

Whether it's helping someone reach work, take part in an activity or feel less alone, removing a practical barrier can open up new opportunities. Our funding helps people take their next step towards greater independence.

Sustainable
Development
Goals:

10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



STILL OPENING DOORS AFTER 500 YEARS

Earlier this year, Joshua represented England and competed at the European Taekwon-Do Championships in Crete. A Bishop Fox's Educational Foundation (BFEF) grant helped get him there.

As with many hobbies, financial barriers were limiting the progress Joshua could make. The BFEF grant allowed him to train more consistently and attend competitions across the UK that he might otherwise have missed. Competing regularly gave him the experience to improve and got him noticed and selected for the England Squad.

“

“I want to keep building on my experience, continue improving my Taekwon-Do and compete at a higher level. My goal is to keep representing England and see how far I can take the sport. The funding has helped remove a financial barrier that could otherwise have stopped me from having these opportunities.” Joshua

A FUND WITH 500 YEARS OF HISTORY

BFEF has supported young people like Joshua in the Taunton area since 1991. But its story goes back much further – over 500 years, to a Tudor grammar school endowed by Richard Foxe, Bishop of Winchester.

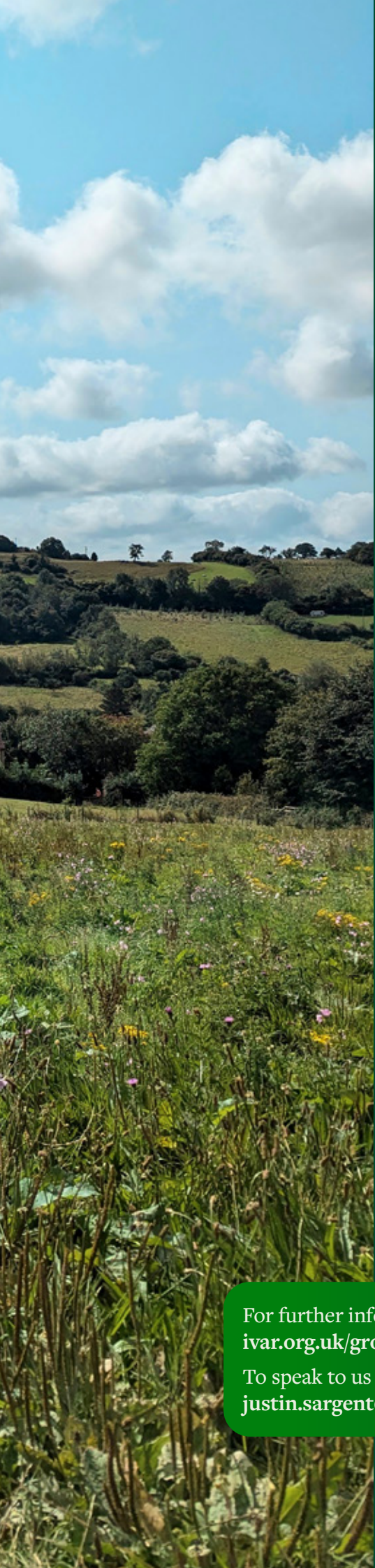
In 2026, BFEF's trustees entrusted us with long-term stewardship of the Fund, worth over £5.3 million, so its support for young people aged 11 to 24 can continue for generations to come.

Each year it awards up to £200,000 across Somerset's former Taunton Deane area. It buys uniforms for children affected by poverty who are starting secondary school, gives bursaries directly to young people to help with the costs of study, apprenticeships, sport and talent, and funds schools and community groups running education, arts and sport projects for young people aged 11 to 24.



PUTTING RURAL COMMUNITIES ON THE MAP





Through our work across Somerset, we've seen first-hand the challenges facing rural communities – from isolation and transport barriers to accessing services and support. But we know these challenges are not unique to Somerset, and there's still much to understand about how effectively philanthropy is reaching rural communities.

That's why we've played a leading role in a new UK-wide research project exploring how philanthropic funding can better support rural communities. While rural philanthropy is well established in North America, there's been no comparable UK-wide analysis to date.

Working in partnership with Devon Community Foundation and the Institute for Voluntary Action Research (IVAR), the project will explore how funding reaches rural areas and what helps or hinders effective grant-making. It'll also look at how philanthropy can respond to rural need – which can often be significant but less visible.

The idea for the research began in 2022, when our Chief Executive Justin Sargent and Dr Nicola Frost of Devon Community Foundation began exploring the

gap in evidence. They shared their early thinking with Community Foundations across the UK and Europe. Working with sector colleagues and stakeholders, they helped develop the framework for the UK's first major study of philanthropy in rural communities.

We're contributing £10,000 to the research, alongside funding from CCLA Investment Management, the Rayne Foundation, The National Lottery Community Fund's Local Trust programme, Welsh Government and Community Foundation Wales.

By working with Devon Community Foundation and IVAR, we're helping to build a stronger evidence base for rural philanthropy across the UK. And while the research is national in scope, we want Somerset to benefit directly from the learning – helping us understand local need, strengthen our own grant-making and make the case for greater investment in our rural communities.

The findings are expected in early 2027. In the meantime, we'll continue to share the work with Community Foundations across the UK and engage with colleagues internationally.

◀ Views towards Croscombe village

For further information, visit:
ivar.org.uk/growing-the-field-rural-philanthropy-in-the-uk
To speak to us about it, contact Justin Sargent:
justin.sargent@somersetcf.org.uk



OUR GRANT-MAKING FOR 2025/26

FUND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND IDEAS

Grants of £5,000 and over	Project description	Amount
able2achieve	Setting up a community repair shop in Yeovil and expanding its reach, helping local people repair and reuse items and develop practical skills	£10,000
Art Care Education	Providing free art sessions for those with learning disabilities in the Somerton area	£6,600
Awe and Wonder (2 grants)	Creative play and storytelling for children and families in Crewkerne	£6,000
Back to Nature	A mentorship programme sharing community growing skills, improving wellbeing and social connection	£5,000
Bridie's Farm	Setting up a community composting loop and recycling hub in Glastonbury	£6,780
Chard Community Hub (5 grants)	Year-round community support, warm space and volunteer training	£58,900
Cultural Arts Development Society	Organising Music in the Park events to bring people together and strengthen connections in Burnham-on-Sea	£5,000
Dunster Festival	Providing cultural learning opportunities for schools in Minehead, Watchet and Dunster	£20,000
Edventure Frome	Piloting and developing The Enterprising People course for adults with learning disabilities and autism	£40,000
Frome Cares CIC	Consultancy support to help a new network of care micro-providers develop its strategy and business plan	£5,000
Fuse Performance (2 grants)	Creative activities and the Streetlinkz project, offering free, community-based youth hubs and family activity sessions in Bridgwater	£53,335
Hardknox boxing CIC	Supporting the development of a Highbridge based community boxing gym	£30,000
Ilminster Share and Repair Project	Expanding a community share and repair service	£11,038
Langport Church Community Trust (4 grants)	Employing a coordinator, contributing to food bank provision and a support group for people with visual impairments	£28,140
Loveable CIC (2 grants)	Create and Connect art sessions and Social Networks buddy volunteering projects, for people with learning disabilities and autistic people	£50,000
MC Inspired Together (3 grants)	Christmas celebration, running citizenship classes and peer support talking groups that build confidence and connection for migrants in Somerset	£9,660
Rare Species CIC (2 grants)	Supporting silent disco events and The Mojo Moves health project in Mendip	£27,456
Resource Futures	Promoting repair and reuse in the community	£8,000
Sedgemoor Community Partnership (3 grants)	Developing a community social care service, supporting community hub costs and warm space in Highbridge	£77,276
Sedgemoor Playday	Contribution towards the running of Bridgwater Playday	£12,000
Somerset Youth Theatre CIC (2 grants)	Care leaver wellbeing support and trauma-informed training	£17,351
Sound Vision CIO	Creative Futures: Bridging Voices; community media and skills programme centred around young people in Bridgwater	£49,826
Stacked Wonky (2 grants)	Extended warm space hours and Young Associates Programme in Porlock	£51,508
Stogursey Youth Club (3 grants)	Christmas activities and rural youth work in Stogursey	£6,500
Sydenham Community Association	Community centre development support	£15,000
The Rubbish Art Project (The ArtBank CIC) (3 grants)	Creative sessions, trauma-informed art and business plan consultation	£31,500
This Living Place CIC	Sustain and deepen core place-based work in rural Somerset	£10,000
Timebanking UK	Setting up Time Banks in impacted communities, including Bridgwater and Burnham-on-Sea	£49,737
We Are Avon	Community engagement events and volunteering opportunities to connect people in the Mendips to rivers	£5,000
Wells Community Network	Providing community-led support for individuals navigating care	£30,000
West Monkton Parish Council (3 grants)	Running youth clubs, upgrading sports pitch equipment and developing a wildlife pond for the community	£24,433
Weston Hospicecare (2 grants)	Upcycling and repair zone in a Burnham-on-Sea charity store	£11,236
Wincanton Cares	Developing a micro-provider network, befriending service and support for unpaid carers	£24,879
Wivey Cares (2 grants)	Connecting people who need care with local carers through a community coordinator, plus 2 warm spaces and a plan to become self-funding	£43,000
Yeovil Rivers Community Trust	Conservation sessions with community groups	£30,580
Youth UnLimited (2 grants)	Supported awareness-raising videos made by young carers in schools	£10,780

FUND COMMUNITY PLACES AND SPACES

Grants of £5,000 and over	Project description	Amount
Ashwick & Oakhill Village Hall	Installing solar panels to decarbonise and reduce the energy bills of a community building	£15,000
Bridgwater Cricket Club	Boiler replacement	£8,051
Bridgwater Tennis Club	Replacing 2 clay tennis courts with an all-year round, low maintenance surface	£50,000
Burnham & Highbridge Community Centre	Installing insulation and solar panels to decarbonise and reduce the energy bills of a community building	£20,000
Burnham BMX Club (2 grants)	Repairing and resurfacing the BMX track in Highbridge	£54,950
Caryford Community Hall Association (3 grants)	Repainting and roof maintenance for a village hall	£15,075
Combwich Community Shop	Purchase of community shop (Phase 1)	£5,000
Compass Disability Services (4 grants)	Christmas party, pool refurbishment and winter warm space in Taunton	£51,729
Croscombe Village Hall	Installing new windows and doors to decarbonise and reduce the energy bills of a community building	£12,000
Curry Mallet and Beercrocombe Village Hall	Installing insulation to decarbonise and reduce the energy bills of a community building	£7,398
East Huntspill Community Pavilion	Fitting a kitchen into the pavilion to create a meeting room for a youth club and daytime warm space	£7,500
Exmoor Rural Health Hub	Funding for a new building to facilitate medical appointments for the farming and rural community on Exmoor	£5,000
Halse Village Hall	Installing insulation and other measures to decarbonise and reduce the energy bills of a community building	£10,000
Henhayes Centre	Funding heating costs, allowing the centre to be used as a warm space for the community	£7,000
Ile Youth and Community Centre	Replace leaking flat roof over toilets and front office	£8,000
Ilminster Sports Club	Install floodlights to enable Ilminster FC to move up to the next level of competition	£25,000
Kingsmead School	Installation of a wall attached canopy shelter	£9,890
Litton Village Hall	Installing insulation to decarbonise and reduce the energy bills of a community building	£20,000
Nynehead Memorial Hall (2 grants)	New heating system and Christmas events for the village	£6,490
Pentathlon Carnival Club	Flood recovery funding replacing damaged tools, timber and electrical equipment for the carnival cart	£5,000
RAF Air Cadets 290 Squadron and 290 Squadron Detached Flight	Increased flight simulator capacity to cope with a large influx of new cadets	£5,000
Rama Life CIC	Securing a space for work with young people with additional needs in South Somerset	£5,000
Rimpton Village Hall	Installing new windows to decarbonise and reduce the energy bills of a community building	£20,000
South West Heritage Trust	Making access improvements to 4 public museum sites	£62,164
South Western Ambulance Charity	Funding for a community response vehicle to be based in Minehead, Burnham and Bridgwater	£10,000
St Mary Magdalene Church, Stockland Bristol	Creating a community hub for Stockland Bristol and the Steart Peninsula	£359,069
Stogursey and District Victory Hall Committee	Refurbishing a rural community building	£7,000
Summerhayes Junior Fishing Club	Contribution to equipment for Summerhayes Junior Fishing Club	£9,789
Taunton Cricket Club	Providing a scoreboard, more storage and funding for patio development	£7,000
Taunton Deane Cricket Club	Upgrade to changing room shower and toilet	£10,000
Taunton Deane Partnership College	Outdoor play equipment for young people attending a pupil referral unit	£10,000
The Charltons Memorial Hall	Installing a new heating system to decarbonise and reduce the energy bills of a community building	£10,000
The Hive Young Peoples Centre	Creating a sensory room, redecorating and equipping the youth centre in Chard to re-start youth provision	£5,000
The Old Stores Studio (2 grants)	Drop-in community space and accessible rear access	£14,000
The Parochial Church Council of Bawdrip	Facility improvements for a village hall	£5,000
Watchet Town Council (3 grants)	Library warm space repairs and installation of a wheeled sports facility	£54,750
Wedmore Village Hall	Installing an air source heat pump to decarbonise and reduce the energy bills of a community building	£10,000
Williton Parish Council (2 grants)	Providing playground equipment and community lunch rooms	£15,000
Wilstockhub	Building and development of a community space to provide spaces for activities, services, learning, wellbeing and social connection	£850,000

OUR GRANT-MAKING FOR 2025/26

FUND ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Grants of £5,000 and over	Project description	Amount
2BU Somerset (2 grants)	Supporting LGBTQ+ young people across South Somerset	£5,926
Age UK Somerset (4 grants)	Dementia support, financial advice, loneliness work and winter grants for older people	£45,500
Albemarle Centre (3 grants)	Winter support services for vulnerable adults in Taunton	£40,252
ARK at Egwood (2 grants)	Winter support services for vulnerable adults	£15,000
Black Artists on the Move (2 grants)	Wellbeing support for black care leavers and diaspora families in Somerset	£55,000
Blackdown Support Group (3 grants)	A new care-matching service in the Blackdown Hills connecting older people with trusted local carers for transport and company	£41,500
Brainwave (2 grants)	Warm space for families with disabled children who are affected by fuel poverty	£16,408
Bridgwater & Taunton Deaf Club (2 grants)	Core costs for a club supporting the isolated deaf community	£38,000
Bridgwater Town Council (4 grants)	Games area, installation of solar panels, Christmas party and winter support in Hamp	£173,200
Burnham and Highbridge Community Association	Lift installation and the provision of hot meals for vulnerable members of the community during the winter months	£5,000
Burnham and Weston Energy CIC	Advice and practical support to combat fuel poverty among low-income older person households in Somerset	£50,000
Burnham-on-Sea Methodist Church	Maintaining a warm space 7 days a week, supporting local community activities	£5,000
Centre for Sustainable Energy	Providing direct financial support to help older people stay warm over the winter	£15,000
Chard CommuniTea Waffle (2 grants)	Warm space, meal deliveries to those who are housebound and Christmas meal in Chard	£9,500
CHARIS (3 grants)	Supporting refugees and asylum seekers across Somerset, including Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASCs), through winter wellbeing activities and the UASC Landing Pad project	£64,000
Cheddar Valley Foodbank	Providing additional food to meet the winter increase in demand for emergency food for those at risk of food poverty	£5,000
Citizens Advice Somerset (2 grants)	Enhanced advice service and winter support payments for Somerset families	£50,672
Connect Community Church, Wells (2 grants)	Winter activities and a Christmas meal for disadvantaged people in Wells	£19,950
Creative Minds Taunton CIC	'No Girl Left Behind' club for neurodiverse girls in the Taunton area	£5,000
Crewkerne Community Kitchen CIC (3 grants)	Core costs for a community hub in Crewkerne and surrounding villages	£15,000
Crispin Hall Trust (3 grants)	Accessibility improvements, new windows and a donation-only warm space in Street	£38,473
Escape Support Group (2 grants)	Christmas meal for carers and activities for families with additional needs	£5,400
ESS Education and Support Services (2 grants)	Minibus and winter warm space in Langport	£10,000
Fair Frome	Continue providing essential warm spaces/community meals project 3 days per week in 3 venues	£20,000
Fight Against Blindness	Mental health support for children and young people with sight loss in Somerset	£5,000
FordHaven (3 grants)	Warm space, care leaver support and Christmas celebration	£45,500
Frome Birth Talk	Providing warm spaces at 4 weekly parent and child drop-in groups	£5,000
Good Fellowship Club	Social activities for isolated older people in Yeovil	£5,000
Got Your Six UK CIC	Providing a safe, warm space for the community to come together throughout winter	£5,000
Hayley's Williton CIC	Drop in space with a safeguarding lead who also signposts Citizens Advice	£7,500
Health Connections Mendip	Providing direct financial support to help older people stay warm over the winter	£38,500
Highbridge Area Foodbank (2 grants)	Winter food parcels and Financial Inclusion Service (a free advice service for people who use, or are considering using, the foodbank)	£25,000
Home-Start West Somerset (3 grants)	Christmas party and The Warm Welcome Family Hub – supporting families with young children, offering practical help, friendship and groups	£15,651

FUND ESSENTIAL SERVICES Continued

Grants of £5,000 and over	Project description	Amount
In Charley's Memory (4 grants)	Mental health and wellbeing support, including a winter drop-in service and software upgrades to strengthen service delivery	£26,584
In the Mix Youth Project (3 grants)	Christmas activities, warm space and youth club sessions in Wiveliscombe	£9,990
Love Community CIC (2 grants)	GameChanger warm space sessions providing inclusive opportunities for neurodivergent adults and people with learning disabilities to connect through gaming and social activities	£80,000
Love Glastonbury	Rent and food stocks for a community fridge, pantry and parcel service in Glastonbury	£7,000
MHA Communities South Somerset (2 grants)	Providing a Christmas meal and direct financial support to help older people stay warm over the winter	£6,000
Mind in Somerset	Providing warm spaces for local residents while supporting their mental health in Yeovil Community Hub	£17,500
Minehead Eye (3 grants)	Warm space, support drop-ins and activities for West Somerset young people	£15,922
Mingle Bristol CIC (4 grants)	Food pantry, peer workshops, Christmas dinner and winter food service in Bridgwater	£35,704
North Taunton Partnership (4 grants)	General community centre costs, winter warm space and Christmas market	£22,500
Octagon Theatre and Westlands Entertainment Venue (2 grants)	Memory Choir in Yeovil for people with dementia and their carers	£5,500
Porlock Vale CIC (3 grants)	Developing social care infrastructure and information centre core costs	£54,180
Project Food – Cooking with Confidence	Supporting a Community Food Cookalong and warm space for people living in food and fuel poverty in Chard	£10,000
Purple Elephant Family Support	Provided warm spaces, healthy food, signposting and support for families and young people facing multiple disadvantages	£5,000
Red Brick Building	Contributing to a warm space, community garden and building costs	£7,500
Reminiscence Learning	Contributing to warm spaces in and around Wellington, supporting people living with dementia and their carers	£10,000
Root Connections (2 grants)	Festive events and therapeutic gardening for people who've experienced homelessness	£5,450
Rusty Road to Recovery (2 grants)	Creative workshops and festive outings to help reduce isolation	£10,450
SBA Worldwide CIC (3 grants)	Building digital confidence and creating connection through the Angel Community Café winter hub	£41,942
Shepton Mallet Community Fridge	Helping to fund a community fridge in Shepton Mallet	£10,500
Sing2breathe	Singing for lung health sessions, alongside practical support and connection for people living with respiratory conditions	£5,000
Somerset and Avon Rape and Sexual Abuse Support (2 grants)	Winter support hubs for survivors of sexual violence	£120,000
Somerset Child Contact Centres	Core costs for Bridgwater and Taunton Child Contact Centres	£20,000
Somerset Counselling Centre	One-to-one mental health counselling for children and young people in Taunton and across Somerset	£5,000
Somerset Sight (2 grants)	Warm spaces, meals, signposting and practical advice for blind and visually impaired people	£27,189
Somewhere House Somerset (2 grants)	Targeted community response and warm space activities	£95,000
South Somerset Community Accessible Transport (2 grants)	Helping to fund a community transport service	£10,000
SSAFA Somerset	Providing direct financial support to help older people stay warm over the winter	£5,500
St Cleers Chapel, Somerton	Contribution to a warm space where communities can meet and access energy-saving support	£5,000
St Dunstan's House Community Health & Wellbeing Centre – Glastonbury	Providing a warm space for the residents of Glastonbury	£7,500
St Francis of Assisi Church, Bridgwater (2 grants)	Holiday clubs and twice-weekly community hub	£6,000
St George's Wilton Taunton	Providing warm spaces for older and vulnerable people, alongside healthy eating clubs for children after school	£5,000

OUR GRANT-MAKING FOR 2025/26

FUND ESSENTIAL SERVICES Continued

Grants of £5,000 and over	Project description	Amount
St Mary's Church, Bridgwater (2 grants)	Warm spaces and Christmas meals, including Grubs Up, a community food and support organisation	£15,500
St Peter's Community Centre (3 grants)	Christmas dinner and winter warm space in Yeovil	£30,500
Stogursey Wraparound	Extended Wraparound care and enrichment activities	£20,000
Sydenham Community Centre (2 grants)	Christmas meal and warm space with hot meals	£10,500
Taunton Area Debt Advice	Helping to fund a debt advice service in Taunton	£5,000
Taunton East Development Trust (2 grants)	Support and advice services, alongside a new youth group for young people in Halcon	£29,950
Taunton Theatre Association Ltd (2 grants)	Christmas meal and warm spaces for isolated older people	£5,500
Terrestrial	Supporting a warm space café providing a welcoming place, food and community connection for people experiencing financial difficulties	£17,500
The Balsam Centre (2 grants)	Peer support drop-ins and winter hub support in Wincanton	£65,000
The Good Heart Frome (2 grants)	Community hub and café costs, plus winter warm space	£10,000
The Hub at Bridgwater (2 grants)	Cooking groups, community lunches and Christmas craft afternoon	£5,500
The Nelson Trust (2 grants)	Winter warm space for women, alongside specialist support for those affected by exploitation in Bridgwater	£96,407
The Open Door Taunton	Supporting rough sleepers in Taunton	£18,000
The Salvation Army Street (2 grants)	Christmas craft breakfast and winter warm space	£5,500
The Space	Contribution to a warm space for children, youth and families in Cheddar	£10,410
The Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey (2 grants)	Contribution to library running costs and warm space for people experiencing fuel poverty	£44,000
The Waffle Hub (2 grants)	Café development and expanded warm space in Burnham-on-Sea	£74,999
The Warehouse Trust	Developing The Angel as a community space bringing wellbeing support, employment help, training and talking therapies under one roof	£38,000
Thrive Somerset (2 grants)	Carers groups' wellbeing activities for 100th anniversary celebrations	£31,460
Towards Tomorrow Together	Support for those experiencing baby loss, pregnancy after loss and Rainbow baby groups	£5,000
Victoria Park Community Centre	Contribution to a warm space for people experiencing fuel poverty	£12,250
Watch CIO (2 grants)	Peer-support sessions for isolated people in Chard	£9,000
We Hear You (2 grants)	Counselling for people affected by bereavement or life-threatening illness	£9,991
Wellington Town Council (2 grants)	Wellington Connect project (community-based adult social care) and winter warm space	£53,000
West Buckland Friendship Club	Providing transport for outings and speakers for monthly club meetings	£5,000
West Somerset Green Forum	Providing direct financial support to help older people stay warm over the winter	£8,800
Westfield United Reformed Church, Bridgwater	Supporting homeless communities in Bridgwater	£20,000
With the Wild CIC	Employing a community grower to deliver therapeutic workshops in Watchet	£5,000
Wiveliscombe Area Partnership (3 grants)	Supporting community transport, festival costs and the winter running costs of local libraries	£13,950
Wivey Kitchen CIO	Providing nutritious frozen meals for re-heating and additional food for pantry	£5,000
Yeovil Art Space	Establishing a warm hub with creative activities	£20,000
Yeovil Christians Against Poverty Centre	Supporting CAP Debt Centre, Life Skills and Money Coaching services, providing free practical support to people in Yeovil and surrounding villages	£5,000
Yeovil Community Church	Providing a weekly breakfast drop in for the homeless community of South Somerset	£5,000
Yeovil Opportunity Group (2 grants)	Pre-school support and Christmas party	£5,100
YMCA Taunton (4 grants)	Festive fayre, youth club, kitchen upgrade and winter warm space	£21,250
Young Somerset (2 grants)	Providing counselling and youth club activities in areas affected by higher levels of crime	£14,423

FUND INDIVIDUALS TO OVERCOME BARRIERS

Grants of £5,000 and over	Project description	Amount
Arc	Supporting vulnerable people into independent living	£12,000
Bournemouth Churches Housing Association	Supporting vulnerable people into independent living	£10,000
Calvert Devon	Providing bursaries to help guests access a break at Calvert Devon, supporting people who may otherwise be unable to afford a holiday	£5,000
DofE Somerset Committee (2 grants)	All-terrain wheelchair and NEET support for young people	£7,000
Evolve Music	Sensory-friendly instruments and equipment to support participants with sensory sensitivities	£28,000
Guildhall Young Artists Taunton	Performing arts bursary programme for young people in Taunton	£19,034
Homes in Somerset	Providing direct financial support to help older people stay warm over the winter	£15,400
Julian House	Supporting vulnerable people into independent living	£9,000
On Your Bike (2 grants)	Providing bicycle vouchers and supporting the Green Pathways project, helping people access transport and opportunities	£82,900
OpenStoryTellers (4 grants)	Supporting the Festival of Voices and providing creative opportunities for people with learning disabilities	£15,323
Second Step	Supporting vulnerable people into independent living	£11,250
Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership (4 grants)	Providing winter support grants, Fit for Work support and sports mentoring for young people	£119,620
The Living Paintings Trust	Supporting a free postal library service providing audio and tactile books to blind children living in Somerset	£5,000
The Rendezvous	Providing English and maths qualifications for young people in Yeovil who are not in education, employment or training	£5,000
The Valley Kings Foundation	Boxing for young people in Bridgwater at risk of violent and antisocial behaviour	£50,000
The Workshop Project CIC (3 grants)	Facilities improvement, Christmas outing and mechanical experience for young people	£23,500
Ups and Downs Southwest (2 grants)	Supporting Pathways to Inclusion and providing practical support and advice for families of people with Down's syndrome	£52,325
Withywood CIC	Installing an outdoor classroom for adults with special educational needs and disabilities in east Mendip	£5,000
Work-Wise	Running a job club to help local people build confidence, develop skills and find employment	£20,000
YMCA Brunel Group (2 grants)	Young carers' residential trip and independent living support	£28,500
YMCA Dulverton Group	Supporting vulnerable people into independent living	£25,000

ALSO...

► 277 grants under £5,000 were awarded to groups, totalling £513,889

► 253 grants were awarded to individuals, totalling £232,147

SUPPORTING SOMERSET'S BLENDED SOCIAL INVESTMENTS

Group	Project description	Amount
Stogumber Community Village Shop Ltd (2 grants)	Capital contribution towards kitting out a community owned shop	£30,200
Porlock Vale CIC	Supporting the preparation of redevelopment plans for wider community use	£18,180

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS*

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Access Foundation Growth Fund
The Aquitas Fund
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Angela Yeoman
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The Clarke Willmott Community Fund
Commissioner's Crime Prevention Fund
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The Corton Hill Trust
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The Gamble Fund
Get Set Go! Fund
The Glemsford Fund
The Gooch Charitable Fund
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Grave Family Fund
Haddon Coaching
The Hamstones Fund
The Hector Tanner Memorial Fund
High Sheriff of Somerset Charitable Trust
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Norah Cooke-Hurle Fund
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Oake Sunshine Fund
The Old Mill Fund
Pentland Stalls Charitable Fund
Perry's Recycling Fund
Peter Wyman Fund
The Philip and Melanie Gibbs Fund
The Pinniger Fund
Quantock Community Fund
Rebecca's Hope
Re-imagining the Levels
Richard Lloyd
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The Route1 Fund
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Somerset Fund for the Deaf
and Hard of Hearing
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UK Community Foundations
Venetia Hoare & Hamish Leng
The Vickery Fund
The Waste Not Somerset Fund
WCS Pickford Trust
The Welkin Fund
Willie & Nickie Gething
Wilton Trust
YTL UK Foundation

* This list includes everyone who's happy for us to thank them publicly.
We're just as grateful to the many people and organisations who prefer to give quietly.

✔ Ups and Downs Southwest



▲ Sydenham Netball Club



PAM'S STORY: LEAVING A LEGACY FOR HER CORNER OF SOMERSET

Pam Burrough has spent almost 30 years building a tribute to her late husband into a lasting legacy for people across Somerset.

In 1998, she founded the Graham Burrough Charitable Trust in his memory to support local mental health projects. In 2018, she transferred the trust's assets to Somerset Community Foundation to be held as a Forever Fund – which has since awarded over £77,000 to community groups supporting people's mental health across Somerset. We asked Pam about her connection to Somerset and why leaving a legacy mattered to her.



What's your connection to Somerset?

“ I've lived here for half my life and as I'm now 95, that's quite a long time! It was work that brought me to Somerset. I joined the school library service, and it wasn't like work at all – it was enormous fun, travelling around supplying books to schools. Then I spent 17 years as area librarian here in Street.

What's one of your favourite local spots?

“ Glastonbury! I go to church there and have done for decades, I have close and important friendships there. I was involved in amateur drama, and I just love its bones. I love its history. It has always been a very different, special, and sometimes challenging place.

What inspired your decision to leave a gift in your Will?

“ It's about sharing, I suppose – about wanting to spread the good fortune that you've enjoyed. My mother used to tell me, you can only help in your own little sphere. You can't put the world right; you can only do what you can in your very small space.

What impact do you hope your gift will have?

“ I hope it will help a lot of folk who are struggling in some way or another. I shall never know who they are, but the thought of just helping individual people – that's what is important.

'My favourite corner of Somerset is...'

“ My own garden in Street. It's full of wildlife and a safe haven to retreat to and to share with those close to me.

LEAVE A LEGACY TO THE PEOPLE AND PLACES YOU LOVE

Like Pam, you can turn what matters to you into support that lasts.

A gift in your Will to Somerset Community Foundation is a way of making sure the people, places and causes closest to your heart are looked after for years to come.

Learn more about the ways you can care for your corner of Somerset and download our Gifts in Wills guide: somersetcf.org.uk/legacy



Behind every Fund and every award is a team of staff and volunteer trustees who care deeply about Somerset. Meet the people who make our work possible at somersetcf.org.uk/team

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