



Dorset Community Foundation

Newsletter

Autumn 2024

Welcome

Hello and welcome to the first of our quarterly newsletters, aimed at keeping you up to date with what we are doing. Although we are a relatively small community foundation in terms of numbers, we pack a huge punch when it comes to securing and distributing funds for Dorset.

Already this year we've awarded more than £1.5 million in grants and there's plenty more to come with funds opening in September and November as well as those already open.

Over the next three pages we'll let you know what's been happening, do please get in touch, go to our website or follow us on social media to discover more.

Grant Robson, Chief Executive

Congratulations Paralympian Harry

Our Lord-Lieutenant's Fund for Young and Talented grantee Harry Stewart of Bridport put in a brilliant performance for Great Britain at the Paralympics in Paris. Harry, who has Asperger's, made the final of the 100m breaststroke with a Personal Best time and was the fifth fastest qualifier. In a very competitive field he finished a creditable fifth. It sets him up for a tilt at the Paralympic title in Los Angeles in four years' time when he will be at his peak. Our funding helped pay the training and travel costs his mum was struggling to afford and we are all very proud of the dignified way he represented his country.



[READ HARRY'S STORY HERE](#)

Dorset Welcome Fund is open

The Dorset Welcome Fund, which helps asylum seekers and refugees to build new lives in the county, is open for grant applications until October 11. It offers grants of up to £5,000 for voluntary groups and charities across the county to support community action that helps refugees and asylum seekers of any nationality arriving, residing or settling in Dorset. The fund is being supported by Dorset Council and BCP Council and DCF fundholders. Last year more than £60,000 was awarded to 15 groups, benefitting more than 1,600 people.



[READ MORE HERE](#)



Latest Impact Report is out

Our 2022/23 Impact Report is now available to read on our website. The report is based on monitoring feedback from all the groups we funded in 2022/23, which is why it takes a while to complete it. Because it is driven by this feedback direct from the groups, it paints a complete picture of the impact our grant-making made in Dorset.

Here are some of the headline statistics from the report...



Total amount awarded

£1,148,509.18



265 grants to groups via 14 programmes

£924,466.92



653 grants to individuals via six programmes

£224,042.26



Average grant size to groups

£3,489



[READ THE FULL REPORT HERE](#)

SWEF grantee is a high flier

When James Macpherson wanted to expand his drone photography business into surveying he needed a lighter drone but couldn't afford it. A SWEF Enterprise grant awarded him the funds and things have been looking up ever since. A second grant funded a new VFX PC capable of efficiently editing and exporting hi res videos. "This will set my business apart, giving me a competitive edge over other production companies," he says. SWEF Enterprise Fund grants can award up to £2,000 to young people with a new business to help with costs.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



Council partnership helps fight cost of living crisis

GRANTS totalling £200,000 have been awarded to 32 grass roots groups and charities helping people face the future with confidence as well as staying well fed and healthy, thanks to Dorset Community Foundation's partnership with BCP Council. The community foundation's BCP Food and Energy Support Fund has distributed money allocated to the council from the government's Household Support Fund for the sixth time.



[READ MORE HERE](#)

Wellbeing and mental health fund making an impact

We've enjoyed seeing pictures and video of some of the 22 projects funded by our Community Wellbeing and Mental Health fund, run in collaboration with NHS Dorset and Community Action Network (CAN). This was a new and exciting piece of work for us that enabled us to distribute NHS funds into community projects to tackle wellbeing and mental health at source.



[READ MORE HERE](#)

Bursary grants allow young people to follow career dreams

This is a busy time of year in the office because our DCF Bursary and Superior STEM Bursary funds are open for applications. The DCF bursary offers grants of up to £1,000 to help with the costs of taking a vocational course at college. The STEM bursary, backed by Superior Seals of Wimborne, offers grants of up to £1,500 for young people studying STEM subjects. We know the value of these grants because of the feedback we've had. Here's a sample...

"The bursary was a huge relief to my mum, she wouldn't have been able to take on the costs alone and worried she would stop me achieving my goals."

"The grant has helped a lot and has given my mum less stress about working more hours."

I am able to attend my classes and complete the work which is set. Otherwise I wouldn't be able to complete the work and hopefully get into university."

 **READ MORE HERE AND HERE**

"Some days I would not have money for food but it's ok because I have the bursary money to help me."



From left, The GAP Project, Dorset Lavender Farm and Shaftesbury and District Dementia Friendly Community

Out on the road to meet and listen to groups

One of the most important things we do is visit many of the voluntary groups and charities we fund. We often take our trustees and other guests, such as the High Sheriff, and it's great to see at first hand the work our donors are enabling. It's also useful for us to be able to relay back to donors the challenges these groups face.

We'd like to thank Axminster & Lyme Cancer Support, The Horse Course, In Jolly Good Company, The GAP Project, Shaftesbury and District Dementia Friendly Community, Home-Start Blackmore Vale, Dorset Lavender Farm, Kinson & West Howe Foodbank, The Absolute Music Trust, It's All About Culture, Creative Kids, Water Lily Project, The Shine Project, Citizens Advice Central Dorset, The Harmony Centre and Escapeline, B Sharp, ASCape, Prout Bridge Project, The Powerhouse (Poole), for their warm welcome over the summer.



From left, our visits to Home-Start Blackmore Vale, In Jolly Good Company and The Horse Course

 **Stay in touch**

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