



e-Newsletter

May 2021



Introduction

Is anyone else finding they are slipping back into old pre-pandemic habits already? I'm finding it's taking more effort than I expected to keep up the daily walks and reduce the number of supermarket trips I make. In a similar vein, at the Foundation we are putting a huge amount of effort into capturing the best lessons from the past 15 months to help us be a better charity.

You will see, below, some of these changes coming through in our grants programmes and I am very grateful to the Programmes Team for finding the energy and commitment to make this happen after a gruelling year. Similarly, while we are still operating from home, we are beginning the process of opening our office again by asking ourselves how we want to make best use of Yeoman House. As we move from a focus on a single cause to our usual way of working, managing dozens of funds, I am sure we can rationalise some of that old complexity to become more efficient and more effective.

In many ways, the visit from HRH The Earl of Wessex last week (May 17) marked a turning point for us. We are winding down the Coronavirus Response and Recovery Fund and opening up our regular grants. During his visit we looked back at the achievements of the past year but also looked forward to what lies ahead. Local charities continue to experience high levels of demand for their services – the effects of the pandemic will be felt for some time to come – but I think we are seeing a much stronger understanding of, and appreciation for, the tremendous value that lies in 'community'. Speaking for myself, I am sure more old bad habits will slip back in than I'd like, but if

we have learned one thing, it is that building stronger communities that thrive should not be an add-on, it should be starting point for building a better future for all.

Best wishes,



Justin Sargent
Chief Executive

Foundation News & Updates

HRH The Earl of Wessex visits Somerset Community Foundation

Somerset Community Foundation welcomed His Royal Highness The Earl of Wessex at The Royal Bath and West Showground, during his recent visit to Somerset, where he met with staff and Trustees, alongside representatives from six groups who were funded by SCF to help them deliver their vital services and support to the community during the coronavirus pandemic.

Read the full news story [here](#).

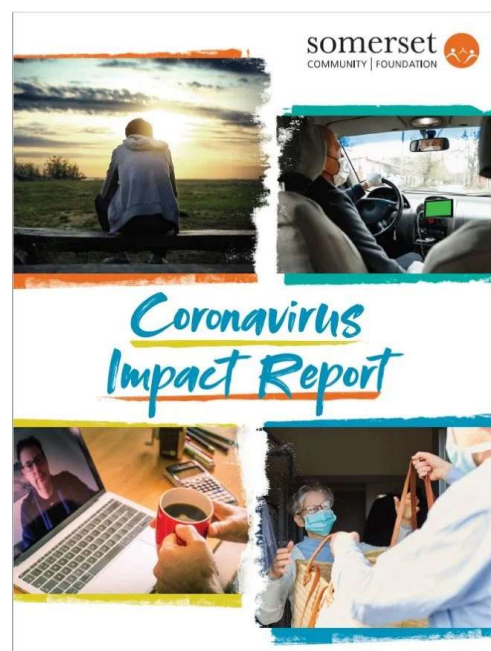


Introducing our Coronavirus Impact Report

We are delighted to share our Coronavirus Impact Report with you.

Thanks to the generosity and flexibility of our donors, supporters and partners, we were able to help hundreds of local charities to swiftly support our most vulnerable neighbours to weather the significant challenges they faced during this crisis.

Read our report [here](#).



Celebrating The Somerset Fund

The Somerset Fund brings together local donors who want to change the world on their doorstep, with all donations matched by 50%.

We were delighted to launch our annual impact report for the Fund last week, sharing inspiring stories from some of the 68 groups across the county who received a grant, thanks to our generous donors.

Read our report [here](#).



Somerset Stories

Charities, community groups and other voluntary organisations have never been more vital to our communities, working relentlessly on the frontline to keep people safe and well. Here we shine a spotlight on some of those we are funding, highlighting their amazing work.

Somerset Stories: Langport Dementia Action Alliance

Langport Dementia Action Alliance supports people living with dementia and their carers in the Langport area. Julia Gadd tells us how the funding from The Somerset Fund helped to make such difference to so many.

Read the full story [here](#).



Find out about the difference you're making in Somerset: read more of our *Somerset Stories* [here](#).

HPC Community Fund News

Funding from HPC Community Fund supports local cultural diversity

In 2018 Diversity Voice were awarded a grant of £180,000 over three years from the HPC Community Fund, to work with those directly connected with Hinkley Point C (HPC) and the wider community in Sedgemoor and the west of Somerset. The key aim was to help provide legal and welfare

advice, and deliver events and training to bolster intercultural integration and English language support, for migrant workers and their families.

Read the full news story [here](#).



Foundation funding available

Grants for groups

[Click here for more information and to apply](#)

Find out more about the grants for groups programmes that are currently available.

>>Funding is now available from the **Wessex Water Environment Fund**. Apply by **Friday 4 June**.

>>Funding is now available from the **#ClubsInCrisis Fund**. Apply by **Wednesday 9 June**.

Grants for individuals

[Click here for more information and to apply](#)

Find out more about the grants for individuals programmes that are currently available.

>>Funding is now available from the **West Somerset Youth Trust Fund**. Apply by **Wednesday 16 June**.

>>Funding is now available from the new **South West Youth Enterprise and Training Fund**. Apply by **Wednesday 30 June**.

HPC Community Fund

[Click here for more information and to apply](#)

Find out more about the Hinkley Point C grant programmes, designed for those seeking support for projects and work that will help to mitigate the impacts and increase the opportunities of the Hinkley Point C project in the community.

Support for Social Enterprises

[Click here for more information and to apply](#)

Find out more about our social investment fund, designed to help organisations in Somerset start or grow social enterprises.

Other sources of funding for Somerset VCSE organisations

For organisations looking for additional sources of funding, check out Spark Somerset's incredibly useful Somerset Funding Portal, where you'll find the latest local, regional and national funding information for Somerset's voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector.

Find out about other funding opportunities [here](#).

And finally...

Volunteers' Week 2021

Volunteers' Week is 1-7 June, and is a time to say thank you to the millions of volunteers who make such a difference across the UK every year.

Here at SCF we'd like to say thank you to all the people who have volunteered their time to support us over the years. We would like to give a special mention and a huge thank you to our regular volunteers, Jaci, Marion and Liz, who have given their time so generously and regularly to help and support us in the past. We hope to see you again soon, once we get back in the office properly!



Please feel free to forward this to anyone you think may be interested in our latest news. If you were forwarded this e-Newsletter and would like to be added to the mailing list, [click here](#). [To unsubscribe, click here](#).

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