

e-newsletter July 2021



Introduction

It's still too early to see how life and society have been altered since the pandemic, or to see what has remained the same. Have we become a kinder, more thoughtful society...or not? I guess you can make the case either way depending on what you want to see. Are we a more inclusive, caring society or a more unequal and polarised one?

One of the things that has really struck me, though, is how concern for and appreciation of the natural environment has been sustained from its pre-pandemic levels. Thanks to our funders we are putting more money than ever into projects that involve communities taking part in local environmental projects and improving local biodiversity, and with COP26 around the corner in Glasgow I don't think the interest is going away any time soon.

At SCF we'll be looking at reducing our environmental impact. To start, I will definitely be spending less time and diesel driving to meetings and we have a nascent wildflower meadow growing outside our office – our very own re-wilding project!

Best wishes,



Justin Sargent
Chief Executive

PS Unusually, I seem to be, in part, introducing a story about me, below. But I would like to take this opportunity to add my thanks to everyone who has been in touch with their congratulations - which really

belong to the whole SCF team!

Somerset Stories

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

Somerset Stories: Cheddar Village Hall

Cheddar Village Hall is an important central hub, used by the whole community for a wide range of activities and clubs.

Heather Scourse told us how a grant from The Somerset Fund has helped to sustain this important and well-used community space.

Read the full story [here](#).



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

Somerset Community Foundation news & updates

SCF CEO Justin Sargent is recognised with OBE in Queen's Birthday Honours list

The team at Somerset Community Foundation are incredibly proud to announce that their Chief Executive Justin Sargent has been recognised with an OBE for services to the community in Somerset in the Queen's Birthday Honours list.

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



New SCF grants available for projects and groups across Somerset

If you are involved with a Somerset-based community group or charity, our new grants programmes are available now:

- Children and Young People's Fund
- Adult Wellbeing Fund
- Older People's Fund

Find out more [here](#).

Funding now available from Somerset Community Foundation

Grants of £1,000-£5,000 are now available from three new funds. Apply for:

- *staffing costs*
- *activities and/or project costs*

Deadline: **Friday 20 August** for a decision in October

- **Children & Young People's Fund**
Who: Groups who run projects to help younger people aged 0-18 years or up to 24 if they have additional needs
- **Adult Wellbeing Fund**
Who: Groups who run projects to help people aged between 18-65
- **Older People's Fund**
Who: Groups who run projects that help older people

www.somersetcf.org.uk/apply

somerset
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



Grants from The Somerset Fund available for local charities

Grants up to £2,500 are now available for smaller charities, community groups, sports clubs and social enterprises based in Somerset. Grants from The Somerset Fund can be used to pay for ongoing running costs and the deadline to apply is 5pm, Friday 13 August.

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



Join our team!

We're looking for an enthusiastic and committed person with knowledge of the needs of local communities to play a key role in the delivery of our funding as Grants Programmes Manager. The deadline to apply for this exciting new role is Monday 30 August 2021.

If you meet the requirements and would like to contribute to the amazing work of Somerset Community Foundation, we'd love to hear from you. We would especially welcome applications from minority ethnic people, people with disabilities, younger people, LGBTQ+ people and people with 'lived experience' relevant to our work.

Read the job description and find out more [here](#).



HPC Community Fund news & updates

HPC Community Fund supports environmental projects in Somerset with over £167,000 of funding

Over £167,000 has been awarded to environmental projects from the HPC Community Fund - mainly in the

Sedgemoor and Somerset West and Taunton districts of Somerset - since the Fund was launched in 2017.

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



Opportunity to volunteer on Awards Panel and make a real difference in your community

Somerset Community Foundation is looking for an individual to volunteer on the Hinkley Point C Community Fund Awards Panel - and applications from people with knowledge of west Somerset are particularly welcome.

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



HPC Small Grants special round launched for core costs and Open Grants deadline

A special round of the **HPC Community Fund Small Grants Programme** has been launched to support the day-to-day running costs (or 'core costs') of community groups impacted by the HPC development. Apply by Wednesday 29 September.

Find out more [here](#).

There is also an upcoming deadline for the **HPC Community Fund Open Grants Programme**, for larger projects. Apply by Friday 17 September.

Find out more about the HPC Open Grants Programmes [here](#).



Somerset Community Foundation funding available

Grants for groups:

Grants for individuals:

Support for Social Enterprises:

Find out more about the grants for groups programmes that are currently available, including the HPC Community Fund.

GROUPS
Click here for more information and to apply

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

INDIVIDUALS
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.

SOCIAL ENTERPRISES
Click here for more information and to apply

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](#).

Foundation insights

Our latest blog

In our latest blog, our Chief Executive Justin Sargent writes about the growth of community gardens and sustainable food production as SCF increasingly witnesses how communities make the most of what is available to them, helping them to change the world on their doorstep.

Read his thoughts [here](#).



And finally...

UKCF report released

A new report by UK Community Foundations examines the impact of the pandemic on local Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations (VCSOs). It concludes, among other things, that the community foundation model is well placed to enable innovative grant-making.

Read the report [here](#).

