



The Community Foundation  
for Wiltshire & Swindon

May 2011

celebrating  
*20 Years*  
of Community Foundation work



# Your Foundation Matters

The Newsletter of The Community Foundation for Wiltshire & Swindon

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# Hello and welcome to our May newsletter

We hope you like it. We would be grateful for any comments you have which you can send to [info@wscf.org.uk](mailto:info@wscf.org.uk).



## Welcome to our newest Trustee

We are delighted to welcome Dame Elizabeth Neville, DBE QPM as a Trustee of the Community Foundation. Elizabeth was the High Sheriff of Wiltshire for 2010-2011. She is a non-executive director of the Serious Fraud Office, a member of the Police Authority for the Civil Nuclear Constabulary and an Independent Adjudicator for Companies House.

She is a member of the Board of Governors of Stonar School in Wiltshire, a trustee of Cumberland Lodge and of the Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust which helps elderly and vulnerable victims of burglary. She is an honorary fellow of St Hilda's College, Oxford.

She joined the Metropolitan Police as a Constable in 1973, under the graduate entry scheme, with a BA in philosophy and psychology from Oxford University. She subsequently obtained a PhD in Occupational Psychology at University College London. She spent over 30 years in the police service, serving in Thames Valley, Sussex and Northamptonshire. She was Chief Constable of Wiltshire Constabulary from 1997 to 2004. She was awarded the Queen's Police Medal in the 1996 New Year's Honours, and appointed a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 2003.

We look forward to working closely with Elizabeth who will be joining our Development Committee in addition to the main Board of Trustees.



## Goodbye to Ray Fisher

Ray Fisher stepped down as a Trustee of the Community Foundation in March. Ray Fisher has been a Trustee since September 2008 and has been an active and keen supporter of the work of the Foundation. Ray is a Swindon Borough Councillor and a member of the Wiltshire Police Authority and was the Finance Director of Arkells Brewery until he retired.

One of Ray's main roles was to chair the Fair Share Panel for us, which has been responsible for developing the voluntary sector in Penhill and Pinehurst. Fair Share is a Big Lottery project which invested £800k into the area over a 10 year period.

The Trustees and staff at the Community Foundation would like to express their thanks to Ray for all his hard work and wish him and his wife Christine a happy retirement with their many grandchildren.



THE HIGH SHERIFF OF WILTSHIRE FOR 2011/12 IS MR. ROBERT HISCOX OF RAINSCOMBE PARK, OARE.

## Welcome to our new High Sheriff

On 26 March 2011 at the Salisbury Law Courts, Robert Hiscox was declared the High Sheriff of Wiltshire for 2011/2012. The High Sheriff is the Sovereign's representative in the County for matters of law and order and the judiciary and consequently takes an active interest in the administration of justice. The High Sheriff supports the Community Foundation through the Crimebeat fund. Crimebeat supports projects which encourage young people to get involved with crime reduction activities and create safer communities. Crimbeat's objectives are:

- To promote for the public benefit a safer and improved quality of life through the prevention of crime and the protection of people and their property from criminal acts.
- To secure for the public benefit the advancement of education amongst young people up to the age of 25 in all matters relating to prevention of crime.

The High Sheriff is appointed for a period of one year, taking office in April each year. A list containing three names is submitted to The Queen each March and the name of the High Sheriff for the following year is pricked with a silver bodkin.



## Events Update

We still have spaces available for the following events this summer:

- JUNE 6TH AND SEPTEMBER 12TH: "Inside Stonehenge" – refreshments and introduction at Wiltshire Heritage Museum followed by a guided walk Inside Stonehenge
- JULY 9TH: View a Sale of Rare & Traditional Breeds of Poultry at The Livestock Market, Salisbury
- AUGUST 23RD: Sponsor a Young Carer to visit Giffords Circus on Marlborough Common

If you like to support one of these events or more information please contact Jon Yates on 01380 729284 or [jon.yates@wscf.org.uk](mailto:jon.yates@wscf.org.uk)

## 'Your Foundation Matters' by email?

We are trying to cut our printing and postage costs whilst also aiming to be more environmentally friendly by utilising email. If you would be interested in receiving our publications by email please contact: [jon.yates@wscf.org.uk](mailto:jon.yates@wscf.org.uk)

Here are just a few of the groups we have been able to support recently through the generosity of our donors

### Refurbiz

Refurbiz aims to meet the demand for low cost electrical items for disadvantaged and low-income households by refurbishing unwanted electrical goods.

Every day Wiltshire produces more than two double-decker busloads of electrical 'waste' of which only a tiny proportion is re-used with most being scrapped or put into landfill. Yet there are some 26,000 'low income' households in the area that struggle to afford necessary items of household equipment, such as a washing machine, fridge or cooker. After checking, repairing, testing, certifying and cleaning, items are offered at reasonable prices to disadvantaged people in Wiltshire.

For more information visit [www.refurbiz.org](http://www.refurbiz.org)



Our grant of £3,394 is supporting the rental costs of the building from where this valuable service is carried out.

### LEAVES

The primary aim of LEAVES is to help people living in Swindon who are recovering from mental illness to improve the quality of their lives and achieve greater personal and financial independence through employment and wider social participation.

It was initiated in 2002 as a workers' co-operative to act as a stepping stone from therapeutic activity towards employment. Their initial activity of gardening for the elderly and disabled has expanded to include recycling collection services, woodland management and conservation, community and commercial gardening and the bagging and distribution of recycled materials such as compost.



Our grant of £4,259 is supporting a part-time support and recovery worker offering help and support to beneficiaries in building personal confidence, resilience and independence to cope with employment and any external issues.



### West Wiltshire Portage Service

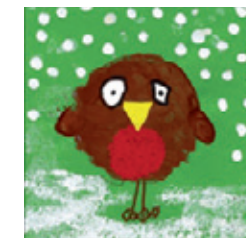
The West Wilts Portage Service offers a unique home visiting service to pre-school children (0-5 yrs) with disabilities and their families. A specialist home visitor visits the child weekly to develop an individual learning programme, encouraging the child to learn through play and helping the parent/carer to become more confident in supporting the child's development. Our grant of £2,000 has contributed to the running costs of this organisation.

### Winning Design

A Greenacres grant of £813 gave Jay the opportunity to purchase his very own computer and special screen. Jay is seven years old, he is autistic and attends Charter Rose unit in Chippenham. Jay patiently sits on occasions and watches the wildlife in the garden at his home which is near Birds Marsh Wood in Chippenham. He frequently puts seeds and bread out for the birds and watches them come to the bird table and fly away with the food. Jay loves Robins because of their bright coloured bellies and also that they don't seem frightened by being watched. Jay absolutely adores designing and creating pictures on his computer about things that interest him. Such as this Christmas Card design which won The National Autistic Society 2010 Christmas card competition for children on the autism spectrum.

Jays mother Michelle said "Thank you so much for arranging the grant for us. I cannot put down in words how much difference it has made to Jay's little life. He absolutely loves his

new computer and is extremely protective of it. We have given him his own bedroom with the computer on a proper desk and he just adores it. Jay astonished everyone with the wonderful robin picture and won! Everybody at Charter School, Charter Rose Autistic Unit and his family are all immensely proud of him."



Everybody at The Community Foundation is proud of Jay too!



In 2010/11 a total of 297 groups or Individuals received a grant from The Community Foundation. Totalling £662,000

## Happy Birthday to The Community Foundation

We sometimes need volunteers to help us with our administration for events and other office tasks. If you feel you might be able to help we would be very pleased to put you on the list to be called as necessary. Please call Jon Yates on 01380 729284 or email him at [jon.yates@wscf.org.uk](mailto:jon.yates@wscf.org.uk)

## Surviving Winter

We would like to thank the large number of you who supported our Surviving Winter Appeal at Christmas, which was a great success. We called on all who can afford to do so to forego their Winter Fuel Payment from the government and to donate the money to those for whom it is not nearly enough.

We received 103 donations totalling £19,400 which we have been distributing via local charities and community organisations who can reach the people most in need of help and make sure they can afford to stay warm, eat well and remain mobile, as well as help them in

practical ways such as ensuring they can make doctor's appointments, get to the shops, and maintain an active social life.

We will tell you more about this work in our 2010/11 Annual Review due out later this year.



## Happy Birthday to us!

2011 marks the 20th anniversary of the coming together of Thamesdown Community Trust and Wiltshire Community Trust to create The Community Foundation. In those 20 years we have distributed over £7m in grants supporting a huge variety of projects. We have also built an endowment as a permanent source of funding for the voluntary sector across Wiltshire and Swindon.

With the focus always being on people and disadvantage we continue to work with a large network of stakeholders that share our interests and want their communities to thrive. We would like to thank you, our Friends and Donors, for enabling us to reach this milestone. We look forward to continuing this work in the future ensuring that groups that make a difference to the lives of their beneficiaries have the resources they need to deliver.

Here's to the next 20 years!



## Our CEO becomes a Trustee of the Community Foundation Network

Rosemary Macdonald has become a Trustee of the Community Foundation Network (CFN). CFN is a registered charity that leads a movement of community foundations committed to positive social change in the UK through the development of "community philanthropy".

CFN represents 60 community foundations nationwide with a combined endowment of £224.5m. Between them they distributed £74m in grants to 26,000 in the last financial year. CFN is responsible for winning many of the large programmes we have distributed over the years, from Comic Relief, to Fair Share and Grassroots Grants. In addition, they are building a network of philanthropists interested in supporting their local communities.

Rosemary is a member of the Programme and Operations Committee and the Fair Share Trust board in addition to the main board of Trustees.



## Review of grant making systems in cost-conscious times

The Association of Charitable Foundations (ACF) is an umbrella organisation for some of the largest charitable foundations in the country.

We are a member of ACF and use their training extensively. Rosemary has recently completed a 6 day course on Effective Endowment Management and Heidi and her grants team are attending a number of workshops throughout this year to ensure we are as effective as possible. Rosemary was asked to write an article for their magazine, Trust and Foundation News which appeared in the March edition.

The article was based on work done by our team last year to update and streamline how we assess and deliver grants. The article can be found on our website at [www.wscf.org.uk](http://www.wscf.org.uk).



## Lights Camera Action!

We have again been working with Level Films from Bristol on a short film to illustrate the benefits of our scholarship funding to people from disadvantaged circumstances through the Shuker Fund and our One Degree More Campaign, details overleaf. The film shows us Angela's story and can be seen through our website at [www.wscf.org.uk](http://www.wscf.org.uk). Please take a look!



# ONE DEGREE MORE

IF CHARLES DARWIN HADN'T BEEN ABLE TO GO TO UNIVERSITY, WE MIGHT HAVE VERY DIFFERENT THEORIES ABOUT HOW WE GOT HERE.

## CHARLES DARWIN

Graduated from Christ's College, Cambridge in 1831

**Went on to develop the theory of evolution and natural selection.**

Help a disadvantaged student go to university and who knows where their journey might take them? They might just end up changing the world.

**Call The Community Foundation on 01380 729284 or visit [www.wscf.org.uk](http://www.wscf.org.uk)**

If you would like to make a donation to the One Degree More fund please send a cheque, or donate online at our One Degree More page on our website [www.wscf.org.uk](http://www.wscf.org.uk) or call Jon Yates on 01380 729284.

Thank you!

One Degree More will build on the success of our Shuker Scholarships and make tertiary education or vocational training funding available to students from across the county who may otherwise be precluded for financial reasons.

The founders of our education funding were Brian and Marie Shuker of Trowbridge who left a £2.5m legacy to the Community Foundation. Their express wish was to provide financial support to young people from West Wiltshire to enable them to undertake a university education. We have been able to fulfil those wishes and are sure they would be delighted to know that in the past 4 years we have supported 34 young people through university.

We would very much like scholarships to be available to young people from across all of Wiltshire and Swindon. Our target is to build an endowment fund of £5 million to support 30 young people a year. Under the heading of One Degree More we are asking for your help to make Wiltshire the first county in England to have an independent educational fund of this kind: a real boost to the aspirations of our young people.

## Contact us:

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We would  
like to thank...



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