

# Newsletter

May 2008



The Community Foundation  
for Wiltshire & Swindon

## New year, new faces! Community Foundation appoints new Chief Executive

We are delighted to welcome our new Chief Executive, Rosemary Macdonald, who joined us in January. Rosemary, who lives near Westbury, was previously the Marketing Director for private client law firm Wilson's in Salisbury. She has been involved with the Community Foundation for Wiltshire & Swindon for a number of years, both as an advisor and more recently as a Trustee.

Rosemary said "I think I have one of the best jobs in the world. What could be nicer than giving out grants to support the work of our voluntary groups? I am looking forward to getting to know our Friends and Donors over the coming months and hope as many of you as possible will be able to join us at our events over the summer.

Contact her at [rosemary.macdonald@wscf.org.uk](mailto:rosemary.macdonald@wscf.org.uk)



Jon Yates, Rosemary Macdonald & Angela Hogan

## Another new face!

Jon Yates joined us in April as our new Development Director replacing Kate Hunter, who moved to pastures new in November 07. Jon joins us after a long career with Zurich Financial Services in Swindon where, in addition to his day job, he was closely involved with the Zurich Community Trust and Hope & Homes for Children, a charity based in Salisbury. Jon said "I am delighted to have joined such a wonderful organisation and am looking forward to meeting our many friends and donors. I am also keen to see the inspiring work of the many groups we support some of whose stories we have included in this newsletter."

Contact him at [jon.yates@wscf.org.uk](mailto:jon.yates@wscf.org.uk)

## New Grants Administrator

We would also like to welcome Angela Hogan as our new Grants Administrator. She replaces Jill Dyke who retired at the end of April after working for the Community Foundation for over 5 years. We would like to thank Jill for all her hard work and wish her a long and happy retirement. Angela comes to us from Kennet Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) where she was a trainee advisor. Angela said "working at the CAB made me want to pursue a career in the voluntary sector, so I was delighted to be appointed at The Community Foundation".

## Community Foundation Chairman receives CBE



We would like to congratulate Richard Handover, the Chairman of the Community Foundation for Wiltshire & Swindon, on being awarded a CBE. He was named in the New Year's Honours List. Mr Handover who lives at West Overton, received the award for his services to skills and industry. Richard has been chairman of our board of trustees since April 2005. His business knowledge and skills have been invaluable during this time, helping our endowment

fund more than double from £3.5 million to over £7 million. Richard was formerly chief executive and chairman of WH Smith and a non-executive director of Nationwide Building Society. He is currently a non-executive director of the Royal Mail Group, chairman of Alexon Group and the vice-chairman of Kids Company, a charity for disadvantaged children in south London.

## The Community Foundation is incorporated

We have now been incorporated which means we are now a private limited company with charitable status. (Our Company Limited by Guarantee no. **6504318**, in England and Wales and a new charity number **1123126**) As a result we have had to change our bank accounts, which means those of you with standing orders will have to set up a new standing order with the new account details. You should have already received notification of this through the post, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries.

### Contact us:

The Community Foundation for Wiltshire & Swindon, 48 New Park Street, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 1DS  
Tel: 01380 729284 Fax: 01380 729772 email: [info@wscf.org.uk](mailto:info@wscf.org.uk) web: [www.wscf.org.uk](http://www.wscf.org.uk)  
Company Limited by Guarantee no. 6504318 Registered Charity 1123126

## Record Year for Grant Making

We have just completed our most successful year to date of grant making. We have given out almost £725,000 in grants to 233 groups throughout Wiltshire and Swindon. Most of the grants made were less than £5,000, which may not sound like a lot of money but can make a real difference to the lives of the many people who benefit. Here are just a few examples of how our money has been used to enhance the lives of people throughout Wiltshire & Swindon.

## Craft Chat and Coffee



Craft, Chat and Coffee are a group, based in Bowerhill near Melksham, for elderly people from the local rural area. They meet fortnightly and enjoy making things for others. They learn from each other by each bringing a craft activity to each meeting. They knit teddy bears and other toys which are donated to charity. Our grant enabled them to buy a new tea urn and teapot to provide the refreshments – an essential part of each meeting!

## Elizabeth House Social Centre

Elizabeth house is based in Salisbury and provides social and leisure activities for disadvantaged groups. Our grant helped fund a support worker to run art workshops for young learning-disabled people aged 16-25. These workshops have helped the young people involved to gain confidence and allowed them to have more say in what they do.



## Octobus Project

The Octobus Project runs arts and play activities for children and adults from its base in Swindon and via its mobile Playbus, a converted double decker. Our grant from the Local Network Fund enabled the Octobus project to run craft and play sessions at Thorney Park, a remote and isolated estate in Swindon. These sessions have proved popular and a great way to improve the social skills and confidence of the local children in a creative environment. "When the bus isn't here there is nothing for us to do" said one of the children and another asked, "We want you to come on Christmas day?".



## New Website goes Live!

Our new website, kindly funded by Intel, launched in March 2008 at the same web address [www.wscf.org.uk](http://www.wscf.org.uk)

It has been designed to be more user friendly and we would welcome your feedback via the new 'contact us' feature.



### Who's Who: the Staff Team

Chief Executive: Rosemary Macdonald, Development Director: Jon Yates, Development Assistant: Delia Best, Programme Director: Jenny Wildblood, Grants Officer: Marie Hale, Grants Administrator: Angela Hogan, Fair Share Community Worker: Jennifer Laibach, Finance Officer: John Nash, Office Manager: Caroline Brown

## Seeing is Believing



Our Seeing is Believing visits to projects we have funded are always popular. We had a very successful round of visits during March 2008. These included a visit to the Salisbury & District Bangladesh Sports Club. Their club aims to promote sport and Bengali language activities for their Bangladesh community. The grant we gave them enabled the group to run Bengali language courses for children & young people. The children aged from 6-16 were taught how to speak in Bengali, to write Bengali Script and traditional Bengali culture.

আমার নাম রবাত - My name is Rabat  
আমার নাম ইমরান - My name is Imran  
আমার নাম রাসেল - My name is Raseel  
আমার নাম কামরান - My name is Kamran

These are some of the children's names written in traditional Bengali script.



Mr Miah who runs the group said "the children learnt the basic of the language really quickly and should eventually be able to take a GCSE in Bengali". The language course was a great success and has helped the children to build relationships with the older generations of their families as well as helping the children to understand their own culture and to build self-confidence.

Our next round of 'Seeing is Believing' visits will be in July and details will be sent out soon. If you have not been invited to 'Seeing is Believing' visits and would like to join us, please contact Delia Best on 01380 729284 or by email [delia.best@wscf.org.uk](mailto:delia.best@wscf.org.uk).

## The Yan Fund at The Community Foundation

The Community Foundation is pleased to announce that following a request from the Salisbury Journal, we have set up a fund to collect donations from people wanting to support the injured Chinese acrobat Xu Yan.

If you would like to help, send a cheque made out to "The Community Foundation for Swindon and Wiltshire" to us at 48 New Park Street, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 1DS. Please clearly mark your envelope "Yan Fund", and enclose your name and address if you would like a written receipt.

All Donor names will be published on our website, so please let us know if you would prefer to remain anonymous.

## Have you considered becoming a friend of The Community Foundation?

As a *friend* you will be invited to at least three fundraising events a year including our High Sheriff summer drinks reception.

You will also be invited to our "Seeing is Believing" visits to see how your money has been spent at projects we have funded.

Our *friends* receive regular information from us including newsletters and annual reviews as well as being invited to our AGM.

Become a *friend* for an annual donation of just £25 or a one off donation of £250 to become a life *friend*. If you are interested please complete and return the enclosed *friends* form.



The former High Sheriff Peter Pleydell-Bouverie, his wife and friends at the drinks reception, summer 2007.

### Who's Who: Patrons and Trustees

**Patrons:** Mr John Bush OBE Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire, The Right Reverend Dr Lee Rayfield – Bishop of Swindon, The Right Reverend David Stancliffe - Bishop of Salisbury, Baroness Warnock DBE

**Trustees:** Richard Handover (Chairman), Nicky Alberry DL, David Bousfield, Caroline Caunter MBE, Clare Evans MBE, Ray Fisher, David Holder, Angus Macpherson, Tim Odoire, John Rendell, Ram Thiagarajah, Sarah Troughton DL, Geraldine Wimble, Simon Wright

#### Contact us:

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## Donor Profile - Wansbroughs

Wansbroughs Solicitors in Devizes have been supporters of the Community Foundation for over ten years. In 2002, our partners decided to formalise our involvement with the Community Foundation and have built up a £20,000 named fund, which has been used to support many projects in the county.

In addition to our support for the Community Foundation, our partners at Wansbroughs encourage our people to give some of their time to help the local community. Our people have been involved with a wide range of activities from working with children and youth groups to support for older people; and from working with churches to animal rescue charities. In the last year we volunteered at Christmas meals, completed sponsored mountain climbs, bike rides and canoe races as well as taking part in the Devizes Pancake Race, raising money for Help the Aged. We believe that our success as a firm is embodied in our commitment to our people and involvement in the communities we serve.

We have built an excellent working relationship with the Community Foundation. Our charitable activities are evolving and we see the Community Foundation as a key partner for the future both in terms of our named fund and our wider involvement with the community. We support the Community Foundation as it continues to improve the quality of life for those in need of our support and working together we can make a difference.

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## Charitable legacies from personal pensions become highly attractive

By Roger Bourlet BSc CFP

Historically one of the main drawbacks of a personal pension plan has been the fact that by age 75 the accumulated fund must be converted into an income for life – a so-called annuity. Once converted, the most that can be 'passed on' when the plan holder dies is a continuing pension for a dependant. However, following the introduction of new rules in April 2006, the requirement to buy an annuity at age 75 has been removed. Individuals may now leave their pension fund invested and may draw down a regular income within prescribed minimum and maximum limits.

So, what happens to any residual fund remaining on death after age 75? If the plan owner is survived by a dependant then the fund must be used to provide them with a pension. If not, or on the death of the dependant, the remaining fund can be transferred to the pension fund of another individual, perhaps a son or daughter. However, because the government wish to discourage this, such a transfer will generally be taxed at 82%! Alternatively the remaining fund can be left to charity free of all taxes.

So, considering a charitable legacy from your pension makes real sense. This is money that, before April 2006 was lost completely and even now, if left to non-charitable beneficiaries, will almost entirely disappear in tax. Of course, the merits of structuring your pension affairs to leave a charitable legacy will depend on your own personal circumstances and no action should be taken without seeking professional advice.

Roger Bourlet is Managing Director of Bourlet Wealth Management.  
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W: [www.bourletwealth.co.uk](http://www.bourletwealth.co.uk)

## Dates for your diary in 2008

### Thursday 19th June 2008:

an evening reception and tour of the New Arts Centre, Roche Court, the home of Lady Bessborough

### Saturday 19th July 2008:

the High Sheriff's Reception, at the home of the 2008/09 High Sheriff of Wiltshire, Mrs Madeline Wilks, North Newton near Pewsey

### 12th September 2008:

The Community Foundation's AGM and Annual Review presentation



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