

Spring 2008

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

HELP US TO CELEBRATE OUR 10TH BIRTHDAY

Join our Changing
Local Lives appeal
Page 2

ARBUTHNOT LATHAM SETS UP FUND

Page 2

48,000 YOUNG PEOPLE HELPED BY LOCAL NETWORK FUND

Page 3

AWARD FOR HOMELESS PROJECT

Page 4

FRIENDS PROVIDENT DONATES £20,000

Page 7

NEW TRUSTEES SIGN UP

Page 8

Devon Community
Foundation
The Factory
Leat Street
Tiverton EX16 5LL

Tel: 01884 235887
Email:
info@devoncf.com
www.devoncf.com

Devon Community
Foundation is a company
limited by guarantee regis-
tered in England and Wales.
Company number: 3236918.
Registered office: Darwin
House, Southernhay Gar-
dens, Exeter EX1 1LA
Registered Charity number:
1057923

SHOWCASE EVENT LAUNCHES £2 MILLION APPEAL TO CHANGE LOCAL LIVES

Hundreds of local business people and friends of the Foundation joined with our President Eric Dancer, the Lord Lieutenant of Devon, in Exeter recently to help launch our £2 million 'Changing Local Lives' birthday appeal.

The Showcase Event, which was staged at the Barnfield Theatre, featured performances and testimonials from just some of the 1,500 small community and voluntary groups who have already been helped by a grant from the Foundation.

The evening included fantastic performances from the North Devon Gymnastic Display Team, Dartline Majorettes and the Real Steel Band - all groups giving young people in some of the county's more disadvantaged areas a chance to take part in positive activities.

There were also moving testimonials from young carers and a volunteer working with the Families in Grief bereavement group. Sevil Fertinger



spoke about how the Mosaic Project is helping refugees to learn English and integrate with the local community.

A short film made by young people at the Cricklepit Media Project gave the audience an insight into the success of the Foundation's Exeter Positive Steps Fund in helping vulnerable unemployed people to get their lives back on track.

The evening was rounded off with a performance from a group of women - all ex-offenders - who had been involved in a project using theatre as a vehicle to help them overcome drug and alcohol issues.

Our thanks to everyone who supported the event and who made donations - an excellent start to our 'Changing Local Lives' fundraising appeal (see page 2 for details).

"It was tremendous to see the work being done by the Foundation in partnership with Devon's volunteers. They are making a real and tangible difference to local people."

**Eric Dancer CBE JP,
Lord Lieutenant of Devon**



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

This year it is our 10th birthday and to celebrate it we are launching a 'Changing Local Lives' appeal.



Over the last ten years we've helped hundreds of small voluntary and community groups make a real difference to local peoples' lives. Now we're aiming to raise £2 million in endowed funds over the next three years.

Donating to our appeal will help to create a permanent annual income of £100,000 to support local people in need in Devon - both now and for the future.

I hope reading this newsletter will give you an idea of the groups we support and will inspire you to help us in our birthday year.

Help us celebrate by

Joining our 'Tell 10 Friends' Campaign

Making a corporate donation or nominating us as your charity of the year

Holding a Changing Local Lives fundraising event

Supporting our Drake or Rural Funds

Log on to www.devoncf.com for more details about these initiatives.

We've already made a fantastic start but we still have a very long way to go. I do hope you can help us to change local lives for the better this year.

Thank You

Ray Miles, Chairman
Devon Community Foundation

JOINING FORCES WITH DRAKE

Devon Community Foundation has teamed up with Plymouth based Drake Foundation to build funds specifically for disadvantaged people in the City.

Headed by First Great Western Chairman, Charles Howeson, the Drake Foundation was originally set up to help disadvantaged young people in the City through maritime and adventurous activity.

Now however, the Drake Foundation wishes to broaden its focus to support a whole range of local good causes and to help local people of every age in Plymouth.

Charles Howeson comments, "We know that Devon Community Foundation has supported over 482 voluntary and community groups with almost £2 million in grants in Plymouth to date, so it knows all about getting money right to the heart of local communities where it can make a difference.

"The Drake Fund will now work in partnership with Devon Community

Foundation, acting as its fund development and grant making arm in the City.

"We are looking forward to working with them to create a focus for local charitable giving for businesses in Plymouth and a source of help for local good causes."

The Drake Foundation held a well attended event at the Royal William Yard in Plymouth on 6 March, where invited guests were addressed by Eric Dancer, Lord Lieutenant of Devon and Charles Howeson.

For more details contact David Larmour on 01752 330366



ARBUTHNOT LATHAM SET UP FUND

Arbuthnot Latham's Exeter office has nominated grassroots charity Devon Community Foundation as its chosen charity for 2008 and pledged to raise more than £20,000 for local people in need over the next year.

The private bank becomes Devon's first company to set up its own charitable fund with the Foundation.

Working with the Foundation, the bank will build up an endowed fund through its own donations and a series of fund-raising events throughout the year.

The money raised will be held in a permanent 'Arbuthnot Latham' fund. The returns generated will contribute towards the Foundation's grants to hundreds of small voluntary and

community groups across the county.

Peter Keech, Regional Director of Arbuthnot Latham explains,

"Setting up our Fund with the Foundation is a great way for us to make sure our commitment makes a real and lasting difference to local people at grass roots level."

Kathy Beecham of the Foundation meets up with Peter Keech.



48,000 YOUNG PEOPLE HELPED BY LOCAL NETWORK FUND IN DEVON



A new independent report on the regional impact of the Local Network Fund for Children and Young People has revealed that over 48,000 disadvantaged children and young people were helped by the Fund in Devon between April 2002 to December 2007.

Devon Community Foundation was one of seven Community Foundations across the South West which were selected to manage the multi-million pound grants programme on behalf of the Government.

Over the last five years, we have awarded more than £4,208,500 from the Fund to 893 small community and voluntary groups helping to change the lives of disadvantaged children and young people across the county.

We have also supported more than 30,000 volunteers who are running these groups by providing advice on setting up, managing, financing and developing projects.

The report commended the Foundation as an excellent delivery partner, calling it 'local, knowledgeable, cost-effective and accessible'.

Melanie McLoughlin, Director of the

Foundation explains, "We're delighted with the findings of the report as it highlights our role in making the grant application process much simpler for small groups.

"The report also praised the way we involved young people in the decision making process and the role our outreach team played in gaining the maximum value from each grant."

In addition, the report highlighted the role Community Foundations played in pump-priming groups which have now blossomed into delivering award-winning projects, going on to make a long lasting impact on the lives of disadvantaged children and young people throughout the South West.



The Local Network Fund was certainly a hit with Brixham based 16 year-old Zach Ward who was Chairman of our Torbay Grants Advisory Panel.

In his role as Chairman, Zach helped us to decide which small voluntary and community groups in Torbay would receive a grant from the Local Network Fund. He helped make decisions on £0.5 million worth of grants awarded to over 120 projects in the area.

Zach explains, "There's not much available for young people in Torbay and we often get a bad name for hanging around the streets, but I think people would be amazed at what has been achieved with the grants from the Foundation." Not least, by the Brixham Youth Volunteers.

The group encouraged young people to help others by volunteering. They arranged tea dances for the older people in Brixham and helped local Wheelchair Dancers rehearse for and enter a national competition. They also designed, set up and ran a free Santa's Grotto.

Zach explains, "The sense of achievement the group got from doing these things was amazing. It helped to show people that, given the chance and a bit of direction, young people can make a valuable contribution to their local community."

NATIONAL AWARD FOR EXETER HOMELESS PROJECT

An Exeter project which helps homeless people to make improvements to their lives by offering a range of occupational and training workshops has won a national award for its work.

The Meaningful Occupational Project, known as MOP, is run by 16 volunteers and three staff from the Exeter Shilhay Community. The Project received grants totalling £23,240 from the Foundation's Exeter Positive Steps Fund to hold a series of creative workshops providing music mixing, photography and media skills.

The media skills workshop was set up to teach basic literacy skills, encourage self-confidence and increase motivation through creating and recording programmes for hospital radio.

It has now gone on to scoop the John Laing Charitable Foundation's National Day Centre of the Year runner up

award, which is a tremendous accolade .

Marc Colson, MOP Project Manager explains, "The radio recording workshop took on a life of its own, driven by the enthusiasm of the homeless members who were attending the group.

"As well as producing material for hospital radio, they went on to write their own stories and poems with the help of local authors. They recorded a weekly CD of their stories for children with little or no sight and produced an illustrated booklet in large print.

"The workshop was been really valuable in helping those who attended to gain the motivation, self-confidence and skills they needed to move on and re-engage with mainstream life.

"We are extremely grateful to the Foundation for providing the grants that made it possible and to Exeter Forum Theatre for their help."

The MOP team receiving their John Laing award from Mick Hamilton



Two people taking part on the radio project went on to get jobs



NEW FOCUS ON LIFE FOR PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

A chance to learn photography skills with MOP has opened up a whole new way of looking at life for those in Exeter who are homeless, vulnerably housed or have drug and alcohol issues.

Thanks to a grant from the Foundation's Exeter Positive Steps Fund, 24 people were given the chance to attend four digital photography workshops, which included a field trip and a day in a professional editing studio.

The group then put together a formal interview presentation to see if they would be selected to take up one of the six places on the second stage of the vocational course.

The successful candidates - known as the 'In Focus Photography Group' - are now preparing for an official presentation of their work to the Royal Photographic Society. If they achieve this goal, they could be awarded the Society's endorsement of Licentiate-ship.

The group is also organising an exhibition of their photographs as a celebration of their work.

Professional photographer Wendy Brooking, who has been running the course, explains, "Two members of the group in particular have shown a natural aptitude for photography and a great commitment to learning - they are utter stars."

Toby is now looking to study photography at night school with hopes of becoming a freelance photographer and Kim wants to specialise in black and white portrait photography.

"For three days I was delighted, amazed, somewhat confused... but I wouldn't have missed it for the world... it was a childhood dream come true, carried in my head until recently almost forgotten."

Brian



Pictures taken by the In Focus group



The In Focus group on location

AWARD WINNING PROJECTS MAKE A LASTING IMPACT

Over the years, Devon Community Foundation has helped hundreds of projects supporting local people in need to get off the ground.

Many of the projects supported - particularly by the Local Network Fund for Children and Young People -

have gone on to scoop national awards.

Director, Melanie McLoughlin explains, "There's an enormous amount of excellent work being undertaken largely by volunteers at a local level and we do our best to support them. Awarding grants to projects which will

continue to have a lasting impact on improving the lives of vulnerable and excluded people is what the Community Foundation is all about.

"We're really proud of our track record in backing projects which go on to be winners, most of which have been below the radar of other funders."

Indigos Go Wild



Started by a group of volunteers and children, this group began life as a project to transform a former fly-tipping area in one of the most deprived parts of Torquay into an adventure play-space for young people from the surrounding housing estates.

A grant of £6,000 from Devon Community Foundation helped to get things started and two more grants from the Foundation followed over the next three years, along with a number of grants from other funders.

In 2005, the project won the Office of Deputy Prime Minister's Award for the most Innovative Community Project in the South West and in 2006 it also won a Government 'Respect' award.

Wheels2Work

Devon Wheels2Work began life as Honiton and Holsworthy projects backed by the Foundation with grants from the Local Network Fund.

They were designed to lend rural isolated young people mopeds as a means of getting to work, training or job interviews.

Now the not-for-profit Community Interest Company has expanded across Devon and is now in discussion with the Minister for Transport about extending their service to other counties.



Storybook Dads



Storybook Dads is an awarding winning project which was set up in 2003 with a grant of £6,930 from the Foundation.

Based at Dartmoor Prison, it helps fathers who are in prison to remain in contact with their children by recording bedtime stories for them to listen to at home.

The project has gone from strength to strength and is now a registered charity in its own right.

It recently won the Children and Youth Category at the National Charity Awards.

Its Chief Executive, Sharon Berry, also featured in Gordon Brown's book, 'Everyday Heroes'.

VITAL ROLE FOR SMALL GRANTS

The vital role small grants play in creating thriving local communities is highlighted in a new report called **Taken for Granted - Why Local Communities Need Small Grants.**

The report features the Local Network Fund and showcases some of the many success stories from a variety

of small grants programmes across the South West, including Awards for All and Comic Relief.

Commissioned by the South West Funders' Forum, the report explains why small grants are critical. It says the importance of smaller voluntary and community organisations has become clearer over the past year, with

Government initiatives emphasising the value of community engagement and the role of a healthy community sector in delivery.

To obtain a copy of Taken for Granted, contact John Skrine at Creating Excellence on 01823 250805 or download a pdf version at www.creatingexcellence.org.uk

Devon Community Foundation: Linking donors who care with local causes that matter

WOMEN'S CHALLENGE

More than one hundred women aged between 17 and 70 gathered together from across Devon for the Women's Challenge event, which was funded by a Sport Relief grant of £1,150 from Devon Community Foundation.

Climbing, abseiling and caving were just some of the many different activities on the agenda at the four day event on Dartmoor, which was designed to give women from all walks of life a chance to challenge themselves, grow in self-confidence and meet new friends.

The Women's Challenge has been running as a club for the last twelve years and its role is to give women the opportunity to face physical and emotional barriers by taking part in outdoor pursuits.

The club allows women to meet challenges at their own pace, whilst building valuable new skills which they are then able to use in other areas of their lives.

As well as meeting their main objectives, the four day event had the added bonus of helping the club to recruit 150 new members.



"The success of the event was beyond my wildest dreams."

**Liz Baldwin, Chairman,
Women's Challenge**

FUN FOR ALL AT DISABILITY SPORTS FESTIVAL

Blind football, new age kurling, table cricket, hip-hockey, floor lacrosse, wheelchair archery and football were just some of the sporting activities on offer for disabled young people at the recent Ivybridge Disability Sports Festival.

Funded by a Local Network Fund grant from the Foundation, the Festival gave young people with disabilities a chance to find out how they could join in with sporting activities and to have their say about what they wanted to see on offer at a new multi-sports club.

Children from Dame Hannah Rogers School demonstrated the activities and volunteers from Ivybridge Community College, Marjon and the Devon Football Association helped out.

The Festival was organised by Ability Sports, a charity dedicated to providing sports and activities for disabled and disadvantaged people.

Geoff Smyth from Ability Sports explains, "So often young people with

***"I never really enjoyed sport before, but now I'm going to join the table tennis club."
Marianne***



One of the participants takes some time out at the Ivybridge Disability Sports Festival

disabilities are excluded from sports activities. The Festival Day showed just how many opportunities there are to take part in mainstream activities and specially adapted sports."

SKATEBOARD SUCCESS

Young people from the Millway Rise looking at the possibility of landscaping the area and raising additional money for a BMX bike track. estate in Axminster now have their own skatepark, thanks to a Local Network grant of £5,965 from the Foundation.

The grant was used by young people from Cloakham Lawn Sports Centre to make a DVD about the lack of places for them to go to spend their free time and to skate.

The DVD was used to help the group gain the planning consents needed for the park and to secure extra funding. It was also used to raise funds for the initial planning and design of the skatepark.

Following the success of the park - which is kept clean and tidy by the users - the young people are now

"The grant was a real boost to our community"



FRIENDS PROVIDENT TAKES A POSITIVE STEP



Friends Provident has stepped in with a donation of £20,000 to ensure that the Exeter Positive Steps Fund can continue.

A matching donation from a private donor will bring a total of £40,000 to the Fund, which was set up to help unemployed people in Exeter gain the skills, motivation and self-confidence they need to get back into training, or even work or volunteering.

Originally set up as a partnership between the Foundation, Exeter City Council, Devon County Council, the Department for Education and Skills, the European Social Fund and HSBC Bank, the Fund has already supported 50 projects with £350,000 in grants.



Those helped have included the homeless, people with acquired brain injuries, refugees, ex-offenders and young people excluded from education – to name but a few.

Ashley Taylor of Friends Provident comments, "We were really impressed by what has been achieved by the

Foundation through the Exeter Positive Steps Fund in helping people to turn their lives around and get back on track."

Melanie McLoughlin added, "We're delighted by both donations which will enable us to continue our work with hard to reach groups in Exeter, helping vulnerable people who might never have worked to get back into employment or training."

"As part of our community investment policy, we think it's essential to put something back into the local communities where we operate."

*Ashley Taylor,
Senior Corporate Responsibility
Manager, Friends Provident*

Getting Animated



Eighteen young people who have problems fitting into main-stream education have been busy preparing for the Animated Exeter festival with the help of the Spacex Art Gallery. The gallery received an Exeter Positive Steps Fund grant to set up the 'X Panel Plus' group, giving young people a chance to play a hands-on role in organising the festival.

The group of 16 to 19 year olds has also been working towards their Young People's Arts Awards - a new scheme set up by the Arts Council England to develop young artists and art leaders.

Those involved helped to set up a V-jam exhibition and workshops at Spacex as part of the festival. People who took part were given a chance to mix animation and film made by the group with music to create an interactive visual display.

Headway For People With Brain Injuries

Headway Devon, a local charity for people with brain injuries, is just one of the many groups which have received a grant from Devon Community Foundation's Exeter Positive Steps Fund recently.

Their grant of £7,335 is being used to set up a brand new special employment service. Working with ten Headway clients with acquired brain injuries, a plan of action is being designed to help to develop new skills and regain confidence to return to work.

Andy Butler, who is Headway Devon's Employment Project Worker, commented "Short-term memory loss, speech impairment, emotional issues, fatigue and physical problems are just some of the difficulties encountered by people who have sustained a brain injury."

"The Headway Devon Employment scheme has been brilliant. It is important to give people the opportunity to try to get back to work, even if at first it is on a voluntary basis."



"The grant has really helped us in giving people the skills they need to move forward and fulfil their own potential."

Paul Thomas, who suffered a brain injury four years ago when he collapsed and fell into a coma whilst water-skiing, is just one of those who has already been helped by the service. He has gone on to work as a volunteer for Exeter CVS.

STAGECOACH GETS ON BOARD



Stagecoach Devon Ltd has come on board as a new Corporate Friend of the Foundation, with an initial donation of £1,000.

Part of the Stagecoach Group, it runs over 310 buses in Devon, operating services connecting communities across the county.

“As a business, we simply don’t have the time to respond to every request from local groups, but working with the Foundation means we can make sure our help gets right down to grass-roots level and makes a real difference to local peoples’ lives.”
Chris Hilditch

Chris Hilditch (far left), MD of Stagecoach Devon Ltd comments “This is a fantastic way to give something back to the local community.”



HELPFUL HOLIDAYS LEND A HELPING HAND

Our thanks go to Helpful Holidays in Chagford for their donation of £1,000.

Helpful Holidays has more than 500 of the best holidays cottages in Devon, Cornwall, Somerset and Dorset on its books and was inspired to help the Foundation after attending our Barnfield Theatre event.

Su Bowater of Helpful Holidays said, “We delighted in seeing the results of



the work done by the charitable associations who are the recipients of donations.”

“We thought the work of Devon Community Foundation excellent.”

A very big thank you to all who made donations following our Showcase Event and special thanks to all the staff at the Barnfield Theatre, our volunteers and all the performers for all their help and support on the night.

NEW FACES

We’re delighted to welcome five new trustees to our board.

Arthur Ainslie, DIPHI MBA FCIM
Arthur served over 37 years in the Royal Navy and is a member of the Plymouth Drake Fund, which recently joined forces with the Foundation.

David Searle, Gill Akaster Solicitors

David is also a trustee of the Drake Fund, of which he is a co-founder. He is a former Vice Commodore of the Royal Western Yacht Club

Peter Keech, Regional Director Arbuthnot Latham

Peter has more than 30 years experience of working in banking and joined private bankers, Arbuthnot Latham, in 1994.

Martin Lamb, Director Savills

Martin heads Savills’ office in Exeter, dealing with residential and agricul-

tural property in Devon, Cornwall and West Somerset

Michael Hockin, London & Westcountry Estates

Michael is one of Plymouth’s leading property figures and as well as his involvement with us, he is also a supporter of the Dame Hannah Rogers School.



Michael Hockin, Peter Keech and Martin Lamb, three of our new Trustees

If you would like more information about how to help the Foundation with its work and how we can help you to give effectively to local causes contact our Fund Development Team on 01884 235887 or Email: admin@devoncf.com

For more information about our Changing Local Lives appeal visit: www.devoncf.com

**.....COMING.....SOON.....
Download our ITV Westcountry ‘Changing Local Lives’ DVD from our website at www.devoncf.com**