

Coast2Coast

Winter 2006-2007

Devon Community Foundation

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Inside this issue:

Small Grants - Short Stories	2
In-House Outreach	2
New Development Manager	2
QUIP	3
Tale Valley Trust	3
A Little Grant Scores a Lot of Goals	4
Totnes Young People's Theatre	4
From Hartland to Artland	5
Exeter Foyer Residents Association	5
Young Carers Unite	6
Tepee in the Park	6
Kool Box	7
Exwick Summer Festival	7
Recently funded projects	8
Contact Details	8

Devon Step Up Fund



We are delighted to announce that the Foundation is managing a new European Social Fund Objective 3 Global Grants programme.

Called the Devon Step Up Fund, the programme will be open to applications in January 2007.

It builds on the already very successful Exeter Positive Steps Fund and will support voluntary and community sector based projects helping long term unemployed people of working age to improve skills and build confidence and self esteem. The ultimate aim is to improve people's employment prospects.

Grants of £250 to £10,000 will be available to support projects for people living in the county (excluding Exeter, Plymouth and Torbay).

Applications benefiting people in the following areas will receive first priority: Ilfracombe, Barnstaple, Bideford, Teignmouth, Princetown and rural Torridge.

Applications from groups in Dawlish, Westward Ho!, Seaton, Tiverton and Newton Abbot will receive second priority.

Projects for communities of interest, such as black & minority ethnic groups, people with disabilities, offenders, those with basic skills needs, lone parents and carers will also receive priority.

There are three themes. They are increasing employability, developing personal skills and developing practical skills. Grants will be targeted at the most marginalized and hardest to reach communities.

Application packs are available now. Call us on 01884 235887 for more details or an informal chat.

Quality Accreditation

Over the summer Devon Community Foundation was one of just five to be selected by the Community Foundation Network (CFN) to participate in a Quality Accreditation pilot for Foundations.

The programme is designed to endorse and encourage best practice in the Network and is an investment by CFN to ensure that Community Foundations are healthy, strong and sustainable.

Twenty standards span seven key performance areas, which are defini-

tion, governance, finance, donor services and development, grant making, community engagement and communications.

Each participating Foundation also underwent a corporate assessment, undertaken by an external assessor.

Following a rigorous but fair assessment, Devon Community Foundation was awarded Quality Accreditation. CFN is currently designing a Quality Accreditation logo which we can use

as an endorsement on our website, literature and stationery.

Following the successful pilot, the programme is now being rolled out across the UK in three waves, with a view to all Foundations eventually receiving accreditation.

Building on our experience of the process, we have been involved in running Quality Accreditation workshops for other Community Foundations in the region currently going through the process.

Small Grants - Short Stories....

Dawlish Museum

Last winter's newsletter reported on the Foundation's grant to Dawlish Museum which, with its £100 grant, planned to install a handrail to improve access.



The Museum sent us the above photograph of the rail, which was designed and made by a local Blacksmith. We were very impressed that so much attention had been paid to its design and feel that it has really made a difference to the Museum.

Stairways

With a grant of just £325, Stairways started a social club for adults with learning disabilities. The group has been on trips, one of which involved hawking on Dartmoor, as shown in the photo.



The Club provides a safe meeting place for adults with learning difficulties and is the only provision of its type in the area.

Roborough Village Hall

A grant of £250 from the Foundation enabled Roborough Village Hall Committee to replace all its old and chipped crockery.



The new china is now being used by community groups frequenting the Hall. Many of them have been so impressed with the new equipment that they have been leaving their deposits for the loan of the crockery as a donation to the group.

Out-Reach All In-House

Those of you who read the summer edition of Coast2Coast will recall that the Foundation brought the Outreach and Support service for the Local Network Fund in house in April 2006.

Since then the new outreach team, consisting of Olive George,

Pat Baggott and Jacqui Melville, has gone from strength to strength, taking on all of the Foundation's outreach work.

The team now covers Exeter as well as the rest of Devon (including Plymouth and Torbay), providing support to appli-

cants to the Local Network Fund, the Exeter Positive Steps Fund and the Devon Step Up Fund.

Their role includes promoting the Funds and offering support in all aspects of the application process to any applicant needing help.

New Development Manager

The Foundation appointed its first Development Manager in November.

Jim Morrison grew up in the north of the County, but moved to Southampton and then on to London to develop his career in marketing and TV.

He moved back to Devon in 2001, working as a fundraiser for the Red Cross. He was promoted to Area Fundraising Manager and his team successfully raised £2.5 million for the charity.

An offer from Shelter, a charity for the homeless, led him into

the specialist area of corporate fundraising. Managing a partnership with the South West Co-operative Group, he raised £1 million in just six months.

At the Foundation Jim will be focussing on gaining support from businesses, individuals and families in Devon and aims to raise £2 million over the next 18- 24 months.

"It will be a challenge," says Jim, "but since meeting the staff and Trustees and seeing their commitment and professionalism, reaching the first £2 million is clearly achievable. This is a

great job, giving people the chance to invest in their community and set up a fund which acts an "immortal Samaritan".



Jim Morrison

Out of the Closet and on to the Stage

Queers Into Performance, or QUIP as they are better known, was one of the last groups in Plymouth to benefit from a Community Chest grant from the Plymouth Neighbourhood Renewal Community Chest programme.

Their grant of £3,600 enabled the group to fund two events focusing on performances by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) members of the community.

QUIP was originally set up in 2005 to bridge the gap for LGBT performers and to reduce social and cultural isolation in the their community. The group seeks to bring the LGBT community together by providing entertainment that is both relevant and interesting for

QUIP feel that by offering this opportunity they are presenting a united front ,as well as honoring people's separate identities and life-styles.

its members, whilst at the same time being free from homophobia.

'Tarquin's Closet' and 'Further Tales from the Closet' were QUIP's first two performance events and both took place in the Barbican Theatre, Plymouth.

The productions helped to raise the profile of QUIP and of LGBT performers in the South West and also highlighted the issues of social and cultural exclusion faced by many LGBT people.

The shows themselves involved a mixture of professional, semi-professional and community performers, as the group felt it was important to keep a good balance of performers and also wanted to encourage new members.

Both of the productions had a 'coming out' theme, aimed at revealing sexuality. The pieces explored the issues involved and looked at making the process of coming out safe and non-threatening. The second event attracted more local community performers and the group hopes that this will increase.

QUIP is already planning its next performance and has learnt valuable lessons from this experience, such as making sure that their next event isn't competing for attention with the World Cup!

Tale Valley Trust

The Tale Valley Trust ran an environmentally themed summer scheme with a difference this year. There weren't any clip boards, there was no technical equipment and there were certainly no quadrants and transects. What there was, was a lot of mud!

The group used their £3,000 Local Network Fund grant to employ a part time leader to head up and train a group of parent volunteers to run a summer scheme with an environmental theme for children from rurally isolated locations.

The Trust believed it was more important to learn to enjoy and be part of the environment than to learn the name of everything living in it and so the course involved a lot of hands on learning.

The field trips that took place over the summer offered some very interesting experiences for the children, who collected their own food, tracked animals through woodlands and learned new for-



A typical summer's day out with the Tale Valley Trust

est survival skills.

One of the most popular trips was to the swamp to learn about what was lurking there. But there was no looking at diagrams and slides of animals! As our photo shows, the children actually got into the

marsh land with the animals and explored their habitat first hand!

The interactive learning approach proved to be very popular with the children, who, strangely enough, didn't mind getting covered in mud one little bit! However, their parents may have a different view.

The idea was to let the children discover the environment around them, rather than seeing environmental issues as just something in the news that is happening to the rest of the world.

The field trips encouraged children to build relationships with the space they live in and in turn to understand the way in which they live affects it.

Although the summer's activities had a serious message throughout, the children taking part had no shortage of fun and they certainly weren't afraid to get their hands dirty.

A Little Grant Scores a Lot of Goals

Newton St Cyres Football Club received a grant this year towards setting up a youth football development section at their club. They established teams for the under 10's, under 15's and the under 16's players with their £400 grant from the Foundation's Sport Relief programme.

The Club invested the grant in equipment for the teams, including goals, training bibs, team strips and of course, enough footballs to enable them to practice scoring goals and to play matches with!

All the teams are open to anyone from the local community regardless of ability, disability or gender. The Club has reported that, so far, they have been able to ensure that all the children and young



people attending are made to feel part of a team and proud of their club.

One new member especially benefited from the development of the new teams. A young man with hearing difficulties, who also

suffers from problems with his sight, came to the club after being rejected from another nearby football club. Having being told he was 'no good', the young man had been asked to leave his team.

The youngster now plays as the under 16's team goalkeeper and was recently made player of the year by his team mates.

His confidence, having taken quite a knock after being rejected from his previous club, has gradually been built back up with the support of his team mates, his coach and through his own hard work.

He is, of course, delighted to be Player of the Year, 2006.

They Captured the Castle!



Street performances

Totnes Young People's Theatre group not only captured the castle this summer but also the imagination of a lot of young people.

The group had a grant of just £2,990 from the Local Network Fund, but they certainly made it go a long way, hosting a variety of creative workshops in preparation for the Totnes Parade.

The theatre company worked creatively with three different groups of hard to reach young people, holding workshops for them in a juvenile detention centre, with homeless young people and with a group of young carers.

Working with a variety of professional artists, young people collaborated in workshops covering drama, performance writing, textiles, film making and dance.

The workshops gave the children and young people the chance to work with professional artists for the first time. They were encouraged to research and generate their own material by responding to the surrounding landscape, local history and mythology.

The workshops culminated in a one-day community event at Tot-



The parade to the Castle

nes Castle where some of the groups had the opportunity to perform their final pieces. The event kicked off with a masked parade through the streets of Totnes which was interspersed with street performances by the groups and all the collaborating artists.

The theatre group also spent time working with homeless young people living in nearby supported housing. The aim here was to encourage and develop their self esteem using creativity as a vehicle. They worked together to produce sound tracks for the performances and some put on performances themselves. They also joined in the masked parade.

With an audience of over 800, the young people certainly filled the castle.

Reports from the people who watched and those who joined in were all extremely positive and all echoed similar views of 'encore'!

From Hartland to Art-Land

With a grant of £4,197, Merlyn Chesterman, a local painter and printmaker, ran Saturday morning workshops from her studio in Hartland, North Devon which culminated in an exhibition that was so popular it has become a permanent fixture.

One member of the group, who was taking GCSE Art, undertook to produce a wood cutting for a print and entered the piece as part of her final project.

Merlyn, whose own work can be found in galleries in London and the South West, also runs art classes for children who are excluded from school.

A lot of the pieces undertaken by the young people were inspired by the natural environment. They explored the area they live in, looking at it from new angles and producing some unique and unusual artwork.



A print made at the Workshop

Some extraordinary friendships were also built during the course of the workshops, with one 80 year old volunteer forming a strong bond of friendship with a six year old traveller who lived in the local car park with her father.

Another young member of the

group brought her mother, who did not speak any English and was very isolated. Both the mother and daughter have now made many new friends and have started to feel part of the community.

The workshops have played an important role in the community, bringing together many different people who might otherwise have never met.

The printmaking workshops received another year's funding in the form of a Millennium award directly after the Local Network Fund Grant ran out, so they will be running again next year.

New friendships and skills were developed in Hartland when a Print Workshop was run during the summer

Exeter Foyer Residents' Association

The Exeter Foyer Residents' Association received a grant of £6,875 from the Local Network Fund to run a project for their residents.

The Foyer, managed by the Guinness Trust, works to promote the interests of young homeless people who stay in their temporary accommodation whilst undertaking training. The ultimate aim is to help them on the road to becoming independent.

The project was in two parts. The first part focused on health and well-being and the second on personal development, using training as a vehicle.

The Association encouraged the residents to be responsible for their own health and well-being by providing a fitness trainer who offered one to one advice and tailored training programmes.

The project helped one young man achieve his goal of being accepted into the army after receiving support while training for his fitness test, which he had previously failed.

The residents were also offered bicycles on loan. Some of the young people used the bikes as transport to work or college, others simply borrowed them to go on a cycle ride to keep fit.

The second part of the project involved offering access to training in multimedia technology. The Association ran a video project which was so incredibly successful and popular with the residents that the Association has decided to dedicate the whole of the ground floor of the centre to multimedia technology.

One of the residents who took

part in the multimedia project has now organized his own workshops, teaching Hip-Hop to young people in the surrounding area.

Of the 32 young people who had a sustained interest in one or both of the projects, five have achieved the City & Guilds Profile of Achievement award and twelve have made a positive 'move on' from the Foyer and are living independently. A number of them are now in full time education and employment.



A flier for a new workshop run by one of the residents

Young Carers Unite for a Summer of Fun

Unite Young Carers has been able to offer Mid Devon's young carers a year of activities and invaluable respite, thanks to a grant from the Local Network Fund.

The grant of £6,964 enabled the youth workers and volunteers at Unite to organise and run a range of activities and events for fifty children and young people who provide care and support for a family member.

The whole process involved the children and young people throughout, with them ultimately deciding on where they wanted to go and what they wanted to do. Consultation was on-going and the activities were always directed and driven by the children and young people.

One of the areas Unite felt they could address was the lack of access to leisure opportunities for the young carers. From previous consultation work, Unite had found that some of the recurring problems faced by young carers included social exclusion, bullying and exhaustion, with no time for themselves and a sense that no one understood what they were going through.



Walking the wire at Bicton Park

The grant ensured that Unite could run a monthly social club for the young carers, giving them the opportunity to meet up with other young people in similar circumstances and helping them to establish important friendship and networks, enabling them to be included in social activities.

As well as being primarily a chance for the young carers to relax and have fun, many of the organised trips and events acted as confidence builders and provided opportunities for learning and developing new skills, including, for some, improved social skills.

Among the varied programme of activities was a residential at Bicton, where the young carers took part in raft building, a

search and rescue course, and of course, wire walking!

The young carers had the opportunity to address issues that were important to them on trips to both the Southampton Young Carers Festival and the Young Carers Conference, where they were able to have input into decisions affecting their lives.

The group also had some plain old good fun on social and team building outings to Crealy, Diggerland, Pecorama and Woodlands.

The grant also enabled the group to produce a regular monthly newsletter, the name of which - 'Kids Who Care' - was picked by the young carers themselves.

The newsletter will continue to serve as a forum for their opinions and interests and will help to keep all the young carers up to date on events and news.

In 2005, 106 young carers were identified in Mid Devon by Unite. They also highlighted a huge gap in provision for these young people who need and deserve direct support.

Tepee in the Park

Play Rangers from the Teignbridge Play Network, or Tepee as it is known, spent their summer playing in the park - nice work if you can get it! It wasn't child's play for the Rangers though, as they were there to tackle the issue of bullying.

Many children had previously reported being bullied in the park by other children and young people and Tepee addressed this by encouraging the bullies to join in.

By making them feel included, the Play Rangers found that they were able to discourage anti-



See, recycling *can* be fun! Our picture shows one of the young carers enjoying the Park project

social behaviour and praise any positive behaviour.

The Play Rangers' activity sessions took place over 20 weeks in Victoria Park in Buckfastleigh. The sessions made the Park a popular meeting place for the local children and for their parents and carers, who in turn built networks and made friendships of their own.

The children who took part in the project, which received a grant of £5,680 from the Foundation, reported a noticeable drop in confrontational behaviour as a direct result of the programme.

Kool Box Hits the Road

Last year a grant of £7,000 enabled Kool Box to hit the road in the form of a revamped mobile outreach youth centre.

The Local Network Fund grant enabled Rees Youth and Community Centre to refurbish and equip a converted horse box to provide an outreach programme of activities for hard to reach young people in Plympton and the surrounding areas.

Getting the Kool Box on the road at all was not smooth sailing to start with. The van needed some serious engine and body work before it could meet safety regulation standards and it was off the road for longer than anticipated.



It's just a big box of Kool with wheels on it! The Kool Box - ready for action.

When the work was finally completed, the youth workers set about offering social and sports activities to the young people, most of whom had little or no prior access to other youth provision or support.

The youth workers reported that up to 15 children a night are using the twice weekly outreach facility and over 30 young people aged 13-19 are visiting them to take part in weekend activities or seek advice and support.

The activities are fun, but are backed up by a healthy living theme and information on health, sexual health and self care is always available. The young people also receive support in anything from CV writing to advice on quitting smoking.

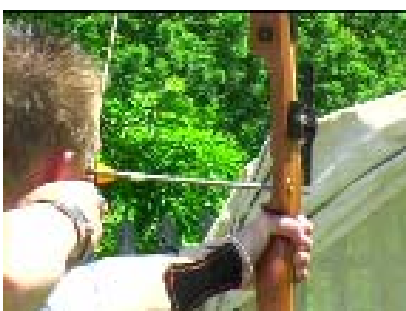
The Kool Box continues to be a success for the workers from the Community Centre and can regularly be seen zooming about Plympton looking pretty Kool!

Exwick Community Association's Summer

Exwick Community Association successfully organised and ran a youth festival last summer with funding from the Local Network Fund. Their £6,000 grant enabled the Association to hold various workshops throughout the day for the children, young people and their families alongside the rest of the community festival's events.

The organisers were thrilled with how the day turned out, saying that not only did the activity raise the profile of the area but more importantly it brought the residents together with local young people and voluntary sector projects.

The workshops gave the children



Every one commented that there was a warm and friendly atmosphere all day

and young people the chance to learn new skills, build their confidence and interact with other young people from the area.

The festival also included a football match between the police and local young residents, which proved to be a great opportunity to improve relations between the two groups.

Every one of the volunteers involved with the event reported that they learned a lot, met some great new people and developed their own skills as well as helping others to develop theirs.

Exwick Community Association worked constantly with other organisations to get as many people involved in the project as possible, including Exeter Community Initiatives, Connexions, The Ivy project, Devon Youth Services and Devon Community

Foundation, to name but a few.

Some of the activities available at the festival included graffiti art, Hip-Hop, DJ and Rap workshops. Other events included trampolining, archery, the Funlands Fun Fair and a bouncy castle.

It was the first time that a festival of this nature had been tried in the area and it is hoped that, following this enormously successful pilot, it can become a regular annual event.

The feedback from the project received so far has been very positive, with the Battle of the Bands being voted 'highlight of the day' and everyone hoped to see the Festival back again next year.



Recent Grants Awarded

Kingsbridge & Salcombe Hockey Club

Kingsbridge & Salcombe Hockey Club was recently awarded a Sport Relief grant to encourage junior participation for girls and boys aged between 5 and 16. The funding will allow the group to provide equipment such as balls and sticks, enabling children and young people who may not normally be able to afford the sport to participate in the game.

The group felt that their rural community had a lack of facilities and opportunities for this age group and wanted to create a healthy interest for the children and young people living in and around the area. The nearest hockey team was around a one hour journey away and was not accessible by public transport.

The Club is currently working in partnership with the Community College and both hope to develop hockey from primary age through to the college students. They hope the children and young people will develop new skills by learning to work together as a team.

Double Elephant Print Workshop

An Exeter Positive Steps Fund grant was awarded to the Double Elephant Print Workshop to run print workshops for adults recovering from head injuries. The group is working in conjunction with Headway to deliver creative activities for people recovering from a variety of brain injuries.

The group told us that the long term effects of a haemorrhage, road accident, fall or assault can lead to behavioural and emotional changes and affect people's thinking skills, such as memory, concentration and organisation. They hope that a creative activity such as printmaking will help participants to gain confidence and provide a new outlook which will help them realise they can achieve anything they want to.

The grant of £7,090 will go towards running the sessions, which will develop the participants practical skills by giving them the opportunity to explore work on both individual and collaborative projects over the coming year.

Spacex

Spacex, an Exeter based art gallery, has recently been awarded an Exeter Positive Steps Fund grant of £8,000. The funding will enable the group to offer young people who are at risk of exclusion from mainstream education or training the chance to gain experience and arts based transferable skills.

'XPanel Plus', will provide tailored training and support to enable disadvantaged young people to organise part of Spacex's event programme.. The main project will see two groups of young people forming a project management team to organise an event for their peers as part of the Exeter Festival.

Spacex has piloted this approach to training and has found it to be particularly suitable for the young people who are resistant to more formal education and training schemes. Involvement in this particular experience is highly valued by employers and educational institutions and will help to boost the participants' knowledge of different career paths.

DEVON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION'S BI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

If you would like more information on:

Local Network Fund for Children & Young People

Exeter Positive Steps Fund

Devon Step Up Fund

Sport Relief

Small Grants

Rural Fund Grants

Fast Track Grants

Friends of Devon Community Foundation

Corporate Friends of Devon Community Foundation

or for further details on any of the stories in this edition of Coast2Coast, or any aspect of our work, please don't hesitate to contact us.



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