Island Funds for Island Causes

IWCF
Isle of Wight Community Foundation

HiWCF
LOCAL GIVING FOR LOCAL NEEDS

Annual Review 2021

Front cover: community groups supported by HIWCF / IWCF (l-r) Cowes Sailability, Medina Marching Band, IOW Community Rail Partnership
This page: numerous groups in receipt of HIWCF / IWCF funding during 2021

Welcome

Susie Sheldon, His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant on the Isle of Wight

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the Isle of Wight Community Foundation (IWCF) review, 2021. As I read through this report, I am so impressed by the sheer breadth of work being undertaken by community groups all around the Island. The sad reality is that there are some parts of our beloved Isle of Wight that are amongst the most deprived in the whole of the UK – but it is heartening to see so many people working so hard to lessen the burden on our communities.

In 2021, community groups on the Island received grants worth £259,756. This was made possible with directly generated Island funds of £34,593, and by having access to funding of £225,163 from funds managed by the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Community Foundation (HIWCF) of which we are a part. Every penny was put to work by the passionate staff and volunteers of community groups doing vital work for people all around the Island. I would like to thank them, and the many donors who have contributed with endowment funding or other donations, for everything you do to make the Isle of Wight the very special community it is.

Lastly, the work the IWCF does, with support from HIWCF, makes a huge impact on the Isle of Wight community sector, and I know I can speak for them all in thanking the IWCF Committee and the HIWCF team for their commitment to the Island. I am proud to be part of such an important organisation supporting the Island's communities.

Michael Smith, IWCF Chair

Living on the Island I am privileged to be able to enjoy the many benefits it has to offer. I am so glad to be part of an organisation that helps bring those benefits to members of our community who may otherwise miss out. Knowing that sailing is available for disabled young people, or access to horses and nature is supporting the mental health of many who are still battling with the impact of the pandemic, or that isolated older adults are making new friends and enjoying themselves as part of the 'sheds' movement, all through IWCF's support, is very satisfying.

As an Island-based grant giver, IWCF works incredibly hard to build Island funds for Island causes, creating a permanent financial legacy for the local community sector. Our Isle of Wight endowment funds are now worth nearly £1.5 million - every penny of which is ring-fenced for grant making on the Island. Endowment funds are managed by HIWCF and the income is distributed through the experienced team of people who form the IWCF committee, or at the discretion of donors. Because the IWCF is part of HIWCF, Isle of Wight causes are able to access HIWCF managed funds, such as the European Social Fund and National Emergencies Trust funds, which in 2021 amounted to £225,163 of funding to the Island. With our expert local knowledge, IWCF is able to support HIWCF in the additional grant making it directs to the Island. IWCF is certainly more than the sum of its parts.

Now that the various lockdowns and other measures have lifted, I have had the pleasure of visiting a number of community groups on the Island this year, including South Wight Area Youth (SWAY) and Tidal Family Support. It has been a pleasure to also connect with the High Sheriff of the Isle of Wight. It never fails to impress me what volunteers and community groups can do with such limited funds. But with more, they could do so much more. The need is genuinely there – I have seen it with my own eyes – so I would encourage you, if you can, to contact the team about making a donation. Jacqui Scott, HIWCF's CEO is there to guide you on the best options for you – endowment funding, 'flow through' funding, or other alternatives. Do please get in touch.

Chair and CEO introductions

Rebecca Kennelly MBE, HIWCF Chair

I'm passionate about our local community and voluntary sector which is made up of organisations that are working hard in their communities to meet the needs of local people. These small, incredible community groups and charities, make up the fabric of our civic society; they offer support and help to the most vulnerable and marginalised within our communities. One of the things that always strikes me about the community groups that we support on the Isle of Wight is their innovative approach, often ahead of similar groups elsewhere in the country. We are proud to be able to support that.

We have so many different and complex issues in our society - there is no magic wand or 'one' thing that will solve these issues but we are so grateful for the philanthropists, businesses and other organisations which have so generously supported our work on the Island – we hugely appreciate your understanding of all these issues, and your willingness to step up to help resolve them in the ways you can.

Lastly I would like to thank the Lord Lieutenant of the Isle of Wight and the Trustees of the Isle of Wight Community Foundation for their commitment and support to Island communities through the IWCF. We are so grateful for everything you do.

Jacqui Scott, HIWCF CEO

I feel privileged to regularly visit the Island, and for every visit, I can feel the passion, creativity and energy of the groups and people I meet.

From community groups working with young people facing mental health crises, to groups supporting families facing the most complex and difficult situations – family breakdown, unemployment, violence, poverty – each and every one is providing much needed support to the communities they work within. I was also delighted this year to meet with the Lord Lieutenant and the High Sheriff - relationships which are so important to the growth of IWCF.

Our commitment to the communities of the Isle of Wight has never been stronger. I am looking forward to spending more time learning about what is most needed, and how best we can support that.

I would like to take this opportunity to give my heartfelt thanks to all our fundholders, particularly Wightlink for supporting my travel to and from the Island, our community groups, volunteers and supporters and our incredible team for all you've done and continue to do.

By working together, we will see more people thriving across the Isle of Wight.

Working with the National Emergencies Trust

Strong community infrastructure was vital in keeping people safe, well and connected across the Island during 2021 and working with the National Emergencies Trust, IWCF and HIWCF were able to distribute more than £20,000 to non-profit organisations working to alleviate hardship as a result of the pandemic.

One vital service was provided through Ryde-based Jigsaw Family Support – now known as Tidal Family Support. They provide help to parents and their children with counselling sessions, play therapy and support groups to improve the emotional wellbeing and mental health of children and young people. Tidal Family Support was awarded £5,000 to help recruit more staff to support the increase in referrals to their service during a particularly difficult time for families already in crisis.

Funding was also provided to St Mary's Church in Brading to overhaul outdoor facilities (pictured above) for the whole community – building the infrastructure of the community meadow, market and farm including space for sheep and lambs. Bodster CIC received funding to enable people to access equine assisted support virtually. One beneficiary said: "These virtual sessions ... make me feel much calmer and relaxed so I'm more able to take on any challenges I have to face. Thank you Bodster for the time you take so I can have a better day."

Groups receiving funding from the National Emergencies Trust included:

Bodster CIC	£2,600
Independent Arts	£3,069
Jigsaw Family Support (now known as Tidal Family Support)	£5,000
St Marys Church	£4,647
Wessex Cancer Trust	£4,798

Helping the Island out of lockdown

As communities begin to tentatively emerge from lockdown, grants from IWCF endowments and new funding from The John Swire 1989 Trust helped to address issues such as social isolation, mental health and poverty. Combined grant funding worth more than £35,000 was awarded to support the services of 12 Island-based charities and voluntary organisations working with people most affected by the pandemic.

Nettlestone and Seaview Shed was awarded £3,000 to support the construction of a new workshop to bring local residents together for friendship and conversation while getting involved in skilled craft work.

Rob Webb, Chair of Trustees for Nettlestone and Seaview Shed said: "... The Shed is the hub of everything [in our local community] and only exists due to the generous support of IWCF, HIWCF and other donors".

South Wight Area Youth Partnership (SWAY - pictured above) was awarded £3,000 to plan and provide challenges, activities and transport for young people in the more rural areas of the Island as restrictions started to ease.

Andy Dorning, Lead Youth Worker for SWAY said, "Grants like this one help to encourage young people into lively activity which then feeds back into our weekly sessions and increases opportunities for conversations with young people and their families."

Groups receiving funds from the John Swire 1989 Trust included:

Aspire Ryde	£2,600
Jigsaw Family Support (now known as Tidal Family Support)	£3,000
Medina Marching Band	£3,000
Northwood Cricket Club	£2,500
Ryde Saints Football Club	£2,500
Sea View Yacht Club Ltd	£3,000
South Wight Area Youth Partnership	£3,000

Groups receiving funds from IWCF Community Fund included:

Age UK Isle of Wight	£2,969.12
Cowes Sailability Club	£1,849
Daisy Chains Isle of Wight	£2,986
Nettlestone & Seaview Shed	£3,000

‘We’re All Together Fund’ – bringing communities together

Nine charities and voluntary organisations across the Island benefitted from the HIWCF ‘We’re All Together Fund’ which was established to help family support groups, mental health and wellbeing organisations, homeless charities, and groups tackling loneliness and isolation.

Ryde Methodist Church was in desperate need of new cooking facilities during the pandemic, as the old gas cookers had worn out and failed gas checks. The church was providing an essential service to the local community with hot meals and good company and was awarded £3,486 to replace the old facilities so it could get back up and running.

Spokesperson Peter Bourne said: “We would just like to say a huge ‘thank you’ for this grant – we recently held an event to celebrate and open the kitchen fully again. We held a service to remember the many people that we know of that had been lost to the recent Covid-19 pandemic. Many of the relatives travelled to the Island and from around the Island to join with us and this turned out to be a truly moving event. We now are opening the kitchen to other people again.”

Grants were also provided to support mental health initiatives, including Isorropia Foundation, a mental health and wellbeing organisation based in Newport to deliver five two-day emotional wellbeing courses in five primary schools in highly deprived areas.

A recent attendee stated: “The world looks brighter… I can feel my outlook and the way I feel about myself changing, it’s like I’m a new person”.

Groups receiving funds from the ‘We’re All Together Fund’ included:

Aspire Ryde	£2,479
Home-Start IOW	£4,446
Isle of Wight Youth Trust	£5,000
Isorropia	£5,000
People Matter IW	£4,940
Ryde Methodist Church	£3,486
Storeroom2010	£5,000
Suicide Prevention & Intervention (SPIIOW)	£4,600

Tackling food poverty: Coral's lifeline

According to the Index of Multiple Deprivation, three areas on the Isle of Wight – parts of Ryde and Pan – were ranked as among the 10% most deprived in England.

Pan Together operates a community centre and café in one of the poorest housing estates on the Island, where volunteers provide freshly prepared food at affordable prices. Around £5,000 worth of grant funding from the 'We're All Together Fund' and the 'Co-Op Covid-19 Fund' has helped maintain Pan's vital support services for vulnerable local families – a modest amount yet enabling vital food and essential items to be delivered to those most in need.

Coral explained how Pan was her lifeline during the pandemic: "After both my partner and I were out of work, they provided hot meals every single day for my two children, which took major financial pressure away and the knowledge that my children could be fed until we figured out what would happen next. They were always there, with donations of things to entertain the children and help with schoolwork. Now we have come out the other side, I will always do what I can to now return the favour to the Pan Community Centre."

Sailing out of lockdown with Max

Cowes Sailability Club is back providing opportunities for adults and young people with disabilities to socialise and take part in specially adapted motorboat trips with help from an IWCF community grant worth £1,849.

Max Cockbain Loureiro went out on the first boat trip of 2021, along with his mum and stepdad, and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

"Max has had a tough time recently with lockdown and other issues, so getting out on the water with Cowes Sailability Club literally was a breath of fresh air," says his mum, Sarah Cockbain. "It was great for him to feel free of the daily restraints of being a wheelchair user and doing an activity that is fully accessible. Our smiles say it all. Thank you Cowes Sailability!"

"We are so grateful to IWCF and HIWCF for its support," says Trish Rooke, Fundraising Officer at Cowes Sailability Club. "It is lovely to be able to offer motorboat trips for disabled people on the Isle of Wight again, especially after so many of them have had a difficult time during the Coronavirus pandemic. Being on the water really lifts their spirits and makes them feel positive again."

Funding youth social action through the #iwill Campaign

The #iwill Campaign is a UK-wide programme aiming to make youth social action a regular part of life for young people, particularly in deprived areas. HIWCF awarded grants to three community organisations on the Island through the #iwill Fund and generous match funding provided by HIWCF donors.

A grant of £3,440 to Ventnor Exchange enabled the Brave Island Project (pictured above) to support young people to create online radio and podcast content from initial concept right through to final product. Participants devise programmes exploring youth culture and identity, and present, interview, record, edit and promote the audio shows.

Jack Whitewood, Co-Director, said "Brave Island is the creative network for young people on the Isle of Wight. Thanks to this grant we're launching a new Brave Island Podcast, created by and for young people".

Groups receiving funds from the #iwill Fund included:

Aspire Ryde	£4,815
Suicide Prevention & Intervention (SPIIOW)	£4,900
Ventnor Exchange	£3,440

Island clubs receive Made By Sport funding

Also in 2021, HIWCF worked with Made By Sport to offer the '#ClubsInCrisis Fund', to leave a lasting legacy for the future of young people involved in sports via grants of up to £2,021. Seven Island clubs received grants including Isle of Wight Triathlon Club and Arreton Cricket Club. Ryde Swimming Club (pictured above) , like most swimming clubs, struggled financially following the closures caused by the pandemic. The club was granted £2,021 to build the club back up to full strength. Todd Miller, General Manager at Waterside Community Trust said, "The funding has enabled us to provide more coaches to enable the club to continue training local talent and producing more great swimmers on our Island".

Groups receiving funds from Made By Sport #ClubsInCrisis Fund included:

Arreton Cricket Club	£2,021
Brading Town Youth Football Club	£2,021
Isle of Wight Triathlon Club	£2,021
Ryde Methodist Church	£2,021
Ryde Saints Football Club	£2,021
Ryde Swimming Club	£2,021
Seaclose Swimming Club	£2,021

Aspire Ryde - Digital Inclusion project

Island recovery

As 2021 came to a close, the 'Covid Recovery Fund' saw HIWCF and IWCF award grants worth more than £46,000 to benefit five charities, community groups and voluntary organisations across the Island. Grants of up to £5,000 were awarded to groups helping people develop skills for the future and larger strategic grants of up to £15,000 were awarded to groups working with young people to help rebuild their volunteer base and create resilience and sustainability for the future.

Work as diverse as Isle of Wight Youth Trust's wellbeing and mental health services for young people, and animal husbandry and outdoor skills training through Level Land Farms (pictured above, right) was funded.

The Rev. Alison Morely said: "Since the Level Land project began, we have seen the following positive changes in the young people who volunteer: a growth in resourcefulness and confidence in social environments; the reduction of anxiety and growth in friendships based on mutual interest and empathy; laughter and joy and compassion and caring. This grant will help these positive changes to reach more young people and the development of a program will ensure that there is mutual benefit and real skills will be learnt".

This funding recognised and celebrated the hugely diverse ways Island people were able to support their communities through and beyond the impact of the pandemic.

Groups receiving funds from the 'Covid Recovery Fund' included:

Aspire Ryde	£3,588
Isle of Wight Youth Trust	£15,000
Isle of Wight Marlins Swimming Club	£3,500
Level Land Farms	£13,164
Suicide Prevention & Intervention (SPIIOW)	£10,950

Solent Supporting Employment

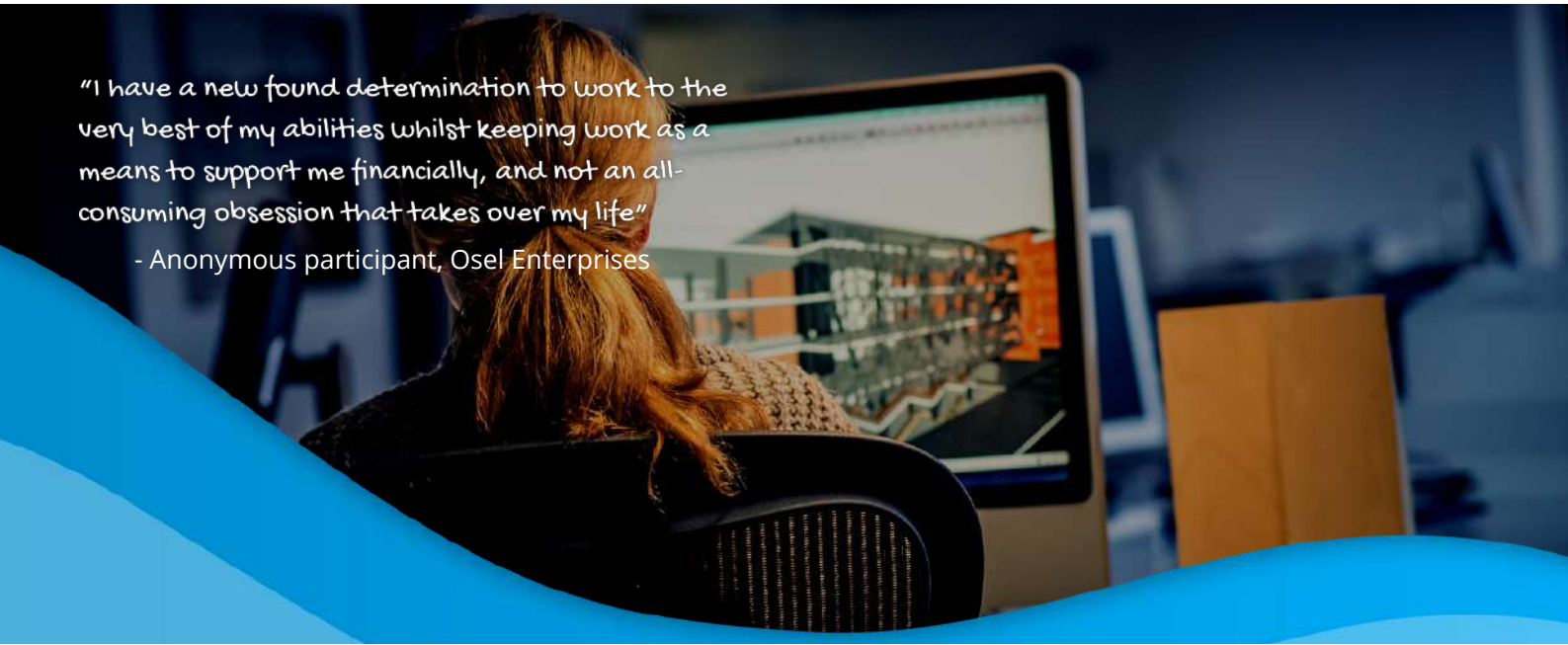
European Union
European Social Fund

Funding employment initiatives on the Island

The three year £1.76 million 'Solent Supporting Employment' grant programme has provided grants of between £30,000 – £60,000 to local organisations in the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) area, to help individuals facing complex barriers to employment, particularly where deprivation and unemployment are high. Grants are supporting three organisations on the Island with a proven record in employability to enable people from diverse and deprived backgrounds move closer towards or into employment.

Sovereign Housing Association (workshop pictured, top right), in partnership with Southern Housing Group, received an extension grant for their Skills 4 Work initiative. This offers local people experiencing difficulties finding employment access to mental health support, wellbeing and mentoring as well as vocational courses, to help individuals improve their job search, interview, and digital literacy skills as well as improve understanding in English and Maths.

Other partners for Solent Supporting Employment on the Island are Romsey Community School for their 'Reaching, Connecting, Supporting' project tackling social barriers to employment including low self-esteem, access to technology, substance misuse, mental or physical illness and poor financial capability; and Osel Enterprises (team pictured top left) for their Working Towards Wellbeing programme which supports lone parents and troubled families who are considering their return to paid employment.



"I have a new found determination to work to the very best of my abilities whilst keeping work as a means to support me financially, and not an all-consuming obsession that takes over my life"

- Anonymous participant, Osel Enterprises

Spotlight on a fundholder: Wightlink in the community

HIWCF and IWCF manage funds on behalf of a wide range of donors, all of whom want to make a difference to the lives of vulnerable and disadvantaged people across the area. We are proud to do so for Wightlink whose charitable endowment fund has recently been used effectively across several vital campaigns – not least during the pandemic.

The Isle of Wight Youth Trust (IWYT) was one group to benefit from recent funding to help develop its much-needed mental health services for young people aged 16-25. Clinical admission rates on the Island for mental health disorders are more than double the average of those in the rest of England.

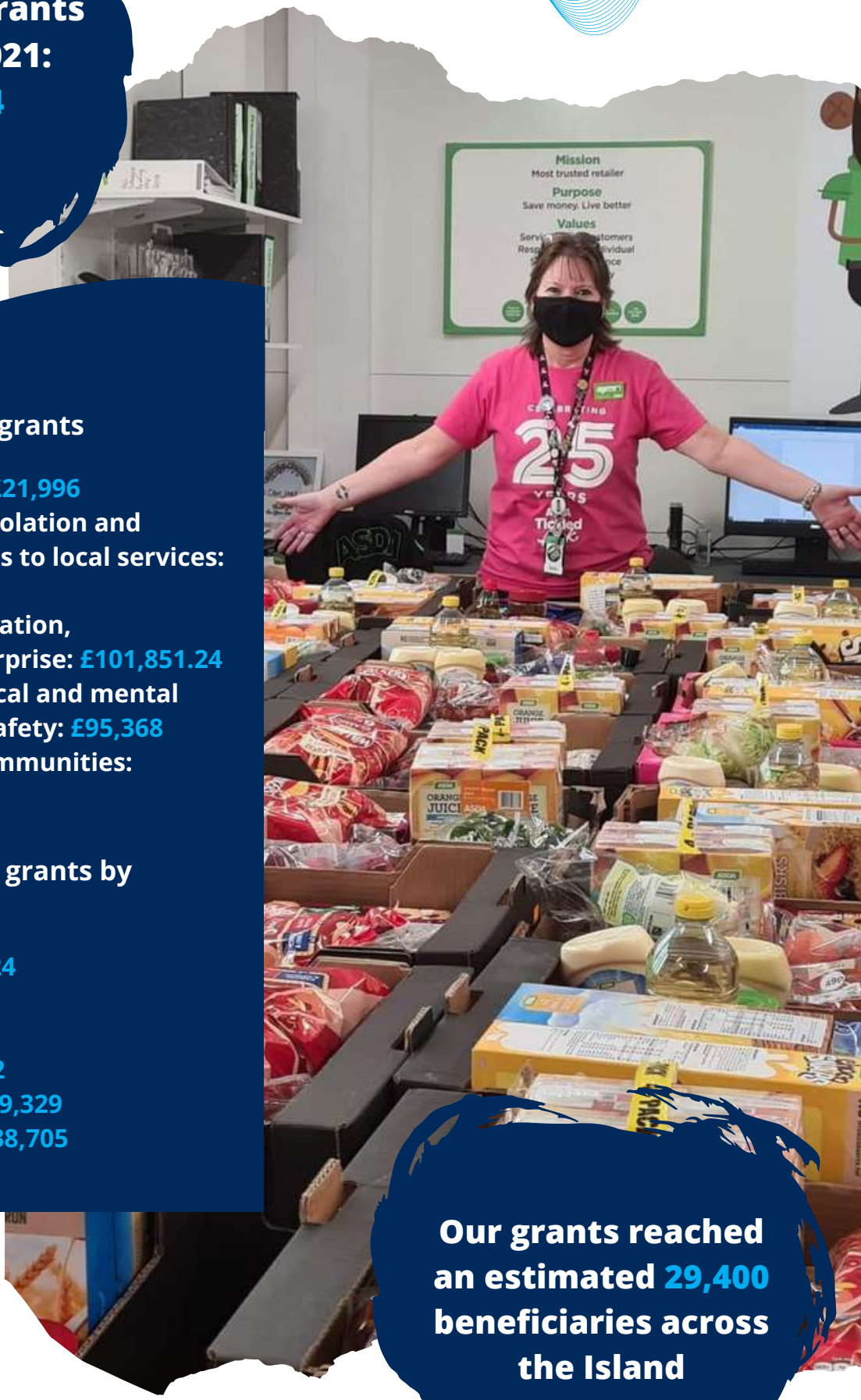
Jo Dare, IWYT CEO, said: “The events of the past two years have unquestionably damaged children and young people’s mental health and wellbeing. In 2021 over 100 young people a month were turning to IWYT for support. Funding from IWCF and its partners has enabled us to expand our counselling and wellbeing services to help meet this unprecedented demand.”

One young person supported by Youth Trust said: “My time with IWYT was incredibly valuable and helped me to not only address and overcome my anxieties, but also to grow as a person. I feel that it has helped me to develop into a much more confident person and I thank my counsellor for her amazing support over the last few months”.

Wightlink established its endowment fund with an initial donation of £15,000 in 2008 and through subsequent donations and match-funding opportunities the fund is now worth almost £45,000. The annual interest and growth accrued on the fund enables community grant-making to be made each and every year, with over £1,800 supporting needs on the Island this year. IWCF endowment funds ensure that charitable funding is available to meet the challenges and needs that arise in local communities, year after year, whatever they may be.

While this region is a beautiful and often prosperous area in which to live and work, both IWCF and Wightlink are aware that there is in fact significant disadvantage – often hidden from view – and IWCF and HIWCF work closely with donors to channel funds according to their charitable priorities.

Total value of grants awarded in 2021: £279,756.74



The impact of our Island grants

- Supporting family life: £21,996
- Promote reduction of isolation and disadvantage and access to local services: £23,752.12
- Improve life skills, education, employability and enterprise: £101,851.24
- Advance people's physical and mental health, wellbeing and safety: £95,368
- Supporting stronger communities: £36,789.34

Age groups supported by grants by grant value

- Adults (26-65): £37,988.24
- All Ages: £95,096,34
- Children (5-12): £34,615
- Seniors (65+): £24,023.12
- Young adults (19-25): £49,329
- Young People (13-18): £38,705

Our grants reached an estimated 29,400 beneficiaries across the Island

Island Funds for Island Causes

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