Island Funds for Island Causes

IWCF
Isle of Wight Community Foundation

HiWCF
LOCAL GIVING FOR LOCAL NEEDS

Annual Review 2022

Front cover: community groups supported by HIWCF / IWCF (l-r) Tidal Family Support, Bodster Equine Therapy, Pan Together
This page: numerous groups in receipt of HIWCF / IWCF funding during 2022 and our funding partner, Wightlink

Welcome

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

Michael Smith, IWCF Chair

As President of the Isle of Wight Community Foundation (IWCF), it is my pleasure to introduce our annual report for grant making on the Isle of Wight. This report covers both the grants made by the Isle of Wight Community Foundation – Island funds for Island causes – but also the funding made available from Hampshire & Isle of Wight Community Foundation (HIWCF) to reach Island communities.

In 2022 we heard dispiriting news that the Island was near the bottom of the UK league tables for many education-related indicators. This is also the case for many other wellbeing indicators – **for example the Pan Estate in Newport is in the 5% most deprived areas of the whole country**. We know this is impacting the life chances for our young people and has a long-term impact on mental health. It is for this reason that so much of the funding we make aims to support vulnerable individuals and others amongst us who are really struggling. The community sector may not be able to fix all the underlying social problems, but it certainly does an incredible job of supporting people whose lives are most difficult.

The need is clearly there. I would like to thank each of you for the support you have given the Community Foundation and ask you to get in touch with the team if you feel you can do more.

Being Chair of IWCF is hugely satisfying. I am proud to have played a role in making grants worth nearly **£220,000** to community groups serving the Island this year; approximately **£55,000** has come from endowment and other funds ringfenced through the IWCF, and approximately **£165,000** has come from HIWCF sources. We have funded activities as diverse as equine therapy, sensory play spaces, sailing sessions for disabled people, skateboard coaching for young people, skills for employment and crafts for isolated older people.

However, last year, particularly as the cost-of-living crisis really hit, all our open funding opportunities saw unprecedented demand - one fund was over-subscribed by nearly seven times. That is, of course, the least satisfying part of this role – seeing so much excellent work going unfunded.

We have chosen to hold our AGM and associated events on the Isle of Wight this year to showcase the great work that community groups we are funding do for our communities. They do so much with such limited funds and deserve our, and your, support.

South Wight Area Youth Partnership (SWAY), Brighstone

Chair and CEO introductions

Rebecca Kennelly MBE, HIWCF Chair

I am delighted to hold the HIWCF AGM on the Island this year: it is wonderful to have the chance to present and explore the innovative community groups and the motivated and passionate people behind them that are doing so much for Island communities. We are proud to support them.

I would like to thank His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the Isle of Wight and the Trustees of the Isle of Wight Community Foundation for their passion, commitment and support to Island communities through the IWCF - it is invaluable. We are also very grateful to our supporters and donors, without whom we could not enable all this incredible work.

Thank you.

Jacqui Scott, HIWCF CEO

It has been a great pleasure getting to know more of the community groups working all around the Island this year, and to provide a chance for some to show their work in action to our supporters. I am frequently humbled by the work we help support: the volunteer charity leader taking 15 disabled children abroad for a once in a lifetime skiing experience; the volunteers – both disabled and non-disabled – helping vulnerable people with their gardens; using the Island's natural resources to enable joyful experiences like sailing for people who might otherwise miss out; the people working with animals to help people build self-esteem and confidence. Innovative, thoughtful and powerful work that might not make the national headlines but has an ongoing positive impact on the lives of people every single day. It is a privilege to be part of it.

P.S You'll notice that our support for Ukrainian refugees is not mentioned in this 2022 report – our funding was distributed swiftly in January 2023 and you can find out more about this by visiting: hiwcf.org.uk/supporting-ukrainian-refugees/

Sight for Wight, Newport

Total value of grants awarded in 2022:

£219,324.24

Our grants reached an estimated 25,052 beneficiaries across the Island

The impact of our Island grants:

- Improving life skills and employability: £125,737
- Advance mental and physical health and wellbeing: £45,842
- Connect people with the arts, culture and heritage: £18,543
- Supporting strong communities and supporting family life: £14,630
- Reducing isolation and disadvantage and providing access to services: £14,572

Age groups supported by grants by grant value:

- All Ages: £100,628
- Children (5-12): £12,191
- Young People (13-18): £8,935
- Young adults (19-25): £10,839
- Adults (26-65): £79,274
- Seniors (65+): £7,457

Aspire Ryde, Waves of Wellness project

Island gets active after lockdown

Since the pandemic, the value of our outdoor spaces and local community recreation areas are recognised more than ever, particularly for improving our physical and mental wellbeing. In total, we distributed **£45,842** during 2022 to community groups working to advance mental and physical health and wellbeing on the Island, many of which made use of the Island's great natural resources.

Brading Town Youth Football Club was awarded **£1,340** from the Hampshire Playing Fields Fund to increase their volunteer driven activities, and **Gurnard Youth Football Club** (pictured above) was granted **£2,365** to enable around 140 local children to access sport at a low cost, including developing their girls' football.

Jez Robinson, Club Secretary for Gurnard YFC said: "As a club, we are passionate about offering the chance for organised sport to all children, regardless of ability, gender, or financial circumstance. As a result of this grant, we can increase our community training sessions and take our girls' football to the next level".

Including Communities

IWCF, HIWCF and our donors are particularly interested in funding activities that work to directly address inequality in our communities. In 2022, the Including Communities Fund supported organisations working to improve the lives of people facing multiple levels of disadvantage, for example through poor mental health, illness or disability.

One of the projects that benefitted from a grant of **£2,500** was **Aspire Ryde's** Waves of Wellness (WoW) project (pictured above). The WoW project offers a six-week evidence-based water activity programme for people experiencing mental health issues on the Island – a wonderful example of using the Islands natural resources to support the community.

Michelle attended all the sessions on offer and said: "I can't express in words how much the WoW group has helped me whilst struggling with my mental health. Being in the sea has lifted me out of my negative head space and given me the boost I needed to find myself again."

Other groups to receive a grant included **Care in the Garden (£2,500)** to support the delivery of gardening-based work experience for adults with additional needs, and **People Matter IW (£14,630)** to help set up an Island autism hub.

Sovereign, Skills 4 Work project, Island-wide

Funding employment initiatives on the Island

HIWCF manages a **£1.76 million** ESF funded project, Solent Supporting Employment (SSE), for the region. This work enables disadvantaged and vulnerable people facing barriers to employment to grow in confidence and skills and move closer towards gaining employment.

Three organisations have been funded to deliver employment projects on the Island: **Osel Enterprises** received **£50,862** over the period 2021-2022, **RCS** received **£57,700** during the same period and **Sovereign**, in partnership with Southern Housing Group, have received **£100,000** and an extension grant in 2022 of **£25,230**.

Martin applied for Sovereign's Skills 4 Work programme after hearing about it from his GP surgery. He tells us about his journey so far:

"Since leaving school, I'd been working within my family's carpentry business but unfortunately, due to the pandemic, the family business lost income and had to make the difficult decision to close down and cease trading. I'd never had to look for a job before, so didn't have a CV or any experience of going for an interview.

When I first started on Skills 4 Work, I was at a bit of a loss as to where to turn and what I wanted to do, because I had always worked in the family business. However, in the past few months, I've achieved a great deal. I worked with my Skills 4 Work coach, Mark, and together we created a new, up to date CV, registered on job sites and Mark has supported me to enrol onto the Skills 4 Work CSCS (construction) course, which I successfully completed.

I'm now confident with job searching on my own, have completed some job applications by myself and had two job interviews. Sovereign's Skills 4 Work programme has helped me feel more confident doing tasks and activities that take me outside of my comfort zone."

Island funds for Island causes

More than **£31,000** was distributed to 12 community organisations in 2022 through the Isle of Wight Community Fund which aims to improve the lives of deprived people and communities throughout the Island. This funding is enabled by the generous support of Island people and organisations who have donated to our managed endowment funds, which are held specifically to support Island communities.

The **Saturday Club for Deaf Children**, which provides activities, trips, experiences and outings that are focused on developing good social skills, improving communication abilities and increasing self-confidence and self-esteem, was awarded **£3,000** from the fund.

Founder, Helen Foster said: "The average deaf child will statistically have language skills that are approximately three years below a hearing child of comparable age. This deficit impacts on their educational and emotional and social development. Hearing loss and delayed communication skills engenders isolation, but so too can living on an Island with almost non-existent access to deaf adults or a deaf culture. They are supported by skilled volunteers to strengthen their communication skills and confidence."

With 14 out of 20 areas on the Island being within the most deprived areas of all of England, we need your support now more than ever - please contact CEO Jacqui Scott to discuss how you can help: ceo@hiwcf.com

Other groups awarded grants include:

Saturday Club for Deaf Children	£3,000
Helping Hands	£2,000
Age Concern Shanklin Independent Day Centre	£2,060
Sensory Space CIC	£1,572
Isorropia	£2,909
Ability Dogs 4 Young People	£3,000
Ventnor Exchange	£3,000
John Cattle's Skate Club	£2,580
Tidal Family Support	£3,000
South Wight Area Youth Partnership	£2,995
Bodster Equine Assisted Learning CIC	£2,500
Cowes Sailability Club	£2,600

Celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Individuals and community organisations throughout the country took to the streets to celebrate in June 2022 to acknowledge Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

HIWCF worked with UKCF and Arts Council England to distribute the Let's Create Jubilee Fund in our region - enabling thousands of people to take part in exciting creative events. Funding was made possible thanks to National Lottery players, with **£17,543** awarded to two Island community groups organising spectacular and engaging events: **Ryde Business Association (£10,003)** and Isle of Wight Steam Railway.

Isle of Wight Steam Railway was awarded **£7,540** to collaborate with local artist Anthony James and English Heritage to deliver an art and design challenge for 10 Island schools and a local home school group. This great project included a challenge to design and build a train carriage (examples pictured above) "fit for a member of the Royal Family".

Sarah Girling, Heritage and Learning Manager at Isle of Wight Steam Railway said: "We are very pleased to have been awarded this funding to celebrate such an historic event and to support Island children in their learning. As an educational charity we want to ensure children enjoy their education in a creative and engaging way, and working with both English Heritage and our local artist, Anthony James, who has a background in exciting junk-modelling projects will help us fulfil this."

Hannah East from Ryde Town Council said "Not only was it a fantastic day celebrating the Queen's Jubilee, but it was also wonderful to see Ryde come alive with street performances. We believe that by harnessing the excitement of the Platinum Jubilee it will act as a catalyst for change in the perception of the town centre."

Pictured left: Ryde's 'Onto the Street' celebration

Ability Dogs 4 Young People, Niton

“Tasha is my friend and she is super cute” - how an ability dog changed Jamie’s life

These are the words from Jamie’s school essay, he wrote, “I love Tasha so much. She is my friend and she is super cute. I love to play with Tasha and give her toys to play with that don’t squeak. I enjoy going for walks with Tasha and feeding her dog treats. Tasha is a black Labrador and she has soft silky fur. Tasha is my Ability Dog who is going to help me and I will look after her.”

Thanks to Ability Dogs for Young People, a Newport-based charity, Tasha was matched with Jamie and carefully trained, before moving in with Jamie and his mother, Claire.

Claire says, “My son enjoys and benefits from routine and having Tasha has helped as she likes routine. She has provided Jamie with stability, security and consistency. Although it has only been a short time, he has already begun to increase his independence, build his self-esteem and engage with the community.”

Ability Dogs 4 Young People were awarded £3,000 from the Isle of Wight Community Fund to support their puppy training project-training puppies to become Ability Dogs that can support young people with a range of disabilities including cerebral palsy, autism, diabetes and epilepsy (volunteer pictured below).

CEO, Carol Court, said: “The charity covers all the costs for the training puppies and all the costs for the working Ability Dogs so our recipients gain the benefits of having the assistance without worrying about extra expenses. Our recipients are children and young people, or young adults on benefits. They do not have the resources to cover the cost of owning a dog and we do not want to exclude anyone.”

As well as helping with practical tasks (picking up items, opening doors, helping dress and undress, crossing the road), Ability Dogs help increase disabled young people’s wellbeing, confidence and self-esteem, enabling them to go on to further education or gain employment without being so dependent on full-time carer support.

Jamie’s mother, Claire, continues: “Jamie loves going for walks with Tasha, and this is having a positive effect. Tasha is also helping him communicate more effectively. Jamie struggles attending medical appointments and having Tasha will help him face his fears. Tasha is giving Jamie experience of putting other’s needs first and he is responding with care, empathy and kindness. He is thriving from having the responsibility of feeding her, filling up her water bowl, brushing her and going for walks. It is reassuring that Ability Dogs are always at the end of the phone and will continue to support us throughout Tasha’s time with us.”

A doctor referred me to Isorropia and it's the best thing I've ever done. I have one million percent changed and developed since engaging with Isorropia. I now have no panic attacks. Every time I needed to talk to someone they would be on the end of the phone. Thanks to Isorropia I've grown from strength to strength.

Annoynmous Isorropia member

Isorropia Foundation was awarded £2,909 from the Isle of Wight Community Fund in 2022 to support its mental health services.

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