

# Inspiring Giving

31 JANUARY 2009

## We've given £1 million to Sussex



This month Sussex Community Foundation celebrates awarding £1 million in grants to community groups across Sussex - achieved in just three years since we started work in 2006.

We have funded nearly 400 groups across East and West Sussex and in Brighton & Hove. Most are very small groups, making a

big difference with a small amount of money, like Rock Solid pictured left, an after school club in Newhaven.

**None of this would have been possible without generous donations from individuals and companies and help and support from many others, determined to make a difference to communities in Sussex.**

### First Endowment Challenge deadline

The first target in our 3-year Grassroots Grants Endowment Challenge is just 8 weeks away. The Challenge encourages local people to contribute to a permanent Endowment Fund to support small voluntary groups. The Government has made available £1.5 million to match donations in Sussex up to March 2011. Our first target is to raise £300,000 in Endowment Donations by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009. Thanks to 27 generous donors, we have already raised £220,000, but to draw down

all the funds available from the Government, we must raise another £80,000. The current economic climate, means many of the groups we support are seeing increasing demand for their services yet are uncertain about funding. With your help, we are building a sustainable source of income to help them.

Please support the Endowment Challenge. Whatever you can afford to give will help us to provide long term help for local communities.

## Hans and Marit Rausing back the Endowment Challenge



In 2006, Professor & Mrs Hans Rausing played a crucial role in the birth of Sussex Community Foundation when they were the first to set up their own Named Fund to manage

their local giving through the Foundation. Since then they have generously contributed one quarter of the Foundation's grant funds.

We are delighted to announce that they are now taking a similar lead in helping us to meet the Grassroots Endowment Challenge, with a donation of £100,000.

Their donation will be matched by the government so that it will have a total value of £200,000. This will be invested to generate a sustainable source of funding for the local community.

Mrs Rausing said: "I have been very pleased with the way that Sussex Community Foundation has helped us to make the most of our local giving. It is reassuring to know that we can continue to give in our own name, while benefiting from their professional advice.

The Endowment Challenge is an excellent opportunity to build a lasting fund for Sussex and we are delighted to be part of it."

## Rye leads the way with first Local Fund

A number of local residents in Rye have come together to create the 'Rye Fund', the first Local Fund to be set up at Sussex Community Foundation.

Founder donors of the Fund have formed a Rye Fund Steering Group and are actively encouraging support from the wider community to grow the fund to their initial target of £50,000.

Income from the Fund will be used to support local charities and voluntary groups and the first grants will be distributed in late 2009. Local residents will be recruited to form an Advisory Panel to make decisions on grants.

Local Funds at Sussex Community Foundation are an ideal vehicle through which individuals and companies can pool their giving to benefit a particular geographic area. Other areas actively working on developing Local Funds are Hastings and Worthing.



'Spring up Mermaid Street' picture courtesy Colin Bailey [www.ryepress.com](http://www.ryepress.com)

"We are very excited about the potential of this new Fund.

It will provide a focus for local charitable giving and a permanent resource to help fund our local voluntary groups."

Kenneth Bird, Chairman,  
Rye Fund Steering Group

## 'Crawathlon' raises £7,500

Nearly 100 of Crawley's accountants, bankers and lawyers raised £7,500 in a unique fundraising triathlon in support of Sussex Community Foundation.

Nine teams competed against each other in the first ever 'Crawathlon' at Virgin Active Health club to raise money for the Foundation to distribute to a range of community projects in the town.

The amount raised in donations was boosted by match funding from a number of the companies who entered teams in the event.

The super-fit team from Thomas Eggar (pictured bottom right) triumphed, but all of the teams who took part on the day were winners.



## Great response to Grassroots Grants

We launched our Grassroots Grants Programme last September and the response has been great.

We've awarded £470,000 so far.

Grassroots has encouraged applications from groups that had not received grant funding before and they are using it to fund a wide range of activities, events and equipment.

We are reaching groups that are new to us - 84% of grants were awarded to groups applying to us for the first time.



Pictured below: Grassroots Grants recipients.

Clockwise from bottom left: Friday Club, Divas Dance Club, GEMS, Viewcraft and Carib Aid.



If your group:

- is volunteer-led
- been together for more than a year
- has an income of less than £20,000p.a.

You might be eligible for a Grassroots Grant.

Call us on 01273 409440 or visit [www.sussexgiving.org.uk](http://www.sussexgiving.org.uk)



## General Awards

In December we awarded **£89,521** to local groups that met our funding priorities or those agreed with our fund holders. Here are a small selection:

### American Express Fund

Off The Fence £3,000

To support 'Project Antifreeze' which provides practical support to the homeless on the streets of Brighton.

Off the Fence volunteers distribute emergency sleeping bags, food, basic toiletries and clothing.

### Cullum Family Trust

Parent & family Care Foundation £1,000

To deliver workshops, training and presentations for parents of children with special needs in the Worthing area.

Issues tackled will include managing challenging behaviour and advice on how to access health-related and other services.

### Marit & Hans Rausing Fund

Battle Area Community Transport £5,000

Towards the running costs of a bus serving the small villages around Battle that do not have a commercial bus service.

The Battle Bus operates regular scheduled week-day routes and monthly services to Tunbridge Wells and Eastbourne.

### William Reed Fund

Beat Project £2,500

To run a series of music and arts workshops/courses for 13-18 year olds who are Not in Education, Employment or Training.

Workshops include art, music, drama, IT, sound engineering, performance skills and literacy.

## Local author lends support

Bestselling local crime writer Peter James shared some of his secrets at the launch of the Grassroots Endowment Challenge at Karma, Brighton Marina.

Pictured right are Peter James (seated) with standing (l-r) David Gaylor, Peter Guttridge and Kevin Richmond.



Picture courtesy Terry Applin / The Brighton Argus

## In memory of Mark

When conference manager Mark Skelton died last year his colleagues at William Reed Publishing decided to do something in honour of his memory.

Through various fundraising events and donations including match funding from the company £11,161 was raised.

The funds will be donated to St Peter & St James Hospice & Continuing Care Centre in North Chailey, where Mark received respite care.

## Volunteer drivers needed

Viewcraft received a Grassroots Grant in time for Christmas and last month we paid them a visit. They offer a range of craft activities including weaving, wood carving and mosaics for people who are blind or partially sighted.

The success of the group depends on the volunteer drivers who transport group members to and from the weekly sessions at Herstmonceux Village Hall.

If you can spare a few hours each Tuesday to support this lively group, volunteer drivers are needed in the Wealden and Eastbourne areas.

To find out more contact Jenny Todd Viewcraft Co-ordinator on 01323 641225



In November the former Lord Lieutenants of East and West Sussex, Mrs Phyllida Stewart-Roberts and Mr Hugh Wyatt, both pictured left, stepped down from their roles as the Foundation's joint presidents.

They have been instrumental in the successful development of the Foundation and we wish them well.

We are delighted that the new Lord Lieutenants - Susan Pyper in West Sussex and Peter Field in East Sussex have agreed to become our joint presidents.

We also welcomed Richard Pearson and Humphrey Price onto the Board of Trustees in November.

## And finally a quick reminder....

We moved offices at the end of November 2008 and had to change our phone number. Our new number is 01273 409440. You can still find us in the centre of Lewes, now on Railway Lane. Our new base is light and spacious with a lovely view over the River Ouse and the odd sighting of a playful seal.