

## FULL INTRODUCTION TO SUMMER 2016 NEWSLETTER

Dear supporter,

Plans are afoot for our tenth birthday summer and we have a number of events, launches and initiatives planned to celebrate the amazing work of the groups we fund and the continuing generosity of our donors. We're looking forward to welcoming some of the charities and community groups that we have funded over the years, along with donors and other supporters, to celebrate their work with us in East Sussex (at Michelham Priory), in West Sussex (at the Chichester Assembly Rooms) and Brighton & Hove (at the Amex Stadium), over the coming months.

In thinking about what we've achieved, we can't help but come up against what we haven't been able to do. We've given over £10 million in grants over the past 10 years but there is so much more we could do. Last year alone, we were £400,000 short of the funds needed to support every good application.

This is why our target for the next four years is to reach a total of £17.5 million in endowment funds for Sussex and to give out £1.5 million in grants each year. This means that we will have more money to give out but also that we will be more sustainable ourselves, making it easier for us to operate effectively and raise the funds to meet those unfunded applications.

In the autumn, we will be updating and then relaunching our 2013 report Sussex Uncovered which told us about the hidden disadvantage that exists in our county. The relaunch will be hosted by American Express, who have had a grant-making fund with us for the last ten years, at the Amex Stadium in Brighton. There is still great need in Sussex, even though it can give a good impression of being an out-and-out wealthy county. Yes, some parts of it are and fortunately many of the better-off residents in our cities, towns and villages are very keen to help those less fortunate than themselves by giving though us to the thousands of volunteer-led organisations that lie at the heart of Sussex. The more we can spread the word about our brand of community philanthropy, the more we will be able to help our fellow Sussex dwellers who, for whatever reason, need support.

Kevin Richmond, Chief Executive