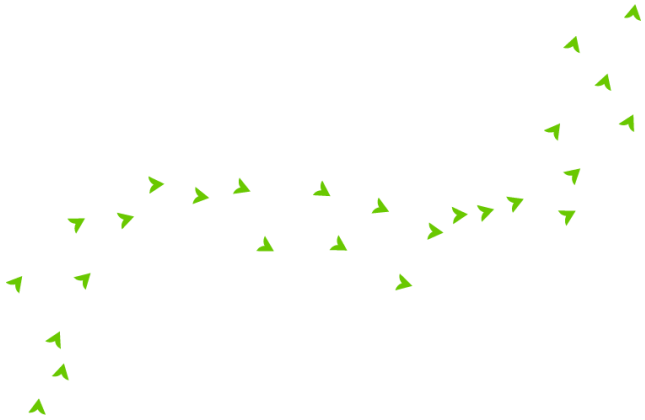


Somerset Community Foundation

Directing Funds Driving Change

NEWSLETTER
JULY 2025

INTRODUCTION

The recent coach accident on Exmoor has deeply affected the close-knit communities of West Somerset and our thoughts remain with everyone impacted by this terrible event.

In response, we've launched the **Together for West Somerset Appeal** and are working closely with other fundraisers to ensure the right support is in place at the right time.

I'd like to thank Somerset Council for their immediate £50,000 donation and to the 2,000 people who've already helped raise £150,000 in just over a week. Your generosity is already making a real difference. We're committed to making sure this life-changing incident doesn't become life-defining, so please consider **donating to the Appeal.**

There's growing evidence that strong social infrastructure plays a vital role in how well communities recover from adversity. That's 1 reason why the 'community places and spaces' featured in our news below are so important.

Finally, a warm welcome from me to James Shakespeare, who has joined our Board of Trustees, bringing valuable skills and experience to the Foundation.



Justin Sargent OBE DL
Chief Executive



IMPACT STORIES

Here we shine a spotlight on some of the wonderful charities, individuals and voluntary groups we're funding across the county, highlighting their amazing work – thanks to many generous local supporters.



FIGHTING FOR CHANGE: HOW A SWEF ENTERPRISE GRANT HELPED JACK TURN MIXED MARTIAL ARTS INTO A FORCE FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Thanks to a £1,750 SWEF Enterprise Grant Jack expanded his Mixed Martial Arts business with new equipment. His growing venture now offers more than training – it's a space where people can build confidence and support their mental wellbeing.

Read more

Discover more of our **impact stories** to see the difference you're making in Somerset.

NEWS AND UPDATES



TOGETHER FOR WEST SOMERSET APPEAL

We've launched the Together for West Somerset Appeal to support the children, families and communities affected by the Exmoor coach accident on 17 July.

Read more and donate



VICTORIA PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE AWARDED £46,626 GRANT FROM HINKLEY POINT C COMMUNITY FUND TO TRANSFORM BRIDGWATER HUB

Victoria Park Community Centre in Bridgwater has received £47,000 from the Hinkley Point C Community Fund to boost vital local services. From affordable food and youth clubs to improved facilities, the grant will help strengthen community life and support over 1,000 people each week.

Read more



£200,000 FUND BOOSTS ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN SOMERSET'S COMMUNITY BUILDINGS

Fifteen much-loved community buildings across Somerset are going greener, thanks to nearly £200,000 in grants for energy-saving upgrades. From solar panels to insulation, the improvements will cut carbon, reduce bills and help secure these vital spaces for the future.

Read more

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW TRUSTEE, JAMES SHAKESPEARE



We're thrilled to welcome James Shakespeare to our Board of Trustees. A multi award-winning digital entrepreneur from Glastonbury, James brings 25+ years of tech, creativity and community leadership – plus a deep commitment to Somerset's young people. His expertise will help shape our future and strengthen our impact across the county.

Read more



£1.8 MILLION AWARDED TO 54 GROUPS: HPC COMUNITY FUND ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25

Over £1.8 million was awarded to 54 groups last year through the Hinkley Point C Community Fund, supporting Bridgwater and surrounding communities. From youth clubs and food projects to end-of-life care and community hubs, the Fund is helping local people thrive through change and make the most of opportunities created by HPC.

Read the report

GRANTS AND FUNDING

SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER IN MAY, WE'VE AWARDED £123,685 IN FUNDING

We keep our website up-to-date with the latest funding for **groups** and **individuals** — **see what's available and apply.**





Groups

Individuals

SUPPORTING PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS



There's growing demand for high-quality advice and guidance on charitable giving. Many local firms don't have the ability to provide bespoke philanthropy advice in-house. **That's where we can help.**

Find out more

