



ISLE OF WIGHT
FOUNDATION

2021-22
ANNUAL REPORT

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HELPING

Helping everyone to feel part of the Island community

Foreword

Island Roads is part of a wider network of companies within the world's leading construction and concession company – VINCI. VINCI established the first VINCI Foundation in May 2002 as part of its determination to form lasting partnerships with the local community and support those who live and work in areas where the company operates. There are 16 VINCI trusts/foundations all around the world which have collectively supported hundreds of projects which are helping make social cohesion a reality in their local communities and supporting real people, where help is most needed.

In August 2014, the partners in Island Roads launched the Isle of Wight Foundation, a charitable trust committed to supporting projects on the Island that tackle social exclusion, supporting people to play an active part in their local community and helping them access employment and housing.

The Foundation is jointly funded by partners Ringway Island Roads, Meridiam, Island Roads Services and VINCI Concessions. Meridiam is a leading global, long-term investor specialising in public infrastructure. The company has a track record in corporate social responsibility, sustainability and community involvement. All partners are committed to the development of carbon efficient working, projects to develop renewable energy and environmental initiatives that build towards the global targets for the future.

Whilst Island Roads' focus as a company will always be on improving the Island's road network, we recognise, through the work we do and the people we employ, that we are a prominent part of Island life and can leave a valuable social legacy into the future. As such, we want to help the community in other ways, by enabling our staff to take time to volunteer and to fund projects that benefit local people. The IW Foundation aims to help people be part of the Island's strong community, reducing barriers by supporting organisations which help connect, empower and inspire people, especially those from isolated communities, or those with fewer opportunities.

We're delighted to bring you this, our annual report for 2021-22, which outlines the achievements of those projects during the seventh year of our Foundation. We're all proud to have played a part in their success and to see them continue to flourish, and to have made a difference to the community in which we live and work.

Rob Gillespie

Chairman

Isle of Wight Foundation Board



About the Isle of Wight Foundation

A massive investment in the Island's infrastructure

Island Roads is undertaking the biggest highway improvement programme ever seen on the Isle of Wight. In partnership with the Isle of Wight Council, as part of the Highways PFI, Island Roads is responsible for upgrading and maintaining the Isle of Wight's infrastructure, including some 804 kilometres of roads, 756 kilometres of footways (pavements), 12,000 streetlights and a wide range of other highway assets such as bridges and retaining walls.

The majority of the upgrade has been completed but the company will maintain the highway network at that standard until 2038 – meaning that it will be part of community life on the Island for 25 years in total. As such, Island Roads and the companies behind the partnership; VINCI Concessions, Meridiam Infrastructure and Ringway, are keen to play a wider role in supporting the community.

The formation of the Isle of Wight Foundation

In April 2014, the companies established the Isle of Wight Foundation – a charitable trust. Its aim – to help tackle social exclusion on the Isle of Wight through an annual grant giving programme.

The Isle of Wight is a beautiful place to live and work, but behind the vast expanse of stunning countryside and coastal scenery, there are some communities that have less opportunities and some people can be left behind. Unemployment statistics are high, particularly amongst young people, and the

rural nature of the Island and difficulties with transportation links can leave some communities and individuals isolated. Having worked with community representatives and having reviewed local data, the partners formed the Isle of Wight Foundation to help address these issues through community funding. Since its creation, the IW Foundation has supported scores of projects on the Isle of Wight – helping to build better communities that encourage social integration and create opportunities for people to access training and development to improve their life skills and opportunities for employment.

Providing opportunities through funding

Each year, the Isle of Wight Foundation launches a grant call, offering up to £80,000 of funding to local community projects that meet its criteria for supporting projects to help tackle exclusion, whether through access to training and qualifications or building stronger communities. The total sum is usually allocated in amounts of between £3,000 - £16,000 to not-for-profit, community or charity organisations. So far, we have supported projects on the Island with £617,901.05 worth of support.

In addition to the financial help on offer, Island Road employees are also linked up to the selected projects to provide additional support and expertise as part of the company's volunteering scheme.

The opportunity to apply for funding is promoted widely in local media and through voluntary and community networks. A selection committee, formed at the outset, chooses the projects to receive support following an initial review of applications and potential project visits carried out by the Isle of Wight Foundation Coordinator. The board then meets to finalise the approvals.

Funding is awarded for use within one year of the allocation to ensure a swift and marked measurable improvement in tackling social exclusion on the Isle of Wight. In its eighth year, the Isle of Wight Foundation supported 11 projects, each of which are profiled in this report.



MILITARY ROAD



Our Six Key Areas of Support

The Isle of Wight Foundation was formed to help tackle social exclusion through access to employment and building better communities. Applications were sought from charities, not for profit and community interest organisations within six key areas of support:

Integration through work

Projects which support those currently excluded by the job market to adapt to the working world, while also receiving the training and support they need.

Training and qualification

Projects that offer basic training and guidance to enable individuals with no qualifications to enter the working world.

Social integration

Projects to support people who are excluded from society, to help them regain self-confidence, recover a decent standard of living, accomplish day-to-day activities and integrate with society.

Access to housing

Projects that facilitate access to housing for the most underprivileged individuals to provide them with more stability.

Road back to employment

Initiatives that help people to reduce the factors restricting their mobility and improve the mobility of people deprived of a means of transportation, thereby allowing them easier access to employment, health care and education.

Youth and citizenship

Initiatives aimed at promoting citizenship and responsibility among young people.



Our Key Criteria For Funding

Projects applying for funding must also meet key criteria in order to qualify for support. These are focused around the following principles:

Lasting commitment

The Isle of Wight Foundation supports projects which are sustainable and can provide permanent employment or activities that benefit the Island community over the long-term.

Social innovation

It also supports projects or initiatives which seek innovative solutions to tackle social exclusion.

Impact

Projects and initiatives are sought that can make a measurable and lasting impact on the community within the specified 12-month period.

Employee engagement

The Isle of Wight Foundation also funds projects with which it can link support from its employees – whether providing advice, contacts, expertise, skills, training and practical, physical support and which can help develop those individuals involved.

Compliance

Any projects submitted are required to be compliant with relevant legislation and are able to evidence their constitution as charity, community or not-for-profit groups, and their ability to manage any grant funding effectively. Certain funding criteria must also be met, and restrictions apply.





Community Projects Supported

During 2021-22 the Isle of Wight Foundation awarded funding to 11 community projects. You can read about them in more detail in the case studies section at the end of this report.



Arreton Junior Cricket Club

£4,891 for more quality bats for the club's young players, along with safety equipment and a new bowling machine and portable batting cage – allowing young players to hone their skills and have fun in a healthy outdoor activity which promotes teamwork.



Havenstreet Community Association

£7,217 to renovate the community centre's garden to make it an accessible, safe, pleasant and welcoming space for the community to use.



Home-Start Isle of Wight

£3,539.38 to fund a new scheme called Reaching Out Remotely which provides support to families at risk of crisis. New tablet devices and mobile phones will assist in training support volunteers remotely and will be used by volunteers to connect with families and help them to access services and support.



Pan Together

£7,450.83 towards the creation of a community larder and the upgrade of windows and doors at the charity's community centre.



Ryde Sea Cadets

£3,115 to purchase first aid equipment and water sports kit for use by its young cadets.



Sandown & Shanklin Independent Lifeboat Station

£7,156 to repair the station's leaking roof which is threatening to damage equipment inside which is vital to the organisation's life-saving work.



St Helens Community Centre

£4,659 for new chairs and tables which are easier to clean – making the centre more Covid-secure. The new furniture is also easier to store making its spaces more flexible for groups that use the centre.



The Common Space

£5,000 to create a new public garden in Sandown to enhance the area for residents and visitors and create volunteering opportunities.



The Phoenix Project

£5,306.37 to support its Wood 'n' Things project in Newport which supports individuals with learning disabilities and autism to live more independent and fulfilling lives. New tools and woodwork equipment will give more people the opportunity to gain hands on carpentry experience, make products, handle orders and serve customers.



Wessex Cancer Trust

£12,852 to help fund its patient transport scheme for Isle of Wight residents required to travel to hospitals in Portsmouth and Southampton for cancer diagnosis or treatment.



WightSAR (Isle of Wight Search & Rescue)

£16,000 toward the purchase and conversion of a much-needed new command vehicle to replace the existing one that is 13 years old and increasingly unreliable and expensive to maintain.





Building Better Communities

The Island community has a population exceeding 142,000, living across an area more than 145 square miles with just over one half of this population living in the seven major towns across the Island. Over a quarter of all residents (28.2%) are aged over 65 and this proportion is increasing. Just under 15% are aged 0-14 years old.

For young and old alike, there are challenges as well as benefits to living on the Isle of Wight. The Island has several areas that are classed among the 10% most deprived areas in England, transportation is limited and a challenge particularly for those living in the rural areas of the Island.

Social exclusion is a very real issue for people of all ages living on the Island and this in turn can be detrimental to physical and mental health, day to day living and economic wellbeing. We hope to help minimise social exclusion for the Island community by funding projects that can help build stronger communities, with more active citizens working together and supporting those who are most vulnerable.



Access to Employment

Unemployment can affect so much of people's lives and wellbeing. From the obvious economic wellbeing; financial stability, access to housing, to the less obvious physical and mental wellbeing, the stigma and exclusion from society.

Through the work of the Isle of Wight Foundation we hope to improve social integration by funding projects that help support people to get into employment.

We help to fund projects that work with people who, for a variety of reasons, may have found themselves excluded from the world of work, whether they are long-term unemployed, on minimum social benefits, have physical or mental health issues, or are young people without any work experience, skills or qualifications.

Through these projects we can help provide access to develop new skills, training and qualifications as well as developing confidence, self-esteem and life skills, helping people to rebuild their personal and professional lives.

Sponsorship: Involving Our Employees

The Isle of Wight Foundation offers Island Roads employees the opportunity to make a personal commitment by sponsoring tangible, and often very innovative projects, which benefit the local community.

These sponsors form a crucial element in the work of the Isle of Wight Foundation. They supplement the financial support provided by contributing their skills to the non-profit organisations supported.

Sponsors are carefully selected to marry their specific skills with those that will benefit the project and organisation involved, as well as

providing the employee with an opportunity for their own personal development.

Their role can include general assistance and advice, or more specialist support (e.g. management, communication, IT, accounting, commercial strategy, administration) or on technical aspects of the projects where appropriate.

In addition, Island Roads provides each employee with the opportunity to undertake two paid volunteering days each year, and staff may continue to support their chosen charity in this way.



Here is what some of our sponsors have to say:

“

Dave Wallis

Operations Manager, Island Roads

Pan Together - Pan Community Larder

"It was really interesting meeting the team at Pan Together to learn about their community larder project which is unfortunately much needed in the area. It was also an opportunity for me to see the newly installed windows which help to protect the centre from the elements and also prevent heat loss from the building."



Rachel Mills
Asset Data Analyst

Wessex Cancer Trust
"This project particularly resonated with me as one of my close friends is currently battling cancer and requires regular treatment at a mainland hospital. Through her I have heard first-hand how the free minibus service has helped with both the financial burden and travel planning during her care. I am pleased as a Sponsor to have been able to play a part, albeit very small, in supporting this important service which helps patients during difficult times."

Jason Boulter
Senior Project Manager,

Island Roads
Arreton Cricket Club
"It was a great feeling to support Arreton Cricket Club and the key individuals that volunteer their spare time to run the cricket club. A club that truly supports the development of youth in the community."



Seb Fry
Works Scheduler, Island Roads

The Common Space - The Sandown Iris Garden
"As a Sandown Bay resident, I very much appreciate the work undertaken by The Common Space to improve biodiversity in public spaces and enjoyed seeing the Iris planting project develop. It was a real team effort with groups from all over the town getting involved to create a long-lasting colourful display which will also be great for wildlife."



“

Denise Scott
*Project Manager, Island Roads
Shanklin and Sandown
Independent Lifeboat
Station - Lifeboat station
renewal project*

"The work undertaken by the lifeboat crews is vital so it was important that their base was repaired as quickly as possible to protect their lifesaving equipment from the elements. The project was well organised meaning the new roof was installed efficiently with minimum impact on the crew's work."





Our Foundation Structure

The Isle of Wight Foundation is supported by a Board of Trustees and a Selection Committee representing all of the partner organisations. It is also supported by the crucial role of the Isle of Wight Foundation Coordinator who oversees the day-to-day implementation of the charitable trust's activities on the Island.

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the general administration of the Foundation, including the approval of its annual budget and decisions on the use of funding.

The Board comprises the following members:

Rob Gillespie

Island Roads Services Ltd

Philip Horton

Island Roads Services Ltd - resigned 01 July 2021

John Sunderland

Ringway Island Roads Ltd - appointed 01 July 2021

Arnaud Judet

VINCI Highways UK Ltd

Emma Scott

Meridiam Infrastructure Managers S.a.r.l

Selection Committee

The Selection Committee is responsible for reviewing the applications for funding and making recommendations to the board for future funding requests.

Stephen Ashman

Chairman, Island Roads

Michael Bulpitt

External Expert, Community Action Isle of Wight

Caron Atley

Island Road Services

Elbie Todd

Island Roads

Alan Ransom

Island Roads

Samantha O'Rourke

Isle of Wight Foundation Coordinator

Isle of Wight Foundation Coordinator - Samantha O'Rourke

The Isle of Wight Foundation Coordinator is responsible for promoting the grant funding available from the Foundation and for encouraging applications each year from community, charity and not-for-profit groups across the Island.

Samantha's role is also to oversee the initial short listing and presentation of applications to the selection committee and Board of Trustees. The coordinator is also responsible for facilitating the development of partnership projects in conjunction with their individual sponsor.



BRIGHSTONE VIADUCT

Looking Ahead to 2022-23

We have granted £92,211.52 to nine community groups for projects taking place in 2022-23:

Ability Dogs 4 Young People

£8,500 for a fully accessible kitchen area for trainers and service users and the purchase and installation of blinds to help regulate the temperature of the charity's training centre.



Brighstone Lawn Tennis Club

£15,000 towards the resurfacing of the club's two tennis courts, helping to encourage more local people to get active.

Care in the Garden

£15,580 for a new kiln for the manufacturing of ceramic and concrete garden products.



Isorropia Foundation

£16,000 for a new minibus to extend the charity's reach across the Island and support those who are socially isolated.

People Matter Isle of Wight

£7,587.52 for the Isle of Wight Learning Disability support Centre which provides Island residents – mainly young people - with specialist training and the opportunity to gain qualifications.



Ryde Sea Cadets

£4,435 for the modernisation and refurbishment of the unit's toilet facilities to improve accessibility and create much needed storage at the group's headquarters.

Seagrove Pavilion Trust

£5,759 to purchase the equipment to deliver walking football sessions for people of all ages.



Swim the Wight

£16,000 for a new vehicle to transport safety equipment to sea swimming sessions.

Vectis Radio

£3,030 to the 4Ps Training School which uses the medium of radio to help develop young people's confidence and communication skills.



Case studies

Arreton Junior Cricket Club

Type: Social Integration, Community Life, Youth & Citizenship

Project: Junior Cricket Equipment

Status: Not-for-profit

Area: Island wide

Arreton Cricket Club is a community facility used by men, women and children of all ages. Its ground is also used by the Isle of Wight Disability Cricket Team and the club regularly hosts matches for local primary schools.

In order to make cricket more accessible, the club applied for funding to purchase junior cricket equipment so that children don't need to provide their own. The club had found that families having to source their own bats and protective equipment had created barriers, particularly for those on lower incomes. Thanks to the funding from the foundation, children are now all provided with quality equipment allowing them to safely enjoy the sport.

In addition, funding from the foundation was used to purchase a bowling machine and portable batting cage – facilities which really engage the children in the sport as they can hone their skills in a fun, fast-paced environment without having to continually wait while balls are retrieved.

The club now welcomes around 50 young people (aged from two to 13) to the club each week, with the new facilities and equipment making it an inclusive, healthy and enjoyable experience for all – with the bowling machine and batting cage a real draw as the children associate this with the professional game.

Isle of Wight Foundation Support

Grant

£4,891 for protective equipment and bats, a portable batting cage and bowling machine.

Project Lead

Tina Cooper
Chair, Arreton Cricket Club

"The grant has made such a difference to our club – by being able to provide quality kit to youngsters, more are taking part in the sport and they are also finding it easier to progress. The new bowling machine and cage is being used many times a week by multiple groups – really enthusing our young players. Thank you IW Foundation!"





Social Integration
Community Life
Youth & Citizenship

Havenstreet Community Association

Type: Social Integration
Project: Community Garden Refurbishment
Status: Charity
Area: Havenstreet (and surrounding area)

Havenstreet Community Association exists for the benefit of the residents of Havenstreet and aims to provide facilities for education, recreation and leisure. It maintains and manages the village's community centre, around which its activities are based.

The community centre is well used, with a range of activities taking place including sports, arts and craft sessions, music groups, concerts as well as charity and social events.

The association applied for funding to renovate the hall's outdoor space to create a fully accessible garden which could be the focus for community activities.

The grant was used to repair paving, mend fencing and build a new shed for storing tools and gardening equipment. The new garden has three distinct areas – a Zen Garden, a sensory garden and a barbecue/picnic area.

As well as the new garden being a beautiful space for people to meet outdoors, it is also a place for local people to grow plants and vegetables in a fully accessible environment for those with limited mobility and disabilities.

Isle of Wight Foundation Support

Grant

£7,217 to renovate the community centre's garden to make it an accessible, safe, pleasant and welcoming space for the community to use.

Project Lead

Veronica Hattersley
Chairman of Havenstreet
Community Association

"The garden has made a huge difference to our centre and is now regularly used by groups for events and social gatherings. It also provides a special space for individuals to connect with nature in the sensory and Zen Garden areas, which are regularly maintained by volunteers from the village."

HAVENSTREET
COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION



Social
Integration

Home-Start Isle of Wight

Type: Social Integration
Project: Reaching Out Remotely
Status: Charity
Area: Island-wide

Home-Start Isle of Wight provides support to 120 Isle of Wight families each year who are at risk of crisis. It aims to build family resilience and coping skills; reduce isolation; and improve the health, wellbeing, and life chances of children.

Staff and volunteers work with parents to help them identify their goals, gain confidence and make positive change for themselves and their children.

During the pandemic the charity provided more support remotely via telephone and online facilities – and with volunteers and families still reluctant to meet face-to-face after the lockdown restrictions were lifted, the charity realised it needed more IT resources in order to carry out its work.

Funding from the foundation allowed the charity to purchase five tablets and renew its Zoom licence for its staff team for use in training up to 20 new volunteers. The tablets were also used to offer remote support to families from their support worker and allow people to take part in online group sessions.

The charity saw an increase in demand for its services during 2022, a reflection of the impact of the Covid lockdowns and the worsening financial crisis. The new tablets have helped the team to be more efficient in their work, meaning they can support even more parents.

Isle of Wight Foundation Support

Grant

£3,539.38 to fund a new scheme called Reaching Out Remotely which provides support to families at risk of crisis. New tablet devices and mobile phones assist in training support volunteers remotely and are used by volunteers to connect with families and help them to access services and support.

Project Lead

Alison Griffiths
Scheme Manager,
Home-Start Isle of Wight

"We are so grateful for the funding we have received from the foundation, it has helped us to be more efficient in our work and train more volunteers so we can be more responsive to the needs of Island families in need."



Isle of Wight
**A better start in
life can change
a child's future**
homestartisleofwight.org.uk



**Social
Integration**

Pan Together

Type: Social Integration

Project: Pan Community Larder

Status: Charity

Area: Pan, Pan Meadows, Barton and East Newport

Pan Together is a registered charity supporting the residents of East Newport, one of England's most deprived areas according to government data. As part of its work, the charity provides a community hub for local residents which includes a high proportion of vulnerable people in need of support.

The charity provides the community with wholesome meals at affordable prices, a social hub with a programme of activities, free wifi in its IT suite along with training opportunities and an outside produce growing area. It also provides a vital signposting service to vulnerable people needing help, activities and support for both young and old people.

Funding from the Foundation was used to develop a community larder for residents in need. The charity purchased a large fridge freezer to store perishable items and built racks to store tinned and dry goods along with toiletries and nappies which have either been donated or purchased using alternative grant funding. The larder is seen as a lifeline to many of the 3,000 people living in the Pan area.

Funds were also used to replace three sets of wooden windows and two doors at the centre with new water-tight uPVC windows which smarten up the rooms, make them warmer and more energy efficient.

Isle of Wight Foundation Support

Grant

£7,450.83 towards the creation of a community larder and the upgrade of windows and doors at the charity's community centre.

Project Lead

Rachel Thomson
Community Centre
Manager, Pan Together

"With the cost-of-living crisis just getting worse, the community larder provides a lifeline to those struggling in our local area. We are really grateful to the foundation for their support which is making a real difference to those living in Pan and the surrounding area."





Social
Integration

Ryde Sea Cadets

Type: Training and Qualifications

Project: Operation Paddlers

Status: Charity

Area: Island-wide

Ryde Sea Cadets aims to equip young people with the skills they need for modern life as they transition from children – reliant on adults – into independent individuals. The group focuses on teamwork, communication and problem solving through marine-focused activities.

Following the Covid-19 lockdowns the group was looking for ways to reignite its cadets' enthusiasm and confidence after long periods of isolation. It set up a programme of water-based boating instruction at a local swimming pool, which helped young people to regain their feeling of freedom and sense of being in control – in a safe and natural environment.

Funding from the Isle of Wight Foundation was used to purchase three new kayaks and paddles, along with a 'Little Annie' resuscitation doll to train young people in essential CPR and first aid skills.

More than 200 cadets aged between 10 and 18 have been able to take part in activities and training using the new equipment.

Isle of Wight Foundation Support

Grant

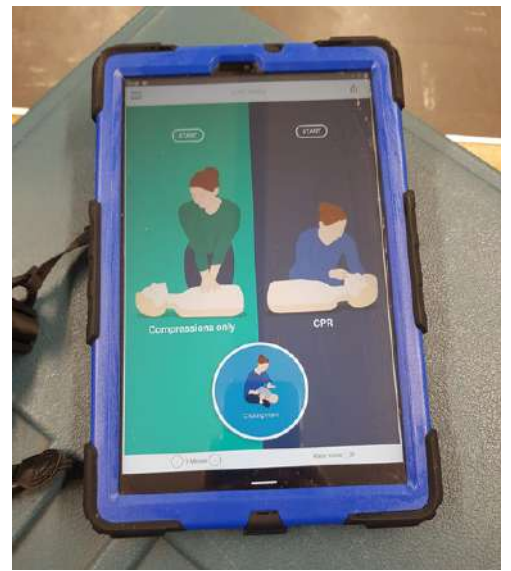
£3,115 for first aid equipment and water sports kit for use by young cadets.

Project Lead

**S/Lt Darren Toogood
(SCC) RNR
Executive Officer, Ryde
Sea Cadets**

"The kayaks have been a great addition to our unit, used for pool-based safety drills and also team work exercises which is great for the personal development of our young cadets. Thank you to the Isle of Wight Foundation for their support which is helping us to provide life-enhancing opportunities for young people on the Island."





Isle of Wight Foundation Support

Sandown and Shanklin Independent Lifeboat

Type: Training and Qualifications

Project: Lifeboat station roof renewal project

Status: Charity

Area: Sandown and Shanklin - and south coast of the Island

Sandown and Shanklin Independent Lifeboat provides a 24/7 emergency lifesaving service around the south coast of the Isle of Wight. The charity is run entirely by volunteers from the local community and receives no funding from the government.

It is based in a lifeboat station built in 1988 which houses vital first aid kit and communications equipment including fixed asset radios. Its coastal position means the building is battered by the elements and the charity found the station's tin roof was in need of replacing – should it fail all of the lifeboat's essential equipment would be ruined – putting lives at risk.

The charity applied for a grant to cover the cost of a new tin roof, along with associated fittings, fascia and downpipes. The project was managed by the Lead Coxswain who worked with local trades and suppliers to ensure the work was undertaken safely and efficiently with no disruption to the lifeboat's essential service.

The charity's building is now weathertight and secure for years to come – providing a safe base for the lifesaving team and their equipment.

Grant

£7,156 to repair the station's leaking roof which was threatening to damage equipment inside which is vital to the organisation's life-saving work.

Project Lead

Mark Birch
Operations Manager,
Sandown and Shanklin
Independent Lifeboat

"Having our roof replaced has made a great difference in keeping our building dry, and equipment in a safe order. Also, we don't have to use buckets in the loft to catch the rain coming in. It has also made our station look far more presentable. On behalf of myself and all the crew we really appreciate your help."

SANDOWN & SHANKLIN
Independent Lifeboat
www.sandownlifeboat.com





Training and Qualifications

St Helens Community Centre

Type: Social Integration
Project: Making our centre Covid-19 secure
Status: Community Centre
Area: St Helens

St Helens Community Centre provides a space for groups to gather, have meetings, take part in social activities – particularly involving those who are socially disadvantaged or isolated. Activities are inclusive, affordable and accessible and make a difference to the wellbeing of the local residents who take part.

During the pandemic the community centre became even more important to the village, especially when restrictions were lifted and people could meet up – albeit in a socially distanced manner.

St Helens Community Centre applied for funding to make improvements to the centre to maintain a safe and secure environment for people to meet. The grant allowed the centre to purchase new tables and chairs which could be easily kept clean. They were also easy to fold and lightweight meaning they could be moved around and stored to make the hall more flexible to cater for different groups. Funds were also used to create storage to keep items safe and lower the risk of spread of Covid-19.

The changes meant users felt safe in the space and groups continued to use the building to provide activities for the local community – particularly important following periods of isolation during lockdowns. The new furniture has helped to attract more groups, which raises valuable funds which help to secure the long-term future of this valuable community facility.

Isle of Wight Foundation Support

Grant

£4,659 for new chairs and tables which are easier to clean – making the centre more Covid-secure. The new furniture is also easier to store making its spaces more flexible for groups that use the centre.

Project Lead

Joost Spit
Chair, Community Centre
Management Committee

"We are very happy and grateful for the new furniture. The chairs are not only easier to clean, but are much lighter, so they are easier to store. They can also be stacked quite efficiently, so we save valuable space in our limited storage facilities. Thank you Isle of Wight Foundation!"

ST HELENS
COMMUNITY
CENTRE



Social
Integration

The Common Space

Type: Youth and Citizenship, Social Integration

Project: The Sandown Iris Garden

Status: Not-for-Profit

Area: Sandown

The Common Space is a not-for-profit organisation which works to manage, restore, celebrate and create public spaces.

Funding from the IW Foundation was used for a communal planting project in Sandown featuring an Iris collection. The Iris has a symbolic meaning of hope and faith for better times, something The Common Space felt resonated with the local community. The grant funded the services of a professional garden designer to make the most of the 5000m² site. It was also used to source around 460 plants for both a wet garden and dry areas to create new communal plantings in and around the publicly-owned Browns campus in Sandown. The Common Space worked with Sandown Green Town Volunteers who assisted with weeding, preparing the beds and moving topsoil – as well as the planting itself.

Now established, the Iris gardens are a wonderful asset to the local community. The colourful plants will continue to spread and provide habitat and food for wildlife for years to come – as well as providing splashes of colour and interest in a beautiful environment for local people to enjoy and connect with nature.

Volunteers will continue to maintain the space, providing opportunities for people to learn new skills and also meet new people and make a valuable contribution to their local area.

Isle of Wight Foundation Support

Grant

£5,000 to create a new public garden in Sandown to enhance the area for residents and visitors and create volunteering opportunities.

Project Lead

Claire Hector
The Common Space

"This has been a really successful project involving volunteers of all ages from Sandown and beyond who have worked hard to create a new and uplifting asset for the town – and a valuable resource for wildlife. When in flower the irises create a vibrant show which will return year after year as the planted spaces mature."





**Youth and
Citizenship**

**Social
Integration**

The Phoenix Project

Type: Social Integration, Training and Qualification

Project: Wood 'n' Things

Status: Charity

Area: Newport (but can be accessed by people Island-wide)

The Phoenix Project supports people with a learning disability and autism to live more independent and fulfilling lives. It runs a successful carpentry unit called Wood 'n' Things, which gives people the opportunity to gain hands on experience in building things, handling orders and serving customers - while achieving an accredited qualification if desired.

Wood 'n' Things has improved the self-esteem of those taking part and increased confidence – which has really helped to prepare people for further opportunities such as training, employment or volunteering.

Funding from the IW Foundation has allowed the charity to extend the number of days it operates each week – from three to five. The extra days have allowed the charity to offer sessions to a wider client group, including those with mental health conditions and jobseekers looking at getting back into employment.

Additional tools purchased with Foundation funding included a saw bench, router table, combi drills and orbit sanders, along with woodturning equipment. A new dust extraction system was also installed and safety specs and ear defenders purchased for the additional people taking part in sessions.

Wood 'n' Things has worked on planters and garden benches sold directly to customers and at garden fairs, an opportunity for the team to showcase their work and interact with the public.

Isle of Wight Foundation Support

Grant

£5,306.37 for new tools and woodwork equipment that give more people the opportunity to gain hands on carpentry experience, make products, handle orders and serve customers.

Project Lead

Louise Smith
Fundraising Coordinator,
The Phoenix Project

"The new equipment has made a huge difference to us and has allowed more people to use the workshop and has broadened the amount of things they are able to make and thus the skills they are able to develop. Thank you again to the IW Foundation for their continued support."



THE PHOENIX
PROJECT IOW



**Social
Integration**

**Training and
Qualifications**

Wessex Cancer Trust

Type: Social Integration
Project: Patient transport - Isle of Wight to Mainland
Status: Charity
Area: Island-wide

Wessex Cancer Trust provides emotional and practical support to people of all ages and types of cancer, including support for their family/carers. People living on the Island can access services including counselling, therapies, peer support, befriending services and patient transport.

The charity's patient transport service is used by Island cancer patients who need to visit mainland hospitals for treatment. It runs two free minibus service links – one between the hovercraft terminal at Southsea and Queen Alexandra Hospital in Portsmouth and the other between the RedJet terminal in Southampton and Southampton General Hospital.

Funding from the IW Foundation helped to cover lease payments on a new minibus for the Southampton route for 2022, along with insurance, tax and minor maintenance costs for the year for both routes.

In 2022, Wessex Cancer Trust provided 10,510 journeys for Isle of Wight residents thanks to the support from IW Foundation.

The service not only provides vital transport, it's also a safe and friendly service. As one user said: "For me, the Daisy Bus has been a lifeline. It's not just the transport though – I've made so many friends on the bus, and because we're all going through the same thing, we support each other. I'd be lost without it."

Isle of Wight Foundation Support

Grant

£12,852 to help fund its patient transport scheme for Isle of Wight residents required to travel to hospitals in Portsmouth and Southampton for cancer diagnosis or treatment.

Project Lead

Bonnie Curtis
Trust and Major Donor
Fundraiser,
Wessex Cancer Trust

"We are very grateful to the IW Foundation for their support which allowed us to continue our Daisy Bus service to provide vital transport links for Isle of Wight cancer patients."





**Social
Integration**

WightSAR (Isle of Wight Search and Rescue)

Type: Social Integration, Training and Qualification

Project: New control vehicle

Status: Charity

Area: Island-wide

Isle of Wight Search and Rescue, known as WightSAR, is part of the network of UK Lowland Search and Rescue Units. Its team of professionally trained volunteers are on hand 24/7 to provide search and rescue coverage 'from hill to high water' whenever requested, in whatever the weather. It regularly works with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary and other agencies to search for vulnerable missing people on the Island.

Searches are often co-ordinated from a control vehicle which provides a valuable mobile base. The vehicle houses communications equipment as well as evacuation stretchers, first aid kits and safety equipment.

The charity's control vehicle was becoming increasingly unreliable and in need of expensive maintenance. Thanks to the IW Foundation, WightSAR has been able to source a new long wheel-based Mercedes Sprinter van. Due to worldwide delays in manufacturing, the charity was delayed in receiving the vehicle which meant it missed the build slot that was reserved for the conversion. The vehicle has been branded externally and should be ready for deployment later this year (2023). Once completed the vehicle – which will be capable of carrying a 12.5m radio mast – should be ready for deployment in 2023.

Isle of Wight Foundation Support

Grant

£16,000 toward the purchase of a new vehicle and conversion into a new command vehicle.

Project Lead

Dean Terrett
Founder and Chairman,
WightSAR

"We are extremely grateful to the Isle of Wight Foundation for their donation towards this vital and life-saving resource."





**Social
Integration**

**Training and
Qualifications**

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