

SUSSEX COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

DONOR REPORT
MARCH 2021

Little Cheyne Court Wind Farm Fund

The Little Cheyne Court Wind Farm Fund supports Sussex charities and community groups who operate within a ten-kilometer radius of the wind farm. Grants of between £500 and £5,000 are given to support environmental, educational, community and charitable activities. The fund was established in 2009 and made its first grants the same year. In total, the fund has given out 179 grants amounting to £446,876, supporting 77 Sussex groups. The information below has been taken directly from the monitoring reports of these groups.



Rye Community Garden - £2,500

What activities were funded by the grant?

Rye Community Garden promotes social inclusion, providing a place for local people to come together, to work on growing food or simply to socialise. Your grant employed the garden co-ordinator for a second season, extending her role to link with social prescribing and disability gardening initiatives, increasing the number of local people involved.

Real lives

“Funding enabled structured sessions to be held, resulting in participants gaining confidence with gardening. They also benefitted from social interaction and gained a greater awareness of food and wildlife issues. Emma is a teenager with learning difficulties. She derived huge enjoyment from the sessions, with the co-ordinator giving her priority during the phased return from the first lockdown, when only one volunteer could attend.”





Rye Wurlitzer Academy - £600

What activities were funded by the grant?

Rye Wurlitzer Academy (RWA) provides free theatre organ technique tuition, including teaching instrument maintenance. The charity works to encourage the art of theatrical presentation and performing arts, whilst preserving musical heritage and providing opportunities to develop life skills. Your grant supported core organisational costs, including arranging field trips to other theatre organs of historic importance.

Real lives

“One of our students had trouble with her nerves when performing in public and initially was very against participating. As her tuition continued she received plenty of encouragement and slowly built her confidence. Later, when asked to perform she agreed and has since taken part in the ‘Young Theater Organist of the Year’ competition. She also went on to perform cameo pieces at an RWA student concert at Bognor and on two occasions at our Rye fund raising events.”



Camber Memorial Hall - £5,000

What activities were funded by the grant?

The Memorial Hall is a community hub that serves the residents of Camber. Your grant supported the resurfacing of the car park, to improve accessibility to the Hall and the attached Doctors' Surgery.

Real lives

“In Camber, we have several elderly residents who use mobility scooters. One particular resident was frightened to step off their scooter on to the old surface, due to a fear of tripping. Previously, they relied on neighbours, family and friends to pick up their prescriptions. Now, they are so pleased with the new surface and the designated 'walkway' that they frequently leave their scooter by the entrance to the car park and walk along the designated walkway to the doctors surgery to pick up the prescription themselves.”



Peasmarsh Chamber Music Festival Trust - £3,000

What activities were funded by the grant?

The Festival curates a series of nine professional concerts each June, in Peasmarsh and Rye, including one educational concert for local schoolchildren and one high profile orchestral concert. In addition, the charity organises workshops in local schools providing both composition and performance opportunities for the participants. Your grant enabled the Aurora Orchestra to work with local school children on a specially curated interactive programme, that was delivered as part of the festival on 28th June at Bridge Point in Rye.

Real lives

“Over the last ten years, we’ve seen expert facilitation from our experienced music leaders particularly benefit children who struggle to engage with more conventional school learning. We provide a forum to have their skills and achievements acknowledged and celebrated. During the workshops and performance, all three schools feedback showed that there were students who benefited from the project beyond the simple act of singing in a concert. The project saw the students confidence grow.



A teacher from Beckley School said: “A child that is often disengaged in class performed in the front row, word perfect.”



A student at Rye Primary said: “I have learnt how to not be scared because when I saw the other people up there, it didn’t look worrying. We have all learned that you can achieve anything when you try your hardest to have a go.” Through singing and working with classmates, this student has been given the confidence to perform in a large space, to an audience of 500 people, which is a wonderful outcome.”



RYE FLOWER & VEG SHOW



Rye Flower & Veg Show - £850

What activities were funded by the grant?

Rye Flower & Veg Show organise, manage and run an annual horticultural show. The traditional event, incorporates multiple interests and age groups from the wider community. The group arrange judging, marketing materials and press releases for the show. Your grant supported advertising, including creating materials including flyers, banners and the printed show schedule. The group have also created a new website, promoting the show to a wider audience.

Real lives

“One lady, who writes a blog for our website and is also a teacher at the local school, entered our show for the first time in 2019. She is very enthusiastic and takes marvellous photographs. She is intending to organise some planting/writing involvement with her pupils to assist with the 2021 show. This is very beneficial for us and will involve many younger age group children in the event.”

The difference your grant has made

Local allotmenters and gardeners had excellent opportunities to get outside more and work on their gardens. Informal discussions and contributions to the website blog show that local residents have increased the amount of produce being grown and they are enjoying the benefits of eating this healthy produce. Far more children have been involved with the growing process, due to the school closures. There have been many cases of people pickling, baking and enjoying their own produce. Many people are more enthused about growing edible produce and intend to enter the show next year.



Rye Harbour Sailing Club (RHSC) Sailability - £4,671

What activities were funded by the grant?

RHSC Sailability is a locally based charity enabling people with disabilities to experience the fun and freedom of sailing in a dinghy at Rye Harbour and in Rye Bay. Your grant supported the purchase of a rigid inflatable boat (RIB) safety boat.

Real lives

“One of our sailors who has cerebral palsy with a weak right hand side, is also a carer for a family member at home. He lives for the days out sailing with RHS or coming to our social events in the winter. He doesn't have much respite in his life. This sailor was our first member and he has been with us since we launched in August 2017.”

He said: “The days that RHS provide get me out of the house. I feel like I am doing something for myself and I love the sailing! There is a welcoming atmosphere, including providing food, which makes time for volunteers, carers and sailors to catch up on all their news. I very much enjoy being part of it all!”



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Foundation



All grants in 2019

Organisation	Amount	Project
Iden Bowls Club	£794	To purchase a double-doored storage shed, improving access to the club house.
Rye Wurlitzer Academy	£600	Support for organisational core costs, including workshops and field trips.
Rye and District Community Transport	£4,000	To keep the 326 bus service operating - bus maintenance, insurance, staff costs.
RHSC Sailability	£4,671	To purchase a RIB safety boat.
Rye Bowls Club	£500	To purchase a marquee.
Rye Rugby Football Club	£5,000	To refurbish the modular building, including the public areas.
Peasmarsh Memorial Hall Management Committee	£4,250	To upgrade the hot water capabilities of the Memorial Hall, improving the kitchen facilities.
Peasmarsh Chamber Music Festival Trust	£3,000	To bring the Aurora Orchestra to work with local school children on a specially curated interactive programme.
Camber Residents Association	£1,000	A five-day break for residents to Bournemouth.
Winchelsea New Hall	£5,000	Replacement windows for the main hall.
Camber Memorial Hall	£5,000	Resurfacing the car park of the hall and Doctors' surgery.
Rye & District Sea Cadets	£4,500	To update the toilet and changing facilities for cadets.
Strandliners CIC	£630	To purchase equipment and marketing materials to reach a wider audience.
Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve	£2,500	Part-fund the fully accessible and sustainable fit-out of the reception area and community space.
Rye Community Garden	£2,500	To employ the co-ordinator for a second season.

Sussex Community Foundation raises funds for and gives grants to smaller charities and community groups across East Sussex, West Sussex and Brighton & Hove. We make it easy for Sussex people to give money to local causes close to their hearts and ensure that those donations reach the people that need them. Our endowment fund enables our donors to benefit Sussex people for generations to come.

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Thank you