

# Herefordshire Community Foundation Impact Report 2024-2025



## **Contents**

|                                                                    |                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| About Herefordshire Community Foundation                           | Page 2          |
| Ways of Giving                                                     | Pages 3 and 4   |
| Who We Fund                                                        | Page 5          |
| Priority Areas                                                     | Page 6          |
| <b>Poverty and Disadvantage</b>                                    | Page 7          |
| <b>Stronger Communities</b>                                        | Pages 8 and 9   |
| WyePlay                                                            | Page 10         |
| <b>Health and Wellbeing</b>                                        | Pages 11 and 12 |
| Weobley High School                                                | Pages 13 and 14 |
| Trewen Meadows                                                     | Pages 15 and 16 |
| <b>Improving Life Skills, Education and Employability</b>          | Page 17         |
| Individual – Richard Bulmer Fund                                   | Pages 18 and 19 |
| The Living Paintings Trust                                         | Pages 20 and 21 |
| <b>Arts, Culture and Heritage</b>                                  | Pages 22 and 23 |
| Herefordshire College of Arts                                      | Pages 24 and 25 |
| ECHO for Extra Choices in Herefordshire                            | Pages 26 and 27 |
| 2Faced Dance Company                                               | Pages 28 and 29 |
| <b>Environmental Access, Engagement and Improving Surroundings</b> | Page 30         |
| Cultivating Learning and Nature CIC (CLaN)                         | Pages 31 to 33  |
| Leominster in Bloom                                                | Pages 34 and 35 |
| <b>Sharing a fund's impact</b>                                     | Page 36 to 37   |
| <b>Disaster Relief</b>                                             | Page 38         |
| <b>IT and Technology</b>                                           | Page 39         |
| Feedback from grantees                                             | Pages 40 and 41 |
| List of organisations that benefitted this year                    | Pages 42 to 45  |
| Contact details                                                    | Page 46         |

## About Herefordshire Community Foundation

The Herefordshire Community Foundation (HCF) is an independent local grant-making charity established in 2002 to support people and communities across Herefordshire. Through donor-endowed funds, individual donations, trust transfers, and programme-specific funding, HCF works to improve the lives of vulnerable, isolated, and disadvantaged individuals, with a strong focus on those living within the county.

HCF provides grants to charities, voluntary organisations, and community groups that deliver public benefit, as well as direct support to individuals and families in financial hardship.

Since its establishment, HCF has awarded over £7.5 million in grants across Herefordshire, helping to drive lasting positive change and strengthen communities

The table below highlights last year's fund performance and grant distribution.

|                                          |               |
|------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Value of funds awarded                   | £604,247      |
| Total funds raised                       | £2,323,106.18 |
| Total Endowment value                    | £8,143,568.07 |
| Number of grants awarded to groups       | 164           |
| Number of grants awarded to individuals* | 388           |
| Average value of grants to individuals*  | £432.97       |
| Average value of grants to groups        | £2,660.09     |

\*Grants for individuals include households in receipt of the Household Support Fund

Herefordshire Community Foundation supports communities and individuals across the county through a range of targeted and general funds. These include programmes focused on priorities such as mental health, arts, sport, and education, as well as broader funds like the Iron Fund, which provides vital assistance to those in hardship.

## Ways of Giving to Herefordshire

At HCF there are many ways you can give to your local community. You may choose to make a one-off **donation** or establish a regular commitment to a fund of your choice through our website at [www.herefordshirecf.org/ways-of-giving](http://www.herefordshirecf.org/ways-of-giving)

You can easily set up a **Named Fund**. Our expert team will guide you every step of the way, providing a simple and efficient path to creating a charitable fund that supports the causes you care about.

You may wish to consider a **Trust Transfer** to HCF if you have a fund that is challenging to manage or has become inactive. While the fund's purpose and impact remain unchanged, we assume responsibility for its day-to-day administration and management.

HCF can help you to create a **Legacy or Memorial Fund** that leaves a lasting mark on your community. Our dedicated team works with you or your loved ones to ensure your fund honours your values and continues to support the causes you hold dear, creating an enduring impact for generations to come.

### Named Funds

Our Named Funds provide the flexibility and control of a charitable trust, without the associated administrative responsibilities. They offer a streamlined and effective alternative for those seeking to make a lasting philanthropic impact.

As an accredited Community Foundation with more than 23 years of proven experience, we manage your investment with diligence and care. Our specialist team oversees all aspects of governance and grant-making, ensuring the highest standards at every stage.

We work in close partnership with you to help fulfil your charitable objectives, offering confidence that your funds are being directed wisely and effectively.

### Permanent Fund (Endowment)

Most of our donors choose to set up permanent endowment funds, which provide everlasting support to the county. We invest your capital and use the dividend income to make grants year after year, with the potential to build up the fund over future generations of your family. We recommend a minimum pledge of £25,000.

### Flow-through Fund (F/T)

Alternatively, a flow-through fund provides the option for the full amount of your charitable giving to be awarded as grants over a specific time period. This means that your support can be put to immediate use. You can add to your fund as and when you wish, or not at all.

This year HCF has helped set up five new funds. These are:

- Baby Steps Care Leavers Programme (3 Years) (F/T)
- Jeremy Holden Memorial Fund (F/T)
- Castle Sychrov Fund (F/T & Endowment)
- Hereford Military Festival Fund (F/T)
- Andrew Basnett Fund (F/T & Endowment)

Here are some examples of funds that HCF manages with particular geographics or demographics:

- **Baby Steps Care Leavers Programme** supports care-experienced parents and parent-to-be aged 16 to 25 in Herefordshire.
- **Andrew Basnett Fund** remembers the talents of the blacksmith and art metal worker Andrew Basnett, by inspiring and supporting future blacksmithing talent.
- **Charlotte Ballard** supports children living in Ledbury.
- **Coneygree** supports voluntary and community groups, as well as individuals in hardship, in Ledbury and the surrounding area.
- **George's Fund** supports projects aimed at children aged 3 to 11 years old in Herefordshire.
- **Hergest Fund** supports welfare, educational and environmental activities in Kington and the surrounding area.
- **Jeremy Holden Memorial Fund** was set up in memory of Jeremy Holden to promote economic development and job opportunities in Bromyard.
- **Much Marcle United Fund** provides support for community activities in the village of Much Marcle and the surrounding area.
- **Teme Valley Youth Project** supports projects that engage 11 to 25 year olds in social action and skills development in North Herefordshire and South Shropshire.

HCF also administers the **Joanies Fund**, which is open to applications from projects across England and Wales. The fund supports a wide range of community initiatives, working exclusively with young people aged 0–25, with a focus on innovative and entrepreneurial projects that help them move into employment, achieve accreditation, or access further education and training.

The HCF funds page allows prospective applicants to search by fund name or theme and provides details on eligibility criteria, application forms, and ways to donate:

[www.herefordshirecf.org/our-funds-programmes/](http://www.herefordshirecf.org/our-funds-programmes/)

We are pleased to report that 2024–25 was another highly successful year for HCF, during which our continued support for local communities has reinforced our position as Herefordshire's leading independent grant-maker.

## Who We Fund

### Funded Groups

HCF provides funding to a wide range of charities, community interest companies, clubs, schools, and community halls across Herefordshire. Supported projects address diverse needs - from assisting those facing terminal illness, poor mental health, poverty, or social and rural isolation, to creating opportunities in education, nature, sport, arts, culture, and heritage.

### Funded Individuals

Grants for individuals continue to provide vital support for those experiencing poverty or disadvantage. This is made possible in large part through HCF's partnership with Herefordshire Council in administering the Household Support Fund on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions. Additional support is offered through the Iron Fund, while the Herefordshire Education Fund provides bursaries to students across the county and the Jack Hughes Fund supports training within the farming community.

### Open Grant Data

HCF publishes its grant awards through 360Giving, promoting transparency and open data.

At HCF, we believe that better insight leads to better giving — empowering grant makers to create greater impact and lasting change.

Visit the HCF 360Giving page to see the previous grants that have been awarded on the three sixty website, via a link from our webpage [www.herefordshirecf.org/what-we-have-funded/](http://www.herefordshirecf.org/what-we-have-funded/)

For more information on how this data is published and improves charitable giving, please visit [www.threesixtygiving.org/](http://www.threesixtygiving.org/)



Making bubbles at Play+ with Marches Family Network

## Priority Areas

HCF supports both individuals and community projects across Herefordshire, with eight priority areas demonstrating the impact of its grant-giving throughout the county.

These are:

- Stronger Communities
- Poverty and Disadvantage
- Health and Wellbeing
- Improve Life Skills, Education and Employability
- Arts, Culture and Heritage
- Environmental Access, Engagement and Improving Surroundings
- Disaster Relief
- IT and Technology

| Priority/theme                                              | Total Funding awarded | Number of grants awarded |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Poverty and Disadvantage                                    | £150,954              | 296*                     |
| Stronger Communities                                        | £141,617.67           | 39                       |
| Health and Wellbeing                                        | £100,310.84           | 33                       |
| Improve Life Skills, Education and Employability            | £73064.68             | 43                       |
| Arts, Culture and Heritage                                  | £82,563.26            | 39                       |
| Environmental Access, Engagement and Improving Surroundings | £29.710               | 10                       |
| Disaster Relief                                             | £24,250               | 81                       |
| IT and Technology                                           | £1,728                | 11                       |

\*285 of awards made Household Support Fund



## Poverty and Disadvantage

HCF administers several funds supporting individuals in Herefordshire facing hardship. The **Iron Fund** provides grants to address urgent needs, particularly those promoting community cohesion and alleviating issues of isolation. The **Household Support Fund**, delivered on behalf of Herefordshire Council with Department for Work and Pensions funding, assists vulnerable households with fuel costs and essential appliances.

The **Household Support Fund** awarded grants to 285 households, which benefited 629 individuals in need in Herefordshire.



*“Our client rang to thank HCF for awarding her a grant - she had been speaking with her husband about disconnecting their gas meter to reduce their bills - their concern for how this would affect their kids had stopped her from doing so. She said the £500 would make a life-changing difference to them this winter and enable them to have hot water and use the cooker.”*

*“Our client was really blown away by the support. He feels like a weight has been lifted. His neighbour, who picks up food for him, says he looks 10 years younger because of the easing of stress by the fuel grant.”*

*“A new washing machine and cooker have given a family a new lease of life! The HCF has been a life saver – literally!”*

*“The beneficiary is very grateful for your help. She asked me to thank you very much on behalf. She checked her meters; she already has everything for her gas and electric. Thanks to this, she won’t be sitting at home dressed warmly and she won’t be worrying if she has enough to top-up. When she saw the meters she cried with joy. She asked me to pass on heartfelt thanks to the whole team.”*

Other awards were made by Castle Sychrov Fund, Community Warm Spaces, Iron Fund, and Joanies.



## Stronger Communities

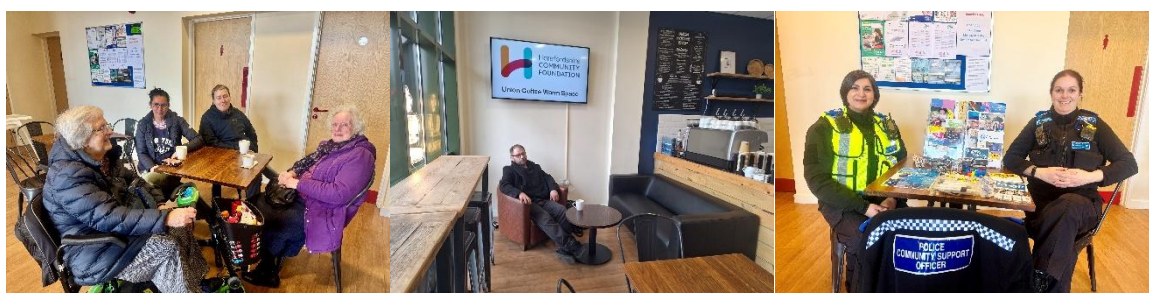
At the heart of HCF's mission is funding projects that build stronger communities across Herefordshire. We provide grants to deserving causes and individuals, funded by the generosity of local residents, families, and businesses.

This year, HCF had success in securing **UK Community Foundations Care Leavers Project** funding, supported by **CCLA**. The **Baby Steps Project** is a support project for care-experienced parents and parent-to-be aged 16 to 25 in Herefordshire.

**Home Start Herefordshire** is delivering the project over three years, which offers practical and emotional support to help care-experienced parents navigate the challenges of parenthood and create a nurturing environment for their children. The support includes home visits and various services tailored for parents and children. Home Start Herefordshire strives to create a safe space where every family feels accepted and understood.

**Community Warm Spaces Fund** gave awards to four projects that provided warm spaces and hot meals to the local community in Hereford, Kington, Ledbury and Staunton on Wye.

**Hereford City Church** "Warm Welcome" initiative at Union Coffee provided a safe, warm space for vulnerable individuals, offering hot meals, community connection and access to essential resources for health, dignity, and support.



Union Coffee Shop at Hereford City Church

*"E, who came to the Ladies Night, started attending our church. She is currently housed in a refuge and has been volunteering in our Union Coffee shop every Monday."*

All four projects provided opportunities for volunteers to come together to strengthen their communities, as is illustrated by this quote from a volunteer with **Ledbury Community Hub**:

*"I love the process from start to finish. Coming together with other volunteers, often for the first time and working as a team to create a Healthy Vegetarian Lunch to be shared with our community."*

*I find it especially enjoyable to hear and see a room full of people from all walks of life from youngsters to elders, sharing time and experiences together whilst eating.*

*Personally I have now gained a Food and Hygiene Safety Certificate, which has alerted me to implement some new processes at home and gain awareness of the top 14 allergens."*

The **High Sheriff Fund** made awards to 12 projects that support Law and Order and Community Cohesion.

- @THEHUB CIC
- 3Degreez Allstarz CIC
- ECHO for Extra Choices in Herefordshire
- Herefordshire Veterans Support Centre
- Close House Projects
- Crime Stoppers / Pip printing
- Bromyard Foodbank
- The Houghton Project
- Hereford Cathedral
- Hinton Community Centre

Thanks to an award from the **HCF Sport Fund**, the **City of Hereford Swimming Club** has been able to invest in its volunteer team by offering them the opportunity to complete Swim England assistant coach courses. By equipping volunteers with the skills and confidence to coach effectively, the club helps swimmers of all ages achieve their full potential, while promoting active lifestyles and increasing participation in physical activity.

Other awards that prioritise Stronger Communities were made by Bulmer Gilmour Fund, Coneygree Fund, Iron Fund, Joanies, Knife Angel, Teme Valley Youth Fund and Green Oak Fund.



Gazebo at Aylestone Park, Hereford

## WyePlay

This year, we have funded some of the core costs of WyePlay, a charity set up in 2018 that provides affordable stay-and-play sessions for all families with pre-school children in South Herefordshire. It reaches out to one of the more deprived areas of Ross (Tudorville) and four rural communities: Weston-under-Penyard, Much Marcle, Bishopswood and Walford.

WyePlay offers a variety of weekly play options, including soft play equipment, a ball pool, musical instruments, crafts and colouring, ride-on toys, books, a dedicated baby area, and parachute games. All sessions include a story, a snack and a drink for children, plus song time. Sessions are sometimes lightly themed to reflect the world around us, such as seasons, festivals and celebrations, sporting events, or awareness weeks relevant to families with young children.



Play session with WyePlay

The funding has provided play opportunities to over 3000 beneficiaries. The chance to attend play sessions with toddlers and other parents is a lifeline to many.

*"I started going to Wye Play when my second child was just five weeks old and my eldest was two. It had been a difficult time after birth difficulties that had led to quite significant health difficulties for me, and re-triggered some traumatic stress for my husband who is in the military. I was adjusting to the change to two little children whilst also in some pain but needed to get out the house."*

*"I'm so glad I found Wye Play. Steph and Lou knew exactly what I needed; they helped me during the session, linked me up with other parents, the activities were perfect for both the children (baby area and lots for toddlers) and then they helped me get back to the car! They are the friendliest people you could meet but more importantly seem to intuitively understand the needs of parents. I'm so glad this provision is available locally."*

WyePlay offers regular, welcoming, and accessible play opportunities across urban, suburban, and rural communities. Their goal is to ease the impact of isolation and financial challenges on families by providing engaging and affordable play sessions.

## Health and Wellbeing

George's Fund was set up by Laura Hughes, one of our trustees, to celebrate the short and special life of her five-year-old son George. It supports projects aimed at children aged 3 to 11 years old in Herefordshire and six of the 10 awards the fund made in 2024 have health and wellbeing as their primary priority. These projects are:

- Forest School enhancement
- Children's Garden Project in a school setting
- Wild & Well – Structured outdoor play sessions to support vulnerable young children in Leominster with **Herefordshire Nurture to Nature**.
- Forest School days for under-11 groups with **Hope's Children & Young People Support Service**.
- Explore the Woods – woodland activities for year 6 neurodivergent pupils experiencing distress and anxiety, who are transitioning to high school – with **The Cart Shed**
- Play+ Outdoor play opportunities for 11 and under supported by **Marches Family Network**.

At HCF, we recognise the vital role that sports and social activities play in promoting health and wellbeing, and we support this through our HCF Sports Fund. In addition, several of our other funds have contributed to awards that support and enhance local and regional sports initiatives. Recipients include bowling clubs at Eastnor and the Golden Valley, **Burghill and Tillington Cricket Club** and **Trewen Meadows** (formerly Herefordshire Riding for the Disabled).

Our **Judith Shrimpton Fund** and **Castle Sychrov Fund** contributed to **Acorn's Children's Hospice** to provide syringe drivers for children at the Three Counties Hospice, which supports children across four counties, including Herefordshire. This specialist equipment allows medication to be delivered efficiently to children who are at the end of their lives. Their donation helped to provide lifeline care.

- Care for 197 children
- Support for 296 families
- 684 hospice stays
- Support for 7 end of life cases
- 281 specialist therapy sessions

The **HCF Mental Health Fund** has supported the wellbeing of children and young people by subsidising special training for Herefordshire schools on a nationally recognised programme designed to help pupils build emotional wellbeing and resilience.

The five-day Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (**ELSA**) **Training** helps teaching assistants to develop and deliver individualised support to meet the emotional needs of the children in their care, with access to ongoing networking and termly supervision with an educational psychologist.

Bridie Sullivan, Chief Executive, Herefordshire Community Foundation, said, *"There is striking evidence demonstrating how ELSA training is helping UK schools to improve the emotional wellbeing of young pupils. We are very pleased to create the opportunity for local primary and secondary schools to receive dedicated training which will ultimately mean that children can learn better and feel happier."*



Awards from the **Iron Fund** included:

- a piano for a Singing for Fun group in Orleton, North Herefordshire
- a peer support group for secondary breast cancer patients in Hereford with **Make 2nds Count**
- support for disadvantaged local people to improve their physical health and wellbeing in Ross-on-Wye **@The Hub**
- core funding for Herefordshire **Brain Tumour Support Services**
- Continuation of a 50-strong football group within the Veteran & Blue light community at **Herefordshire Veterans Support Centre**

They also made several awards to help individuals in need. One funded a bike and a crash helmet for a lady, enabling her to get to her current one-day-a-week job, attend interviews and improve both her mental and physical health.

Other awards were made by Bulmer Gilmour Fund, Community Warm Spaces, Glencora, Joanies and Teme Valley Youth Project Fund.



Graffiti project – Royal National College for the Blind

## Weobley High School

An award from **Teme Valley Youth Project** enabled Weobley High School to take 18 pupils to Green Spider Climbing in Hereford.

A group of 18 from 3 different year groups, mixed boys and girls benefited by

- Improved social skills
- Improved physical health
- Improved attitude towards exercise

As part of this program, they worked towards their Level 1 National Indoor Climbing Award Scheme (NCIAS). Weobley High School hopes to extend the program to more pupils who may not enjoy traditional sports and encourages participants to progress through all five NCIAS levels in the future.

All the pupils have continued to engage in physical activity at school in various ways. They have formed friendships, often chatting at lunchtime and visiting the fitness suite together. They expressed their happiness that subsidised transport allowed them to travel to Hereford for a new activity that they chose themselves. Additionally, Green Spider Climbing generously provided climbing shoes free of charge each week.

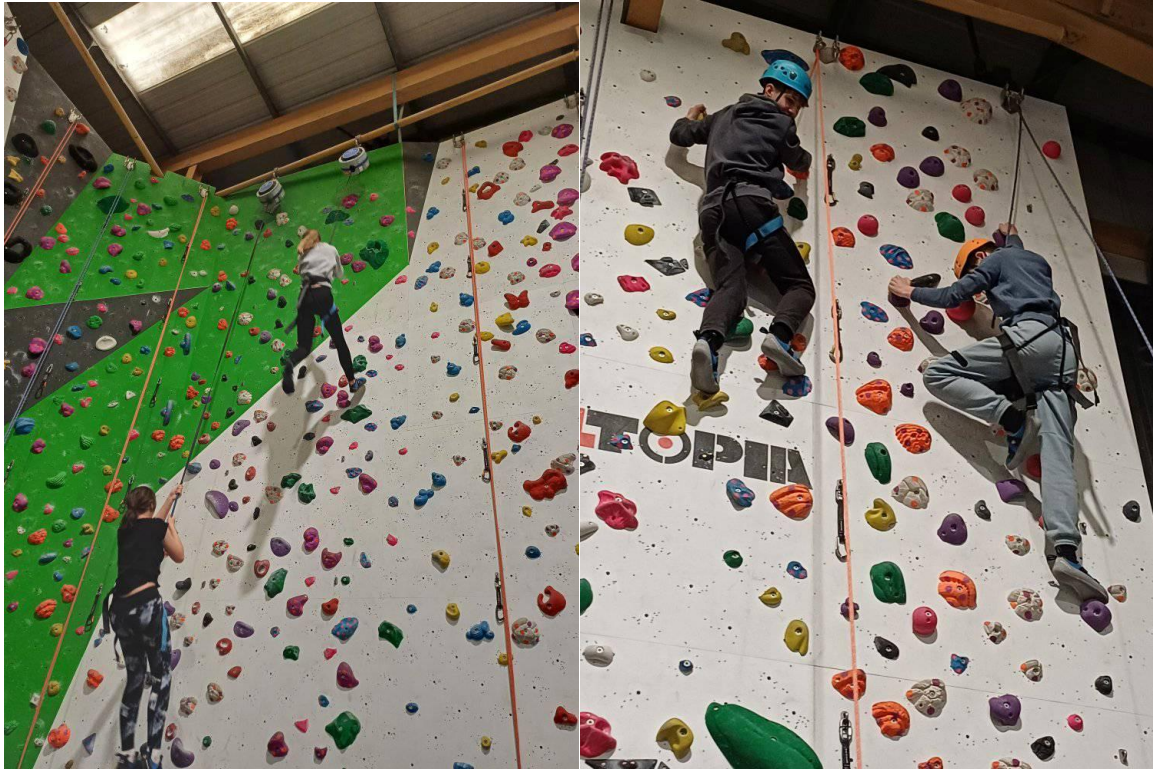


Weobley High School pupils at Green Spider Climbing, Hereford



## Story of Change

One pupil with SEND, who struggles socially and mentally with school, was not very active at all before this opportunity. He was talked into coming by a teacher. His mum and a staff member needed to drive him on day one as he worried about the bus. Since then, he has made friends and has told staff that he feels happier and more confident with his school life. He continues to climb. He is now on NICAS level 3. He said that climbing will be the sport that he continues throughout his life.



Weobley High School pupils climbing at Green Spider



## **Trewen Meadows (formerly Herefordshire Riding for the Disabled)**

The generous grant from the **Iron Fund** has transformed the experience of individuals at Herefordshire RDA, improving safety, confidence, and wellbeing for all participants of their equine-therapy, by funding essential equipment for its new therapy centre, including:

- 10 riding hats
- a 20kg industrial washing machine
- a 20kg industrial tumble dryer

The new riding hats have made a significant impact, allowing all riders to participate safely. Well-fitting, high-quality helmets have boosted confidence for those with physical or learning disabilities, enabling full engagement in riding. Riders are developing balance, coordination, and independence, while families and carers have peace of mind. This has increased confidence and also supports emotional wellbeing and personal growth beyond the arena.

The new industrial washing machine and tumble dryer have transformed horse equipment care. Shared tack and items can now be thoroughly cleaned and dried, ensuring safety, hygiene, and horse comfort. This efficient system reduces infection risk and frees staff and volunteers to focus on sessions and supporting participants.

Riding horses and ponies offers disabled individuals a unique sense of independence and freedom. The movement of the horses stimulates both mind and muscles, while also providing rich sensory experiences through smell, warmth, and touch.

RDA programs are designed to meet each individual's unique needs and monitor progress across a wide range of benefits:

- Improved physical health: enhanced muscle tone, relaxation of tight joints, and positive effects on other health conditions
- Enhanced core strength, balance, and coordination
- Improved mental health: reduced anxiety, increased confidence, and boosted self-esteem
- Development of soft skills: communication, social interaction, and teamwork
- Opportunities to explore new interests
- Reduced social isolation
- Carer respite
- Enjoyment and fun!

Currently, Trewen Meadows supports around 125 beneficiaries annually, and within three years of opening its new centre, it aims to double this number to 250.

### **Story of change**

One of the most significant impacts of the funding can be seen in the story of Megan, a 12-year-old rider with cerebral palsy. Before receiving the new riding helmets, Megan was often hesitant to participate in sessions due to concerns about safety. This limited her confidence and meant she sometimes missed out on valuable opportunities to develop her skills and independence.

With the new, properly fitting riding helmet funded by the grant, Megan gained the confidence to take part fully in her sessions. The safety and comfort of the helmet allowed her to focus on

learning new riding techniques and building her balance and coordination. Over time, Megan's confidence grew not only in the arena but also in her day-to-day life. She now participates enthusiastically in every session, takes on challenges she previously avoided, and has developed a strong sense of independence and achievement.

This story illustrates the tangible impact of the grant: not only improving safety and confidence but also fostering emotional wellbeing, independence, and a sense of belonging. Megan's journey demonstrates the meaningful difference that Trewen Meadows (formerly Herefordshire RDA) can make in the lives of individual riders.

Emily's family has also noticed a remarkable difference. They feel reassured knowing she is safe during sessions, and they have commented on the positive effect riding has had on her self-esteem and wellbeing. Her progress has inspired other riders and volunteers, highlighting how a single piece of equipment can make a life-changing difference.



Dedicated equine-therapy team and Chairman David Harding at Trewen Meadows

## Improve life skills, Education and Employability

HCF has two main funds that support education and employability in Herefordshire

The **Herefordshire Education Fund (HEF)** provides financial support to help school leavers prepare for the workplace and offers bursaries to students pursuing further or higher education. While priority is given to young people under 25, applications are also welcomed from older learners who are returning to education or reskilling following a career or life change. HEF made four awards to individuals to further their education, including one career change.

The **Jack Hughes Fund** honours the late founder of the Herefordshire Proficiency Test Committee (HPTC), whose dedication ensured training opportunities were available to the county's farming community, especially for young farmers. Today, under the management of HCF since 2015, the fund continues Jack's legacy by supporting the next generation of agricultural talent and all those connected with the rural community.

Jack Hughes has made seven awards to individuals for Pesticide Training, Food Safety, First Aid on the Farm, Rural Facilitator training and Smart Farm Business training.

Once again, schools in Herefordshire were able to benefit from travel bursaries to enable pupils to take part in Hay Festival's Programme for Schools, thanks to awards from the Charles & Anna Saunders Family Trust Fund and Herefordshire Education Fund

Other awards were made by the Charlotte Ballard Trust Fund, George's Fund, Joanies, Judith Shrimpton Fund, Green Oak Fund and Richard Bulmer Fund.



Best smile award at Autumn Show with Herefordshire Growing Point

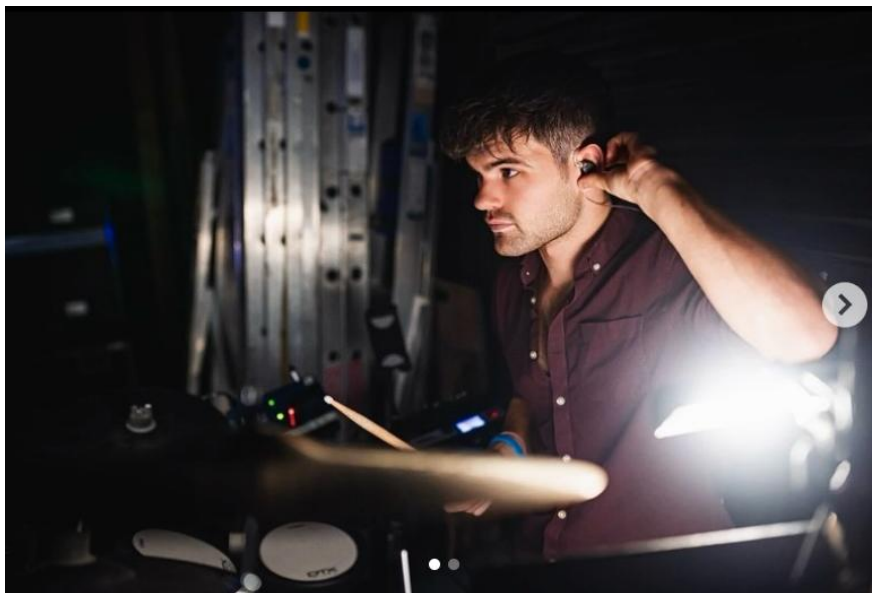
### Individual – Richard Bulmer Fund

Rui de Sousa Stayton, a 21-year-old music student from Herefordshire who was studying at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff, was awarded a grant to purchase an electronic drum kit. The kit supported his studies and helped him earn additional income to cover his education and living expenses.

Rui hoped to perform more concerts to increase his income, allowing him to give up his two extra jobs and gain valuable experience in the music world. Balancing those jobs alongside his studies was taking a serious toll on his mental health, and he had come close on several occasions to abandoning his studies altogether due to the financial strain of living in Cardiff.

The grant from the Richard Bulmer Fund enabled Rui to purchase a Roland TD-50 electronic drum kit, second-hand, including flight cases for its protection.

Soon after, he was booked for the pantomime at The Swan Theatre in Worcester. He was thrilled to secure this professional contract, especially since he had often been invited to perform at concerts that required an electronic drum kit due to noise or technical restrictions, but had previously had to decline. During the run of Aladdin, he performed daily, usually twice a day, with matinee and evening shows.



Rui with this electronic drum kit

*“This has been the first professional contract I have received, and I was only able to accept because of my Roland TD-50 kit due to the specific request for an electronic drum kit.*

*Having only got a few days left on my contract, I can say how much of an amazing experience it has been, especially having met so many industry specialists. However, most importantly, the money I have received during this contract has allowed me to relax on living costs for a few terms of college, which has been a massive weight off my shoulders. Allowing me to be in college more frequently and hence being able to practice more.*



*Back in November, my drum kit teacher, a gigging London professional himself, remarked on how good the quality of my new kit is and that so many opportunities will open because I have such high-quality electronic gear, something quite rare outside of the high budget west end shows as many percussionists and drummers do not wish to spend so much money on electronic drum kits. However, as there are 4-5 shows (with more adding overtime) in the West End that utilise the Roland TD-50, it is extremely useful that I know how to program, set up and play on these kits as they are becoming more prominent in the theatre scene.*

*Looking forward to the ensuing weeks, I have been booked for “Mean Girls” in Newport, where I have to use an electronic kit due to the size of the venue. Once that show is over, I will be setting up my electronic kit in my flat, so that I can practice many more times throughout the day when I am not in college. I live in a very busy area and have two flats above me. I couldn’t use a acoustic kit in due to the noise, so having the flexibility is a lifesaver.*

*As the months go on, I am sure that more fixers will book me for shows and work because of my ability to provide both acoustic and electronic drum kits, which ultimately will bring in more money than I ever had before buying this kit.”*



Rui performing at a concert

## The Living Paintings Trust

An award from the Judith Shrimpton Fund supported children living in Herefordshire who are blind or visually impaired in attaining equal access to literacy and learning, with the work of The Living Paintings Trust.

The organisation supports children who are blind or visually impaired to reach their full potential, from their earliest years through to adolescence. It focuses on literacy, education, and social development, offering fiction and non-fiction audio tactile resources that open up the world of illustrated books and enable lifelong learning.

Its diverse library collection allows children to meet the Very Hungry Caterpillar, explore Roman life, discover Bob Marley's music and iconic dreadlocks, see Monet's masterpieces in their own way, and even take a trip around the National Gallery at night. They can also journey to the International Space Station, try science experiments, enjoy art, and much more.

The award has enabled the supply of unlimited tailor-made loans of our Touch to See books as requested by children with sight loss living in Herefordshire for 12 months. The Living Painting Trust was thrilled to report the positive change in the number of beneficiaries they now reach with their free postal library service in Herefordshire. Their number has increased from 22 to 98.

For the 98 children who are blind or visually impaired who benefited from this grant:

- 91% have improved confidence
- 94% have attained an increased interest in learning
- 88% benefited from an improved confidence in reading
- 88% were more confident in joining in class activities and discussions
- 88% benefitted from an increase in shared experiences with sighted friends, family and peers
- 81% have experienced a positive change in their confidence in socialising and making friends



Millie – enjoying *Jocasta Carr*, *Movie Star* by Roy Gerrard

Parents are so grateful and explain the impact of these books for their children:

“It was a ‘woah’ moment when Jasper could feel all the details that he couldn’t see.”

“Your books help my pupil feel the ‘same’ as their classmates. Words cannot express just how important this is.”

“Living Paintings has made a world of difference to my child. Having tactile and braille learning resources helps her feel included in the world again and brings the topics to life for her. She would be completely isolated in her education without these.”

“The joy and engagement I see from my pupil with your Touch to See books is priceless. It is unbelievable to me that you remain a free service.”

### **Story of Change**

Jacob, 11, was born with retinoblastoma – a rare childhood cancer. As a baby, he had his right eye removed and has 10% vision remaining in his left. But Jacob hasn’t let his visual impairment hold him back from enjoying his passions – sports and reading.

*“Jacob always loved stories and Living Paintings unlocked so much for him. He loves Harry Potter and their Magical Worlds box set helped him understand what the characters and magical artefacts looked like through touch. The books have also been a huge support at school – helping him keep up with the rest of the class in topics like Vikings or nature.”*

As a lover of sports, Jacob was hugely excited to receive tactile-audio boxsets about the Olympic Games. He told The Living Paintings Trust: *“I loved learning about [visually impaired Paralympian] Libby Clegg. That’s going to be me some day!”*

## Arts, Culture and Heritage

Our **Becket Bulmer Fund** is dedicated to promoting cultural advancement, with a particular focus on theatre, music, and the arts. It also supports initiatives that enhance education for young people, improve the environment, and provide opportunities for people living with disabilities.

This year it made 12 awards, ten in this category:

- A youth group for people with learning disabilities with **ECHO** - For Extra Choices in Herefordshire
- A local history project in North Herefordshire
- A 12-week series of art workshops for young and single-parent families, culminating in a community art project at **Ledbury Community Hub**
- Dementia awareness project with art workshops and training by **Arts Uplift**
- A community, musical theatre production by **Flash Theatre Productions CIC**
- A pop-up artist/maker's space in an unused city centre shop – **Herefordshire Community Land Trust**
- An exhibition of art by Quentin Blake at **Hay Castle**
- Replacement of 'Dan the Dog' sculpture on banks of the Wye in Hereford organised by **The Hereford Guild of Mayor's Guides**
- A touring exhibition to enhance the knowledge and understanding of the Rotherwas Munitions factory in Leominster, Ledbury and Ross-on-Wye – **Rotherwas Together**
- Storytelling promenade performance of the history of Hereford by **Feral Productions**
- Community dance project in Kington, Leominster and Ledbury. Engaging the community with **2Faced Dance Company**



Lantern Festival with Ledbury Community Hub



The **Herefordshire Education Fund** and **Charles & Anna Saunders Family Trust Fund** have once again supported travel bursaries to the Hay Festival, enabling five schools to take part in the **Hay Festival's Programme for Schools** in May 2024. Teachers reported that students were engaged and inspired by the authors' talks and workshops. A total of 586 pupils benefited from this funding, which helped to foster a love of reading, enhance literacy skills, and encourage more reading at home.

*"A pupil had recently moved from abroad to UK, English is not their first language. English is very limited but the pupil had a wonderful time at Hay Festival. The school were able to purchase a book for this pupil to enjoy at home. This pupil has, with the help of school, learnt to read in English very quickly and can enjoy their book and lots of others, at home."*

St James CE Primary School

*"As a small rural school, we have a very limited budget for 'extras' such as this, and are very mindful of putting extra expense on parents and carers, many of whom already live on stretched budgets. This grant allowed us to take the children without asking for extra donations from home, making the trip accessible for all."*

Staunton-on-Wye Endowed CE Primary School

*"A Y8 student, formerly a reluctant reader, got a signed copy of a book and finished it in a week!"*

Whitecross High School

Other awards were made by Andrew Basnett Fund, Castle Sychrov Fund, Coneygree Fund, HCF Ats Fund, Heaton, Fund, Hereford Military Festival, Herefordshire College of Arts Fund, the Iron Fund, Joanies, Richard Bulmer Fund and Teme Valley Youth Project.



Dan the Dog statue on the bank of the River Wye, Hereford

## Herefordshire College of Arts

At HCF, we are pleased to have supported Hereford College of Arts (HCA) students' attendance at the New Designers show in London over several years and at other graduate shows since 2018. The **Herefordshire College of Arts Fund** contributed to the associated costs of attendance at the 2024 show for 22 HCA students.

They were absolutely delighted to win the award for the best stand. The stand from The School of Materials and Design was judged alongside over 200 other universities and more than 3,000 graduates at this national showcase of the most innovative emerging design talent.

Judges commented on the dynamic mix of disciplines on display, the innovative use of homemade table-tops, and the adept storytelling ability and keen sense of professionalism displayed by the students when speaking about their work.

Feedback from the students has shown that the event was transformational for many.

Sophie Ferrier was recently announced as the winner of the Arts Thread global creative competition. She won this from her entry, The Urns of Restoration - created from non-native, invasive plant species; Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*), which needs to be removed from our local environment. These urns are bound together with biodegradable binders, resulting in a material that exhibits the adaptability of clay when wet and the durability of wood when dry. It makes them a beyond sustainable material.

*"One of the most challenging aspects of giving feedback on events like New Designers is that graduates often receive exhibition opportunities, internships, employment, editorial features, and competition results months after the event. This reinforces just how critical attending this event is for those students keen to earn a living through their creative practice. The exposure they receive at this event is remarkable."* Delyth Done – Head of School at HCA



Sophie Ferrier – Urns of Restoration

*"New Designers was incredibly beneficial for me. I won Best in Show for Social and Environmental Impact, which led to multiple organizations reaching out to me for collaboration. I was also scouted by GREENGRADS, who offered me a space at The Great Northern Contemporary Craft Fair for free. This opportunity has since led to other collaborations and sales.*

*Being in these professional settings has allowed me to explain my process and the need for biomaterials in the Anthropocene more effectively. Because of these conversations, I have been asked to exhibit across the country. I would not be where I am today, with this level of confidence, if it were not for the opportunity to exhibit at New Designers."*

Sophie Ferrier



Urns of Restoration – made from unwanted plant materials

## **ECHO for Extra Choices in Herefordshire**

The **Becket Bulmer Fund** awarded a grant to ECHO to launch a new Inclusive Youth Theatre Group in Hereford, designed for young people with learning and physical disabilities. ECHO is an independent charity based in Herefordshire, with 230 members and over 150 volunteers. While their main office is in Leominster, they run projects across various community venues. Most of ECHO's activities cater to individuals with moderate to severe learning difficulties. However, it is committed to supporting anyone who wishes to participate, including those with mental health challenges or physical and sensory impairments.

Targeted at young adults aged 18–25, the project provided expert theatre training and opportunities in acting, dance, music, and singing. Participants also learned to design and create costumes and props, gaining the skills needed to thrive as performers in the world of theatre. The group met every Wednesday at the Courtyard Theatre in Hereford.

ECHO operates the **About Face Theatre Company**, based in Leominster, offering training across all areas of theatre, drama, and the arts. The program helps participants develop their skills and pursue their ambitions, often showcasing their performances at venues across the UK.

The young adults attending the group gained from About Face's expertise in disability theatre, learning a wide range of theatrical methods and techniques. They also enjoyed theatre trips and explored a variety of performance spaces across the county, both outdoors and at their home base in the Courtyard. They enjoyed fresh opportunities to explore youth theatre and try a variety of activities, developing specific theatre skills while meeting new people, forming friendships, and engaging in social interactions. The experience boosted their confidence and self-esteem, all while having fun.

Outcomes from the project included:

- Increased access to youth theatre activities for those with disabilities.
- Increased learning opportunities for young adults with learning and/or physical disabilities.
- Change perceptions of disability theatre for audience members and families.
- Improve wellbeing, mental health, social opportunities interactions for those with disabilities
- 

### **Story of change**

Will is a 23-year-old young man who joined the About Face Youth theatre when the group was initially formed in September 2024.

Will has Down Syndrome and some hearing loss; his speech is not always easily understood. He lives at home with his parents and his brother. He is an independent and enthusiastic group member who can be a little too trusting of others, creating a vulnerability. Will previously attended National Star College in Hereford, where he engaged in various creative activities, including publicly exhibiting some of his artwork.

At About Face Youth Theatre, Will was initially a quieter member of the group. However, he soon became a sociable and popular member who readily engages with all group activities, including acting, singing and dancing, both individually and as part of an ensemble. He is also a



skilled visual artist and relishes opportunities for art making within sessions - designing programmes, invitations, set and scenery. Will has been provided with opportunities to make decisions and take the lead, validating his choices and ensuring that his contributions and ideas are heard equally within the group. We have also supported him to say 'no' and decline requests from others, if he wants to.



He has seen a significant increase in confidence. He is now more able to assert himself and make bolder and more expressive performance choices. He consistently brings his full energy and enthusiasm to everything the group does, along with his sense of fun and humour.

Will has been supported to develop creative performance skills and has performed in About Face Theatre's first youth theatre play to an invited audience. His character portrayal was developed through a rehearsal process and a solo dance piece.

When asked what he enjoys most about youth theatre, Will said, *"I like dancing and singing and spending time with all my friends."*

## 2Faced Dance Company

2Faced Dance Company was awarded a grant for their project Towns Alive! The project marked the company's 25<sup>th</sup> birthday in a three-town celebration of dance.

Combined awards from **Becket Bulmer Fund**, **Coneygree** and **Teme Valley Youth Project** resulted in a vibrant, one-day dance festival that took place across three market towns, Leominster, Ledbury and Kington. The event celebrated dance, community, and placemaking through a rich programme of performances and participatory activity. Over 3000 residents and visitors enjoyed the event.

“We aim to inspire a love of dance amongst Herefordshire communities, for all the benefits it can provide.”



Towns Alive in Leominster

**Workshops and Participation:** Local residents of all ages were invited to take part in workshops led by professional artists, encouraging community engagement and fostering creativity. This included Seated Yoga, Contemporary Dance, Parkour, Line Dance, Musicals and Breakdance.

**Pop-Up Dance Events:** A series of surprise and informal dance moments in unexpected locations was staged, sparking curiosity and drawing in new audiences. These included a flash mob for all residents, generating an appetite for involvement in performance.

**Local Artist Involvement:** 2Faced Dance engaged local dancers and creatives to be part of the festival, supporting regional talent and building long-term cultural connections. Opportunities were provided for emerging talent to perform and several artists commented on how valuable the platform was for their professional growth.

By bringing high-quality dance directly into town centres and public spaces, 2Faced Dance Company reached people who might not usually engage with dance or attend traditional venues. The accessible nature of the festival helped break down barriers to cultural participation. Feedback from attendees highlighted how energising and uplifting the day was, particularly in towns where access to live performance is non-existent or limited.

The success of Towns Alive has sparked local interest in more regular cultural programming, with community members and partners expressing enthusiasm for future events.

### **Story of Change: Sam's Journey from Bystander to Performer**

Sam, a 9-year-old from one of the Towns Alive locations, came across the festival while passing through the town centre with family. Initially hesitant, he was drawn in by the energy of a pop-up performance and ended up joining in a workshop led by one of our professional artists.

Sam had no prior formal dance experience but had always enjoyed movement in private. After the session, he stayed to watch more performances and helped with the get out. He later returned with his family to see the final showcase. Inspired, he approached one of the team members to ask how he could get more involved in dance.

As a direct result of this encounter, Sam was provided with information about 2Face Dance Company's boys dance group, Kin Project, which he hopes to attend in September. Sam's story is just one example of how Towns Alive made dance feel accessible, exciting, and relevant by transforming a chance encounter into a creative turning point.

## Environmental access, engagement and improving surroundings

HCF has several funds that support environmental objectives.

**George's Fund**, which supports projects for children aged 3 to 11 in Herefordshire, has made three awards to initiatives with environmental access as their main focus.

- Outdoor learning and adventure experiences for year 4-6 primary school-age children living within a 30-45 minute radius of the outdoor activity centre of **Longtown Outdoor Learning Trust**.
- Developing and improving the natural history skills of young people in Herefordshire with **Cultivating Learning and Nature CIC (CLaN)**.
- **Growing Local** garden workshops - holiday workshops in South Wye for families of pre-school and primary-aged children.

An award from **Wye Valley National Landscapes Fund** helped with the cost of volunteer training, equipment and refreshments for the **Wye Float River and Music Festival**. They provided volunteer opportunities for 85 individuals, including students from Hereford colleges studying public services and outdoor education.

Thanks to a grant from the **Glencora Fund**, **Aylestone Park Association** has been able to provide a new shelter for use by park visitors, school groups, and nature study groups. The shelter will serve as a focal point, encouraging community interaction and supporting wildlife education

**The Green Group (Almeley)** is finally realising its ambition to restore the Meer Common and pond with an award from **Hergest Fund**. After more than two decades without management, they had become both inaccessible and unusable. They look forward to opening these to the public in late Autumn 2025.

Other awards were made by the Green Oak Fund and Joanies Fund.



Wye Float



## Cultivating Learning and Nature CIC (CLaN)

CLaN collaborates with local organisations to foster positive mental health by engaging individuals in traditional crafts, ecological initiatives, and horticultural activities. Their work extends across Herefordshire and encompasses people of all ages. An award from **George's Fund** enabled them to carry out 24 school sessions of wildlife engagement, focusing on identification, attended by 803 pupils.

The sessions, which varied from school to school, included:

- looking at bird wings/skulls
- hunting for plants
- invertebrate recording
- pond dipping.

One high school focused on botany, offering a work experience day for students considering a career in ecology. The sessions left staff and pupils enthused about the natural world.

*“The children all absolutely adored the opportunity to hold lots of different objects including bones and insects. The consensus across the school is that all year groups could have happily continued looking for wildlife in our forest school area using the collecting nets and pots for hours and hours! The whole school was buzzing with excitement after the workshops, we are so grateful for your time and expertise.”*

*“It was great to get the students outside and learning with a different voice, and without exception they all felt it was worthwhile and really enjoyed themselves. The feedback from the Geography team and the Year 8 students has also been very positive – everyone agreed it was a valuable and engaging experience.”*

“Tim's knowledge about the natural environment is fantastic and he has a great approach to learning in the outdoors. We really enjoyed looking at the selection of animal skeletons and using the nets to catch insects. This linked nicely to our topic of Minibeasts in class and allowed us to find some things that were a little bit different to the norm.”

Each school compiled data on the species observed, which were then submitted to both the school and the Herefordshire Biological Records Centre via iRecord. In total, just over 1,400 records were collected. While many of the species recorded were common, several were either rarely documented or under-recorded in the Herefordshire.

For some children, opportunities to visit even nearby areas, such as Hereford, are limited; one teacher noted that pupils at her school had never been to Queenswood. This lack of exposure to nature can lead to a limited understanding and knowledge of natural history. The CLaN sessions provided these pupils with valuable opportunities to explore their environment and develop a deeper awareness of the natural world.

Pupils who found learning challenging in the classroom thrived outdoors, demonstrating enthusiasm and practical skills that they had not previously shown.

“My favourite part was that we got to do bug hunting”

“I liked seeing insects I’ve never seen before”

“It was great so many fascinating species.”

“I enjoyed being outside.”

“It was crazy how small some of the bones were.”

“Tim was really good at telling us about the animal skulls he bought with him”

“I loved the poo!”



Pupils with the finds

### Story of Change

One child who was frequently distracted in the classroom showed great enthusiasm for being outdoors and showed a strong affinity for nature. During the session, he was responsible for identifying a significant portion of the more notable discoveries made by the group, including a Long-Winged Conehead and a False Flower Beetle. The teacher reported that the session had a substantial positive impact on his day, noting that he even brought in some finds from home later in the week. Additionally, he became highly motivated in class, engaging with follow-up work on minibeasts that linked directly to the national curriculum.



Pond dipping and identification with CLaN

CLaN also delivered two training courses on botany and freshwater life for teachers and professionals working with children, as well as three public events held in Garway, Leominster, and Ross-on-Wye. The three events were well attended (99 participants) and gathered some important records as well. One mother commented, *“We loved it so heartwarming to see the kids running around all excited about what they can find”* and Ross on Wye Community Garden said it was the most people they had ever had for that sort of event.



Family event with Cultivating Learning and Nature (CLaN)



## Leominster in Bloom

Leominster in Bloom is run entirely by volunteers, received an award from the **Green Oak Fund**. This enabled them to enhance a wildlife area in the Sydonia Park to include additional wild flowers in the nut grove.

The park is surrounded by housing, including social housing for the elderly. The paths are easily accessible for surrounding residents to enjoy the fresh air and the developments as they arise and are bringing nature to an otherwise built-up area of the town.



Coppicing in the Nut Grove

## Story of change

*“We were delighted to welcome a man who had heard about us through the church. He asked if he could join us, although his circumstances were difficult.*

*He was concerned that he didn't have any equipment, as he was currently housed in a hotel and had been sleeping rough. We were able to reassure him that we would provide all the necessary equipment and that he would be very welcome to join us.*

*He enjoyed his time with us and related stories of having tended his mother's garden in the past.”*



Leominster in Bloom volunteers watering plug plants





The wildflower area of Nut Grove at Sydonia Park, Leominster

Animal boxes for bats, birds and hedgehogs were provided free by Studio Mirai and Leominster Town Council assisted with a rotovator. This meant that surplus funds could be diverted to additional future top-up planting.

## Sharing a fund's impact



CEO of HCF, Bridie Sullivan, welcomes guests to 'A Day in the Woods'

At the end of the year, George's Fund held a 'Day in the Woods', where guests gathered in the beautiful woodland setting of The Cart Shed for a special event celebrating the impact of George's Fund.

The day began with warm drinks and cake by the fire, followed by a warm welcome from Laura Hughes, founder of George's Fund, and Bridie Sullivan, CEO of the Herefordshire Community Foundation. Representatives from funded organisations shared their stories, showcasing the meaningful impact their work is having across the region.

Guests then joined in a series of hands-on activities, including making willow stars — a creative way to connect with the projects and their purpose. Lunch was enjoyed outdoors, offering time to explore the site, meet The Cart Shed team, and chat informally about the various initiatives. It was a wonderful opportunity for different charities to network and share experiences.



Information boards were placed throughout the woods, each highlighting the supported projects and telling the story of an organisation backed by George's Fund. The day concluded with a heartfelt reminder of the importance of continued support for these vital community efforts.

Attendees departed with stories to share, handmade willow stars, and copies of George's Fund Round One Report, celebrating the inspiring projects completed through the first round of funding.

Laura Hughes would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who joined and contributed. *"It was especially meaningful for family and friends to see where donations and money raised have gone, making the impact feel even more tangible – your support is what makes all of this possible!"*

Bridie Sullivan, CEO of Herefordshire Community Foundation said, *"There was lots of brilliant networking on the day, with many of the projects getting to know one another for the first time. This was an opportunity for Laura to showcase the many wonderful projects that George's Fund has supported and for donors and supporters to appreciate the impact these had on children in Herefordshire."*



Display boards of George's Fund projects

The Foundation looks forward to observing the meaningful and lasting impact that current and future George's Fund projects will have on children across Herefordshire. HCF intends to host similar events in the future to highlight and demonstrate the outcomes and benefits of the funds that it manages.

## Disaster Relief

The **HCF Emergency Relief Fund** provides vital support to individuals and families affected by flooding or any other natural disasters.

The fund's priority is to provide immediate financial assistance to those affected, helping cover urgent needs such as temporary accommodation or essential items required to remain in their homes, including dehumidifiers, replacement food, clothing, or bedding.

Seven individuals affected by flooding in our region, were supported with small grants providing prompt relief and assistance.

The fund also awarded grants to four organisations that had suffered significant impact from flooding

- Remedial works to the drainage system caused by four successive flooding events at **Ross Sports Centre CIC**
- Contract cleaning, floor repairs and emergency dehumidifier hire for **Eardisland Village Hall**
- Two schools in the region received awards: one to restore the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) area at a city school, and another to help a rural school acquire replacement learning resources to ensure children can continue their education.



A person walking in a flooded Herefordshire street.



## IT & Technology

In January 2023, HCF purchased one hundred Tactus Geobooks from XMA at less than cost price. Each came fully loaded with Microsoft Windows 10 Pro Education and a 2-year warranty. To meet their Corporate and Social Responsibility, XMA supplied part-funded laptops to anyone where there would be a social value or benefit through their digital poverty mission to “*Connect The UK.*”

In 2024-25, we were able to provide a laptop for four Herefordshire organisations, including food banks and community hubs and one refugee family living in Hereford and four in Ledbury. The estimated number of beneficiaries from this funding would be 112. Laptops were also provided to two organisations in England that received an award from the Joanies Fund.

**Burghill Talk Community Hub**, which is run by Burghill Parish Council every second Friday of the month at Simpson Hall, is now able to offer a dedicated computer for the community to use, helping individuals find information, services, groups and activities in the local area and across Herefordshire.

A laptop for **Colwall Community Hub** has enhanced the hub’s ability to help people to find sources of help, whilst combating loneliness in a friendly, welcoming and inclusive environment.

**Open Arms Kingston CIC** is a catalyst for change initiative that helps strengthen connections between people and place at The Oxford Arms, Kington. By conserving and ‘reinventing’ a historic building as a community hub, they will create an inclusive and vibrant space that celebrates collective action and strengthens individual and community resilience. They intend to conserve it as a heritage building and cherished pub, whilst transforming under-utilised space into a multi-purpose community hub for Kington. The addition of a laptop to support their Herefordshire Together Fund award has enabled them to promote a host of community events that support their objectives.

Awards granted to four families through **Ledbury Refugee Support** have benefitted the entire household, enabling them to reconnect with their social networks in the UK and Afghanistan, access educational resources, and improve their language skills. Ledbury Refugee Support hopes this assistance will empower the women in these families, many of whom have previously led more private lives, to become more active members of the community by attending language classes and taking part in everyday activities, such as shopping, that were once beyond their reach..



Afghan woman learning English

## Feedback from grantees

At HCF, we love to hear stories from those who have received funding from us and request feedback from our grant recipients as part of their end-of-grant monitoring report. Here are some of the additional things they said this year.

*"The team would like to thank you for your support, as a small non-profit the festival would not be possible without the support from Herefordshire Community Foundation."*

Wye Float River and Music Festival

*"Thank you so much for your support over the years. It was essential to us. Without your funding, we could not have sustained this project and developed our skills."*

Our News, Our Views

*"Hereford Community Foundation helped to make our project happen and I thank the team for their patience and support in guiding the club through the grant process."*

Golden Valley Bowls Club

*"To be a recipient of this grant was fantastic, to be able to demonstrate to Laura the impact it had was amazing. The process for applying, receiving and reporting a grant from HCF is so smooth and easy to understand"*

Marches Family Network

*"Everyone within the HCF team has been easily reachable when needed, always able to offer helpful and friendly advice."*

Orchard Multi-Academy Trust c/o Stretton Sugwas C of E Academy

*"You have been so supportive and you gave some lovely feedback after you came to see the show. Just wanted to say thank you, as this project would have been impossible without you."*

Flash Theatre Productions CIC

*"We fully appreciate the funding secured through the Herefordshire Community Foundation, which enabled us to show the Quentin Blake exhibition. Without the funding, it would have been difficult for the exhibition to go ahead."*

Hay Castle Trust

*"The Trustees of Side by Side would like to take this opportunity to thank the HCF for our wonderful partnership through this project. Your support enabled us to produce 'The IT Bridge', directly impacting the lives of vulnerable users of Side by Side. We enjoyed the clear application and monitoring processes (especially the save function!)"*

Side by Side

*"We are so thankful for Joanies Fund's continued support of Amber's work transforming the lives of young people who have faced homelessness. Fundraising has become a challenge post-COVID. Although we are constantly evaluating the fundraising income streams at Amber, we rely on the support of Trusts such as Joanies, who make a real difference to Amber's work. Thank you."*

The Amber Foundation

*"We are incredibly grateful for your support of the Youth Lab programme and to the Cambridge Film Trust as an organisation. Contributions like yours help small charities such as ours to implement and continue our projects and achieve very tangible results."*

Cambridge Film Trust

*"We want to express our thanks for the funding, which has positively impacted the participants. Working with your organisation has been a truly rewarding experience, enabling us to support all participants. Thanks to your support, young people have witnessed remarkable growth and confidence."*

Blackburn Youth Zone

*"This was a fantastic opportunity that HCF gave for pupils who otherwise would have missed out. It will lead to lifelong changes in Physical, Social, and Mental wellbeing for all students. Thank you!"*

Weobley High School

*"Great support from everyone at HCF. Thank you."*

Ledbury Community Brass Band (LCBB)

## **List of organisations that benefitted from grants 2024-25**

@THEHUB CIC

2Faced Dance Company

3Degreez Allstarz CIC

21 Together

Acorns Children's Hospice Charitable Trust

All Change Arts

Arts Uplift

Aylestone Park Association

Basement Youth Trust

Blackburn Youth Zone

Brain Tumour Support

Brampton Abbotts CE Primary School

Breadwinners Foundation

Brightfire CIC

Bromyard Foodbank & Money Advice Centre

Burghill Community Academy

Burghill Talk Community Hub

Burghill, Tillington and Weobley Cricket Club

Calvert Exmoor

Cambridge Film Trust

City of Hereford Swimming Club

Clehonger Action Group

Close House Projects

Connexus Homes Ltd

Contact Hostel

Creating Future Lives CIC

Creative Sustainability CIC

Cultivating Learning and Nature CIC

Cycle of Life

Eardisland Village Hall



Eastnor Bowls Club  
ECHO for Extra Choices in Herefordshire  
ESCAPE Family Support  
Fairfield High School  
Flash Theatre Productions CIC  
FND.Change C.I.C  
Gloucestershire Libraries  
Golden Valley Bowls Club  
Growing Local CIC  
Hands Up for the Planet  
Hay Castle Trust  
Hereford Cathedral  
Hereford Cider Museum  
Hereford City Church  
Hereford College of Arts  
Hereford Community Land Trust  
Hereford Guild of Mayor's Guides  
Hereford Nurture through Nature CIC  
Herefordshire Council  
Herefordshire Food Alliance (New Leaf Sustainable Development Ltd)  
Herefordshire Green Network  
Herefordshire Growing Point  
Herefordshire Mencap  
Herefordshire Military History Festival  
Herefordshire Riding for the Disabled  
Herefordshire Veterans Support Centre  
Hinton Community Centre  
Holmer Church of England Academy  
Home Start Herefordshire  
Hope Support Services  
In This Together Bucks CIC

John Masefield High School  
Kingstone and Thruxton Primary School  
Lancs T20 Superleague CIC  
LEAF- Locally Encouraging All to Flourish  
Ledbury Community Brass Band  
Ledbury Community Hub  
Ledbury Food Group  
Ledbury Refugee Support  
Leominster in Bloom  
Longtown Outdoor Learning Trust  
MAMA Youth Project  
Make 2nds Count  
Marches Family Network  
Me 2 Club  
Mile Rainbow CIC  
MYTIME Young Carers  
Open Arms Kington (OAK) CIC  
Orleton Parish Council  
Our Lady's Community Hall  
Our News Our Views  
Peer Productions  
Peterchurch Primary School  
Portsmouth Sail Training Trust  
Project Rewild CIC  
ROJA Arts CIC  
Riverside Primary School  
Ross Sports Centre CIC  
Rotherwas Together  
Safe and Sound Homes  
Side by Side  
South Shropshire Youth Forum

Sport 4 Life UK  
St James CE Primary School  
Staunton-On-Wye Endowed Primary School  
Staunton on Wye Village Hall (Talk Community Hub)  
Stretton Sugwas C of E Academy  
Swansea MAD  
TechResort CIC  
The Amber Foundation  
The Cart Shed Charity  
The Connections Bus Project  
The Cracked Slipper Company  
The Green Group (Almeley)  
The Houghton Project  
The Jericho Foundation  
The Literacy Pirates  
The Mix Stowmarket Ltd  
The Lion Hub CIC  
The Living Paintings Trust  
The Offshoot Foundation  
The Rock Currock Youth Project  
The Royal National College for the Blind (RNC)  
Vennture  
Weobley High School  
Whitecross High School  
Withington Group Parish Council  
Wye Float River and Music Festival  
WyePlay

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Please visit **Our Funds and Programmes** webpage



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