



Green Oak Fund

Interim Impact Report 2024-2025



Herefordshire Community Foundation IMPACT
February 2026

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Community First at Wye Float River and Music Festival

About Herefordshire Community Foundation

The Herefordshire Community Foundation (HCF) is an independent local grant-making charity established in 2002, dedicated to supporting people and communities across Herefordshire. Powered by generous donors, endowed funds, trust transfers, and programme-specific funding, HCF works to improve lives and unlock opportunities for vulnerable, isolated, and disadvantaged people throughout the county.

HCF proudly supports charities, voluntary organisations, and community groups that deliver real public benefit, while also providing direct help to individuals and families facing financial hardship. Since its foundation, HCF has awarded over £8 million in grants across Herefordshire, helping communities thrive and creating lasting, positive change where it matters most.



Wonderbrass perform at 'Puffball Parade – Fungi Town' in Hay-on-Wye

Ways of Giving to Herefordshire

There are many ways to give to the local community through the Herefordshire Community Foundation (HCF). Supporters can make a one-off donation or set up a regular commitment to a fund of their choice via the HCF website at www.herefordshirecf.org/ways-of-giving

Donors can also establish a **Named Fund**, with HCF's expert team providing guidance at every step and offering a simple, efficient way to create a charitable fund that supports the causes they care about most.

For those managing a fund that has become difficult to administer or inactive, a **Trust Transfer** to HCF may be an ideal solution. While the fund's purpose and impact remain unchanged, HCF takes on full responsibility for its day-to-day management and administration.

HCF also helps individuals and families create **Legacy or Memorial Funds** that leave a lasting mark on the community. The Foundation's dedicated team works closely with donors or their loved ones to ensure each fund reflects personal values and continues to support meaningful causes, creating an enduring impact for generations to come.

Types of Funds

Named Funds

HCF's 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, HCF manages your investment with diligence and care. Its 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 donors choose to set up permanent endowment funds, which provide everlasting support to the county. HCF invests 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 support of the fund can be put to immediate use. You can add to your fund as and when you wish, or not at all.

About Green Oak Fund



The Green Oak Fund is a named fund that aims to benefit such organisations and activities in Herefordshire as the donors to the fund determine. They are particularly interested in projects that benefit the environment or promote arts and heritage.

This report provides information on grants awarded by the Green Oak Fund since its inception in October 2023.*

Some of the projects are still in progress, and in these cases interim monitoring has been provided.

Green Oak Awards

2024 awards

Leominster in Bloom

Herefordshire Green Network *

Hands UP for the Planet*

Madley Preschool

2025 awards

Herefordshire Food Alliance (HFA)

Wye Float River and Music Festival

Good Gardeners International

Hay Castle Trust

Woolhope Naturalists Field Club

* Both recipients were received funding in 2023 for the same objectives. Therefore the report relates to their recent funding.

Herefordshire Green Network also received funding in 2023 and 2024 to support administration and communications for 12 months each year, enabling the organisation to retain two freelance administrative staff.

Table of awards

Name	Project	Project Outline	Award	Number of Beneficiaries
Leominster in Bloom	Nutgrove Wildflower area	Enhancing a wildlife area in the Sydonia Park to include additional wild flowers in the existing nut grove.	£730	200
Herefordshire Green Network	Admin and communications for 12 months	Core funding for administrator role.	£18,000	n/a
Hands UP for the Planet*	Core funding	Impactful extra-curricular educational programme in 20 Herefordshire primary and secondary school benefitting up to 1000 children and young people.	£422	810 so far
Madley Preschool*	Madley Preschool Wild Space	Transform a disused area of outdoor space on the site of Madley Pre-School to create a wild garden.	£4,988.80	Estimated 30
Herefordshire Food Alliance*	Feasts on the Farm	Funding to allow coordinator to develop the 'Feasts of the Farm' trail and increase engagement in Herefordshire.	£6,000	Estimate 350
Wye Float River and Music Festival	Wye Float River and Music Festival - Country and Western Edition	Equipment, volunteer training, food and refreshments, artist fees, equipment and boat hire	£3,000	2000
Govardhan Eco Farm CIC	Create a Wildlife pond area at eco farm	Engage with volunteers to reate a Wildlife pond area at eco farm	£2,500	30
Hay Caste Trust	Fungi Town	Deliver an engaging programme of fungal-inspired events in Hay-on-Wye	£2,500	3025
Woolhope Naturalists Field Club*	Herefordshire Parkland conference	Deliver a Three-day Public Conference from 1 st July 2026, with an accompanying exhibition and a follow-up publication, examining the geology, archaeology, history, landscape art and biodiversity of Herefordshire parkland, alongside the challenges facing habitats and treescapes and potential management solutions.	£5,000	Estimate 650

*Projects in progress – interim monitoring provided

Leominster in Bloom

Leominster in Bloom started in 2003 and is a registered charity. It is run entirely by volunteers, who raise funds through local business sponsorships and plant sales. The volunteers assist with planting and maintaining planters and gardens throughout Leominster.

An award from the Green Oak Fund enabled the group to develop the wildlife area in the Sydonia Park to include additional wild flowers in the existing nut grove.

The project has enhanced the area by adding the wild flowers, whilst the bat, bird and hedgehog boxes encourage wildlife. This adds value to the experience of young children and families who are able to appreciate the value of nature. Planting wild flowers in the nut grove is now attracting pollinators to the area.

Over the course of the work long-standing volunteers were involved as well as some very welcome newcomers. There have been six new volunteers since the start of the project, with 40 people who turn out on a fairly regular basis and others who come when available.

Volunteers assisted with coppicing, bramble clearing, preparing the area before planting, as well as the actual planting and sewing.



Volunteers coppicing in the nut grove at Sydonia Park, Leominster

The park is surrounded by housing, including social housing for the elderly. The paths are accessible, so are easy for the surrounding residents to enjoy the fresh air and see

developments. The project is bringing nature to an otherwise built-up area of the town and there has been a marked increase in the number of people using the park since the area has been developed.



Volunteer watering plug plants

The town council provided a rotovator and Studio Mirai (an ECHO project*) made bird, bat and hedgehog boxes in exchange for some plants for their Eaton Barn project. This meant that surplus funds could be diverted for additional future top-up planting. Together with funds raised by the group. This will allow for Leominster in Bloom to help the nut grove wildflower area become established as a long-term feature for the town.

* ECHO - For Extra Choices in Herefordshire is an independent charity based in Herefordshire, with 230 members and over 150 volunteers, that supports young people with learning and physical disabilities.

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.”



Wildflowers in the Nutgrove.

Hands UP for The Planet is a small team of volunteers who, for the past 12 years, have offered activity-based workshops to local primary and secondary schools free of charge. Hands UP for the Planet is generally in a school one day per week in term time.

Last year Hands UP for the Planet delivered workshops in 27 primary schools in Herefordshire. This means volunteers taught over 500 Year 5 and Year 6s on the topic of Climate Change, the Carbon Cycle and Energy; and over 300 Year 3 and Year 4s on Water as a scarce Resource.

Workshops are fun and activities are designed especially not to be 'lesson-like' but to bring learning to life in an enjoyable and inspiring way

- a round-the-world board game investigating the availability of clean water
- a farming strategy decision-making exercise where the students are Malawian farmers trying to achieve food security for their families
- a 'Race to Net Zero' climate change game
- Year 5 and 6 pupils role-play TV news items where they report on solutions to the climate crisis. Another very popular activity in this workshop is making 'fuel-efficient stoves' with clay, miniature versions of the stoves village enterprises.

Testimonials of Hands UP workshops

"I am amazed – and so very grateful too – that this is offered to schools without charge as it means that we are able to give our children this exceptional experience that will, undoubtedly, influence them for the rest of their lives"

"This is such a great day and the children gain so much from it"

"The amazing message taken by the pupils was that they can make a difference, their actions affects others and they need to change behaviour to improve the planet"

"The issues discussed and points raised were profound and really did explain things at their (the children's) level, helping them to articulate opinions and listen to different viewpoints"

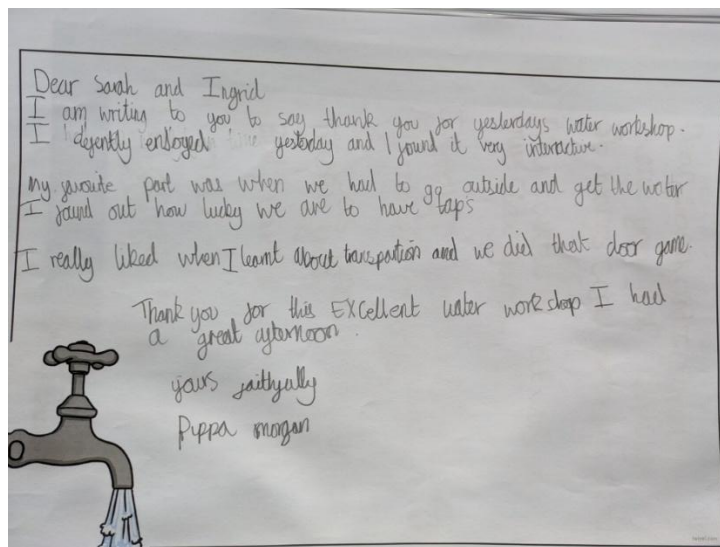
A grant from the Green Oak Fund, awarded in February 2025, is enabling Hand UP for the Planet to continue designing and delivering its engaging and impactful extra-curricular education programme across 20 primary and secondary schools in Herefordshire during 2025 and 2026. The 16-month funding period will benefit up to 1,000 children and young people. Monitoring of this project is due mid-July 2026.

So far, the project has delivered:

- 17 full-day 'Climate Change' Yrs. 5/6 workshops benefitting an estimated 510 pupils
- 10 half-day 'Water' Yrs. 3/4 workshops, benefiting an estimated 300 pupils.

The climate change workshop involves the pupils in a variety of activities, from a circle with flags in the hall demonstrating the formation of the earth, to presenting news programmes to their class on renewable energy and food security, to making clay models of environmentally sustainable stoves. Year 5 and 6 are particularly enthusiastic and engaged. Each full-day workshop is led by either Steve Chandler or Ingrid Heatly, both retired Geography teachers and supported by a team of dedicated volunteers.

Water workshops are good fun in the warmer months. These include a round-the-world game to find out where there is access to clean water, rushing around outside with poor containers trying to fill up their village water bucket from the well and learning about the water cycle. Again, the pupils are always very involved and love all the activities throughout the afternoon.



Feedback letters from pupils in Herefordshire

Hands UP for the Planet aims to recruit additional teaching volunteers so they can return to all 15 secondary schools in Herefordshire. A key feature of their Year 9 climate change workshop is the highly effective 'Race to Net Zero' game. They have also delivered demonstration workshops for trainee teachers at the University of Worcester

Madley Preschool

Madley Preschool, originally known as Madley Playgroup, became a registered charity in October 1993. Operating within Madley Primary School grounds in a purpose-built setting for children aged two to four, its focus is on values-based, child-led learning with dedicated practitioners and a strong community ethos, aiming to build independence and a love for learning.

It received funding from the Green Oak Fund to transform a disused outdoor area on the site into a wild garden. The project is ongoing and is expected to be completed by the end of the current academic year (July 2026), with monitoring due at the start of the next (September 2026).

The garden will offer an accessible green space for children attending the Preschool, featuring small growing trees such as hazel, rowan, crab apple, and silver birch, alongside wild herbs, climbing plants, and a native wildflower meadow. As well as providing valuable habitat for bees and butterflies, the garden will create a safe, nurturing environment where children can explore and experience nature while supporting the delivery of outdoor learning.

In an adjacent area of land, Madley Preschool plan to create a large sandpit and digging area.

The grant will allow for materials and labour and create a valuable space in which the children may learn and grow.

The grant recipient was allowed 6 months to raise additional funding and work began last term to clear the site and remove all the spoil. The area has been landscaped and filled with topsoil. Bark has been laid under the cover, the pond has been dug and the ground prepared for laying turf and planting trees.



Groundworks at Madley Preschool

There is much anticipation and excitement from both staff and children as the project progresses.

*"This garden is better than my garden"
"we need a hedgehog house"
"apple trees would be nice"
"spiders will like the cracks in the rocks"*

From the children aged 3:

"I am looking forward to 'enjoying peace in nature' with the children"
Amanda (Staff member)

"I can envisage this garden being really supportive to children's wellbeing, especially those with sensory or additional needs. It will provide a calm, relaxing space where children can just be."
Helen (staff member)

"I am so impressed with how the wildlife garden is progressing. It looks amazing and will be delightful when it is finished. The children are so lucky to have such an amazing space to learn about wildlife and nature."
Committee Chair

"The new wildlife space is incredible. Young children need to spend 3 hours of their day outside and this space will be an amazing area for them to develop their understanding of nature first hand. We are so looking forward to it's completion. The children are excited about what life they will find in the new pond and have plans to hang bird houses in the trees."
Madley Preschool Manager

A short video has been produced by Justin Jones Landscapes which shows the progress so far.

<https://youtu.be/wGQZdbSaB2A>



A full report of outcomes and further photographs will be submitted once work is completed.
Herefordshire Food Alliance (HFA)



Herefordshire Food Alliance (HFA) is a collaborative network of public, private, and voluntary groups working towards a healthier, more sustainable local food system, focusing on connecting people with local food, tackling food poverty, and promoting environmentally friendly farming.

It received an award from the Green Oak Fund for a Project Co-ordinator to instigate a Nature-Friendly Food and Farming Trail. There was a delay to the project, outlined below and the final monitoring is due end-April 2026.

As the project progressed it became apparent that Visit Herefordshire were launching their "Food Safari" <https://www.visitherefordshire.co.uk/trip-ideas/our-top-picks/herefordshire-food-safari>

With agreement from Herefordshire Community Foundation, HFA deemed it inappropriate to duplicate this work. Instead, it is launching the "Feasts on the Farm" series, offering a calendar of events designed to engage the local public with food, farming, and the county's rich cultural heritage. HCA sought to extend the early facilitation stage of the project and the time over which the grant is spent into early 2026.

The Green Oak Fund has enabled the Project Co-ordinator to increase the scope of its work, secure the 'Feast on the Farm' project and galvanise relationships across the county.

Hand UP for the Planet secured £19,675 from National Lottery Awards for All, which will allow them to deliver 10 Feasts on the Farm events in 2026–27, reaching over 1,000 beneficiaries. They are also applying for £50,000 from the Airbnb Best of British Fund to expand the project's reach via a River Friendly Food database.

An ambitious Marches-wide bid to the National Lottery Climate Action Fund, in partnership with Shropshire, Monmouthshire, and Powys, could fund three days a week for four years for each food partnership, potentially engaging 11,800 people from marginalised groups.

Additional grant applications in January 2025, totalling £10,000, will fund educational speakers and subsidise travel for lower-income attendees.

The organisation will represent the county at the Houses of Parliament, showcasing its work within the Sustainable Food Places network.

<https://www.sustainablefoodplaces.org/about/what-are-sustainable-food-places/>

In doing this work, Herefordshire Food Alliance (HFA) has engaged with the following partners and organisations, strengthening links to ensure that it represents and works alongside a wide range of groups in Herefordshire.

- Herefordshire Rural Hub
- Farm Herefordshire
- NFU Herefordshire
- Wyescapes Landscape Recovery Project
- Ridge to River Landscape Recovery Project
- Growing Local CIC
- Hereford City of Sanctuary
- Leominster Food Bank
- Eardisland Environment and Sustainability Group
- Archenfield Environment Group
- Ledbury Food Group
- Sustainability Ledbury
- Herefordshire Green Network
- Colwall Greener

HFA has also built a network of farms willing to host the feasts, creating opportunities for other farmers and producers to showcase their goods, as well as for startup catering businesses with which HFA has partnered.

HFA held the following in-person events to gather information for the project:

- Herefordshire Food Alliance Strategy Day – working with a range of partners to flesh out priorities for future action. There were 11 attendees, including the Head of a Herefordshire primary school and two representatives from Herefordshire Council.
- ‘Food Conversation’ in Colwall with 18 attendees, discussed a range of food-related issues and formulated areas of focus going forward.

Herefordshire Food Alliance is planning an event in March which will launch the ‘Feast on the Farm’ project with Rob Hopkins, co-founder of the Transition Network
<https://www.robhopkins.net/>

Wye Float River and Music Festival

An award from the Green Oak Fund enabled Wye Float River and Music Festival to host a Country and Western Edition of its festival on Saturday 9th August 2025.

The Herefordshire-based community event promotes local talent, environmental awareness, and affordable fun through unique inflatable river events and volunteering opportunities, all while preserving the natural beauty of the River Wye.

The festival provided a platform for local bands and artists to perform on the main stage, creating a lively atmosphere where attendees could dance, sing along, and enjoy a diverse range of music. In addition to live performances, the event offered a variety of activities for all ages, including inflatable attractions, food vendors, face painting, game stalls, and re-enactment groups, making it a fun and inclusive experience for the whole community.

The award provided the following to the festival:

- Local Bands & Artist Fees
- Volunteer Training
First Aid & Water Safety
- Festival Equipment Hire
Lighting, Generators, Marquees/ Gazebos, etc.
- Boat Hire
Allowing Wye Float team and volunteers to conduct a more effective clean-up operation, removing plastic pollution and other debris that pose a threat to wildlife.
- Food & Refreshments for Volunteers



Volunteers on the River Wye, Hereford

Hiring essential equipment and providing training allowed 85 new volunteers to participate safely and confidently in the festival. Many of these volunteers gained new practical skills,

increased confidence, and valuable experience in event delivery, teamwork, and water-based safety. For several individuals, this was their first opportunity to volunteer at a large community event, helping to build employability skills and a sense of purpose.

For the wider community, the grant helped ensure the festival was well-organised, inclusive, and safe, allowing people of all ages to come together and enjoy a unique local event. The presence of trained volunteers and appropriate equipment improved safety standards and enhanced the overall experience for participants and spectators alike. The festival strengthened community connections, encouraged volunteering, and promoted pride in the local area and the River Wye.



Wye Float River Festival 2025

Story of change

“One volunteer successfully attended and completed the First Aid at Work qualification. This was his first formal first aid training, despite being over 50 years old. He demonstrated strong commitment to personal development, engaged well throughout the course, and gained essential lifesaving skills.

The qualification has increased his confidence to respond effectively in emergencies and enhances the Wye Float health and safety provision.”



People taking to the river at Wye Float River Festival 2025

With support from an award from the Green Oak Fund, Govardhan Eco Farm CIC (umbrella organisation Good Gardeners International) created a wildlife pond at the farm in just three months (August to October 2025). The project brought both learning and enjoyment to all who took part.

The grant has made a real difference, benefiting not only the volunteers who built the pond, but also the wider community and the surrounding environment.

Many of the volunteers had never worked with water systems before. They gained practical skills in sustainable land management and ecological design. Some are now inspired to implement similar systems elsewhere.

For the wider community, the pond has become a focal point for educational open days at the farm, demonstrating how natural solutions can help protect rivers such as the Wye. It has also increased biodiversity on the farm, attracting toads, birds, and pollinators, and turning a once-scrubby area into a thriving habitat.

The project has helped build stronger connections within the local community, uniting volunteers, visitors, and supporters through a shared interest in ecological restoration and hands-on action.

“In short, the grant has enabled us to create a space that offers education, inspiration, and ecological restoration - all at once.”

The project has sparked broader conversations around natural water purification. In response to increasing concern about pollution in the River Wye, the pond showcases an affordable, nature-based solution that uses rocks, plants, and gravity-fed systems to clean water without the need for chemicals or machinery. Visitors learn how reeds, aquatic plants, and oxygen flow through rocks all play a role in restoring water quality and how this knowledge can be applied to gardens, farms, and community spaces.

Story of Change

One of the most inspiring parts of this project was seeing how it supported the personal growth of a local individual who got involved during the early stages of the pond build. He came on board with an interest in nature but limited experience in pond construction or ecological design. As the project progressed, he grew in confidence, creativity, and technical skill, taking pride in the work and developing a real eye for detail in shaping the pond's edges and stonework.

The experience gave him a sense of direction and purpose, and he began to talk about starting his own pond-related projects in the future. His contributions helped bring the pond to life, and it was clear that being part of something hands-on and meaningful gave him a real boost.

This story reflects what the project is all about: creating opportunities for people to engage with land-based work, gain new skills, and feel empowered to take those experiences forward into other aspects of life.



Wildlife Pond at Govardhan Eco Farm

The pond and its surroundings will continue to grow and flourish through ongoing planting and care, creating an even richer habitat for wildlife and a hands-on learning space for everyone. The knowledge and skills gained during the project are already shaping future land-based initiatives on the farm, and the excitement is contagious. More and more visitors and volunteers are eager to roll up their sleeves and get involved.

Hay Castle Trust

Funding from the Green Oak Fund was instrumental in the success of Fungi Town 2025. From the 3rd to the 5th October 2025 a fungal takeover of Hay-on-Wye celebrated the strange and fascinating world of mushrooms, toadstools, lichens, molds, and yeasts.

It gave Hay Castle Trust the resources and confidence they needed to expand from a small pop-up stall in Hay Castle on Fungus Day 2024, into a whole-town celebration, from shops and businesses to schools and the wider community.

It helped them deliver an event that reached into and excited communities all across town and the surrounding areas. In particular, it meant that Hay Castle Trust were able to book the wonderful Wonderbrass band for an inaugural 'Puffball Parade' through the streets of Hay. They were blown away by just how popular this was and are planning to make it a centrepiece fixture for future years.

"This was a brilliant event, there was so much positivity from everyone in Hay. It felt as if the whole town got behind it and celebrated with window displays and wonderfully wacky clothing. It was not too long, so intense over just two or three days, which meant there was a fermenting buzz of workshops, talks, general discussions music, food and fashion. Keep going with what you've created you have the right recipe."

Words from one visitor



Fungi Workshop at Fungi-Town 2025

Fungi Town was volunteer-led by local people and over 45 individuals gave up their time as stewards, photographers, planners, hosts, drivers, and more.

The event was also tremendously well-supported by independent local businesses in town, with over 57 taking part or supporting the event in some way, from providing venues for talks and events to creating fungi-themed window displays.

There was tremendous support and advice from local businesses:

- Prints of Hay created a distinctive visual identity
- Gay-on-Wye created bunting and prize trophies
- Oil & Oak co-ordinated the window display and treasure hunt competition
- Treetop Café managed the Facebook presence



The project also benefited from the professional expertise and support of the Hay Castle, Globe and Booths Cinema teams in event planning, ticketing, website and retail

The outcome of this approach created an event that was for and by local people, engaging a very wide range of the local community.

“The event really helped to boost our sales during what would have been a quiet time of year. Locals and tourists were very intrigued and it brought a buzz much like the Hay Festival. Our customers really enjoyed all the different shop displays and many positive comments were made regarding the events being held; it gave us a chance to be creative and got the whole community involved!”

Baka Bakery

Events included:

- three films
- six talks
- six workshops
- a digital art exhibition
- The Puff Ball musical parade

These events prompted a whole host of additional activities around town.

The events sold out, Hay Castle was packed with smiling people (many dressed in mushroom outfits), the car park was full, and for three days the town was buzzing - despite Storm Amy's attempts to dampen spirits.

There were events in The Globe, The Old Electric Shop, Wye Valley Yoga's chapel, Booth's Bookshop and Cinema. 25 shops decorated their windows with fungi and stocked up with mushrooms and mushroom gifts, while Hay's eateries sold mushroom soup, fudge, toasties, burgers and pizzas, washed down with mushroom cocktails and coffee. Stalls at The Butter Market and Hay Castle supported local food businesses, such as Marches Mushrooms.

Visitors were astonished by the variety of fungi found in and around the town, and brilliant young scientists wowed people as they hunted hyphae and nematodes with microscopes.

"Hay at its best"

"An absolute fungal sensation"

"The best community event the town has ever had"

Hay Castle Trust planted a Reishi and bonsai forest in the castle gallery alongside a fungally-inspired digital art show. There was exhibitions of mycelium furniture, the UK's rarest fungus, and an extraordinary wheel of mushrooms created by a talented local artist.



Interactive Digital Art at Fungi-Town 2025

The vision is that Fungi Town will become a positive off-season fixture in the local calendar and preparations are underway for an expanded event in 2026.

www.fungitown.org.uk/



“Fungi Town was an astonishing event. It was so exciting, and a real treat getting to meet and talk to so many keen and really well-informed experts and hear so much passion! It was also hugely flattering. People can be so nice about my stuff. I'm very lucky to be able to collect accolades for doing my job (your average Tesco cashier, accountant, or delivery driver never gets the chance to sit and preen while people tell them they do their job really nicely). Above all it was a proper community event. Most of the people I know in Hay came by at some point or another. And this was across all types - posh barn-conversion types, people I know from the school gates and Gypsy castle, arty people, sciencey people, children with parents, older people, out of towners, hay seeds. Most of the creatives I know got to contribute in some way too. It felt very inclusive.”

Lizzie Harper, a local natural history illustrator

Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club

An award from the Green Oak Fund in January 2026 will help fund the 175th anniversary celebrations of the Woolhope Club in a three-day public conference on Herefordshire Parkland from 1 July 2026. The monitoring is due at the beginning of August.



Woolhope Hills

This multidisciplinary conference will explore the geology, archaeology, history, landscape art and biodiversity of Herefordshire parkland, contribute to understanding its management and feature short talks from a range of experts.

It will also be accompanied by an exhibition and encourage mapping and citizen science. The project will offer an exploration of the geology, archaeology, history, landscape art and biodiversity of Herefordshire parkland, the current challenges facing treescapes, and the management solutions which can combat these issues. The conference aims both to celebrate Herefordshire parkland and to bring the scientific community together with landowners, land managers, and the general public to consider how best to restore the parkland habitats to their full potential.

The conference will be based at Hereford's New Model Institute for Technology and Engineering (NMITE), with each afternoon devoted to guided visits of usually closed parkland at Moccas, Brampton Bryan and Eastnor. The accompanying exhibition will move between NMITE, the Herefordshire Archives and Records Centre, and various libraries and other venues around the county, to ensure that as wide an audience as possible can engage with the subject.



Ail Meadow Nature Reserve - Woolhope

It is envisaged that the conference presentations will be compiled into a published book of 150 pages, both hard copy and e-publication, which will be given to conference participants and libraries.

Contact Us

Herefordshire Community Foundation
The Fred Bulmer Centre
Wall Street
Hereford
HR4 9HP

01432 272550

www.herefordshirecf.org

impact@herefordshirecf.org

Find out more about our funds and programmes

