

Herefordshire Community Foundation Annual Report Summary 2025-2026

Creating a Herefordshire where local generosity funds local need



At Herefordshire Community Foundation we connect the generosity of people who love this county with the communities that need it most.

In 2025-26, we awarded £862,342 through 608 grants to individuals and community projects, in market towns and isolated villages, and from Hereford city to the Welsh border. Since 2022, over £8 million has been distributed through the Foundation.

Behind each figure is a donor who chose to give locally, and a person or organisation that put the money to work. Every pound raised in Herefordshire stays in Herefordshire. We take care of the administration, the investment and the compliance, so donors can focus on the difference their giving makes.

This report shows where that generosity went during the year and what it has made possible.



Herefordshire
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Awards

**Awards
2025-26**

£862,342



**Number of
Grants
2025-26**

608

**Number of
groups and
organisations
supported**

182



**Beneficiaries
2025-26**

87,000

Activites

Sport and Physical Health

23 projects
8,242 beneficiaries



Arts, Culture and Heritage

43 projects
32,760 beneficiaries



Education and Employment

43 groups
4,841 beneficiaries



Environment and Climate Resilience

29 projects
9,539 beneficiaries



Projects

56 Grass Root Projects

Small Sparks Fund



Hoarding
Suicide
Mental Health
Bereavement
Neurodiversity
Cancer

7 Peer Support Groups

Fungi Town
brought 3025
visitors to Hay
on Wye

The Green Oak Fund



Employability and Wellbeing workshops in Herefordshire

Iron Fund



Beneficiaries

**16 projects for
older adults**



**8 Projects
supporting
carers or those
who have been
in care**

**82 projects for
children and
young people**



**Energy and
Whitegoods
for 252
households**

Household Support Fund

Help for Veterans and their families with Dementia

An award made to **Orchestra of the Swan** for **Café Muse** from the Becket Bulmer Fund has supported veterans and their families. The grant funded five of 42 weekly music-led, free-to-attend, dementia-friendly participative cafés at the Courtyard Theatre, for **30 Herefordshire Veterans & their families** per week affected by dementia/social isolation.

Café Muse offers an alternative to traditional dementia café activities, focusing on generating new ideas, thoughts and associations rather than recalling previously learned information. Activities include exploring instruments, developing musical skills, singing, dancing, creating lyrics, sharing life experiences and discussing current affairs and weekly themes.

The sessions have positively impacted the Armed Forces Community by providing a safe, supportive space where people feel cared for, understood and listened to. Every Wednesday, veterans and their families can attend as they are, participate at their own pace, and access support tailored to their needs, leaving with a sense of relief and lighter emotional burdens.



Margaret's Story

Margaret first started attending Café Muse in February 2023, with her husband of 60 years, Clifford, as she felt it would be beneficial for them to do something together as a couple. Clifford served in the RAF, but is now living with vascular dementia, and so they were finding it more difficult to get out of the house, and to socialise with new people.

In September 2023, Margaret wrote: "Cliff has always been a very private person – not an extrovert at all but here at Café Muse you get him up and laughing and smiling – something he doesn't do at home. It has been a life saver for me as when we attend Café Muse, I feel as though a weight has been lifted from my shoulders."

Clifford and Margaret attended Café Muse together weekly until September 2023, when sadly he had to move into a care home. Margaret continues to be a part of the Café Muse Hereford community. She has made life-long friends who she feels she can support during the sessions.

Physical activity builds confidence and resilience for Herefordshire School Children

The Herefordshire Summer School Games 2026 has helped inspire young people to maintain or increase their participation in physical activity, alongside increasing their confidence and resilience. The day-long festival provided an opportunity for **1505 children** to participate in physical activity, supported by 250 young sports leaders.

Joint funding from the Community Chest Programme, Toyota Fund and Bristol and West supported this year's Herefordshire Summer School Games with **Sports Active**.

Teacher's voice

"Since attending the Stride Active event, this quiet pupil, who previously doubted her abilities and avoided new opportunities, has become noticeably more confident. She is now more willing to take part, interact with peers and challenge herself. Being selected to represent the school gave her a sense of pride and helped her feel valued and capable. Staff have observed greater confidence in lessons and an improved willingness to get involved in school life."



Social Club creates a new Community Garden

An award from the **Small Sparks Fund** for tools and plants gave the members of **Paradise Court Social Club** the impetus to improve their outdoor space together.



The start was slow. Bad weather, and few plants in the garden centres over the winter, held them back. When the sun came out last summer, the group got going and soon made headway, clearing flower beds and overgrown pathways. Other residents of Paradise Court gradually took an interest. Some enjoyed watching the garden change, and others joined in.

The members pulled up the old membranes, dug over the soil and worked in soil improver. They planted up the beds, added rose bushes along the garden wall, installed a bench, and made a bug hotel and some signs. Some members also brought plants from their own gardens. They also established a partnership with Leominster in Bloom, who provided plants and expertise.

Chris, who is physically disabled and has learning disabilities, says, *“The garden has given me somewhere to sit, rest and enjoy my surroundings. It has helped my mental health.”*

The club has carried on adding to the garden and looking after it, so every resident could enjoy it last summer and for summers to come. When the club meets each Friday, many members spend time in the space they have made.



Thank you

We would like to thank our donors, supporters and trustees, along with partners such as our Business for Good members, who have funded and supported community projects across Herefordshire. Their generosity of money, time and compassion has enabled us to help so many people throughout the county this year.

We are also deeply grateful to the people in our communities, who work tirelessly to improve the lives of others.



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COMMUNITY
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