

To the heart of Cumbrian life

Cumbria Life and Cumbria Community Foundation join forces in charity's 15th anniversary year



Cumbria Life has adopted Cumbria Community Foundation as its charity partner. We've decided to formally partner with the foundation in its 15th anniversary year because through its grant making it supports all of our communities across the county.

Each month as its official media partner we'll be featuring one of the foundation's grant making funds, the donor behind the fund and examples of the fabulous stories behind the charities that are supported through the grants given. Each fund has been created by an individual, a family, business or group of people who want to make real difference to a whole range of issues in our county.

Readers may be familiar with just one of the foundation's funds. Each year they have contributed to the Winter Warmth Appeal. In a bad winter 300 older people die in Cumbria each year due to the effects of cold weather. The foundation gives grants to older people who can't afford to heat their homes. People who are choosing between eating or heating. This year was the best yet, raising over £100,000 and helping over 400 people to stay safe and warm. In February, to boost fundraising over 160 people slept out above the shores of Windermere taking part in the Big Sleep and contributing over £20,000 to the appeal.

So where did it all start?



John Fryer-Spedding CBE led the creation of the Foundation in 1997 when, as High Sheriff, he recruited a steering group to look into setting up a community foundation for Cumbria. With a founding donation of £1m from British Nuclear Fuels and support from all local councils it was launched in August 1999.

The founding trustees wanted to create an organisation that would be home to a growing number of charitable funds to provide a sustainable source of support for our people and communities. Since then the Foundation has gone on to play a major role in the life of the county and this year it celebrates its 15th anniversary. Highlights so far include:

- Raising £2.1m to assist people and communities affected by Foot and Mouth disease in 2001

- Responding to major floods in 2005 and 2009 raising in excess of £3.8m in total through the creation of the Cumbria Flood Recovery Funds

- Creating the Cumbria

Young People's Fund with the gift of £1m from an anonymous legacy. The fund supports the educational needs of those aged 14-22.

- Giving out over £20m in grants

- Making over 10,000 grant awards throughout the county

- Developing over 50 different grant making funds.

- Building long term invested funds for sustainable grant making of over £11m.

Lord Lieutenant of Cumbria Claire Hensman said: "I am delighted to be able to endorse Cumbria Community Foundation. My husband and I are longstanding supporters and fundholders. The foundation is the leading charity in the county helping to preserve the communities that contribute to the very special appeal of our landscape, villages and towns. I encourage you to find out more about the foundation and support its work".

For people who enjoy getting active, the Jennings Rivers Ride is the foundation's annual charity cycling event held 25th May 2014. It's a series of four bike rides which start

and finish in Keswick. It's called the Rivers Ride because sections of each route follow the affected river courses and crisscross over many of the bridges that were either destroyed and replaced, or badly damaged during the floods in 2009. All the proceeds from this year's ride will go towards the Foundation Grants programme. To enter visit www.cumbriafoundation.org

Cumbria Life editor Richard Eccles said: "We're delighted to be building on our existing links with Cumbria Community Foundation. We share and support their aims and values and I feel we have the same wider aspirations for the future development of our county. We look forward to sharing with readers examples of grant and fund stories from across Cumbria.

"Cumbria Life will of course continue to cover and support the county's many and varied other charities and good causes in the usual way."

cumbrialife
CUMBRIA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION MEDIA PARTNER

Fryer Grassroots Fund – John Fryer Spedding

Whitehaven Harbour Youth Project - £500



The project supports young people in the community to develop skills through offering different activities in a safe environment while promoting a healthy lifestyle. Funding enabled one young person in care to attend the Ocean Youth Trust sailing voyage alongside a team of 10 young people from West Cumbria.

Amy Pearman of Whitehaven Harbour Youth Project said: "The individual who benefited has been in care since 2006 and with her current foster carers for three years. She now feels very secure within her foster family. She is a very active teenager who enjoys outdoor activities. This experience has raised her confidence and aspirations which will help her when she leaves care."

Thomas Graham Grassroots Fund

Cockermouth School Association - £950



The funding contributed towards the purchase of a new kit for the cricket team. It also paid for travel costs to enable the team to travel around Sri Lanka and take part in a 10 day cricket tour. The students had raised their own money for flights and accommodation.

Joan Ellis, Development Manager said: "The trip helped to develop the boys' organisational, planning, budgeting, fundraising and IT skills. They organised many different fundraising activities to pay for their own travel, which also developed community links with local businesses and Cockermouth Cricket Club.

"Prior to the visit, they kept minutes of meetings, organised agendas and gave presentations. This was a trip of a lifetime and they were overwhelmed to meet the young people in schools throughout Sri Lanka. They also left the kit for the young people in Sri Lanka to wear. The boys are more confident, aware and their horizons are broader. Some want to return to the country."

On return to Cockermouth, the boys have given a number of presentations to the local community and to all year group assemblies in school amounting to 1,420 students. They organised a presentation evening at the Cricket Club to thank all

sponsors, volunteers and their parents.

One student said: "We played 7 matches well, lost the lot, but learned a great deal about Sri Lankan culture and made some great friends. The Foundation supported the tour with a grant on the understanding that we gave our kit to our opponents. This was a great idea. We donated the kit to boys just like ourselves at the Sri Palee School and they were overwhelmed and very proud to receive the Cockermouth Sri Lankan 2013 Tour kit each. I think we were overwhelmed by their gratitude. Sri Lanka lost over 30,000 people in the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami and has suffered from the Civil War, so most young people in the areas we visited had lost a member of their family in one way or another. These boys were so full of life and enthusiasm for the game, they made us feel very humble. We are very grateful to CCF for the grant. Thank you."

Quarry Hill Fund – Charles Woodhouse

Silloth Rugby Union Club - £5,400



Funding was awarded to re-launch the junior section at the club. This has enabled more young people from the local area to receive coaching and regular exercise. Club membership has increased, producing a healthy pool of talent for the club.

James Lettice, Club Director said: "The children and young adults look and feel healthier. Their sporting skills are developing well and we have more members than ever before. The clubhouse facilities are also used more.

"As a result, we now hold regular rugby coaching and skills sessions at our club. We are developing the well-being, fitness and health of the children, making them fitter, stronger, happier and healthier. We're improving their sporting skills and teaching the core values of discipline, teamwork, respect, enjoyment and having fun. We have five a side, seven a side, tag and touch rugby and general sporting skills sessions."

Castle Green Grassroots Fund

Sight Advice - £648

Sight Advice South Lakes supports people of all ages with visual impairment to improve the quality of their lives and to maintain their independence. It promotes greater awareness of sight issues to the wider public.

They achieve this through their rural outreach service; seven support groups; assistive technology support, a user forum, the very popular activity and social groups and the award winning magazine 'INSIGHT' with all the news and information for visually impaired people and organisations. They run information and advice desks, NHS Low Vision Clinics in Kendal and Windermere and a sight advice information desk at Westmorland General Hospital. Support is given to those who have been newly registered as blind or partially sighted, visually impaired children and their families, and those newly registered with dual sensory loss.