

## CUMBRIA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

# ‘A long-term benefit to deserving Cumbrians’

Cumbria Community Foundation helps philanthropic individuals and businesses by managing their funds to put something back into their chosen community. Each month, we'll introduce you to a different fund and highlight how the money is helping people across the county. This month, we focus on the CN Group Fund

This year the Foundation celebrated its 15th birthday. In that time we have awarded over £21 million in grants and won national awards for fundraising, as well as building permanent grant making funds in excess of £12 million.

Our first corporate donor was the Cumbrian Newspaper Group, who donated £100,000 to set up the CN Group Fund. Robin Burgess, chief executive of the Carlisle-based local media business, which owns Cumbria Life, said: "We have always been very involved in the local communities we serve with our various titles. When in 2000 we had a one-off financial windfall, we immediately thought of setting up our own fund with Cumbria Community Foundation so that there could be a long-term benefit to deserving Cumbrians from our good fortune.

"We have over the years made some varied and substantial grants to organisations which we both enjoyed doing and have found to be useful public relations for our titles".

The CN Group Fund gave £500 to a group of retired nurses who form part of the Whitehaven Hospital Research Group. The money was used to write a book on the history of the former Dovenby Hall Hospital, which is now the site of the M-Sport world rallying team.

The hospital opened in 1931 for people with mental health issues and learning



### Some of the contributors to the book about Dovenby Hall Hospital

disabilities, and at one time had 400 patients. Research had been compiled from interviews of former patients and staff and old articles from the Times & Star. The book titled 'Dovenby Days' also features photographs taken at the hospital by staff and patients.

Maureen Fisher, group leader said: "We think it is very important to record reminiscences and information about our communities before that knowledge is lost and forgotten. We hope the book encourages interest in local history and the history of care of those with learning disabilities."

The CN Group Fund has awarded more than £82,000 to community groups across Cumbria including Safety Net Advice and Support Centre, Carlisle Key and Barrow Citizens Advice Bureau.

If you would like to know how to apply for a grant or create a grant making fund, please visit the Foundation's website [www.cumbriafoundation.org](http://www.cumbriafoundation.org) or call 01900 825760.

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