

## News from Essex Community Foundation

---

### Message from the Chief Executive

---

On behalf of the trustees and the team at ECF, I would like to thank everyone who has supported us with donations during the year. Also, a special thanks to the many voluntary and community organisations across Essex that have taken the time to apply to us for funding. We really appreciate the information that you share with us and the stories that highlight the importance of your work.



Essex has a strong and diverse voluntary sector that offers a wealth of knowledge and experience to help people of all ages and abilities, including those who find themselves in difficult circumstances, the elderly who can become isolated and young people who want to improve their skills and opportunities. In addition, Essex has many volunteers who give their time to activities which help their local community and bring people together with a common aim.

In the period June to December we have approved **176 grants totalling £1,023,066**, taking the overall amount awarded in grants since we started in 1996 to over £31 million. The Foundation remains committed to supporting local charitable activity and we look forward to working with our donors in the coming year, to match their charitable wishes with the needs of the voluntary sector in Essex.

Thank you again and I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Caroline Taylor, Chief Executive**

---

### UK Community Foundations reach £1 billion milestone

---

The network of 46 Community Foundations has distributed grants totalling over **£1 billion** to support charities and voluntary organisations working in local communities across the UK.

This milestone was highlighted during Prime Minister's Questions. Peter Aldous, MP for Waveney in Suffolk, asked Theresa May to recognise work of community foundations and pledge to give support by donating dormant assets.



To watch the video, click [here](#).

---

### The importance of local philanthropy

---

Around 150 guests joined us at the Foundation's Annual General Meeting where Sir Tom Hughes-Hallett was our guest speaker.

Sir Tom spoke about his experiences as a philanthropist and what we must do as a community to prepare for future pressures, including an ageing population. To listen to his talk, click [here](#).

We also welcomed **four new trustees** to the Board; Nicholas Alston CBE DL, Simon Hall MBE, Sandra Hollis and Jo Wells. To read more, click [here](#).



---

## New annual review and survey

Our new annual review, grant supplement and annual report and financial statements are now available to **download and read**.

The review highlights some of our activities and achievements in our financial year to 30 June 2017. It includes stories about our grant recipients and details how the voluntary sector in Essex plays a major role in supporting people in need and improving the quality of life in local communities.



To access these documents, click [here](#). To be sent a hard copy, please [e-mail Kate Cornish](#).

We would love to hear your thoughts so please click [here](#) to complete a short survey.

---

## Donate your winter fuel payment

During the Winter months, with shorter days and dark, cold evenings, voluntary organisations provide vital support and social activities to ensure that elderly and vulnerable people keep warm and well as temperatures drop.

If you receive a Winter fuel payment that you do not rely on, **you may like to donate it** to ECF. All monies raised will support these local voluntary groups and individuals in need of help. To find out how to donate to the Appeal, click [here](#) or call the team on 01245 355947.



---

## Community fund makes a splash

Thurrock Mencap Society was among seven voluntary organisations to receive **an early Christmas present** from the Essex & Suffolk Water Community Fund.

A grant of £2,000 will enable Mencap to run a healthy lifestyle and fitness programme to improve the well-being of its members who have special needs.

To read more, click [here](#).



---

## Pride of Essex Awards recognises ECF volunteer

ECF volunteer, Andrew Clarke, was among 20 recipients at the recent Pride of Essex Awards. The Awards recognise people who have given their time unselfishly for the benefit of others. Andrew received a Highly Commended certificate in the Ultimate category.

Caroline Taylor, Chief Executive, said: "We are thrilled that **Andrew has received recognition**, that is well deserved, for the significant contribution that he has made to ECF over the past 17 years."



---

## Charity Golf Day is back for 2018!

Following the great success of previous years' events, which have **raised more than £50,000** to support local community organisations, we are again hosting a Charity Golf Day at Chelmsford Golf Club.

We have many regular supporters of this event, but we are also keen to welcome new people who may wish to enter a team of 4 people (amateurs only). For more information and to download an entry form, click [here](#).



If you would like to donate a raffle prize, sponsor a hole or make a donation, please e-mail Jo Macaulay on [jo@essexcf.org.uk](mailto:jo@essexcf.org.uk).

---

## Improving signposting services

Teen Talk (Harwich) and Voluntary Action Epping Forest are among six Essex charities to benefit from funding for their information and signposting services, thanks to the **Healthwatch Essex Fund**.

The Fund, managed by ECF, awards grants that will improve people's experiences of health and social care in Essex through improved provision of information, advice and guidance. To read more, click [here](#).



---

## Share your festive photos

---

The importance of events and activities which **bring people together** and reduce isolation should not be underestimated, especially at this time of year.

We know that many voluntary and community groups are holding parties and events in the run up to Christmas and we would love to see your photos.

If you do have photos that you would like to share with us, please e-mail them to [Kate Cornish](mailto:kate.cornish@essexcf.org.uk). Alternatively, you can tag the Foundation on Twitter and Facebook.



---

## Christmas office closure

---

Please note that the ECF office **will close on Wednesday 20 December**, opening again on Tuesday 2 January.

Voluntary and community organisations can still apply for funding during this time, by using our [online application form](#).

Any e-mails will be responded to when the office reopens.



---

## More information

---

If you would like more information about any of the stories featured in this Update or about Essex Community Foundation, please contact Kate Cornish on 01245 355947 or email [kate@essexcf.org.uk](mailto:kate@essexcf.org.uk).

To receive regular updates on our activities and funding opportunities, follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

[www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk](http://www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk)  
Registered Charity Number 1052061

[Unsubscribe from this newsletter](#)