

## Welcome to the June update from Essex Community Foundation

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### £30 million awarded in grants!

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ECF has reached the significant milestone of awarding **£30 million in grants since we were established in 1996.**

Caroline Taylor, Chief Executive, said, "Grant funding is vital to the work of community and voluntary organisations across Essex. We know through our relationship with the sector that even a small grant can enable them to make a significant difference to the lives of local people.



"What makes this milestone most remarkable is that our average grant size is £3,500, which means we have supported many grassroot projects in the county.

"As one of the largest grant funders in Essex, we remain committed to being an approachable and accessible source both now and in perpetuity.

"This level of giving would not have been possible without the generosity of our donors, fundholders and partners".

To find out how we can help you to fulfil your charitable wishes by giving through ECF, click [here](#).

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### Essex groups honoured

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Three Essex charities are to receive The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest award given to voluntary groups in the UK to recognise their outstanding work in local communities.

- **Crossing Boundaries** in Westcliff-on-Sea, which facilitates support meetings for carers, isolated people, those with mental health issues and more.
- **Razed Roof** in Harlow, which offers performing arts classes for people with, and without, disabilities and learning difficulties.
- **Rayleigh Baptist Church** which operates a regular support group for carers.



To read more about the work of each group and to find out how you can make a nomination, click [here](#).

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### Grants available in Harlow

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Grants of up to £5,000 are available now from the **Youth Social Action Fund** to support activities in Harlow which encourage young people to positively contribute to their communities.

Projects eligible for a grant could include volunteering, mentoring, campaigning and other activities which engage young people in their community and increase their learning and understanding of local issues.

To discuss an idea or application please call us on 01245 356018. To read more, click [here](#).

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## Mental health art group given funding boost

Braintree Rethink is the latest organisation to receive a grant from the **Arthur J. Gallagher Community Fund**.

Staff presented a cheque for £1,876 to the group, which provides help to local people who suffer with a wide range of mental health conditions, including anxiety, depression, schizophrenia or personality disorders. To read more, click [here](#).



If you would like to discuss how ECF can match your corporate aspirations and objectives with the needs of local charities, voluntary and community organisations please call Steven Mackenzie on 01245 355947.

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## Spotlight on Carers

The spotlight was on Carers this month during a week long campaign to raise awareness of caring, highlight the challenges carers face and recognise the contribution they make to families and communities throughout the UK.

ECF is pleased to support a number of voluntary organisations in Essex which offer help and guidance to carers. Action for Family Carers and the Maldon and Dengie Stroke Support and Carers Group are just two organisations which have recently received grants.



If you are a local organisation providing help and information for carers, please call us on 01245 356018 to discuss if there is support available for your work. To apply for a grant, click [here](#).

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## Chelmsford Phone-In Funding Surgery

Our next phone-in funding surgery will be for organisations working in Chelmsford.

If you are a voluntary or community group working to benefit the community in this area, please call us on **Wednesday 12 July on 01245 356018**.

The grants team will be on hand **between 10am and 12 noon** to answer your calls, discuss your work and provide funding advice.



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## Follow the High Sheriff on Twitter

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Simon Hall, the 837th High Sheriff of Essex, has joined Twitter: **@Essex\_HS**.

"Follow" him throughout his year as he tours the county promoting community safety, attending events and visiting voluntary organisations.

Simon will also be promoting the High Sheriffs' Fund, which is managed by ECF, and gives much-needed support to local organisations in Essex which tackle crime and anti-social behaviour.



For more information about the High Sheriff, click [here](#).

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## **More information**

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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](#).

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