

Welcome to the March update from Essex Community Foundation

High Sheriff rewards local charities

Lorna Rolfe, the 836th High Sheriff of Essex shared highlights from her year and presented trophies, certificates and grants totalling £25,804 at an awards ceremony held at Hylands House in Chelmsford.



Among the 40 organisations receiving recognition were a Southend project which supports people who are visually impaired to feel safe in their homes, a mentoring programme in Clacton for boys who have an absent father and a Pubwatch scheme in Rayleigh. The coveted High Sheriffs' Shield was won by InterAct for its peer mentoring project for vulnerable young people.

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

Seeing is believing

ECF Fundholders - Rickard Luckin and Objective Computing - joined us on a visit to City of Chelmsford Mencap to witness firsthand the impact the grants awarded from their Funds are making.



Mencap hosted a Venetian Mardi Gras-themed Community Lunch where students cooked and served food to 20 invited guests. This monthly lunch is part of their 'Working Out' project which aims to increase the student's employability skills and boost their confidence.

To find out how you and your business can support local community and voluntary organisations through ECF, click [here](#).

Phone-In Funding Surgery - Colchester and Tendring

Our Phone-In Funding Surgeries are proving to be hugely helpful to voluntary groups who want to discuss their funding needs. Previous surgeries have seen over 50 groups call us to talk about their work and specific projects.

The next phone-in surgery will focus on the Colchester and Tendring Districts, so if you are a community or voluntary organisation which operates in either of these areas please call us on Wednesday 19 April between 10am and 12 noon.



Our grant officers will be on hand to discuss any support available for your work and talk you through the process of submitting an application. To participate please call us, on the day, on 01245 356018.

Making sporting dreams come true

ECF would like to hear from anyone interested in helping local people to achieve their sporting potential. All donations will be matched with funding from the Essex and Southend Sports Charitable Fund.

Rogério Mendes, who is 13 years old and suffers from Asperger's syndrome, has a passion for everything to do with Motorsport. A recent grant is helping him to pursue his goal of becoming a professional racing driver.



Other Essex sports stars to have benefited from grants are Daniel McGauley, a powerlifter from Colchester who has Down's syndrome and Olympic gymnast Brinn Bevan.

If you are interested in helping young people to achieve their sporting potential, contact us on 01245 355947.

Injection of funds for healthcare charities

Community organisations working to improve people's experiences of health and social care in Essex have received a healthy injection of funds – with eight groups receiving a share of £150,000 in grants from the Healthwatch Essex Fund.

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



Nominate someone for a Pride of Essex Award

Do you know someone who selflessly gives their time to improve community life? Perhaps they are a volunteer, or work at an organisation which carries out vital work and is seen as a lifeline to many?

If someone springs to mind, why not nominate them for a Pride of Essex Award. The deadline date for applications is 20 October and the award ceremony will be held on 21 November.

To nominate someone, click [here](#).



Funds inviting applications

If you are a community or voluntary organisation in need of funding, applying for a grant with ECF is straightforward and you can make an application to us at any time. However, some of the Funds we manage do have specific deadlines.

The following Funds are now inviting applications:

- Middlewick Farm Community Benefit Fund
- Bradwell Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund
- Firebird Fund
- Youth Social Action Fund

To view specific criteria for these funds and to apply, click [here](#).

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.

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

www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk
Registered Charity Number 1052061