

# Layer Marney Tower Spring Reception

Thank you for joining us for our Spring reception at Layer Marney Tower.

We hope you enjoyed the evening and were inspired by our speakers who shared stories about their involvement with ECF and how our grants are helping local people.

## What kind of Essex do you want?

At this year's reception I challenged you to think about your giving, your experience of Essex and what kind of Essex you want for the next generation? And, importantly, what can you do?



Essex Community Foundation can help you to answer these questions. Through a tailor-made service we can work with you to fulfil your charitable aims and wishes, either during your lifetime or as part of a legacy.

Each year we award around £2 million in grants to support the work of local voluntary and community organisations. With your involvement we could do a lot more.

There are many ways you can start to work with us:

- **Individuals or families** can establish a Named Fund, giving them a flexible and cost-effective alternative to setting up their own charity.
- **Companies** may wish to engage their staff in fundraising and awarding grants by establishing a Fund in the name of the company.
- **Charitable Trusts** may wish to transfer the management of the Trust to ECF, but existing Trustees can remain involved in the grantmaking.

If you would like to have an initial discussion about your thoughts or any of these areas of work, please call Caroline, Jo or Steven on 01245 355947, who will be happy to help.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Minter', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Jonathan Minter, DL**

# Thank you to our speakers



Sonia Shaljean, Founder of **Lads Need Dads**, spoke about her experience and background of working with males of all ages and how she had identified a simple but critical gap in the provision of support for secondary school age boys whose father-figure is absent from their lives.

Through an innovative male-led group mentoring Programme, Lads Need Dads supports boys age 11-15, an age when the choices they make, both conscious and unconscious, begin to form the foundation of the men they will become.

By engaging the boys in self-development group work, practical life-skill training, volunteering and outdoor activities, all supported by male mentors, Lads Need Dads aims to equip and empower them to become motivated, capable, resilient and emotionally competent young men.

**Fiona Ashworth**, a solicitor with Colchester-based firm Thompson Smith and Puxon (TSP), explained how being charitable and creating a lasting legacy is not just for those with a multi-million pound lifestyle, but is a rewarding way for many of us to make a real difference in our lifetime and beyond.

Born and raised in Essex, Fiona is passionate about her county and has been involved with ECF for over 15 years, advising clients who want to do something to give back but are not quite sure what that is.

The common perception is that large sums of money are needed to make a charity legacy worthwhile and really make a difference, however even small donations add up and do a lot of good.

Leaving a legacy to a community that you love or a cause in which you believe in is one of the most generous and effective ways of giving. If you would like to discuss the proposed terms of a legacy, or for one of the ECF team to meet with you and/or your client, please call us for a no strings attached conversation.



[www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk](http://www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk)

Email: [general@essexcf.org.uk](mailto:general@essexcf.org.uk) | Phone: 01245 355947

Twitter: @Essex\_CF