

NEWS RELEASE

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GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR THURROCK CHARITIES

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Voluntary and community groups working in Thurrock are being targeted to apply for funding from the Hew Watt Family Charitable Fund, managed by Essex Community Foundation, an independent charitable trust that supports charities across Essex. The deadline dates for applications are 9 September 2008 and the 9 January 2009

Grants are available for projects that will benefit the residents of Thurrock. Recent awards have included £3,162 to Essex Wildlife Trust for a project with Thurrock Mind to offer practical craft and gardening skills to people with mental health problems. Another successful group were Grays Thurrock Talking Newspaper who received £2,150 to enable them to continue to provide a weekly service to blind and partially sighted people.

Caroline Taylor, Programmes Director at Essex Community Foundation said, "Hew Watt was a fascinating man, a farmer in Thurrock for many years who cared greatly about farming, agriculture and the area in which he lived" she added "this is a great fund, as it is just for groups in Thurrock and I would encourage those interested to contact the grants team".

For further information about the fund please contact the Foundation's grants team on 01245 356018 or visit their website to download the general application form at www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk.

[Ends]

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For further information contact

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See over for Notes to Editors

Notes to Editors:

Essex Community Foundation was set up in 1996 and has established a grants programme which has seen nearly 3,000 Essex based charities and community groups receive over £11.2 million in grants. Funds are distributed on behalf of a wide range of donors who want their charitable giving to be accessible to local charities. www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk

Community Foundations are independent charities committed to supporting projects that engage local people. Since the 1980s, a nationwide network of Community Foundations has developed, endorsed by many major public figures and leading companies.

There are 1000's of charities and voluntary groups working for the community to create a richer society for all. Community Foundations build endowed funds and make grants to these organisations.

- There are 55 local Community Foundations in the UK covering 94% of the population
- Collectively they manage endowed funds of circa £200 million
- In 2006/07 Community Foundations distributed grants totalling £75million.