



Date: 10th November 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

£600,000 RAISED FOR ISLAND COMMUNITY GROUPS

The IWCF announced this week that since its launch in July, it has raised over £600,000 from individuals, businesses and the government for the benefit of communities across the Isle of Wight. Funds are already being distributed across the Island with £25,381 awarded to eight community groups at the second Grassroots Grants panel, but the good news for other local groups is that there is still over £32,000 to distribute this year.

Wheelchair bound members of the Fishbourne Sailability Club will now be able to take to the high seas much more easily after the club received £5,000 towards the cost of buying a new roll on roll off vessel. While a grant to the Rotary Club of Cowes Trust Fund will help ensure the St George's Day Celebrations in Cowes go ahead next year, after having to be cancelled this year due to insufficient funds.

Grants were also awarded to Lions Day and Community Centre Association in Lake and 1st Ryde 1st Binstead Scout Group to carry out improvements to their buildings, while smaller grants were given to Cowes Heritage, Vectis Road Allotments in East Cowes and the 7th Newport Scout Group.

Whether it's helping local clubs get hold of new kit, coaching new volunteers or simply giving the village hall a fresh lick of paint, Grassroots Grants aim to make a real and immediate difference. Grants are available from between £250 to £5,000 to voluntary and community groups with annual incomes below £20,000.



Isle of Wight Rural Community Council (RCC) are IWCF's partner for delivering the scheme on the Isle of Wight and their Chief Executive, Michael Bulpitt explained how the grants programme is benefitting the local area "Grant schemes like Grassroots are essential to small community groups who know how to make a little go a long way and RCC is pleased to be working with HIWCF in ensuring funds are targeted at groups most in need" he added "as ever we at RCC are here to help groups submit good quality funding applications to help put money where it makes a *real* difference."

Individuals and businesses across the Island are invited to invest their local giving in the scheme's innovative endowment match challenge – the first of its kind in England. Every £1 invested will be matched with a further £1 from the endowment match money.

So if you run a small, local community group on the Island including, parent and toddler or after school groups, youth clubs, physical and mental health issue groups, social, arts, sport and recreation, cultural groups, ethnic and other minority groups and training and learning groups, and have an annual income of less than £20,000 pa – take a look at the Isle of Wight Community Fund website to see if you might qualify for a Grassroots grant www.hantscf.org.uk/iwcf and click on the 'IOW Grassroots Challenge' button or email IWCF at infograssroots@hantscf.org.uk.

ENDS

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Notes to Editor

IWCF Info



The Isle of Wight Community Fund has been established by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation and the Isle of Wight Charitable Trust. IWCF raise funds and distribute grants across the Island for the benefit of local communities and works to encourage local giving for local needs.

HIWCF Info

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation (HIWCF) is an independent charitable trust that manages charitable giving on behalf of individuals, businesses and other trusts; distributes small grants to voluntary and community groups and organisations across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and promotes the benefits of “Investing in our local Community”.

HIWCF is the Local Funder for the Grassroots Grants programme which is funded by the office of the Third Sector and delivered by the Community Development Foundation. The maximum grant available to enable small, local community groups to continue or expand their work for local people is £5,000.

Isle of Wight Rural Community Council Info

The RCC exists to support the 1,500 or more voluntary and community organisations that work so hard for the benefit of the Island and its residents. RCC also directly support communities themselves and have a strong focus on the concerns of rural communities.