



Date: 19<sup>th</sup> December 2008

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PRESS RELEASE**

### CHRISTMAS COMES EARLY FOR SIX COMMUNITY GROUPS

The Isle of Wight Community Fund (IWCF) awarded a total of £17,095 to 6 local community groups at its third Grassroots Grants panel but they still have another £21,000 to distribute before March 2009 so they are urging all local groups to take a look at the Funds website and see if they can also apply.

£5,000 will ensure volunteer run Angel Radio stays on the air, as it is used to replace much of the studio equipment which is breaking down. As a not for profit organisation they are unable to take advertising or sponsorship and rely solely on donations and grants, so the money will also allow them to update their music collection, much to the delight of their growing audience. The community station has been on air since June 2001, though switched to 91.50FM in 2007 and is a favourite amongst those over 60 as well as promoting other voluntary and charitable groups on the Island.

Ryde Saints Football Club will be using their £4,290 grant to provide free football training and activities to the over 14's. No matter what their ability the youngsters will be able to take part in the scheme which will be delivered by qualified FA coaches for 50 weeks of the year either at Pell Lane recreation ground or Smallbrook AstroTurf. At present there are limited opportunities for the 14 to 18 age group with only two teams on the Island who having an under 18 side.

£4,680 will be used by Equals (Isle of Wight) to set up friendship groups for people from minority ethnic communities, particularly women, to improve social inclusion.



The money will also fund visits to school by artists to promote cultural diversity to sixth form students.

A grant of £1,375 will pay for a new sound system to be installed in the community centre in Havenstreet, as part of an ongoing project to improve facilities. The hall, a former Victorian schoolroom, plays a huge role in village life but outdated facilities have meant many groups have been unable to use it. The essential work will ensure it once again becomes the heart of village community.

Smaller grants were also awarded to 1<sup>st</sup> Binstead Guides towards to the cost of a 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary trip to Guernsey and to 1<sup>st</sup> Newchurch Scouts to send members to the WINGS International Camp in Windsor

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.

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, 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](http://www.hantscf.org.uk/iwcf) and click on the 'IOW Grassroots Challenge' button or email IWCF at [infograssroots@hantscf.org.uk](mailto: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.