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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

**A NEW PRESIDENT FOR THE ISLE OF WIGHT COMMUNITY FUND
AS IT AWARDS £30,000 TO COMMUNITY GROUPS**

The Lord-Lieutenant of the Island, Major General Martin White has been appointed as the President of the Isle of Wight Community Fund, while schemes supporting disadvantaged and disabled Islanders have received in excess of £30,000 from the charity.

“I was delighted to be asked to become President of the Isle of Wight Community Fund. It is wonderful to see how in the few short months since it was launched, it has already made a big difference to community and voluntary groups across the Island,” said the Lord-Lieutenant. “It is also encouraging to see that local people and companies have been getting involved to create a long term fund which will benefit the whole of the Isle of Wight.”

The appointed was warmly welcomed by the IWCF chairman Chris Martin, “We are thrilled to receive the Lord-Lieutenant’s support. We hope to work closely with all areas of the community to ensure our funds provide the greatest benefit across the Island.”

The largest award of £9,500 was given to the Real World Trust, who work with Islanders affected by substance abuse, high risk offenders and related mental health problems. The money will enable the group to expand its provision of life skills training, such as cooking on a budget, basic computer skills and helping with social exclusion.



Confidence building and independent living skills are just a small part of a larger life skills training project being run by the IW Advocacy Trust. It will use its £6,500 grant from the IWCF to work with small groups of people with disabilities out in the community, to teach them budgeting and money management, cooking and health skills and investigating work experience.

A community sculpture project for children and adults with learning difficulties can now go ahead with the help of a £7,000 grant. Run by Independent Arts, professional sculptors will go out to various venues across the Island to teach the art and pleasure of sculpture. It follows the groups highly success 'Mosaic Project'. It is hoped a travelling exhibition of this new 'eco-friendly' themed scheme will be held promoting the achievements of all the people you what taken part.

Art as a therapy is also the basis for the funding needed by The Riverside Centres. It will be using its grant of £4,300 to provide art and craft materials and recruit an art therapist to work with some of the 300 disable people who are supported by the centre.

£2,000 was also awarded to the Helping Hands Fund run by the Isle of Wight Rural Community Council and £3,000 to St Thomas's Minster.

Chairman of the IWCF grant panel Hamish Wilson, says "It's wonderful that as an Island charity we have been able to help these worthwhile causes which have such a positive impact on Islanders lives. I urge other local groups to get in touch to see how we can help them too."

For more information of the types of groups and projects supported by the Isle of Wight Community Fund visit the website www.hantscf.org.uk/iwcf



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Notes to Editor

Images -

Lord-Lieutenant Martin White speaking at the launch of the Isle of Wight Community Fund

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”.