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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

GRANT SHEDS LIGHT ON THE PAST

At the IWCF's first grant panel of 2010, the restoration of Northwood Cemetery was just one of thirteen projects to receive a share of more than £30,000 in funding.

The £3,800 Grassroots grant, which has been issued through the Isle of Wight Community Fund, will be used by the Friend's of the cemetery to install electricity to the Dead House. As well providing lighting, it will enable the group to install a computer which will aid in their efforts to build up databases for people researching their family history, allow them to meet visitors after sunset and provide hot drinks for volunteers carrying out conservation work during the winter months.

The group's fundraiser Jon Matthews says "This project is the first step in a much wider plan to restore the whole cemetery including the two chapels. It will also let us offer better support to visitors who are searching for family graves and encourage other groups to come to the cemetery - such as schools."

More than £1,600 has been awarded to the Vectis Road Allotments in East Cowes to expand their successful bee keeping project and improve the water supply on the popular site. It is the second time the group have received a Grassroots grant and the funding will be used to buy another hive and provide protective clothing for children. "Since setting up the bee project last year we have had a lot of interest from people wanting to come and see the bees and learn more about them" says the groups Treasurer Dorothy Haynes. "Several children have shown an interest and we want to encourage the next generation to learn too."



This years Storytelling Festival will go ahead thanks to a £3,000 Grassroots grant. The event, organised by the Island storytelling group, is being held at Brading Roman Villa over the May Bank holiday weekend. It will include workshops run by professional storytellers, shows and a competition.

10 other groups who received funding include £2,800 to the Ryde Skate Park Users Group to finish work on the site on Ryde Esplanade, Shanklin Town Brass Band, the IW Asthma Swim Group and Cowes Short Mat Bowling Club.

The IWCF urged other local groups on the Island to apply for a Grassroots Grant as there is still funding available. For more information on the Grassroots Grant programme take a look at www.hantscf.org.uk/iwcf. The deadline for the final round of grants is 26th April. The site also contains details of several other grant programmes managed by the Isle of Wight Community Fund.

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Contact details for Editor:

Toni Shaw
CEO
HIWCF
toni@hantscf.org.uk
Telephone: 01256 776101
DDI: 01256 776127

The Friends of Northwood Cemetery – Jon Matthews, 01983 247498
Island Storytellers – Sue Bailey, 01983 241095
Vectis Road Allotments – Dorothy Haynes, 01983 884577

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 is managed by local people who 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.