

SELECTED CASE HISTORIES

Here are some brief details of a few of the projects we helped over the last 12 months.

St Mary's Church, Eversley

There is of course a family connection with Eversley in that not only was Jack's family brought up there, but Ann was born in the village and is now buried in the churchyard of St Mary's. She was a regular worshipper there. The church was built in 1724 and is a grade one listed building. They were seeking to raise £80,000 for repairs to the church roof and chancel wall, and the work needed to be carried out before the winter to avoid leakage. The church had already raised £40,000 towards their target when they approached us in July 2007, and the trustees agreed a total grant of £2,300 in Ann's memory towards the work. The remainder of the funds had been raised by the end of October, and the work completed by the beginning of December.



The Withywood Centre, Bristol

This a project of the South Bristol Church & Community Trust, spearheaded by the Methodist Church in Withywood, one of the more deprived areas of Bristol. The new community centre, costing a total of £4.6M, has as its focus an ecumenical (Methodist and Anglican) church. The centre has been built to address the lack of community facilities in the area, seen as a barrier to social and economic development. The new facilities include a community café, a youth café, health clinic (NHS funded), crèche, meeting rooms, hall and gardens. The charity contributed £2,000 towards the fitting out costs, and the project was officially opened on the 5th October.

<http://withywoodcentre.com>



Circomedia, Bristol

<http://www.circomedia.com/>

Based in another deprived area of Bristol, St Paul's, Circomedia uses circus and physical theatre to work with young people at the risk of social exclusion. The idea is that Circomedia harnesses the needs of young people to take risks, turning it to positive direction by using physical and demanding activities in a safe environment. In the year some 400 took part in projects, and 2,000 in workshops. A total of 5,000 people have watched the circus performances. The trust has given £1,000 towards running costs of £160,000pa, having previously given £1,000 in 2004.



Life Cycle UK

<http://www.lifecycleuk.org.uk/>

Life Cycle is a national charity based in Bristol (again, as it happens) whose aim is to promote cycling in general and its health and environmental benefits in particular. The particular project for which funding was requested is "Two's Company", for the benefit of the blind and partially sighted, who often have little opportunity to get out and enjoy the countryside and will often lack the confidence to go out enjoy physical exercise. This end is achieved with the aid of tandem cycles and volunteer sighted partners. We gave £1,000 towards the set-up and first year costs of £10,000. According to the report we received in September, the project has been a huge success. We previously gave £450 for another project in 2006. The photo (supplied by Life Cycle) shows Mark and Sally clearly enjoying themselves!



Turntable Furniture

<http://www.turntable.org.uk/>

A furniture and appliance recycling facility in Exeter, which has been operating for 14 years. With a high volunteer input, unwanted furniture is supplied to families in need. The recipients are referred to the project by social workers and health visitors, and 500 families have been helped in the year. The trust gave grant of £500, having previously given £500 in 2005 and £1,000 in 2002.

Julian House, Bath

<http://www.julianhouse.org.uk/>

Julian House is a project of the Bath Churches Housing Association. Julian House itself is a night shelter catering for the homeless, but other projects cater for those battling addiction, or with mental health problems. There are also facilities for those suffering from domestic violence, and for ex-offenders in need of rehabilitation. The particular project for which help was sought in January 2007 was their “meaningful occupation project” helping homeless men and women back into education or work. The trust gave £1,000, having given the same amount previously for other projects in 2004 and 2005.

Mawnan Anvil Trust

<http://mawnansmith.org>

This is a project to restore an historic smithy in the small village of Mawnan Smith near Falmouth in Cornwall. The building is grade II listed and restoration would secure a heritage feature of the village as well as providing six craft jobs in the finished project. The total project cost was £378,400 and the original application came to us in February 2004. A grant of £1,000 was awarded, but it took the group until November 2006 to raise the remainder of the money and claim the grant. Work was nearing completion in July 2007, and at time of writing, we are still waiting to hear that the project has been finished.

