

# Lewes Fund

## Impact Report

February 2024



## THE LEWES FUND



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## Impact Report

The Lewes Fund was set up at Sussex Community Foundation in May 2011 to provide grants to charities and community groups in Lewes and the surrounding parishes. It has a specific focus on supporting disadvantaged people.

Since its inception, the Lewes Fund has given 72 grants totalling £137,999. Feedback on outcomes and impact from some of those given in 2021 and 2022 is captured in this report.

Feedback on grants given in 2023 will be shared in the next report, as monitoring reports are yet to be received by the groups supported.

To donate to the Lewes Fund [visit here](#)

**Thank you, on behalf of all those we were able to support.**

## Key challenge in Sussex: An aging population.

In our Tackling Poverty report, we identified four key challenges for communities in Sussex today. The first of these is an aging population.

Sussex has a relatively old population, with 22.4% of residents aged 65+ compared with 18.4% in England. The older population is projected to grow by 41.3% between 2020 and 2040 – faster than the average across England (38.3%). By contrast, there is projected to be a fall in population aged 0-15.

The aging population is likely to present a key challenge in rising social care and poor health burdens. There is also already relatively high financial hardship among older people, particularly in urban areas of the county.

# 22.4%

of residents in Sussex  
are aged 65+

# 41.3%

Projected growth of older population  
in Sussex between 2020 and 2040

Read the full  
*Tackling Poverty*  
report here

## Key challenge in Sussex: Inflationary pressures are contributing towards financial hardship.

People living in Sussex are facing a range of inflationary pressures impacting household finances, including the rising cost of energy bills. Rural and coastal areas of Sussex are especially vulnerable to rising energy costs as 8.2% of dwellings in rural Sussex have a low energy efficiency rating (Energy Performance Certificates F-G) - more than double the national average (3.3%).

Lack of affordable housing is also likely to be a key factor in raising housing costs and increasing financial pressures. 11 of the 13 Local Authorities in the county ranked above the national average on the Indices of Deprivation Housing Affordability indicator (which measures the inability to afford to enter owner-occupation or the private rental market).

There is also evidence to suggest that the cost of food is overtaking housing as the largest contributor to the rising cost of living. According to the Priority Places for Food Index (PPFI), which measures food insecurity, there are four Local Authorities in Sussex which are ranked as more deprived than the national average: Hastings, Rother, Lewes and Crawley.

# 8.2%

of dwellings in rural Sussex have a  
low energy efficiency rating

# 9.6%

In 2021, Sussex had a higher  
proportion of households in fuel  
poverty than the South East

Read the full  
*Tackling Poverty*  
report here

## PATINA (Parent and Teachers in the Arts) - £3,000



### What activities were funded by the grant?

Patina was set up to provide creative opportunities for children and young people in Lewes District, giving them the chance to work with professional artists and have first-hand experience of the arts in their community.

Their flagship project is the "Moving On" Festival, a community-wide initiative celebrating the transition of all local children from primary to secondary school and into adolescence, through a series of educational artistic events. It culminates in the Moving On Parade through the streets of Lewes, a unique rite of passage for over 8,500 children who have participated over the years.

## The difference your grant has made:

Thanks to the grant, the group was able to give each school their own sculpture to decorate and carry in the parade, giving the whole event more drama and focus without having to raise costs during these hard times.

They also coordinated with artists and storytellers, giving the children and the whole community a day of joy and togetherness.

Moving On has happened every year since 2002, including through the Covid years with some adaptation. The event ensures that all children living in the Lewes area can participate in this unique experience, which gives such a strong sense of belonging. The children can also experience the cultural value of the arts.

# 2,000

**beneficiaries**

**“Patina is so important because it assures us that moving on and growing up is not something to be afraid of - it is something to celebrate.”**

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## A volunteer from PATINA wrote:

"Moving On touches every child and their family individually. We are regularly told it is a project that the children remember for life, especially the parade itself and that sense of being valued and celebrated by their community.

It was particularly wonderful to see how embedded Moving On 2022 was at Chailey Heritage School for children with multiple life-limiting disabilities. The project was adapted for the ten pupils involved in this year's project, so the presentation of the river and sea habitats and species included tactile experiences of real seaweed, the opportunity to play with plastic representations of local sea creatures, the sound and smell of the sea and fine spray to give a sense of water and waves. Our artist created bespoke carnival decorations for the children's wheelchairs, based on each child's choice of species."



# Movingsounds

## - £4,900

### What activities were funded by the grant?

Movingsounds builds specialised music programmes to increase wellbeing, grow personal autonomy and leadership and empower communities. Their work especially benefits people living with dementia and long term health conditions, and their carers. Their programme is built around 'joyful participation' values, where everyone creates connections.

# 390

beneficiaries

**“Movingsounds is especially beneficial to our high need, non verbal clients as the movement and sound aspects of the sessions allow all abilities of clients and all the staff to enjoy themselves on an equal level.”**

**Day Centre Manager**

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## The difference your grant has made

The sessions were highly beneficial for all participants. For those living with dementia, music unlocks memories deep in the psyche leading to feelings of joy and reminiscence, the ability to communicate, warmth towards those around, and feelings of being connected to the outside world once again.

Dementia affects spatial awareness and recognition. The movement element is incredibly beneficial to participants. When facilitators guide participants in simple movements, balance, coordination and interaction with others are greatly enhanced.

Shared creativity and self-expression benefits communication, self-esteem and relationships, in keeping vulnerable people alert, connected to their communities and families, and reducing need for medication.



### Real lives

#### Residents from a care home involved in the project wrote:

"Best possible medicine, food for the soul! Brilliant music choices, fantastic musicians, a truly joyous and emotional experience.  
Brilliant, absolutely brilliant!"

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## Pippa's Group

### - £769



### What activities were funded by the grant?

Pippa's Group aims to enhance the development and education of pre-school children in Lewes. The majority of these children are at an economic disadvantage and/or have additional needs. Pippa's staff are trained and experienced to support children with challenging needs who cannot be supported by other settings.

Their services include pre-school sessions, speech therapy, forest school, beach school, sensory room and family support.

Thanks to your grant the group continued to run weekly pre-school sessions to children who are in need, in particular those with developmental, language and communication delay, and those suffering from anxiety.

## The difference your grant has made

Your grant ensured that children with additional challenges could continue to access the group's invaluable resources, attending their sessions consistently. They also had access to the sensory room, forest school, speech therapy and healthy snacks, as well as receiving the support of SENCO and other highly experienced staff.

Their parents and carers have continued to access support and parenting advice that is tailored to them, as well as benefitting from home visits.



### Real lives

#### A member of staff wrote the following message:

"What a transformation we have seen with these children! While still significantly delayed with their social skills, D's confidence has been boosted by their younger sibling now attending. D is now a chatty, confident child who loves to do puzzles, attends forest school sessions and is becoming independent in self-help skills. Also, E has benefitted hugely from small group work to build up turn-taking skills, extend confidence and support social interaction".

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# Lewes District Citizens Advice

## - £9,799

### What activities were funded by the grant?

The Lewes District Citizens Advice are a local, independent charity covering the Lewes district. Their service helps people resolve legal and financial issues by providing information and advice and by influencing policymakers. They use evidence of their clients' problems to campaign for improvements in laws and services that affect everyone.

Your grant helped towards staff costs and volunteer development.

### What difference your grant has made

A tangible benefit of the grant was the financial gain to clients, who were helped to claim or appeal benefit decisions, get debts written off or receive other forms of financial assistance.

In addition, access to a free, professional advice and information service helped clients assert their rights as citizens so that they were able to progress problems in a way that was most likely to result in a positive outcome. It also contributed to a sense of a supportive local community that is there to help people through difficult times.

# 810

beneficiaries

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## Real lives

### A member of staff wrote:

"My role as a Community Spaces Worker for Lewes District Citizens Advice has been a steep learning curve as I deal with clients face-to-face and never know what the query will be. That said, I love this job and especially the opportunity that I have been given to represent Citizens Advice in outreach venues such as community supermarkets, foodbanks and churches, where I signpost clients and advise them within my capabilities."

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## Lewes Men's Shed

### - £5,000

#### What activities were funded by the grant?

Lewes Men's Shed is a non-profit organisation offering a space for craft work and social integration. Their main aim is to improve the health and wellbeing of older men, as there is concern that men who live alone, often following widowhood or divorce, tend to become withdrawn with a greater incidence of dementia.



# 60

beneficiaries

## The difference your grant has made

The Shed's attendees are mostly socially isolated, having been widowed, being a carer, or they live in an area of deprivation. Men's Shed offers a warm space for them to come and meet new friends, learn new skills and have a hearty meal. They are sharing their skills and teaching others.

The sessions are open to any man over the age of 18, and offer them opportunities that they wouldn't usually have.



### Real lives

#### A member of staff wrote:

"One of our attendees has learning difficulties and lives in a deprived area with his father. He used to wander the streets but after joining us he now feels he has a purpose. He attends the sessions and has made friends, and has found other groups to attend as well to fill his days."

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# Lewes Fund Impact Report

## All Grants from the Lewes Fund in 2021, 2022 and 2023

Date	Organisation	Grant amount
20/11/2023	Brighton & Hove Wood Recycling Project (BHWRP)	£3,000
20/11/2023	Landport Youth Centre	£2,000
17/07/2023	A-LISTERS	£2,750
17/07/2023	Barcombe Explorers (part of Barcombe District Scouts)	£2,776
14/07/2023	Fitzjohn's Food Bank	£2,000
16/11/2022	The Unity Centre, Yoga Wellbeing and the Arts	£5,000
15/11/2022	Baxters Field Company	£5,000
15/11/2022	Lewes District Citizens Advice	£9,799
15/11/2022	Lewes Priory Cricket Club	£1,750
14/03/2022	PATINA (Parent and Teachers in the Arts)	£3,000
17/11/2021	Common Cause Co-operative	£2,500
17/11/2021	Lewes Men's Shed	£5,000
17/11/2021	Movingsounds	£4,900
16/03/2021	PATINA	£2,000
16/03/2021	Pippa's Group	£769



# Lewes Fund Impact Report

## All groups supported since 2011

Brighton & Hove Wood Recycling Project	Different Planet Arts
Landport Youth Centre	Dancing for Fun and Fitness
A-LISTERS	Cliffe Residents Association and the Timberyard Lane Playground Group
Barcombe Explorers (part of Barcombe District Scouts)	Lewes Bridge Junior Football Club
Fitzjohn's Food Bank	Landport Community Hub
The Unity Centre, Yoga Wellbeing and the Arts	Go Local CIC
Baxters Field Company	Greenhavens Network
Lewes District Citizens Advice	Culture Shift CIC
Lewes Priory Cricket Club	Ouse Valley Cycle Network
PATINA (Parent and Teachers in the Arts)	6th Lewes Scout Group
Common Cause Co-operative	Lewes District Churches HOMELINK
Lewes Men's Shed	Ringmer Disability Social Club
Movingsounds	The Dance Academy
Pippa's Group	St Anne's Church
Now! Charity	Lewes and District Citizens Advice Bureau

# Lewes Fund Impact Report

## All groups supported since 2011

St Mary's Supporters Club	Lewes Food Bank
Landport Residents Association	Chailey Youth Group
Lewes and District Talking Newspaper Association	Chatterbox Social Club
Lewes Community Café: The Nutty Wizard	DELTA Disability Social Group Of Lewes District
Smarter Living Network CIC	Low Cost Counselling Service Lewes
Westgate Chapel (Lewes) Trust	Railway Land Wildlife Trust
St Peter and St James Hospice	Oyster Project
Join Us	Diversity Lewes
Lewes Group in Support of Refugees and Asylum	



*Sussex Community Foundation* brings *inspirational* people together to create the change Sussex needs. We make and *strengthen connections* between philanthropists, businesses, charity founders and community leaders. We make *vital grants* through over 100 dedicated *funds*. And we share knowledge, inspiration and stories too – to help grow the power of community, and create a Sussex where people and *communities thrive*.

# Thank you.



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