

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION IMPACT REPORT

December 2020

Report Highlights

CEO Statement

Our work in numbers

This years timeline

UK Community Foundation Network

Examples of grant recipient case studies

Get Grants collaboration

Our County's year in pictures

Glos Funders

Upcoming research

GCFs launch of a mentor programme

Welcoming new members to the team

Thank you

Report Contents

TALITHA NELSON GCF CEO

Since the 16th of March, the Pandemic has created seismic changes within our community and also within GCF.

We have gone through every emotion seeing the impact of the pandemic close up. We have learnt first-hand how charities and community organisations have pivoted and responded so quickly, by being agile, purposeful and hardworking throughout this crisis. It's been an extremely humbling to witness.

We have been proud to be an essential part of serving our community ensuring vital resources have got to those who need it quickly, making sure that people were supported and of course most importantly, that they didn't feel alone in such a difficult time.

This year our COVID-19 Emergency Response Grants, along with our other Grant Programmes, are projected to award £1.2M million by way of grants. Between three and four times our previous yearly totals. Grants have been made to a diverse range of organisations. From supporting emergency basic human needs such as food and shelter, to helping breast feeding mothers, bicycles for NHS workers, to men in sheds. From child counselling to support for senior citizens who are frail and/or lonely. From the local shop to a Leonard Cheshire home situated in Gloucestershire. We do not normally support national charities but at the height of the pandemic the home was desperate for PPE and HQ did not have the cash.

The end of the first lockdown allowed GCF a short period to reflect and rebuild. As well as undertaking important emergency response work, we have embarked on other changes and projects, with new staff, trustees, online events and research. Details can be found later in this report.

You will also see that we have been fortunate to have received funds from many prestigious funders and as a result we have been able to support essential community groups and charities right across our county. We could only provide these essential services because of their generosity.

The difficult months ahead means the contribution of our third sector will be vital. The future looks pretty grim. Some of the wisest charity CEOs believe it will start to get very challenging by the Spring of next year. It may be even earlier than that. Therefore, our county will need to pull together more than ever, and we have to ensure that the most vulnerable are protected.

GCF will be busier than ever serving our county, but the extent of our assistance is dependent upon the generosity of others.





Gloucestershire Coronavirus Emergency Appeal

£1,004,869 raised since April

Supporters include:

National Emergencies Trust (NET), Thirty Percy, The Julia and Hans Rausing Trust, The Hayward Waite Charitable Fund, The Gloucestershire Disability Fund, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, The CHK Foundation and The Honourable Company of Gloucestershire and other generous individual donors.



Gloucestershire Coronavirus Emergency Appeal

203 grants awarded

Totalling over £796,970

Supporting charities, community groups and voluntary organisations working in Gloucestershire to help the county's most vulnerable people and communities.

Our 2020 Timeline

MARCH 20

GCF launched the Gloucestershire Coronavirus Emergency Response Appeal and received our first pledge of £100,000 from the Julia and Hans Rausing Foundation.

MARCH 26

Talitha joined Steve Knibbs on BBC Points West to champion the local charities stepping up to provide vital support to communities during lockdown. The first clap for the NHS takes place across the UK.

APRIL 1

The Gloucestershire Coronavirus Emergency Response Grant Programme Panel was convened via Zoom and by the end of that week £55,000 worth of grants had been awarded. The panel continued to meet weekly for 16 weeks

MARCH 16

The National Emergencies Trust Coronavirus Appeal launches with funds set to be distributed via UK Community Foundations

MARCH 23

National lockdown begins and the Gloucestershire Coronavirus Emergency Response Grants Programme opened for applications

MARCH 30

The first £50,000 allocation of National Emergencies Trust funds were received to distribute in Gloucestershire. We have since received more than £490,000 from the NET

APRIL 6

The first Gloucestershire Funders meeting took place, bringing together eight funders from across the county to support Gloucestershire communities.

Our 2020 Timeline

AUGUST 1

After record-breaking four months for GCF, the Emergency Response Grants Programme was paused for three weeks to enable the team to review its guidelines

SEPTEMBER 18

Coronavirus grants awarded topped £500,000

NOVEMBER 4

With a donation from the Co-op Food Fund our appeal total for the Gloucestershire Coronavirus Emergency Response Appeal reached the £1 million mark

JUNE 5

The 100th Coronavirus Emergency Grant was awarded in Gloucestershire

AUGUST 21

Two new Gloucestershire Coronavirus programmes were launched. A Quick Response programme to enable organisations to continue receiving timely grants, as well as a Recovery and Resilience Programme to enable larger grants to be awarded to support longer-term strengthening of organisations.

OCTOBER 2

The Gloucestershire Community Foundation held its largest grant panel on record reviewing 75 applications and approving grants totalling £236,000 through the Quick Response and Recovery and Resilience grants programmes

NOVEMBER 13

GCF awarded our 200th grant from Coronavirus Appeal funds

UK Community Foundation Membership and Network



We are members of UKCF, a network of 46 community foundations across the UK. In 2019 Community Foundations delivered £98million to their communities. More about UKCF can be found at - www.ukcommunityfoundations.org

During the pandemic UKCF has provided invaluable support, as well as being a central point for distribution of funds. The National Emergency Fund and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport chose UKCF to distribute funds throughout its network.

By the 18th of April Community Foundations had collectively distributed £8.2 million to 2,514 local organisations.

Over £25 million was raised through local Community Foundation appeals.

By the 28th of August £42 million had been distributed through the NET Coronavirus Appeal Fund.

As part of the Network we were also able to give an insight of what was happening on the ground as we already had established close links within our communities and worked with them whilst leading the relief efforts. This in turn meant that UKCF could feed this back to national organisations such as the Voluntary Sector Emergency Partnership and the National Emergency Trust.

Danny Kruger MP recently published a report to government entitled 'Levelling up our Communities: proposals for a new social covenant'. The work of Community Foundations is mentioned several times. This reports aim was to highlight the power and importance of community responses during the pandemic and look at recommendations of how to sustain it moving forward. Kruger recognised CFs important role.

"Community Foundations which have played such an important role during the recent crisis in distributing money from the National Emergencies Trust to local organisations."



STROUD BERESFORD

Stroud Beresford Group is the only women's refuge in Gloucestershire. GCF has been able to provide two grants to this charity this year totalling £6585. The first grant was to enable them to buy additional essential items so that families could isolate as much as possible in their rooms inside the shared accommodation refuge. The grant also provided activity packs for the children living in the refuge. The second grant was to support families who had been living at the refuge to move forward with their lives and address barriers caused or exacerbated by the pandemic.



MINDSONG

Mind Song is a Gloucestershire charity that helps those with Dementia through the therapy of music and song. Prior to Covid all therapy was given in person. Mind Song showed great determination when lockdown was implemented and worked hard to adapt their service so that all their members could continue with the much-needed therapy. GCF were able to provide them with a grant of £5000 to enable them to purchase equipment to move their services online.

“The sessions distract Mum from the pain she’s in and she is always in a good mood for the rest of the day after the session.”.



GARAS

GCF were able to award GARAS a grant of £2000 to enable them to provide an psychologist to lead online support group for young refugees and asylum seekers in Gloucestershire. These group of young people already suffered with PTSD and sleeplessness and this support helped with the stresses of isolation.

EXAMPLES OF GRANT RECIPIENT CASE STUDIES



ALLSORTS

GCF was able to support Allsorts with a grant to fund a member of their team to give online support and activities to families and young people who were socially isolated due to their need to shield during pandemic.

We recently visited Allsorts who said: "This grant has made a huge impact on the lives of Allsorts families during this ongoing period of uncertainty and restriction".



VISION 21

Vision 21 is an environment focused charity that provides volunteering opportunities for people from Gloucestershire who have mental health issues and suffer from isolation. One of their projects is Reclaim where they repair and sell furniture. We were able to provide them with a grant of £3,500 to enable them to make their centre 'COVID safe'. As a result, they were able to start to welcome back volunteers when restrictions were lifted.

The manager of Vision 21 said "P had been alone in isolation from the end of March. He was exceptionally pleased to be invited to return to Reclaim and help get things ready for our re-opening. P suffers from poor mental health and the company he experienced, in his own words, "returned a bit of sanity back to his life"



WIGGLY WORM

Wiggly Worm was awarded a grant to support their work of supplying nutritious meals to those in need across Gloucestershire. During April and May this year as a result of the grant they provided a total of 5,600 meals.

EXAMPLES OF GRANT RECIPIENT CASE STUDIES

Get Grants and GCF's Collaboration



On Wednesday the 16th of September Gloucestershire Community Foundation held an online event in partnership with Get Grants, which saw over 100 participants attend. Get Grants is a Birmingham-based consultancy providing practical support and training for third sector organisations across the UK.

More details of Get Grants can be found here - www.getgrants.org.uk

The aim of the event was to provide an opportunity to local charities and community groups to hear about GCF's Grants Programmes and the available funding. We also provided the opportunity for participants to directly share how they thought GCF should support local charities and community groups with helping to respond and rebuild following the pandemic.

We hoped to attract up to 50 participants and were delighted to have over 100 participants attend, demonstrating the need and want for our support. Comments from participants included...

“Thank you to GCF we have been really pleased with their support”

“Just to say thank you as we have always found GCF to be really efficient and fair, and incredibly helpful. Thanks so much for this, I have found it very useful”

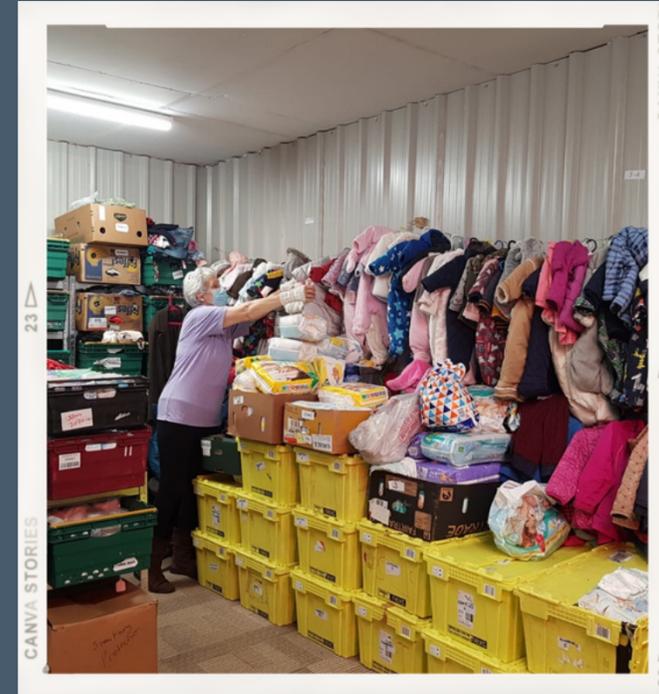
“Thank you all very much, really helpful! You are doing a fantastic job at GCF!”

“I’ve had a really positive and reassuring experience of receiving funding from GCF - thank you for your openness and support, it’s really refreshing!”

Our counties year in pictures



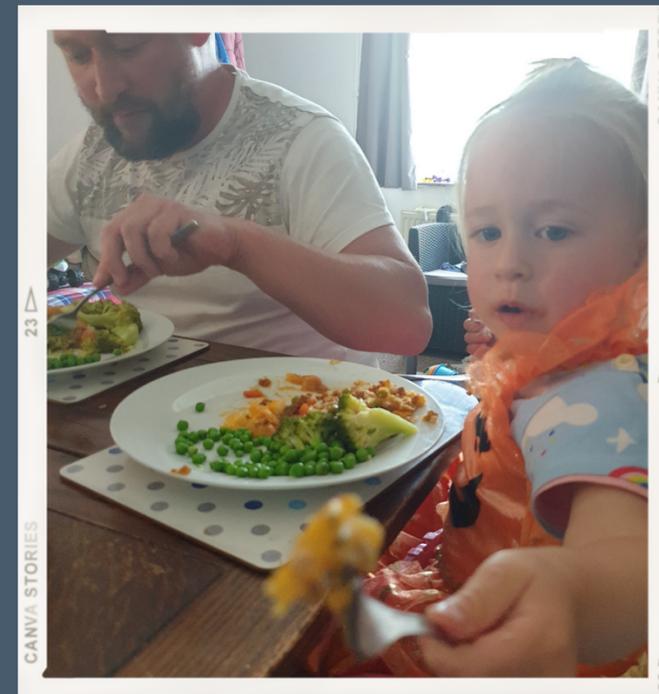
A nurse from Longfield Hospice preparing to go and visit clients



A volunteer from Forest of Dean Baby Bank sorting supplies for those in need

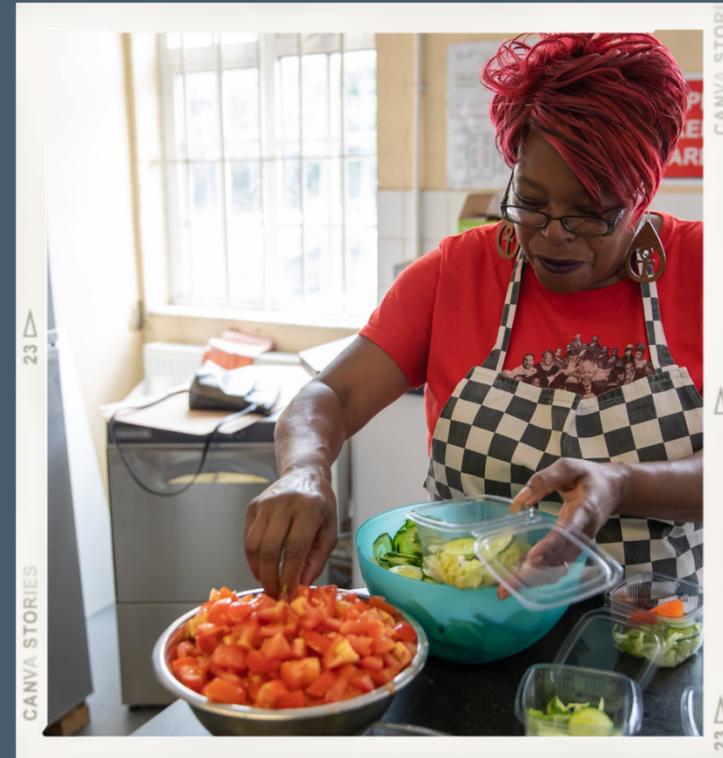


A young person enjoying one of the activities provided by WAM youth club



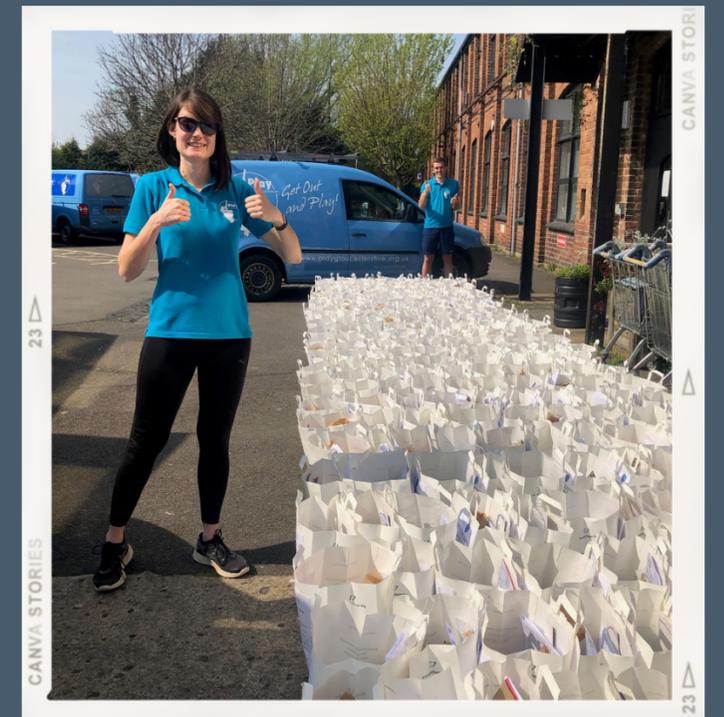
A family enjoying a meal provided by Family Space in Cheltenham

Our counties year in pictures



The Friendship Cafe and FareShares work together to prepare and distribute food for those in need across the county.

PlayGlos work hard to keep young people entertained during lockdown by providing activity packs and separate tents for play sessions



Continued collaboration: Gloucestershire Funders



Gloucestershire Funders is a collaboration between six charitable foundations and organisations within the county who can provide funding for charities, groups, people and activities, in Gloucestershire. We have come together to support the county during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Gloucestershire Funders, in alphabetical order, are:

Barnwood Trust, Create Gloucestershire, Gloucestershire Community Foundation, National Benevolent Charity, Police and Crime Commissioner's Office, Thirty Percy Foundation.

GCF was part of the founding group and has been key to its successful operations during the early part of pandemic we shared our 30 years of experience in grant making and our wide knowledge of the charity sector in Gloucestershire which provided vital intelligence for quick decision making and the distribution of vital funding.

We have continued to work collaboratively and successfully with Gloucestershire Funders and now with further restrictions and an uncertain future, this collaborative approach will continue to be vital for our local charity sector and in providing support for our community.

We have also recently taken part in an online event with VCS called 'Volunteer Listen and Learn' which saw local charities and those responsible for the management in volunteer management come together to share best practice as well as concerns moving forward.

We continue to engage with the Local Enterprise Partnership and the District and County Councils as well as other charitable funders in Gloucestershire, including The Summerfield Charitable Trust, Gloucestershire Disability Fund, National Lottery Community Fund in Gloucestershire, St James's Place Foundation, The Henry Smith Charity, County Grants and The Honourable Company of Gloucestershire.

Gloucestershire Community Foundation Research Project – How can GCF support our third sector through the current crisis and beyond?

After responding to the emergency, we now need to start thinking about the future. How can GCF support the recovery and resilience building, help strengthen our sectors foundations, so our charities not only survive but thrive, able to recover, rebuild and face any further challenges?

Our charity leaders and their organisations are being relied on now more than ever and in many cases, they are the only people/organisations supporting our most vulnerable, when statutory services are not available. Most charity leaders have said these past months have been some of the toughest times of their careers, therefore in order to find out how we can support our community in the best ways possible, we knew we had to listen to our community. As a result, GCF has taken the active approach of carrying out research, asking what our local charities feel they need in all aspects of support, for the much-needed work to continue.

Building both quantitative and qualitative research, we sent out a survey entitled 'Build Back Better'. It was distributed to all the organisations we have worked with over the last 10 months. We also encouraged those charities that we have yet to work with to respond. We have convened a live online community meeting with 100 charities attending as well as listening, learning and recording feedback from our direct grantee relationships. We also read much of the local and national reporting that is relevant to this research.

The aim of this research is to make sure that GCF is providing the most appropriate financial support where possible and identifying other types of support that might be needed to make sure our community groups and charities are robust and supported enough to survive, sustain and thrive, in our current ever changing climate.

We have now finished gathering our data and aim to have produced our findings by early 2021 so that we have in depth knowledge supported by hard evidence about what Gloucestershire needs are for 2021 and we will be sharing our findings with the Gloucestershire community once it has been completed.



Partnerships - Launch of a Mentor Programme for Gloucestershire Charity Leaders

During the crisis, GCF have delivered £800K to over 140 organisations, delivering the largest amount of emergency funding for any one organisation in Gloucestershire. GCF responded rapidly to the crisis that the pandemic and lockdown period has produced by setting up a crisis appeal in March and a light touch fast grant-making process to provide emergency support to communities in Gloucestershire via voluntary organisations.

After commencing research in October, we surveyed 100 Gloucestershire organisations that told us that in order to survive for the long term they would benefit from other potential support avenues, besides funding to help them survive and thrive.

The number one request from charities was to “help them form partnerships and collaboration” followed by “marketing support.” “Resilience and Finance planning” and “Mentoring for charity leaders” all of which we can deliver through an official mentoring programme. We have listened and taken prompt action, so that in early 2021, GCF will launch a new mentoring programme for Gloucestershire's charity leaders, in partnership with the Cranfield Trust and The Honourable Company of Gloucestershire.

This is a programme that will help build strength into our third sector and it will help charity leaders navigate through current challenges, supporting them to grow, so they not only survive but thrive. This programme will help develop their skills, resilience and support networks, to face any future challenges and crisis in a rapidly changing world. Our charity leaders and their organisations are being relied on now more than ever: in many cases they are the only ones often supporting our most vulnerable when statutory services are not available.

This program addresses one of the key requests from community leaders within the county. It will fill an existing gap and help charity leaders to navigate through these difficult times. Our partnership's long-term mission is to achieve impact through identifying local needs and supporting positive action. In line with this and as part of our response to the ongoing crisis, we have identified four specific needs of charities in Gloucestershire that will form the basis of the mentoring programme:

1. Mentoring for charity leaders to support their response to the current crisis and their longer-term development.
2. Peer to peer development and support for both mentors and mentees - supporting collaborations and partnerships.
3. Group coaching of GCF Grantees in the form of workshops, webinars, and other group interventions.
4. Wider support to the third sector, open to those organisations outside of this programme. Immediate access to advice on managerial and organisational issues

Welcoming new people to the GCF team

New Trustees: We are delighted to welcome four new trustees to our board;



Richard Ingle - Richard became Chief Finance Officer of the sustainable bank Triodos Bank UK Ltd in May 2019, having joined the business in April 2018 as Head of Finance. He was previously Head of Financial Management for the Banking and Commercial Property divisions of Nationwide Building Society and subsequently led the finance team for the unsecured lending business of Bank of Ireland UK. Before moving into Financial Services, Richard held a number of senior finance roles in the energy industry, in the UK and Germany. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, holds a joint US and European MBA and also an Economics degree. In his leadership role for a sustainable bank Richard leverages his experience in financial and treasury management, strategy development and governance to support Triodos's mission to help create a society that protects and promotes quality of life and human dignity for all.



Richard Waite - Richard has worked as an engineer, a management consultant and as the Managing Director and Chairman of a number of computer software companies and has a wealth of experience in the private and public sectors. He is also an expert on recycling. Richard's philanthropic interests include supporting young people's mental health, LGBT issues, helping disadvantaged young people generally and alleviating homelessness.



Richard Bradley - Richard has lived and worked in all areas within the county of Gloucestershire. Through a long career with the Gloucestershire Constabulary, Local Government and since 2012, with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner he has developed not only a great understanding of the county but also its people and he has accrued a wealth of experience from this. He has a strong connection with the voluntary and community sector and other statutory partners and truly values this and, in particular, the opportunities it presents to work collaboratively. He cares passionately about working with the community and providing the best possible support to those who are in most need. On behalf of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Richard was responsible for the introduction of the Commissioner's Fund in 2012, a fund which has since awarded in excess of £12m to some 480 community-based projects within the county. Richard is also a member of the High Sheriff's Funding Panel where he is able to share his understanding of the county and its communities.

Welcoming new people to the GCF team continued...



Helen Lovatt - Helen is delighted to return to the GCF board for 2020-2021, in her role as the High Sheriff of Gloucestershire. Born in New Zealand, Helen moved to Gloucestershire as a teenager. After completing her Law degree, on qualifying as a Solicitor, she returned to practice in Gloucestershire. Helen juggled her career as a corporate finance lawyer with family life, as well as a commitment to the voluntary sector and raising money for local charities. She also took on governance roles at her children's schools and at Gloucestershire College. Since escaping from the law in 2010, she has carried out a range of business consultancy roles and devoted more time to the voluntary sector. She was a trustee of Gloucestershire Community Foundation for eight years and was Warden of the Honourable Company of Gloucestershire until April 2020.

Her theme for her year as High Sheriff is ACES (adverse childhood experiences) which resonates with the grant making by the High Sheriff's Fund, managed by GCF.



New member of staff - In October we welcomed Laurie Davies to the team as our new Projects Officer. Laurie has experience of working in charity and public sector as well as a MSc in Marketing and Communications. She will be supporting Talitha and Sarah in the day to day running of GCF as well as helping with marketing and research as the work of GCF grows.

Recruitment of new grant panel members

We are also working on a new recruitment drive for panel members. We want to make sure that our grant panels are representative of the communities we support in Gloucestershire and are working on marketing this new opportunity to the wider networks. If you have anyone in mind that you think would be a positive addition to the panel members, then please do contact Talitha with your suggestions. We will make sure everyone is notified when we start the recruitment drive so that you can share in your networks.

Thank you



Lastly, we would like to take this opportunity to say thank you. As we all know this has been a year that none of us could have predicted and one where people have seen real hardship but also real commitment and passion.

We would like to say a massive thank you to all our trustees, especially our Chair James Tabor, who have provided support and hard work in a busy time.

Thank you also to our amazing financial supporters who have provided much needed funds to enable to carry out our much-needed work, without them none of this would have been possible.

Finally, a massive thank you to all the charities and community groups we have worked with. They have provided essential support to the communities of Gloucestershire (as well as the lovely photos featured throughout this report) .

Our work looks set to continue but we must take stock of the amazing things we have achieved collectively as we enter another period of uncertainty where undoubtedly our communities will need us more than ever.

We continue to be hugely grateful to our generous supporters without whom this would not be possible



The Hayward Waite Charitable Fund, The Honourable Company of Gloucestershire and the many other donors who have generously supported our appeal