

October 2008

LOCAL FOOTBALL CLUB KICK OFF GRASSROOTS GRANTS

Cullompton Rangers football club has become one of the first community groups across the county to receive a Grassroots Grant from Devon's local charity for local people, Devon Community Foundation.

It's one of twenty community and voluntary groups which have received grants totalling almost £70,000 from the Tiverton based Foundation this week, as part of its £1.4 million Grassroots Grants programme.

The grants are designed to help small groups get their hands on small amounts of cash which can make a big difference to their local communities and local people.

The grant of £1,867 to the Youth Rangers will be used to buy new equipment and kit for the club which provides training five days a week for over 200 members ranging in age from under five to fifteen.

Debbie Whiteway from Cullompton Rangers explains, "The club has gone from strength to strength over the past 12 months and this grant will help a great deal in further enhancing the opportunities we are able to offer to the young people .It means even more youngsters will be able to participate in the sport of football and give all a sense of taking part and sportsmanship."

Other groups across the county to receive grants have included Ilfracombe Youth Canoe Club, Lymptone @ Play, Bigbury Memorial Hall, Appledore Book Festival, Chittle Cherubs Pre-School and Soundart community radio station – to name but a few.

Grassroots Grants of between £250 - £5,000 are available to community and voluntary groups with a turnover of less than £20,000. Grants can come through in as little as six weeks, or even faster for a small amount in an emergency, and the application process is simple.

Kathy Beechen, Assistant Director of Devon Community Foundation explains, "There's hundreds of volunteers across Devon doing great work but struggling to find the cash they need. A small Grassroots Grant can make a huge difference."

As well as making grants, Devon Community Foundation has also launched its Grassroots Challenge to build a permanent source of small grants for voluntary and community groups across Devon. It has £1 million available to match £1 for £1 any donations made to the Challenge until September 2009. With gift aid, that means every donation to the Foundation of £10 is worth £25 to local groups.

“For companies and people looking to give back to the local community this is the most cost-effective way to give and one which will make the greatest difference to Devon’s volunteers and local people both now and for the future.”

Any group interested in applying for a Grassroots Grants or anyone interested in supporting the Grassroots Challenge should email kathy@devoncf.com or visit www.devoncf.com.

- ends -

Press enquiries to Sarah Gunn on 01752 509581