

Community Grants Update

Over the past six months, we have worked directly with CSEU district committees in the North West, the South West, the East Midlands and the Scotland on a pilot programme designed to support local organisations that the committees felt contributed positively to the communities they represent.

Throughout this period, we have distributed over £200,000 to more than 20 organisations, including many experiencing a particularly

difficult time during COVID19. While the organisations funded are too numerous to name in full, they include:

- Vauxhall Community Law & Information Centre
- Rosyth Community Projects
- Derbyshire Unemployed Workers' Centres (DUWC)
- Derbyshire Asbestos Support Team (DAST)
- Improving Lives Plymouth
- Leicester South Foodbank

- Devon Community Foundation (DCF)
- Teardrops Supporting the Homeless
- Leicester Unemployed Workers' Centre
- Men's Shed Fleetwood

The feedback from these organisations has already been inspiring, and we look forward to developing and expanding the community grants programme further in the months to come.

“There are decades where nothing happens, and there are weeks where decades happen.” LENIN

So much has changed since the last Alex Ferry Foundation newsletter that it is difficult to know where to begin. As every reader will be keenly aware, we are all living through circumstances that have fundamentally altered the way we live our lives, both inside and outside of the workplace. As an organisation dedicated to both supporting communities and furthering the debate around 'good work', this has meant the Foundation moving rapidly from 'start-up mode' directly into a

large-scale strategic funding programme in order that we meet our charitable objectives at a time when they have never become more pressing and relevant than ever before.

It is with some pleasure then, that we are able to offer the updates contained in this edition of the newsletter. The past six months, despite the practical and operational challenges presented by COVID19, has seen the foundation go from strength to strength; distributing substantial

funds to vital local organisations, supporting a range of high quality work-related research, and beginning to build strong connections between trade unions, research institutions and civil society more broadly.

Although not exhaustive, we hope this selection of updates gives a flavour of the work we have been doing as we continue our discharge our charitable mission in the service of our beneficiaries and the wider working community.



Ian Waddell

A new chapter

The Foundation's first independent trustee, Martyn Evans, stood down from the Foundation in the summer. This follows a period during which Martyn played an integral role in establishing the Foundation from an organisational and regulatory perspective, as well as in shaping its initial strategy. As the Foundation heads into a more fully operational period, we would like to place on record our thanks to Martyn for his work. As the articles of the foundation state, we are required to have an independent board member, and recruitment has already begun.

Telling our Story

Since our last update, we have also made progress on establishing the reputation of the Foundation. Our website is now live, and contains links and updates to some of the work we have supported, alongside blogs on issues related to work. In addition, the Alex Ferry twitter feed is gaining in popularity, and you can find regular information and comment on work related issues by following and interacting with us there. And lastly, despite the limitations caused by COVID19, the executive have been working tirelessly in various meetings and fora, making the case for greater collaboration and exchange between civil society and the union movement, as well as encouraging other funders to consider supporting issues relating to the 'good work' agenda.



Research grants update

As well as supporting communities directly, the Foundation was also established in order to fund research, so that over the medium and longer term, new thinking focused on good work, the future of work, worker's rights, and worker voice would be able to shape the public and policy debates in such a way that benefits workers, former workers and trade unions.



Over the past few months, the Foundation has made considerable progress in this regard. Recently completed and published projects include a study on trade union representation in civil society governance, and research capturing changes to working time during COVID19 which received substantial coverage in the UK print and broadcast media.

Ongoing projects include work that is focused on; the future of UK steel, models of a just transition, trade union adaptation during COVID19, the impact of automation in the engineering sector, and the broad impacts of the labour market polarisation and automation on the future of work.

Alongside our strong relationships with trade unions, we have already established research relationships with organisations such as IPPR, University of Newcastle, Common Wealth, Unions21, Autonomy and the University of St Andrews.

Small donations

In a bid to be as flexible as possible, the Foundation has also made a number of smaller donations to organisations whose mission aligns with the charitable purpose of the foundation. To this end we are pleased to have made donations to the Working Class Movement Library, The May Day Worker's Archive, as well as a contribution to a forthcoming video which depicts trade union involvement in working time struggles throughout history.

What's next?

Like all organisations, the next few months are something of an unknown, with ongoing turbulence in the financial markets as well as in the broader civic, political and economic landscape.



Despite this, we are confident that the Foundation will continue to deliver on its charitable mission and expand our provision of community support whilst also continuing to develop our research portfolio.

There are a number of exciting projects and developments currently under review and we look forward to updating you about them in due course. In the meantime, we would like to thank you for your ongoing support of the Foundation and its work.



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