

# Community Fund *Supplement*

## *10 Years On*

A series of public meetings between 1999 and 2003 were held to deal with the problem of meeting requests to support new village initiatives, and in particular how requests for funding in between Street Fairs might be met. It was agreed that a Community Fund should be created specifically to deal with this need and it came into being in 2003, with the objective of encouraging new initiatives that would benefit the community. The most significant of these so far being the Fun Day at Milton Abbey held for the first time in 2009 and repeated in 2010, a most successful event meeting the objective of bringing the community together in a social event organised exclusively for Milton Abbas residents.

Since its inception, the Community Fund has distributed £3,600 out of £6,071 which has been received from five Street Fairs and other fundraising over the ten year period. Only five grants have exceeded £200 - to Flower Power, the community projector and screen, the two Fun Days and the application phase of the Milton Abbey Heritage Lottery Project (which will be described in the next issue of the Bulletin). In comparison, during the same period the Street Fair has distributed £154,000 to community groups.

Projects that have been supported, among others, include :

### *Fun Days...*





*The Diamond Jubilee Celebrations*

*Flower Power Start-Up*



*Heritage Trail Signs*

*A Bravery Award*



*A research award to Village History Display Boards*



*Contribution to 'Save Our Post Office' campaign*



*Dunbury School Cup for Community Achievement*

Applications for grants are reviewed by the trustees. The current balance of £2,467 held by the Fund will be increased by £1,000 from Street Fair 2013. Current commitments include financing the proposed Fun Day in 2014 ( free to all residents), together with a grant to the Heritage Lottery Fund project of Milton Abbey, initiating the process of local match funding that is required by the Lottery and encouraging further local fundraising for the scheme.

Applications for small grants for new initiatives are always welcome. To accommodate these demands, the trustees aim to maintain a reserve of about £2,000 at any one time.

*by Michael McAvoy*

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