

# 1969–2019

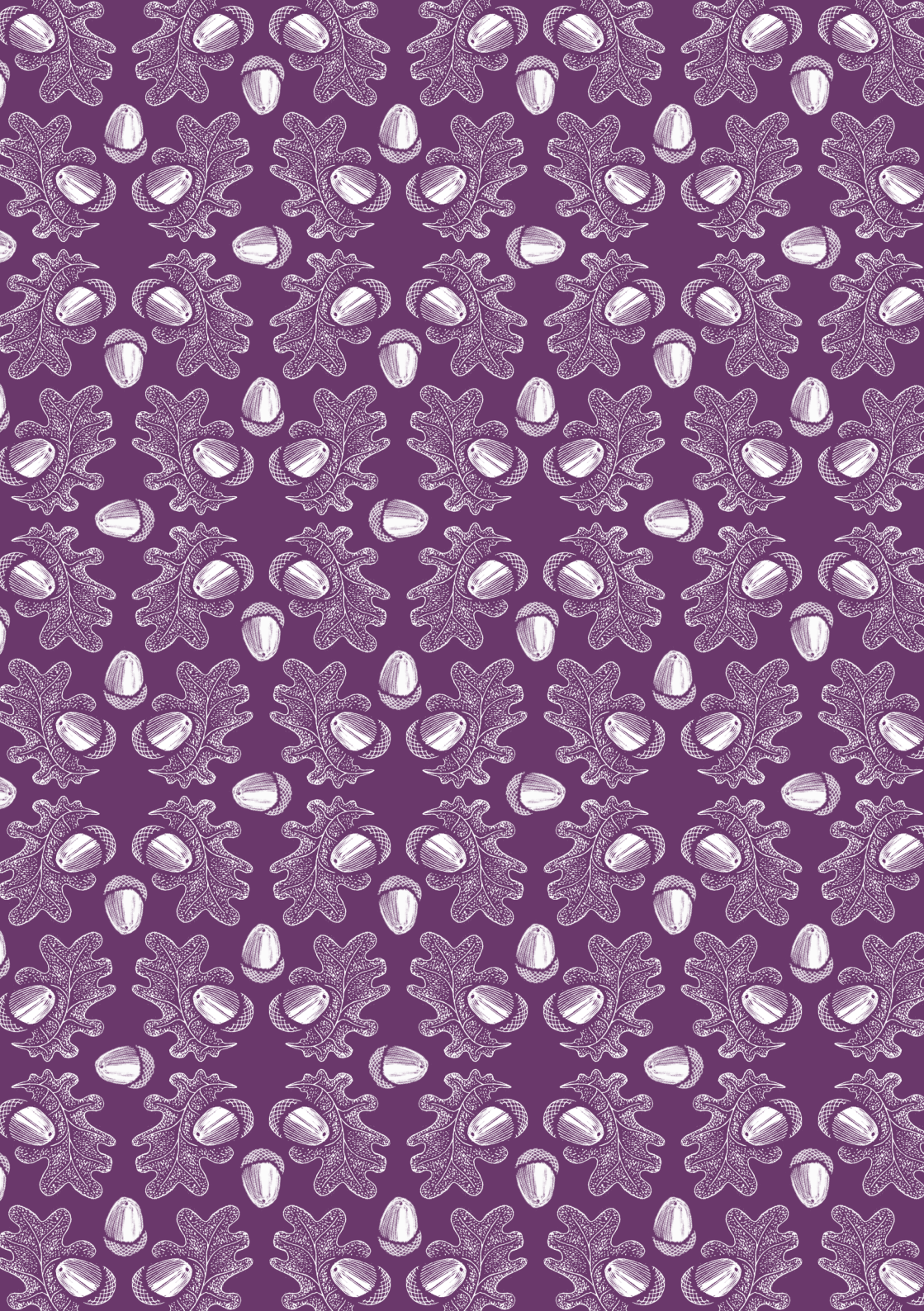
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## A history of the Baring Foundation in fifty grants

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By David Cutler and Harriet Lowe





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## About the authors

David Cutler is Director and Harriet Lowe is the Communications and Research Officer of the Baring Foundation.

## About the illustrator

Hilary Paynter is one of the UK's leading wood engravers. Born in Dunfermline in 1943, she studied sculpture and wood engraving at Portsmouth College of Art. Her wood-engravings are held in many public collections including the Victoria & Albert, the Ashmolean, Fitzwilliam and Yale. Hilary combined wood engraving with special needs education for thirty years, becoming a full-time artist in 2000. She has contributed significantly to the revival of the medium through her involvement in the Society of Wood Engravers.

Hilary was one of the artists commissioned as part of the Late Style programme, an initiative of the Foundation's Arts and Older People strand in 2014, which was designed to highlight the skills of older established artists and the potential for artistic excellence at any time of life.

## Acknowledgements

The authors have primarily used the written records of the Foundation and would like to thank Clara Harrow, Archivist and Art Manager of ING London for her help as well as Dr Justin Davis-Smith for his expert advice on the development of the voluntary sector.



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# Foreword

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I am very happy to have been asked to provide a foreword for the document celebrating the Baring Foundation's 50th Birthday. The Foundation was originally set up in 1969 with the intention of safeguarding the independence of Baring's business. Whilst it failed in this objective, owing to the disastrous events of 1995, it is pleasing to note that it has, and continues to play a useful role in supporting the voluntary sector, with over £100 million distributed to a huge range of charities since its establishment.

I was not the first Chairman of the Foundation, though it was certainly my idea and my responsibility for getting the partners of Baring Brothers to agree to the idea. The Foundation survived the collapse of its principal investment in 1995 and continued successfully because of a significant investment portfolio.

This originated with the Manor Charitable Trust ('MCT'), where I was also a trustee and which had considerable holdings of securities. This charity, which was founded in 1924, had grown out of charitable activities in the East End of London by a small number of Old Etonians, led by Arthur Villiers who was himself a partner in Barings. With the demise of most of them it seemed to me clear that the demands of the main beneficiary, which was essentially a boys' club in Hackney Wick, were becoming less substantial relative to MCT's income than they had been in the years before the 1939-45 war.

With substantial assets, better attention to the charity's activities were overdue and I therefore got the agreement of my fellow trustees that the MCT should be amalgamated with the Baring Foundation. Here we had an extremely able and highly regarded manager in the shape of Barry Till, whose talents were entirely suitable for running the increased resources resulting from the merger.

In my view a flourishing voluntary sector, independent of both government and business, is an essential component of a healthy and decent society and I wish the Baring Foundation many more years of constructive participation in the sector.

**Lord Ashburton**

*Founding member and former Chair of the Baring Foundation*

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# Introduction

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This volume constitutes a rather unusual approach to considering the history of a grantmaking foundation. The Baring Foundation not only seeks to strengthen civil society at home and abroad, it is also a part of civil society. Therefore we have placed the development of the Foundation within the story of the wider flows and eddies of the voluntary sector in the UK over the last half century. It is noticeable, as the decades fly by, that there are few issues on the social agenda where the Foundation has not made a contribution, whether that be homelessness, housing associations, play schemes and youth work, women's rights and domestic violence, alcohol and drug addiction, disabled people, educational and employment opportunities for the disadvantaged, lonely older people, the AIDS crisis, prison reform and climate change – the list is almost endless.

Most foundation histories record the contribution of key individuals. This volume wishes to make the case that the history of this Foundation is the sum of the actions of many people. It has been a team effort. We have tried to record all trustees, staff and advisers who have served during this period. Leadership is of course important too, and the Chairs and Directors of the Foundation are individually identified.

This account is different too in putting a selection of grants at the heart of our story. The Foundation has made grants worth over £120 million, so choosing just fifty has proved invidious. They are intended to exemplify both the enduring mission of the Foundation and the different ways this has been expressed over the decades.

The trauma of the collapse of Barings Bank in 1995 is well known. What is now less well remembered is what a generous supporter it had been of civil society. At the centre of our story is a hopeful lesson that has wider salience: how a thriving organisation meets an existential challenge with principle, agility, resolve and intelligence to reinvent itself.

This is also a story of corporate generosity, not only of Barings Bank which enabled the Foundation by 1994 to become one of the largest independent funders in the UK, but also of ING bank which took over Barings. At the same time, they gave a magnificent donation of £10 million to pay for the Foundation's ongoing grant commitments and have continued to support the Foundation ever since through pro bono services and free accommodation. We remain deeply grateful for ING's continued generosity.

**David Cutler**

*Director*

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# About the Baring Foundation

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## Our purpose

We are an independent foundation which protects and advances human rights and promotes inclusion. We believe in the role of a strong, independent civil society nationally and internationally.

We use our resources to enable civil society to work with people experiencing discrimination and disadvantage and to act strategically to tackle the root causes of injustice and inequality.

## Our values

### **Collaboration**

We seek to build positive, purposeful partnerships with grant recipients, grantmakers and others in order to work together for socially just change.

### **Creativity and flexibility**

We use our funds to strengthen civil society, responding creatively, flexibly and pragmatically.

### **Learning**

We add value to our work by encouraging the development and communication of knowledge and evidence.

### **Openness and respect**

We aim to be as accessible as possible within clear programme guidelines, treating grant-seekers and grant recipients with courtesy and respect.

### **Sustainability**

We help to create enduring change both in the lives of those served by the work we are funding and by building the capacity of organisations to become more sustainable and resilient. The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a framework for our work.

### **Voice**

We believe in the importance of 'speaking truth to power' and use the independence and influence we have to amplify the views of civil society and the people it serves.

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## The grants

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Over the past fifty years, the Baring Foundation has made grants worth over £120 million. The fifty grants we have chosen to feature here are intended to exemplify both the enduring mission of the Foundation and the different ways this has been expressed over the decades.

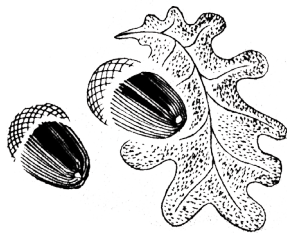
The values of all grants in this book are given first their contemporary value and then their inflation-adjusted figure at the time of writing in December 2018 [in brackets].

*Illustration (opposite):  
Royal Albert Hall Centenary Appeal;  
Shelter and the Scottish Wildlife Trust.*





# 1969




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## Prehistory and inception

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The social change sweeping British society in the Swinging Sixties went hand in hand with a highly dynamic and creative period for the voluntary sector and social action. It saw the birth of a series of charities which went on to become household names. Peter Benenson's response to political prisoners in Portugal had led, for example, to the setting up of Amnesty International and Ken Loach's film *Cathy Come Home* to the establishment of the homelessness charity, Crisis. Another housing charity, Shelter, had been set up slightly earlier in 1966, and received an early grant from the Foundation.

By the 1960s Barings Bank had already had a long and eventful history. This has been recorded in a number of places, including *The Sixth Great Power* by Philip Ziegler.<sup>1</sup> The more recent past can be found in an oral history of Barings at the British Library and extracts reproduced in *In the Locker of My Memory* published by the Baring Archive in 2012. Records show that by the mid-1960s, if not before, the Bank was making a steady series of donations towards charitable appeals in its own right.

The letter to all staff from Lord Cromer on 26th March 1969, the day after the legal inception of the Baring Foundation, records that its creation came after 'many years of study and deliberation'. Seventy-four percent of 'B' shares representing the equity of the business was vested in the newly created Foundation with the resultant dividends. Seven initial members were appointed, including Lord Cromer himself and Lord Ashburton.

The members were clear that the intention behind the creation of the Foundation was to safeguard the independence of the business, as well as supporting charitable causes. The scope of that charitable giving was drawn as widely as possible and followed the kind of donations the bank had been making for at least five years. These were categorised at the time as: youth organisations; the study of international affairs; education; church and religion; medical, sick and invalids; Russian; social welfare; the arts; National Council of Social Services; memorial funds and sundries. The initial level of giving was quite similar to that of the bank before the creation of the Foundation.

1. *The sixth great power: a history of one of the greatest of all banking families: the house of Barings, 1762–1929*, Philip Ziegler, 1988.

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## 01 1969

£500 [£7,824]

### Royal Albert Hall Centenary Appeal

The Foundation's contribution to the Royal Albert Hall's Centenary Appeal was one of the larger grants made in the first year of the Foundation's formal operation. The public appeal funded a comprehensive refurbishment, including new seats in the auditorium, re-painting of all the corridors and public areas and a deep-clean of the outside brickwork and terracotta. A Grand Centenary Concert was held in March 1971 exactly one hundred years to the day since the opening concert.

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## 02 1969

£250 [£3,912]

### Shelter

Another of the Foundation's first grants was to housing charity, Shelter, formed in 1966 in response to the UK's housing problems and to provide a voice for the country's 'hidden homeless' living in overcrowded slums. 1966 was also famously the year that the BBC screen Ken Loach's film *Cathy Come Home* which, watched by 12 million people, ensured early support for Shelter's work.

Shelter's campaigning has achieved landmark changes in the law over the years. An early victory among many, was the 1977 Housing (Homeless Persons) Act which introduced a duty for local authorities to house homeless people.

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# 1969

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## Total grant spend

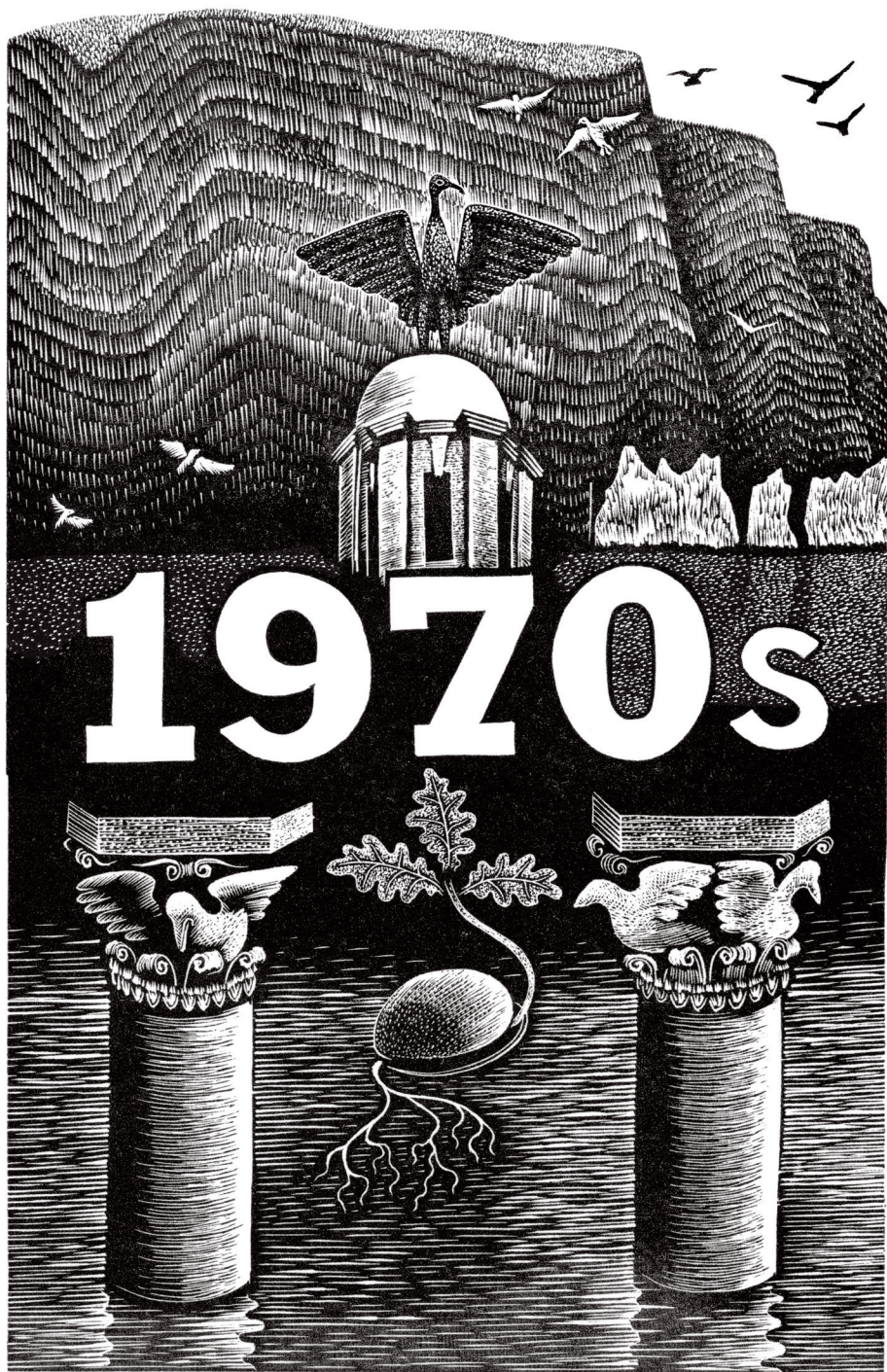
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1969	£20,071	[£314,066]
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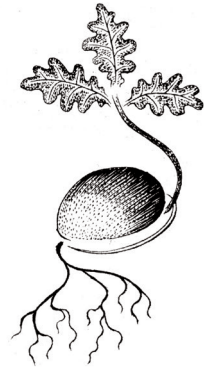


*Illustration (opposite):  
Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine; the National Trust's  
Neptune Appeal; and the Blackfriars Settlement in London.*





# 1970s




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## The early days

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The 1970s are often seen as a period of tension and economic decay with politics see-sawing between beleaguered Conservative and Labour administrations. Government funding for the voluntary sector began to rise and a degree of importance and centralisation in policy was marked by the creation of the Voluntary Services Unit in the Home Office. At the end of the decade, Lord Wolfenden chaired a commission to look at the role and function of the voluntary sector over the next 25 years and emphasised the importance of the umbrella or 'infrastructure' organisations which were mainly membership bodies. A wide range of social issues, some of which had only emerged in the 1960s as high profile campaigns, continued to demand philanthropic attention, including domestic violence (with Chiswick Women's Aid established in 1971), drug and alcohol abuse, racial equality, children in care and the 'condition of the elderly', amongst many others.

The Foundation's giving grew swiftly from £20,000 in 1970 to almost half a million by the end of the decade and doubled between 1976 and 1977. Applications or appeals came in through letters and in increasing volumes as the decade progressed. The Foundation therefore needed to supplement the support that it received through the lone position of a Secretary. They appointed a Consultant or Adviser in the latter half of 1973 who, the following year, supplied them with a masterful overview of the voluntary sector and the opportunities for focusing their funding. The trustees continued to give quite broadly but to concentrate on national bodies, London and Merseyside, and to favour 'unpopular' causes where it would be harder to raise funds from the government or public.

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## 03 1970

£35,000 [£514,705]

### Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine

Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine was founded in 1898 when Liverpool was a prominent port city with extensive trade links with the rest of the world. Barings Bank had a long association with the city of Liverpool, having established a merchant house there in 1832 which remained in operation until 1979.

The Foundation gave one of the largest of its early grants to the School in 1970 to fund a Baring Senior Lectureship in Tropical Community Medicine. The first incumbent was posted to Amadu Bello University in Zaria, northern Nigeria, in 1971 to help develop a new Department of Community Medicine.

Nine years later, a grant of £20,000 [£96,197] was also made for a Professorship in Entomology.

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## 04 1972

£250 [£3,136]

### Family Service Units

Family Service Units had their origins in the Pacifist Service Units in Liverpool, Manchester and Stepney during the Second World War which offered befriending and support to poor families living in the inner-cities who were affected by the Blitz. In 1948, the services provided were renamed Family Service Units and branches were set up across Britain.

The Family Service Units were absorbed into the charity Family Welfare Association (now Family Action) in 2006 but its innovative model of family case work had a huge influence on modern social work practice.

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**05** 1973

**£100 [£1,150]**

## Old Ben, now NewstrAID

NewstrAID first started out life as the Newsvendors' Benevolent & Provident Institution in 1839 to help men and women from the newspaper industry in need. The long name proved too wordy for cockney street sellers who affectionately renamed it 'Old Ben'.

The charity continues today to support people who have been employed in newspaper and magazine distribution and who have fallen on hard times, providing help in various ways including with financial support, benefits advice, debt counselling, and a volunteer (Almoner) visiting service.

"Old Ben" was one of what the Foundation called 'small regulars' – causes which received small sums on a regular basis over several years.

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**06** 1973

**£500 [£5,749]**

## Ugandan Asian Relief Trust

The Ugandan Asian Relief Trust was set up under the chairmanship of Lord Sainsbury to fundraise to help families to settle in the UK after their expulsion by Idi Amin in 1972.

In a letter to the Chair of the Uganda Resettlement Board, Lord Sainsbury wrote that 'vast majority of the grants have gone to individual families who have, on average, received about £50 per family for such things as carpeting, curtains, heaters, clothes, the tools of a man's trade, kitchen and household utensils, soft furnishings, etc., all the one hundred and one things which people in this country take for granted but which these poor people had to leave behind them in Uganda'.

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**07** 1974**£15,000 [£148,618]**

## Neptune Appeal, National Trust

The public Neptune Appeal was launched in 1965 by the National Trust to enable it to buy, preserve and ensure public access to the coastline of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Trust bought the Needles on the Isle of Wight in 1975, for example. Five hundred and seventy four of the 775 miles of coast the National Trust owns were bought thanks to this Appeal.

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**08** 1975**£10,000 [£79,748]**

## Child Poverty Action Group

The Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) was set up in 1965 to campaign for action on family and child poverty. The group was founded by sociologist Harriett C Wilson, who organised the first meeting in Toynbee Hall, alongside others such as Brian Abel-Smith and the pioneering sociologist Peter Townsend whose work on poverty was one of the inspirations for the founding of CPAG.

CPAG continues today to develop evidence-based policy solutions and campaign for action on child poverty.

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**09** 1977**£30,000 [£177,198]**

## ITDG, now Practical Action

The Intermediate Technology Development Group was founded in 1965 by radical economist and philosopher, Fritz Schumacher. Its mission was to promote 'human-scale' technological solutions to the problems of poverty, which could be managed and maintained by local people. By the mid-1970s, it had established a technical advice service, expert consultancy services and a publishing arm.

In 2005, ITDG became Practical Action. It continues to work across the world with offices in East, West and Southern Africa, South Asia, and Latin America.

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**10** 1977
**£10,000 [£59,066]**

## Blackfriars Settlement

Blackfriars Settlement was founded by women from Oxford, Cambridge and London universities as the 'Women's University Settlement' in 1887, to 'promote the welfare of the poorer districts of London, more especially women and children'. Women from the London colleges could live in the Settlement free in exchange their work in the community. The focus changed after 1950, putting greater emphasis on involvement by local residents and its work expanded to include ex-offenders, children with learning difficulties and older people.

Today, Blackfriars Settlement provides a range of services to the community including a legal advice clinic, adult skills and education, and social clubs for older residents.

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**11** 1979
**£15,000 [£88,599]**

## Runnymede Trust

In June 1978, the then Director of the Foundation, Barry Till, reported to Council the outcomes of his discussions with Professor Alan Little of the Community Relations Commission set up under the Race Relations Act of 1968 and suggested that there was scope for 'charitable pump-priming' to support Black and Ethnic Minority communities. In 1979, the Foundation signalled its developing interest in this area with a grant to the Runnymede Trust.

The Runnymede Trust had been established in 1968 and has participated in some of the most important events and developments in race relations and tackling racial discrimination in the UK.

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# 1970s

## Annual grant spend

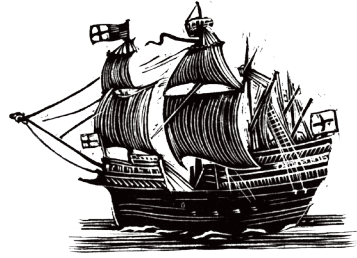
1970	£20,035	[£294,632]
1971	£34,600	[£464,937]
1972	£46,225	[£579,835]
1973	£58,533	[£672,973]
1974	£183,625	[£1,819,326]
1975	£178,465	[£1,423,219]
1976	£173,465	[£1,186,982]
1977	£353,365	[£2,087,183]
1978	£473,212	[£2,580,938]
1979	£481,650	[£2,316,661]



*Illustration (opposite):  
The Mary Rose Trust; Tate Liverpool; Graeae Theatre;  
and the Sunderland Youth Employment Project.*



# 1980s




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## An increasingly prosperous and professional organisation

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The 1980s was an ambiguous period for the voluntary sector. The decade began with a recession and the Thatcher Government made a wide-ranging series of social policy reforms. Public funding on some services such as health and education declined, although not as dramatically as after 2010, and this meant cuts to voluntary sector funding from local authorities. On the other hand, welfare spending rose due to unemployment. However, the Government programme of 'New Public Management' meant that providers for public services other than the state, be they commercial or voluntary sector, were increasingly given public funding.

This approach has waxed and waned but continued as part of public policy and with it the debate about the merits and demerits of contracts as opposed to grants as a form of funding. The Government created a major role for the voluntary sector in many schemes, especially around unemployment, a defining issue of the age, with the Manpower Services Commission. By its close in 1988, half of the projects of its principal initiative, the Community Programme, were delivered by the voluntary sector.

Another defining issue was the AIDS crisis and the response by gay activists and their allies, including through self-help groups. The voluntary sector expanded greatly over the decade rising from 132,200 registered charities at the start to 171,000 at the end. While the Government seemed to struggle to clarify its approach towards

the voluntary sector, it was clear that volunteer effort by individuals and private philanthropy were good and despite its less coherent approach to the organised voluntary sector, it nevertheless contributed towards its expansion.

The Foundation was an active participant in this history. Its grantmaking accelerated, especially from 1986, for two reasons. The Foundation shared some trustees with the Manor Charitable Trust (MCT) and it was mutually agreed that the two bodies would merge. This meant the addition to the Foundation's finances of an endowment of £20 million. It also meant that the Foundation would provide a steady and major stream of funding to what became Villiers Park Educational Trust, which had different manifestations over the years but is centrally concerned with educational opportunities for less advantaged young people. A consolidation of MCT's approach in the 1980s left them with a residential and conference centre for this purpose in Foxton, near Cambridge.

Around the same time, Barings Bank restructured its financing to transfer all Ordinary Non-Voting Shares to the Foundation. These dividends and covenanted donations from the Bank, along with the merger with MCT, meant that by the end of the decade, giving had increased from £600,000 to £4.8 million. Unsurprisingly the Foundation was becoming increasingly well known, receiving 4,000 applications a year by the end of the decade. Trustees continued to fund 'unpopular causes' but they were loath to fill the gap left by the retreating state.

To deal with expanding supply and demand for funding, the small staff team slightly increased and by the end of the decade comprised a full-time Director, four administrative staff and three part-time advisers in London, the North East of England and Merseyside. Particular attention was paid to the Tyne and Wear Foundation, with the Baring Foundation seeing itself as acting as midwife to what has become the largest community foundation in the UK. The Foundation also gave money to other grantmakers which they felt had greater expertise in a field, such as the Housing Association Charitable Trust, the Historic Churches Preservation Trust, and the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust.

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**12** 1980

**£60,000 [£244,596]**

## **Mental Health Foundation**

The Mental Health Foundation was established in 1949 as the Mental Health Research Fund to raise money for research into mental health. In 1972, it changed both its name and focus to become the Mental Health Foundation and shifted away from laboratory research to working directly with and learning from people who experience mental health problems. MHF continues to work at the forefront of mental health, conducting research, working to change public policy, and campaigning to raise public awareness about mental health issues.

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**13** 1981

**£10,000 [£36,441]**

## **Abbeyfield Society**

The Abbeyfield Society is a national charity providing housing and residential care for older people in the UK and abroad. The first Abbeyfield house was set up in 1956 by Richard Carr-Gomm who recognised that many older people felt isolated and would benefit from a safe, secure home where they could find company and support. The Society now has over 500 homes and 4,000 volunteers in the UK.

The Baring Foundation has worked with Abbeyfield Society care homes much more recently through its current Arts and Older People programme.

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**14** 1982

**£5,000 [£16,776]**

## **Mary Rose Trust**

The Mary Rose Trust was established in 1979 to excavate, conserve and display Henry VIII's warship, the Mary Rose, which sank in 1545 in the Solent off the south coast of England. The search for the Mary Rose began in the 1960s and explorations of the site continued throughout the 1970s. In 1982 – the year of this grant – the Mary Rose and many artefacts were finally excavated from the seabed. The Mary Rose is now on display in Portsmouth Historic Dockyard.

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**15** 1983**£5,000 [£16,040]**

### **Almeida Theatre**

The Almeida Theatre first opened its doors in 1980 under the directorship of renowned director, Pierre Audi, and soon became known as a London venue for fringe and avant-garde productions, and for hosting touring companies from the UK and abroad.

The Foundation gave generously to the arts and heritage sector in its early years, with significant grants given to national institutions, such as the Royal Opera House, as well as smaller organisations.

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**16** 1985**£20,000 [£57,610]**

### **The Rainer Foundation**

This grant of £20,000 was one of several to the Rainer Foundation. The Rainer Foundation was originally the London Police Court Mission (LPCM), the result of a gift by Frederick Rainer in 1876 to the Church of England Temperance Society for those 'whose foot has once slipped'. LPCM was renamed the Rainer Foundation in 1960 and it developed and provided services for young offenders, young homeless people and survivors of sexual abuse. In 2008, Rainer merged with Crime Concern to become the youth organisation, Catch 22, which still works with young people coming out of the justice system.

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**17** 1986**£50,000 [£139,285]**

### **Tate Liverpool**

Tate Liverpool was the brainchild of Alan Bowness, who was director of the Tate in the early 1980s. The chosen site of this 'Tate of the North' was a disused warehouse in the Albert Dock, which had once been a vibrant hub for goods such as tea, silk, tobacco and spirits shipped from Asia. By 1981, regeneration of the dock had begun, and in 1985, architect James Stirling was commissioned to design Tate Liverpool. The gallery opened to the public in May 1988.

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**18** 1987

**£25,000 [£66,853]**

## London Lighthouse

The London Lighthouse in Ladbroke Grove was an independent hospice for AIDS patients, made famous by visits from Diana, Princess of Wales. It opened in 1988 and was considered a centre of excellence in the treatment of HIV/AIDS as the disease spread. London Lighthouse merged with the Terrence Higgins Trust in 2000. The building was sold in 2013.

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**19** 1988

**£4,000 [£10,197]**

## Graeae Trust Fund

Graeae Theatre Company was founded in 1980 by Nabil Shaban and Richard Tomlinson, with a vision to dispel images of defencelessness and tackle prejudice and popular myths about disabled people through theatre, workshops and training. Since then, Graeae has acquired an international reputation as a pioneer of accessibility in world-class theatre.

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**20** 1988

**£2,000 [£5,098]**

## Sunderland Youth Employment Project

In 1987, the Foundation decided to explore funding projects in the North East of England. The Sunderland Youth Employment Project was one of the first of these and was set up to support local young people find work in the area. It was based at The Bunker, a celebrated Sunderland DIY music venue.

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**21** 1989**£20,000 [£47,305]**

## **Cancer bacup**

Bacup was founded in 1985 by Vicky Clement-Jones, who, though a doctor herself, was shocked by the lack of information available to cancer patients when she was diagnosed with cancer. With a mission to 'kick cancer out of the closet', she produced information booklets written especially for patients. The charity grew, providing over 70 publications and had a helpline staffed by specialist cancer nurses.

Bacup merged with Macmillan Cancer Support in April 2008 which continues to provide high quality expert information about cancer through its information and support services.

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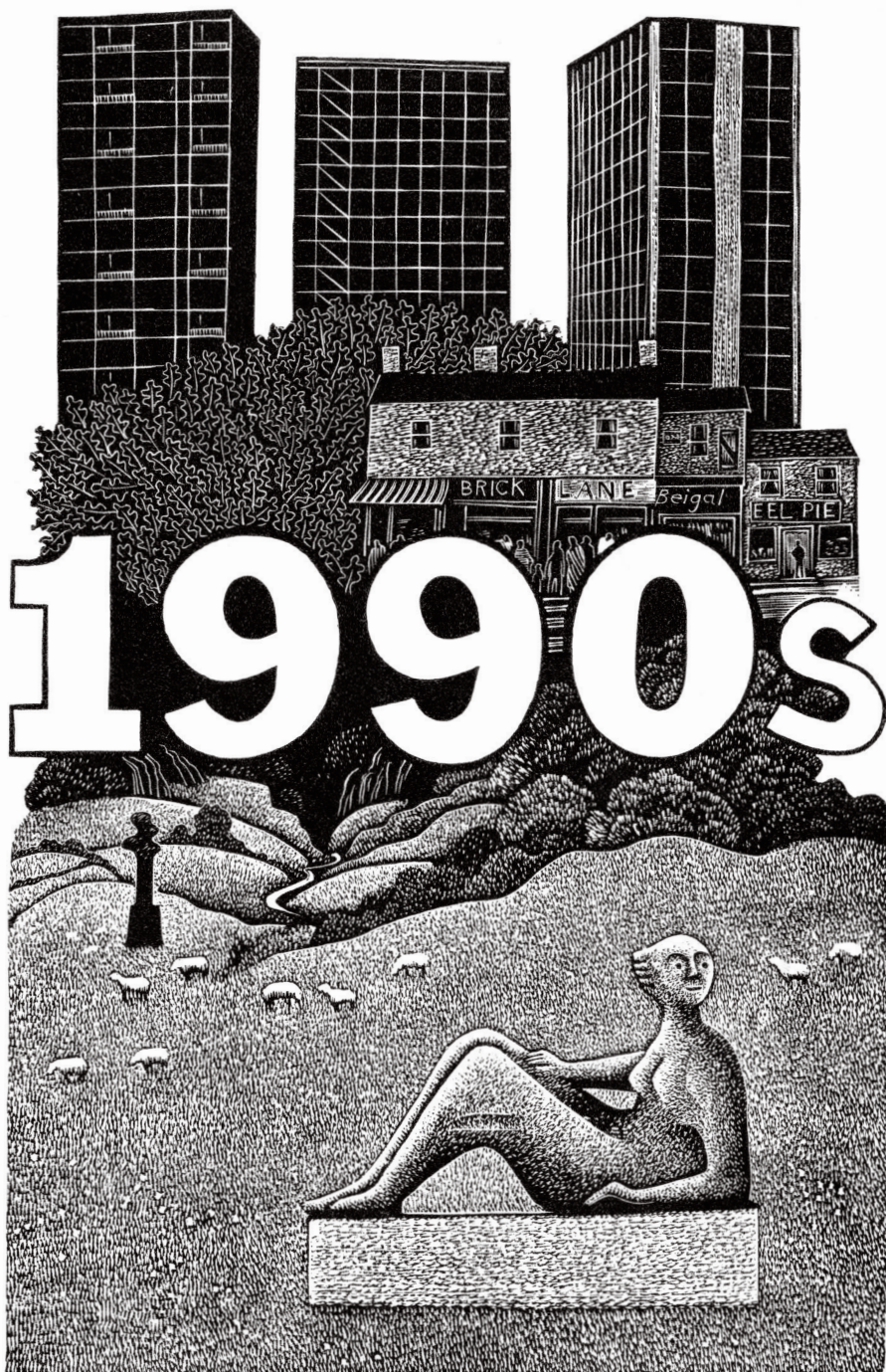
# 1980s

## Annual grant spend

1980	£597,325	[£2,435,056]
1981	£664,051	[£2,419,847]
1982	£762,806	[£2,559,352]
1983	£960,713	[£3,081,965]
1984	£1,026,155	[£3,135,636]
1985	£1,293,350	[£3,725,486]
1986	£1,800,090	[£5,014,503]
1987	£2,620,987	[£7,008,858]
1988	£3,748,416	[£9,555,483]
1989	£4,828,521	[£11,420,594]



Illustration (opposite): Community Links and the Yorkshire Sculpture Park.



# 1990s




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## Rollercoaster

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The 1990s was a transitional period for British civil society. The Labour Government in 1997 marked a change of context for the voluntary sector but one which only really established itself in the following decade. The Government initially took a cautious approach to both public finance and social policy, with the radical shift it made towards devolution in the four nations again only becoming effective after the Millennium.

Probably the most significant change for the voluntary sector was the inauguration in 1996 of the National Lotteries Charity Board which later became the Big Lottery Fund and was to have a major long-term effect on the sector. Fundraising initiatives such as Comic Relief and BBC Children in Need also became steadily more important.

Professor Nicholas Deakin's Commission on the future of the voluntary sector, which published its findings in 1996, took a sweeping view of what needed to change for the voluntary sector to thrive, especially in terms of attempting to achieve a constructive partnership with government and the sector becoming more influential. Although the Commission succeeded in gaining a pretty wholesale acceptance of their recommendations by the new Government, implementation took longer.

The 1990s was the key decade in the development of the Baring Foundation.



It began as a period of dramatic expansion. Giving had been accelerating since 1986, with a reorganisation of capital by the Bank as well as the merger with Manor Charitable Trust. The Foundation gave £7.3 million at the start of the decade which had almost doubled to £14 million in 1994, making it one of the largest independent funders in the UK. The Foundation continued to support a wide variety of interests, funding organisations involved in education, health, social welfare, the arts, conservation and environmental action. At this point, around half of grants went to national organisations and much of the rest to three regions: London, the North East of England and Merseyside. The Foundation set itself a notional target of giving £500,000 per year in Merseyside and the North East.

The collapse of Barings Bank in February 1995 is part of banking and national history. What is less well known is how the Foundation came back from the brink.

The days after the collapse of the bank are at the heart of the story of the Foundation. One of the first thoughts of the trustees and staff was to reassure its current grant recipients, all of whom were contacted to tell them that their grants would be honoured. Equally the sector responded generously with many messages from grant recipients and fellow foundations saying how much they valued what the Foundation had been doing. ING, the new owners of Barings Bank, responded magnificently by giving a £10 million donation to the Foundation outside the terms of the deal to buy the Bank. Crucially this meant that all grant commitments could be honoured without reducing the capital of the Foundation's endowment which was separate to the assets and liabilities of the Bank. ING has continued ever since to offer free accommodation to the Foundation and some pro bono services which have been of immense value to the Foundation.

In another act of generosity in 1996, Baring Asset Management gave the Foundation a covenant or gift of £2,331,500 over four years.

Also remarkable is that the expertise and time of the staff of the Foundation, who were no longer running open grantmaking programmes, were purchased by the Corporation of the City of London to set up its new and major foundation, at the time called Bridge House Estates Trust, now the City Bridge Trust.

At the same time, the board, staff and advisers began to think what could be achieved using their remaining financial resource, an endowment, which could only generate 13 per cent of the amount spent at the height of the Foundation's giving. This also sadly meant that the staffing of the Foundation needed to reduce somewhat.

The new approach took a year or so to work through and has continued to evolve ever since. However, the basic structure has proved robust. It was based on an informed and insightful analysis of the needs of the voluntary sector and the track record of the Foundation. The Foundation would henceforth fund through three programmes: the Arts (then described as in Educational and Community settings), Strengthening the Voluntary Sector (a broad category but covering what might now be called social action and social justice issues) and an International programme. The type of grants given has changed over time but has tended to be fewer and smaller grants made through open rounds at specified times to improve the technical capabilities of an organisation. These could lead to larger grants for core costs in recognition of the difficulty that charities face raising money for essential but unglamorous costs such as rent and administration.

The rapid increase in funding flowing from the Foundation in the early 1990s therefore proved to be temporary and by 1996 this had settled down to roughly what it had been a decade earlier.



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**22** 1991
**£50,000 [£102,041]**

### Community Links

Community Links was formally established in 1977 in the London Borough of Newham. Informally, it started in an ageing routemaster bus staffed by community workers, activists and volunteers who parked on Newham's council estates to entertain children, listen and give advice. Community Links continues to offer local services across welfare, housing, education, employment and health and applies its practical experience working in Newham to influence policy at a national level.

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**23** 1993
**£90,000 [£174,293]**

### Help the Hospices (now Hospice UK)

This grant over three years was given to support the core costs of Help the Hospices (now Hospice UK). Hospice UK is the national charity providing support for the 200 charitable hospices in the UK and a voice for the hospice movement.

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**24** 1993
**£19,600 [£37,957]**

### Apna Ghar Women's Centre

Apna Ghar Women's Centre is an advice service run by and for women from minority ethnic communities in South Shields in the north east of England. It provides advice and information on for example benefits, employment, immigration and education and legal advice and support. It also runs a women's health clinic and social activities such as a lunch club for older women, a crèche and Asian language classes.

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**25** 1993

**£30,000 [£58,098]**

### **Fundación Juconi, Puebla, Mexico**

This grant was given to Fundación Juconi to support a three-year project working with street children in Pueblo, Mexico. Barings Bank had strong business links with South America dating back to the early 19th century. Several grants were made in its first two decades to charitable causes in South American countries, including Mexico, Peru and Costa Rica. The organisation exists today working with children at risk of violence.

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**26** 1994

**£100,000 [£189,094]**

### **Oxfam**

This grant was given to Oxfam to support its relief work – particularly for water and non-food items – in the city of Goma in the Democratic Republic of Congo to support refugees from Rwanda. The exodus of Hutus from Rwanda into the DRC was one of the largest and fastest cross-border migrations of modern times – with more than one million people fleeing in just five days. The Guardian newspaper in July 1994 called Goma ‘the hell of reproach’, wracked by cholera and starvation.

The Foundation often responded to appeals for emergencies overseas throughout its first 25 years in operation.

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**27** 1996

**£6,200 [£11,064]**

### **Contact a Family**

Contact a Family was set up in 1979 to help generate mutual support between families whose children have rare disease, disabilities or other special needs. At the time of the grant it ran an information helpline, published guidance and directories, ran regional and national networks and put individual families in touch with each other.

It had begun to pilot a regional office structure and this grant provided for family workshops and a newsletter in a new priority region, Merseyside, which coincided with one of the funding areas for the Foundation. This grant was one of a number the Foundation made to Contact a Family over the years.

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**28** 1996

**£3,000 [£5,354]**

### **Hackney Pakistan Women's Welfare Centre**

The Foundation gave a large number of grants to support often very small civil society organisations become more efficient and effective. One regional area of focus was London. This grant, made soon after the Foundation streamlined its areas of interest, was typical in providing funding for a consultancy to identify skills gaps, train trustees and to help prepare a long-term plan for the organisation.

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**29** 1997

**£10,000 [£17,302]**

### **Personal Social Services**

Personal Social Services (PSS) had had a venerable history since its establishment in 1919, remaining at the forefront of innovations in the personal or social services. Past accomplishments have including being a catalyst for Age Concern and the Citizen's Advice Bureaux movements. Originally based in Liverpool, it began to supply services further afield and by 1997 employed 400 people on over 60 projects. The Foundation had supported PSS over a number of years including making a major contribution to its fundraising for a new central building. This and a subsequent grant allowed PSS to explore different ways to run or collaborate through joint structures on projects further afield than their base in Merseyside.

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**30** 1998
**£75,000 [£125,467]**

## Yorkshire Sculpture Park

This three-year core costs grant was one of several given by the Foundation to Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP). An open air gallery set in 200 acres of parkland, it has a collection of international merit, including works by Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth. YSP was the brainchild of Peter Murray in 1977 who was a lecturer at the local college. This grant responded to the educational interests of YSP, given that it had maintained strong links with Bretton Hall, the art college on the grounds as well as with schools across the country.

YSP has continued to go from strength to strength, winning the prestigious Museum of the Year Award in 2014.

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**31** 1999
**£79,980 [£131,768]**

## Mergers and Joint Structures Fund

For several years, the Foundation ran a specific fund for mergers and joint structures as a strand in an overarching approach to strengthen the UK voluntary sector. Individual organisations were not named in the annual reports due to the sensitivity of the potential for mergers. The number of applications made and the amounts given varied considerably between years. In 1998 there were 43 eligible applications and rather over a third of them (16) were successful, with the average grant less than £5,000. Grants were often for the costs of consultancy or other professional fees. A wide variety of organisations applied for grants, with the highest number coming from social welfare charities.

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**32** 1999**£75,000 [£123,563]**

## **Black Training and Enterprise Group**

The Black Training and Enterprise Group (BTEG) has its origins in a project by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) which examined the newly formed Training and Enterprise Councils and their impact on Black communities. It became an independent organisation in 1996 and by 1999 had a small staff of five and 200 Black and Minority Ethnic organisations in membership. This core costs grant was designed to take pressure off the Chief Executive by providing administrative and research staff time. BTEG celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2016.

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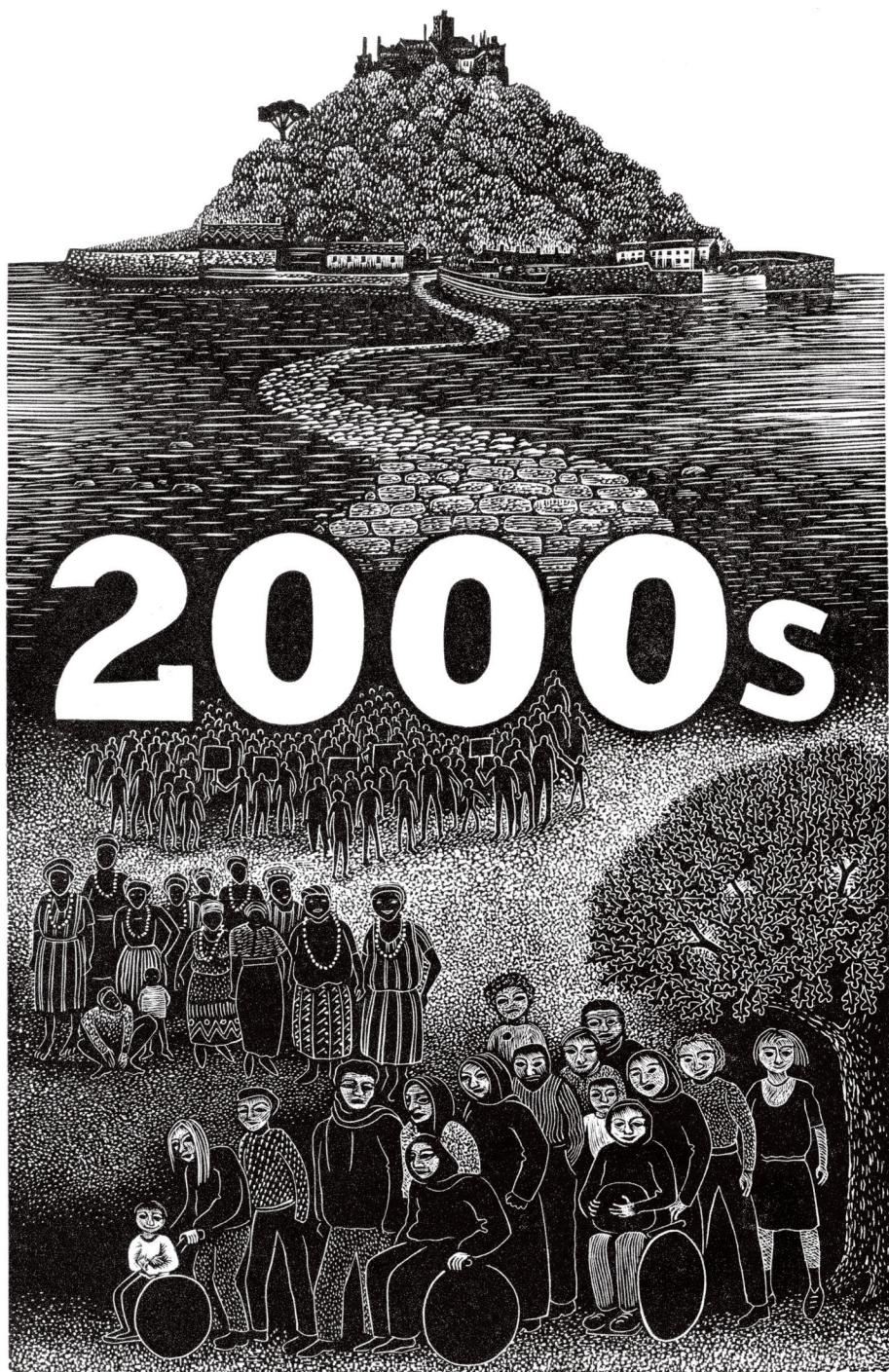
# 1990s

## Annual grant spend

1990	£7,285,494	[£15,742,525]
1991	£8,259,670	[£16,858,070]
1992	£8,546,912	[£16,815,392]
1993	£9,355,918	[£18,118,559]
1994	£14,041,751	[£26,552,124]
1996	£1,049,345	[£1,872,586]
1997	£2,417,691	[£4,183,193]
1998	£2,799,535	[£4,683,318]
1999	£2,802,160	[£4,616,585]

*Illustration (opposite):  
Cornwall Rural  
Community Council;  
the Pastoral and  
Environmental Network  
in the Horn of Africa;  
and Motivation.*





# 2000s




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## Building on firm foundations

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This decade for the voluntary sector was marked by the expansion of funding from government, increasingly delivered through contracts rather than grants, for public services. This held challenges as well as promise and in 2007 the Foundation chose to focus its Strengthening the Voluntary Sector programme on the sector's independence in a move described in a publication called *Allies Not Servants*<sup>2</sup> by Matthew Smerdon. The Foundation also continued to both fund the core costs of voluntary organisations as a component of independence, and encourage other funders to follow suit. The financial crash of 2008 did not lead to an immediate change in public funding which really took hold in the following decade.

The Deakin Commission report of 1996 continued to bear fruit in terms of the relationship between the voluntary sector in England and the Government through the creation of a 'Compact' to determine the relationship and freedoms of both parties. The Chair of the Commission, Nicholas Deakin, became a trustee of the Foundation and his assessment of the state of civil society can be found in his 2007 speech to an audience gathered by the Foundation called *Gains and Strains*.<sup>3</sup> Whitehall created an Office of the Third Sector to coordinate policy and resources and the Charities Act 2006 overhauled charity legislation, especially regarding public benefit. The Government became increasingly interested in the opportunities offered by social enterprise and social finance.



Another seismic shift in the landscape was the ever-increasing importance of devolution which meant that often quite different approaches to domestic affairs and social policy were taking hold in the four nations of the UK.

Digital technology, of course, became more pervasive and essential to everyday life. There was a strong concern that voluntary organisations were being disadvantaged by their lack of skills and resources in this area and the Foundation worked to tackle this with the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists.

The basic pattern of the Foundation's grantmaking at the start of the decade was to have open rounds across its three programmes offering project grants to build the technical capacity of an organisation. These grants might then lead on to a core costs grant by invitation to selected organisations in this pool. In the UK, these organisations needed to be national or working in one of three priority geographical areas: London, Devon and Cornwall and Merseyside. Issues under consideration might vary annually, for instance, one year the call was for arts organisations working with children. This approach evolved over the decade and became more varied as opportunities presented themselves. The International Development programme changed first and quite radically to a programme jointly funded with the John Ellerman Foundation. This partnership made a small number of large grants of up to £250,000 to UK International NGOs working with African civil society to tackle problems arising from forced displacement of people.

Over the course of the decade, the Foundation moved towards making fewer, larger and longer-term grants around themes relating to disadvantage and discrimination. Arts with Refugees and Asylum Seekers was one such. More resources were put into adding value to individual grants through networking and convening grant recipients around topics of common interest and writing and commissioning publications. In general, the Foundation sought to strengthen civil society through a wide variety of means including through calling for more reflective grantmaking practice in *The Grantmaking Tango* by Julia Unwin.

The Foundation also experimented outside its three main grant programmes with smaller Special Initiatives often championed by individual trustees. This led to work on very varied topics: volunteering in museums; the situation of parents with learning difficulties; the impact of climate change on the beneficiaries of non-environmental charities; and dialogue between different cultures in the UK.

An important change for the Foundation was the culmination of its relationship with the Villiers Park Educational Trust (VPET) by mutual agreement. VPET had been the Foundation's largest single grant recipient due to the endowment created by the merger with the Manor Charitable Trust. VPET continues its important work as an independent and vigorous charity.

2. *Allies not servants*, Matthew Smerdon, 2006. Available at: [www.baringfoundation.org.uk](http://www.baringfoundation.org.uk).

3. *Gains and strains*, Nicholas Deakin, 2006. Available at: [www.baringfoundation.org.uk](http://www.baringfoundation.org.uk).

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**33** 2000
**£75,000 [£120,013]**

## **Cornwall Rural Community Council**

The Foundation sought to concentrate its resources in terms of its Strengthening the Voluntary Sector programme by focusing on a number of regions including Devon and Cornwall. This core costs grant over three years sought to strengthen administrative and financial support at a time of rapid expansion in projects and services.

The Council, which had been established in 1946, had four offices in the enormous and very rural county of Cornwall which has poor transport infrastructure. Its staffing increased in this period from 32 to 50. The grant paid for some ‘bread and butter’ – but important – improvements in the organisation such as timesheets, standard recruitment processes and the introduction of stakeholder pensions.

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**34** 2001
**£238,948 [£382,359]**

## **Pastoral and Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa**

The Pastoral and Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa (PENHA) was formed in 1989 by a group of exiled Africa researchers and development workers in London to focus on the challenges faced by nomadic pastoralists. This project took place in Somaliland, a relatively stable part of a volatile neighbourhood. A very rural country, pastoralists made up half the population at the time of the appeal.

As a community, they faced great structural challenges arising from environmental change and degradation, social and political problems, and the general shift away from rural to urban ways of life. The International Development programme sought to support displaced people through strengthening local civil society. The project trained 200 people in skills to set up their own community organisations, including an organisation for women.

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**35** 2004

**£600,000 [£960,107]**

## Villiers Park Educational Trust

Villiers Park Educational Trust (VPET) occupied a very special place in the history of the Baring Foundation. As a result of the merger of the Manor Park Charitable Trust with the Foundation in 1988 and the resultant endowment, the Foundation gave a major and exceptional grant to VPET outside its other programmes for almost two decades. Established in the East End of London in 1924, VPET has a fascinating history.

Retaining its core mission of removing barriers that prevent young people from making the most of the educational opportunities, the charity went through a number of evolutions. By the year of this grant, it had a residential centre in Foxton, Cambridgeshire, where it ran residential courses for Gifted and Talented 14- to 19-year-olds, and worked on the curriculum with teachers and lecturers.

VPET has had a national profile and impact in fostering inspirational classroom teaching. The relationship between VPET and the Foundation came to an end in 2005 by mutual agreement, with a capital gift from the Foundation in recognition of the endowment.

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**36** 2005

**£135,000 [£191,635]**

## Norah Fry Centre at the University of Bristol

Around half of children born to parents with learning difficulties (an estimated 50,000) at this time went into care after a short time, an exceptionally high rate, often with negative consequences for both children and parents. After funding research into the evidence which was published in a much quoted report, *Finding the Right Support*, by the expert team at Norah Fry, the Foundation decided to invest more resources in a medium term Special Initiative.

A competition was run to set up a policy task force and a practice network and was won by the Norah Fry Centre. The task force, also supported by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, contributed to a number of relevant government consultations and initiatives.

A library of good practice resources was established for professionals and officially backed guidance was written. The Initiative included a publication of families' success stories, published as *Supporting Parents with Learning Disabilities and Difficulties: Stories of Positive Practice*, and an active advice website for professionals.

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## 37 2007

£250,000 [£329,755]

### Motivational Charitable Trust

This grant came from a partnership programme with the John Ellerman Foundation which contributed a third of the grant. The programme had as its design principle a relationship between a UK International NGO and an African community-based organisation to support forcibly displaced people. Motivation started in 1989 with the design of a wheelchair by Royal College of Art student David Constantine for use in developing countries, and became a charity in 1991.

The work funded by the grant took place in Northern Uganda where millions of people had been displaced by the Lord's Resistance Army. A number of grants in this programme focused on this war-torn region. Motivation worked to build the capacity of the local Gulu Displaced People's Union to train wheelchair users, many of whom had sustained a spinal cord injury in the twenty-year civil war.

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## 38 2008

£50,000 [£63,422]

### Live Theatre

This core costs grant over two years is one example from a programme of core cost grants for arts organisations working with refugees and asylum-seekers which ran from 2004 to 2009. Live Theatre based in Newcastle-upon-Tyne has achieved a national reputation for the quality of its productions and for its participation work.

This project worked with young refugees and asylum-seekers to engage with other young people in drama, using the skills of professional theatre makers. Three major productions deploying the combined two groups of young people were staged over this period. Towards the end of this programme, the Foundation commissioned an overview report *Arts and Refugees: History, Impact and Future*.

We subsequently joined forces with the Arts Council England to fund a national website and biennial national conferences. These were initially run by Refugee Week hosted within the Refugee Council. This in turn led to the creation of Counterpoint Arts, a very successful independent arts organisation working as a development agency across the UK. Counterpoint is now a National Portfolio Organisation for the Arts Council England.

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**39** 2008

**£150,000 [£190,265]**

## **Institute for Cultural Cohesion**

In 2007, the Foundation started to explore the concept of intercultural dialogue and exchange. It was felt that the most practical way to support this activity at a grassroots level was to run an annual national awards ceremony with cash prizes. After a competition, the Institute for Community Cohesion was awarded the tender to make this happen.

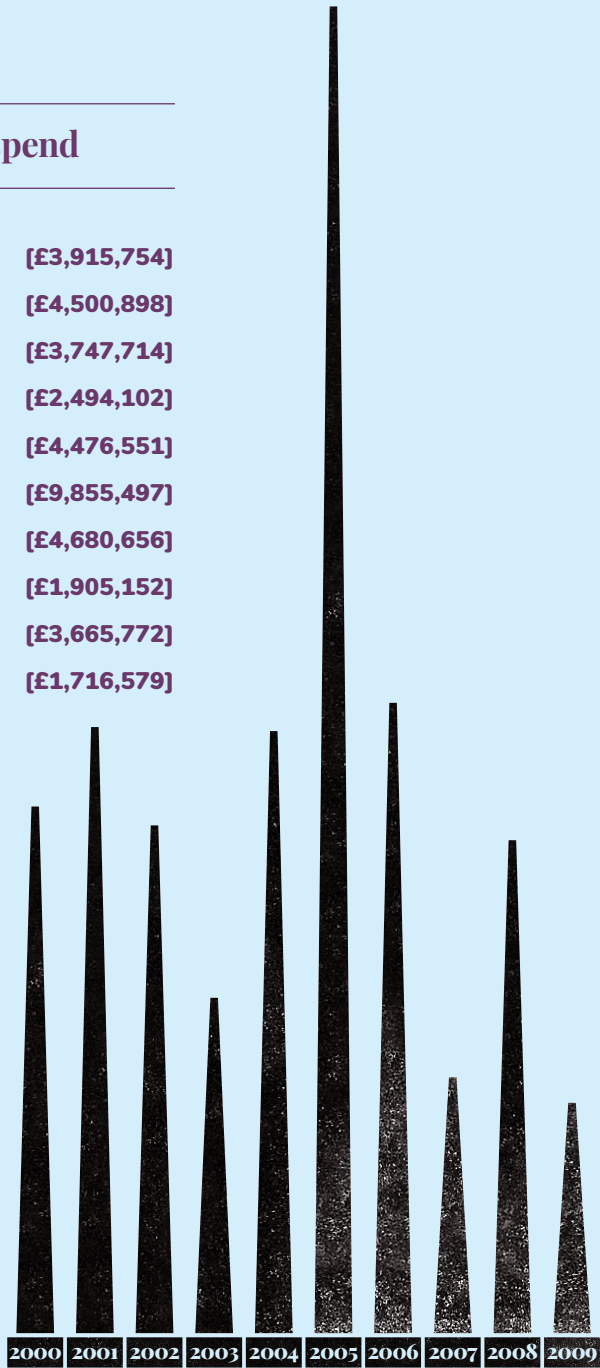
The project was called the 'Awards for Bridging Cultures' which ran for three editions. In a typical year, 2009, 140 applications were received. Prizes were awarded at the Royal Society of Arts in London after an all-day learning event. With a concluding grant of £74,800, brap, a think tank based in Birmingham, produced a series of written resources on intercultural dialogue drawing on the experience of these awards.

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# 2000s

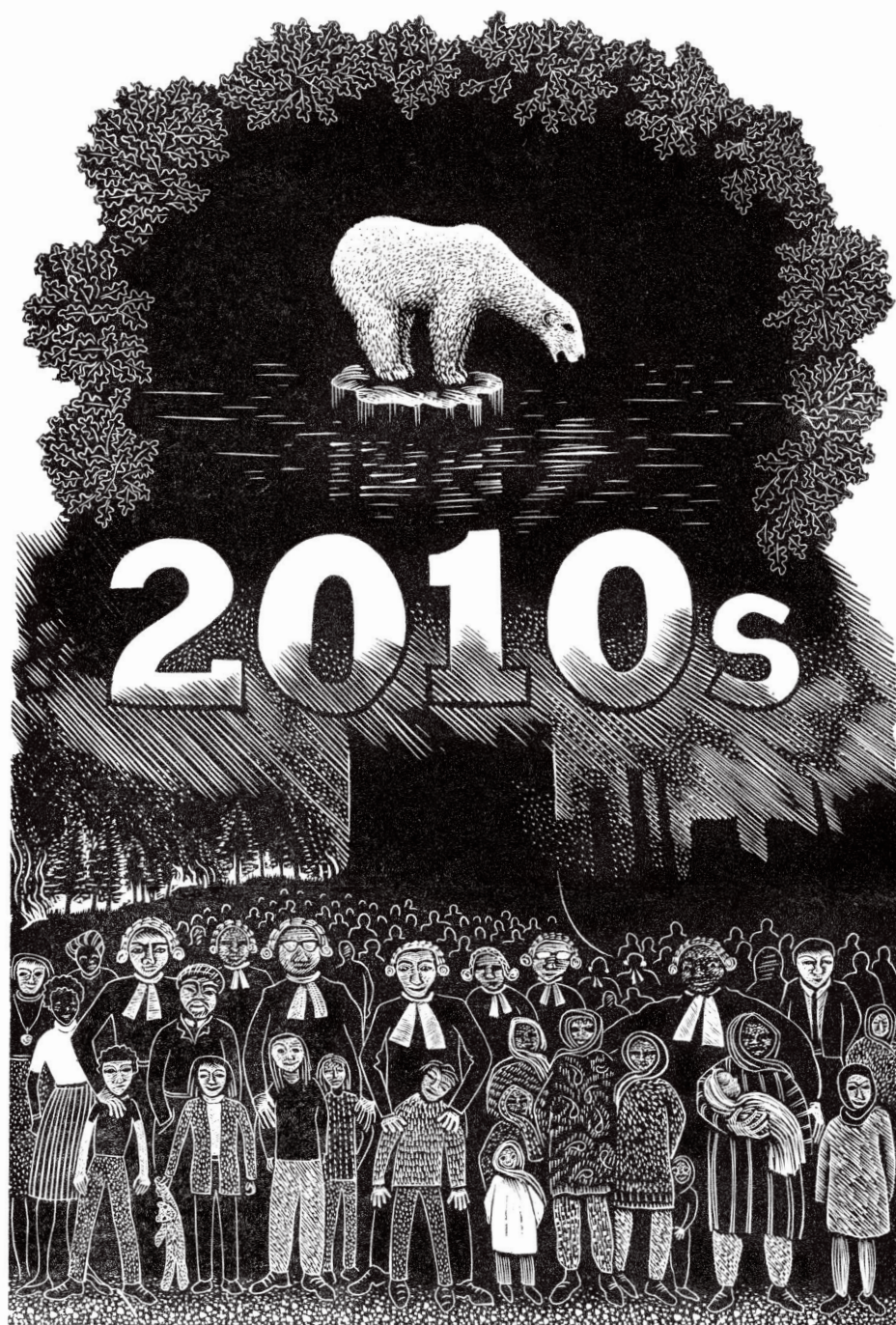
## Annual grant spend

2000	£2,447,073	[£3,915,754]
2001	£2,862,571	[£4,500,898]
2002	£2,423,289	[£3,747,714]
2003	£1,659,332	[£2,494,102]
2004	£3,066,958	[£4,476,551]
2005	£6,942,854	[£9,855,497]
2006	£3,402,728	[£4,680,656]
2007	£1,444,371	[£1,905,152]
2008	£2,889,992	[£3,665,772]
2009	£1,346,117	[£1,716,579]





*Illustration (opposite):  
The Foundation's Climate Change Special Initiative;  
Coventry Law Centre, and Clan Childlaw.*



# 2010s




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## Less funding, but more strategic and collaborative

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Civil society has been at the heart of a volatile period, economically, socially and politically. The Government's 'Big Society' was criticised as a slogan without an intelligible policy. The voluntary sector has undoubtedly had a rocky time with a slight waning of trust and high-profile scandals about mismanagement and unethical behaviour. The gulf between household name brand charities with enormous turnovers which felt to some like large commercial corporations and small or grassroots community bodies appeared to widen. A major consequence of the 'age of austerity', which began under the Coalition Government and has continued, has been a dramatic reduction in public spending. This has translated into a sharp decrease in resources for the voluntary sector particularly in the delivery of public services, which have often been outsourced to the private sector or subject to onerous contracts.

At the same time demand for many voluntary sector services has increased. Some areas of public spending have been especially heavily cut. One such is legal aid in England and Wales and the Foundation responded to this with a programme supported by the Legal Education Foundation and the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation called Future Advice. The programme is explained in full in a publication by Matthew Smerdon and Joe Randall.

Another concern has been the ‘closing of civic space’ in around half the countries of the world, restricting the freedom of civil society to speak out on the behalf of beneficiaries or sometimes to operate at all. The Foundation has long concerned itself with the independence of the voluntary sector and in 2010 began to fund a series of authoritative reports auditing the situation in England on an annual basis, culminating in 2017 in the report *A Shared Society?* by Caroline Slocock of Civil Exchange. This influenced the decision to change the theme of the Strengthening the Voluntary Sector programme to use of the law and human rights as a tool for legitimate social action within the voluntary sector. Dr Lisa Vanhala of University College London has published several papers for the Foundation, examining the principles of this programme and recent key legal cases.

In general, the Foundation has refined its approach from the broad aim of supporting people experiencing discrimination and disadvantage to focusing down on a narrower theme for a period of time where working in a flexible way and increasingly in collaboration with other funders can offer the prospect of sustained strategic change – an approach sometimes called ‘field building’. A prime example has been the Arts and Older People programme which, recognising the profound implications of a rapidly ageing society, has seen a shift in the attitudes of a broad sweep of arts organisations in valuing the creative possibilities of later life. This has been achieved with a wide range of allies including all four national Arts Councils and the British Council. A mapping study, *Ageing Artfully*, in 2009 provided the baseline for the programme.

The Foundation had run a very valuable International Development programme looking at the needs of displaced people since 2001. In 2015, however, it was time to reflect how best to support African civil society and which areas a very modest sum of money could best target. The Foundation chose to shift to primarily funding African civil society directly rather than through British based International NGOs and to focus on the rights of Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender and Intersex people. This is an agenda taken up since then by very important grantmakers such as Comic Relief, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the UK Department for International Development.

The Foundation looked hard at its own resources. Regretfully in 2013 it was decided it was necessary to reduce our spending from 4.5 per cent to 3.5 per cent to ensure long-term viability based on the performance of our portfolio of investments. The Foundation also chose to state the principles underpinning its approach in a Statement on Responsible Investment and by joining the Charities Responsible Investment Network. This reduction in our spending based on our endowment's long-term prospects has encouraged us to focus more intently on key areas of social change and to become one of the most collaborative independent funders.

Finally, every big birthday is a gentle reminder of what more needs to be done. Therefore in 2016 the Foundation, with seven other funders, established an Independent Inquiry into the Future of Civil Society for England with a brief to ask how, given so much change, the sector could best organise itself to serve society in the years ahead.

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**40** 2010
**£150,000 [£182,844]**

## Coventry Law Centre

Coventry Law Centre received a number of grants through the Strengthening the Voluntary Sector programme. This grant came as part of the Future Advice programme which was initiated by the Foundation but taken over by a new grantmaker, The Legal Education Foundation, with greater resources and a sharper focus.

The purpose of the programme was to encourage the social welfare legal advice sector to find better ways of working in a period of dramatically reducing revenues from legal aid. Coventry Law Centre is a well of innovative strategic ideas and better placed than many Law Centres due to strong support from its local authority.

This grant explored a number of themes, including the better use of IT and a successful consolidation of smaller local advice providers into a more viable single body called Coventry Independent Advice Services. Another strand concentrated on public legal education for people with disabilities with a focus on benefit sanctions.

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**41** 2010
**£130,757 [£159,387]**

## Civil Exchange

The Foundation has had an longstanding concern with the independence of the voluntary sector, regardless of the political complexion of the Government. In 2008, this became the focus for five years of the Strengthening the Voluntary Sector grants programme. To mark the end of the exclusive focus to the programme, a competition was held to select the secretariat for a newly minted Panel on the Independence of the Voluntary Sector. Led initially by Dame Ann Owers, who was succeeded by Sir Roger Singleton, the Panel comprised experts from across the sector.

Working with the Civil Exchange as the secretariat, headed by Caroline Slocock, the Panel published annual reports on the state of sector in terms of independence. Although UK-wide, much of its work focused on England during a period of continuous threats to independence.



The panel developed a 'barometer' as a tool to look at independence of mission, voice and action. The final report of the Panel was published in 2015 and Civil Exchange was funded to produce two further annual surveys in 2016 and 2017. Compiled during a period of international concern regarding 'closing civic space', these reports provided authoritative records.

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**42** 2011

**£249,664 [£289,274]**

## **Peace Direct**

Peace Direct is a London-based international charity which exists to support the work of local peace builders around the world and recognise their expertise. This was the second grant given for Peace Direct to work with the local peacebuilding organisation, Centre Résolution Conflits (CRC), for work in the highly troubled Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

The DRC has by some calculations seen the most bloody conflict anywhere since the Second World War. CRC undertook a wide range of activities with the grant, including setting up twelve reconciliation commissions to work through locally divisive issues, 334 Radio Clubs to broadcast social action programmes, support for the wives of 275 ex-combatants to set up small businesses, and the reintegration of 322 ex-combatants into the community.

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**43** 2012

**£100,000 [£112,260]**

## **Stichtung European Climate Foundation**

Climate change will have profound consequences both globally and for the UK and will affect every part of society and every civil society organisation. And yet it has tended to be the exclusive preserve of environmental charities.

In 2008, the Foundation began a Special Initiative to broaden this approach and bring to light the way in which climate change will affect the primary charitable purpose of a range of voluntary sector organisations working with vulnerable people in particular.



The first phase was summarised in a report called *An Unexamined Truth* by Matthew Smerdon. The work had a number of manifestations and focused on the relevance of the Energy Act 2011, especially around the financing of household energy efficiency. The resulting campaign was called the Energy Bill Revolution. Funding included support for Professor Marmot, well known for his work in health inequalities, to study the relationship between health, inequality and energy. This work was undertaken in the context of a broader group of funders, the Environmental Funders' Network.

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**44** 2013

**£75,000 [£81,712]**

## **Creative Scotland**

The Foundation proposed that the longstanding annual national festival for arts and older people in the Republic of Ireland called Bealtaine be replicated in Scotland and joined forces with Creative Scotland to match fund a Scottish counterpart which was named Luminate. Starting off as a project, Luminate quickly became an independent charity, hosted by Age Scotland.

The organisation subsequently gained Regularly Funded Organisation status with Creative Scotland and expanded its remit to developing creative ageing in Scotland, including running a biennial festival. The festival tends to run 300 events from the Shetland Islands to the Borders, across a wide range of art forms, and attracts around 40,000 participants.

From a first grant in 2012, the Foundation has committed to offering Luminate core funding over the long term until 2023. The festival has gained international recognition and has now itself inspired a new festival in Finland in 2017. Luminate's year-round programme has developed a broad range of projects, including work with military veterans in care homes, an LGBT cabaret, a resource pack for all care homes in Scotland with the Care Inspectorate, and several digital arts projects. An overview report of creative ageing in Scotland called *Late Opening* was published in 2017.

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**45** 2014
**£171,911 [£182,975]**

## Age Cymru

This grant over two years was match funded by the Arts Council Wales. Age Cymru had previously both run a national arts festival across Wales for older people called Gwanwyn, as well as a quality improvement programme for care homes called My Home Life. This meant it was well placed to develop a programme of artist residencies – called cARTrefu – throughout Wales and using different art forms.

The model, based on one developed by Courtyard Hereford, used mentors to train a cohort of artists to run workshops in care homes over an eight-week period, culminating in an event for staff, friends and family. This was a large scheme working in nearly 20 per cent of the care homes in Wales and with over 1,500 residents. The project also developed a resource pack of activities, which was sent to all Welsh care homes. The University of Bangor published a highly positive evaluation of the programme and the two funders gave a further grant extending the life of the programme to 2019.

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**46** 2015
**£238,000 [£250,833]**

## Centre for Charity Effectiveness, Cass Business School

The purpose of the Future Advice programme was to support advice and advocacy organisations to maintain or increase their independence from government and for this to lead to significant and lasting improvements in the effectiveness of these organisations. It was a collaboration between the Baring Foundation, Comic Relief, Unbound Philanthropy and The Legal Education Foundation.

Our last grant under the Future Advice programme appointed the Centre for Charity Effectiveness at Cass Business School to administer, run and evaluate a Leadership Development Programme for the advice sector. This was a joint grant with the J Paul Getty Jnr Charitable Trust.

The Centre ran two year-long programmes for 30 participants. Fifty-six participants completed the full programme. The all-expenses paid programme aimed to develop individual and collective understanding of: the key qualities and competencies required for resilient leaders in the sector; expertise to develop innovative, sustainable organisations; and a collaborative and externally-facing mind-set that placed the needs of beneficiaries above the goals of individual organisations.

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**47** 2015

**£150,000 [£158,088]**

## **UHAI EASHRI**

This is the first of several grants awarded to UHAI EASHRI under the Foundation's current International Development programme, which aims to empower locally based civil society organisations to address discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation or gender identity in sub-Saharan Africa.

UHAI EASHRI is an indigenous activist fund which provides flexible, accessible resources to support civil society activism around issues of sexuality, health and human rights in the East African region. Grants from the Foundation supported its institutional development, and its onward grantmaking and capacity support to civil society organisations working with and for lesbian, bisexual and queer (LBQ) women and trans and gender diverse people.

UHAI EASHRI awards much of its funding through participatory grantmaking, using activists in its decision making and engaging the expertise of individuals from throughout the East African region. The Foundation's funds supported 35 grants across the region from 2015 to 2017, working on a huge range of issues for LBQ women and trans people. Examples included work to accelerate access to healthcare services for transgender women in Uganda and support for the operational development of an LBQ women's organisation in rural Western Kenya.

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## 48 2016–2018

£180,000 [£186,470]

### Arts Council Northern Ireland

This grant was the second phase of a partnership led by the Arts Council Northern Ireland (ACNI) with support from the Northern Irish Public Health Agency to run a programme for arts and older people across Northern Ireland.

The first phase created a three year pot of £1 million with a slightly smaller second three-year edition. The programme has at its heart a very popular programme of community arts grants ranging from £10,000 to £30,000 to tackle social challenges such as loneliness.

The programme's 2017 monitoring report (*The State of Play*) reported a cumulative total of 117 projects engaging 21,000 older people in creative activities. Examples of work have included: a 'Social Sofa' decorated with mosaic tile memories by Spectrum Arts working with Helmsworth Court care home in Belfast; and the Big Telly Company Theatre Company working with isolated men in rural areas to produce scrap metal sculptures for an exhibition that toured to local cattle markets. In Craigavon, the local authority developed weekly courses, Age on Stage, resulting in a dance performance group telling the life stories of participants. The programme also runs an annual festival and has trained 160 artists to work with people living with dementia.

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## 49 2017

£150,000

### Clan Childlaw

Clan Childlaw is a legal and advocacy service for children and young people in Scotland. In 2017, it was awarded a grant to use the law to tackle disadvantage faced by vulnerable children and young people in Scotland.

The grant is one of several given under the Strengthening the Voluntary Sector programme which in 2015 began its new focus on supporting UK civil society organisations to make greater use of the law and human rights based approaches in their work.

The current focus of Clan Childlaw's project is to campaign for a change to the law to make it easier for children and young people to maintain contact with their siblings when they are taken into care. Very often they are placed separately and need support to stay in touch.

They have launched a campaign with partners in the children's sector – Stand up for Siblings – which is already creating momentum behind changing the law, policy and practice to prioritise sibling relationships.

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**50** 2017 & 2018

**£500,000**

## Forum for the Future

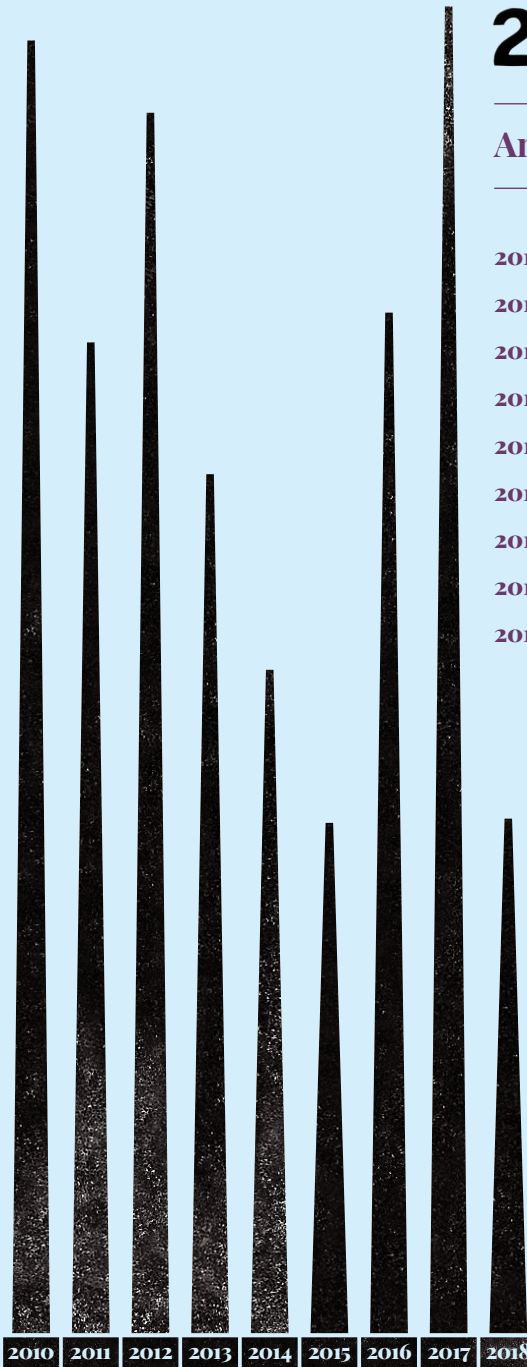
Inspired by the Foundation's Strengthening the Voluntary Sector programme including our funding for the Panel on the Independence of the Voluntary Sector, it was decided that the time was right for a broad, forward-looking and creative view of civil society in England.

Seven other independent funders, the Barrow Cadbury Trust, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation UK, City Bridge Trust, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Lankelly Chase Foundation, Lloyds Bank Foundation for England and Wales and the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, as well as the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), came together to fund and design the process for an Independent Inquiry into the Future of Civil Society.

£660,000 for two years was raised including an anchor pledge of £200,000 from the Baring Foundation. Julia Unwin CBE, former Chief Executive of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, was invited to chair the Inquiry along with a diverse panel. The secretariat was a consortium of Citizens UK, Goldsmith University and Open Democracy led by Forum for the Future, appointed after a competition.

The Inquiry released its conclusions in November 2018 calling for a radical transfer of power within civil society to communities and people.

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# 2010s

## Annual grant spend

2010	£2,496,463	[£3,043,086]
2011	£2,013,854	[£2,333,362]
2012	£2,558,073	[£2,871,688]
2013	£1,862,166	[£2,028,812]
2014	£1,471,178	[£1,565,858]
2015	£1,139,006	[£1,200,423]
2016	£2,321,510	[£2,404,956]
2017	£3,123,466	
2018	£1,217,793	

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## Total grant spend

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over  
**£120 million**

since  
**1969**





# People

The Baring Foundation would like to thank all those who have worked for it over the years as trustees, staff and advisers.\*

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*\*Please note that these lists have been compiled to the best of our knowledge.*

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Karen Allen (Honorary Adviser)  
 Devinda de Silva  
 (Honorary Adviser)

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## Afterword

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It is a privilege to be Chair of the Baring Foundation at the point when it marks its half century. And reading this document is a reminder of how great a privilege it really is. Because a list of grants is much more than just that – it is a testament to the hard work, guts and sheer determination of passionate people, communities and social reformers that have built our thriving and diverse civil society – and that’s humbling indeed.

I like to think of myself as someone who knows a bit about the development of the voluntary and community sector – but this account gives a flavour of the changing decades, emerging causes and issues given voice by crusading organisations. It brings fresh insights and nuances. The range is eclectic and diverse – from international development, to grassroots community development, to infrastructure bodies. From young people, to women, to black and minority ethnic communities, to HIV and AIDS, the arts. It is practically impossible to describe the range. But what runs through the grantmaking as a golden thread are some fundamental beliefs – in the value of civil society itself and its power to give voice to those who go unheard, to empower communities, challenge discrimination and disadvantage and redress the imbalance of power within our and other societies.

The Baring Foundation, like the organisations it supports, has been through its own challenges and battled misfortune, but it has remained steadfast in its independence and bravery – inspired by the legion of community activists and campaigners who show their own courage and commitment day in day out. Simply because they cannot accept the status quo or cross to the other side of the street. So our grantees, and the communities they serve, give us rich inspiration and motivation. We learn from them, their spirit and experience and seek to share their wisdom.

Of course, behind every grant there is a lot of time and thought and hard work – from those compiling their applications and designing their projects to those who have advised and supported our decision-making. For the few that we can fund there are sadly many we cannot. The demand and need is huge – never less so than in these challenging times of inequality and division and pressured resources.

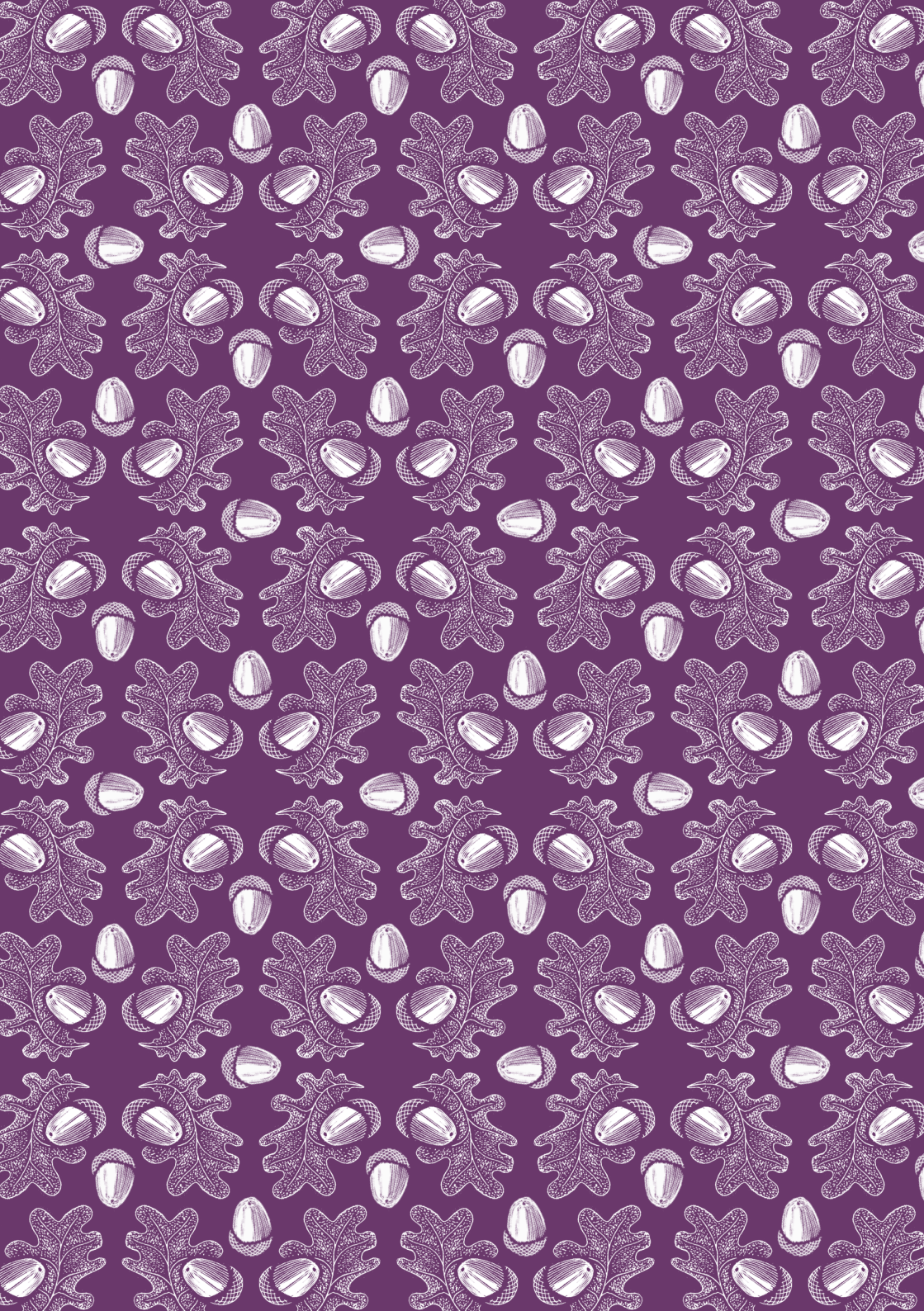
Like many in our sector the Baring Foundation thinks hard about its purpose and values and how it can strive to continuously improve its work. We believe in the role of a strong, independent civil society nationally and internationally. We use our independence to protect and advance human rights and promote inclusion. We apply our resources to enable civil society to work with people experiencing discrimination and disadvantage and to act strategically to tackle the root causes of injustice and inequality.

And most importantly of all. We remain angry about social injustice and deprivation, and support all of those who strive to address it – though their actions large and small. We champion the right to speak out and the importance of voluntary and community action as part of our social fabric. We work with others to protect and strengthen it. We know our impact is small and we remain awed by those who work so hard to change society for the better. In our first 50 years we have started a mission. We begin our next 50 years with our passion intact and our commitment even stronger – to support those who voice the needs of those who otherwise go unheard, finding new solutions and strengthening communities.

**Janet Morrison**

*Chair, the Baring Foundation*





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