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John Ross MBE Community Trust Fund: Making more than £50k's worth of major difference to worthy causes

By Grimsby Telegraph (/people/Grimsby Telegraph/profile.html) | Posted: September 03, 2014



HELPING HAND: Gill Ross, representing the John Ross MBE Community Trust Fund, presents a £500 cheque to Andy Smith, director of the Get Hooked On Positive Activities community project.

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IS YOUR society, group or organisation making a difference, but in need of a boost?

The John Ross MBE Community Trust Fund, created in honour of the late John Ross, has seen more than £50,000 handed to scores of worthy causes in Grimsby, Cleethorpes and Immingham – along with the villages in North East Lincolnshire since it launched in 2011.

Earlier this year we saw how many groups and clubs in our borough benefited from a donation from the fund after the previous round of applications.

And now fresh applications for funding from groups are being invited for consideration by the committee.

John died in the May of 2011, aged 76, following a fall at his home.

He had battled with Parkinson's disease for a number of years.

As is well known in our parts, the Ross family had built up the highly successful fishing empire of the same name, founded by John's grandfather Thomas, who moved his family to northern Lincolnshire in the late 1800s.

Mr Ross remained in the town, taking over the business from his father Carl and was also on the board of Cosalt, where he was the chief executive.

Following his father's death, son David, a successful businessman in his own right, was keen to see the Ross family name live on in the town in a positive way, aiming to help those in the community to improve and to move forward.



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As a result of that, the John Ross MBE Community Fund was born.

Mr Ross' widow Gill, David's stepmother, has also helped to oversee the fund, and has been present to award the majority of the cheques to worthy organisations and causes in the years since.

David said: "Since the John Ross MBE Community Fund was established, nearly £50,000 has been donated to local good causes and charities.

"There has been some national attention on Grimsby, and particularly the East Marsh, over recent weeks and months.

"While some of this has been less than positive, through the academies in my education trust I see on a daily basis that there is a great deal that we should be proud of.

"Our young people show huge potential. Our community provides a supportive and caring environment and we are seeing progress and development in the town."

The local committee is now asking other organisations and committees within North East Lincolnshire to apply for cheque grants of between £250 and £1,000.

If you believe your organisation could benefit from a grant from the fund, simply complete the form printed here and tell the fund's board in no more than 250 words why your group needs the money and what it will be used for. These can either be posted or sent via e-mail.

The fund is open to applications from all sorts of organisations big or small; the important thing is that they are making a difference to their local community and helping to bring people together. The closing date is September 30.