

## Grants to Grow

### A Bursary Fund for disadvantaged 16-24 year olds – Applications Open 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024 – Close 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024

Sunshine Sunflower Foundation (SSF) are to convert to a Grant Making Charity now the founder and Shepley resident, Ian Lumb has decided to retire. He was 65 in June! Below is a snapshot of our achievements since 2020 up to present.

Covid-19 saw self-employed Landscape Gardener, Ian Lumb, take a struggling, disadvantaged youngster 'under his wing' to help him in local gardens. The young man thrived on horticultural activity and particularly on Ian's patient, 1:1 championing. An impressed client helped Ian set up a foundation locally to establish a similar pathway for several more marginalised youngsters.

Registered charity, Sunshine Sunflower Foundation (SSF) has been run by husband-and-wife team, Ian and Debbie Lumb. Debbie is the Director.

Over the years the charity has recruited 13 disadvantaged youngsters (16-24), offering a 12-month work placement with on-the-job training in landscape gardening. Participants have attended at least two days weekly and remunerated at age-related minimum wage. The remaining time was spent volunteering 'hands-on' in gardens or attending college.

SSF have successfully supported youngsters recovering from COVID isolation, targeting mental health issues such as depression and anxiety. As we all know, hard gardening work in the fresh air helps establish routine and regulates sleep.

The charity has also targeted reduction in neighbourhood antisocial behaviour, (youngsters feel less tempted to steal, given their receipt of a wage). It has introduced them to gardening clients and championed employment opportunities in their own area, thereby collectively, promoting community cohesion.

Going forward with remaining charity funds, the board of Trustees would like to offer a £1000 grant to local disadvantaged youngsters to either start up their own business or support their studies at College or University. To apply is easy. Simply complete the one-page application form on the charity website [www.sunshinesunflower.org.uk](http://www.sunshinesunflower.org.uk) and attach it to an email to Debbie Lumb - [debbie@sunshinesunflower.org.uk](mailto:debbie@sunshinesunflower.org.uk). Applicants need to explain how the grant money would be spent and supply receipts. The deadline for the application is 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024. Grants will be awarded by BACS or cheque w/c 26<sup>th</sup> August and the money needs to have been spent by the end of September.

If there are any questions, please text or call Debbie on 07904 813 646 for further information. We expect the opportunity to be oversubscribed.

Les Mettrick                      Ian Lumb                      Debbie Lumb

Chair of Trustees                      Founder                      Director




