

Foreword...

Common themes quickly emerge from a 25 year history of ACRE's work in aiming to make a difference to rural communities. Since its creation in 1987, ACRE has benefited from a membership that represents the experts in working with the grain of rural communities.

ACRE has harnessed the strength of the network experience into a powerful structure to support our national work. Nevertheless, our national advocacy role has always benefited from joining together with others to create a national focus for rural influencing. In the early years, we took on the secretariat of Rural Voice, and we now do the same for its modern day equivalent, the Rural Coalition.

Major national programmes negotiated by ACRE have always been managed through delegated delivery by our members which enables maximum efficiency at minimal risk. It is no surprise, therefore, that external evaluations of funding programmes such as the £4 million Rural Action in the 1990s and the £1.5 million COMMA grants fund which ended in 2011 received praise for achieving genuine reach into rural communities.

One of the strengths of RCAN activity is its work across social, environmental and economic objectives. Throughout the 25 years of ACRE's existence, this has been demonstrated from CountryWork on building rural skills and employment, to 21st Century Village on community action on the environment. Whereas once we supported community enterprises and micro-businesses via the creation of telecottages, 20 years later the network is at the forefront of rolling out superfast broadband. Although often seen as a benefit to the rural economy, broadband will eventually underpin a raft of new initiatives to address the relentless withdrawal of public services from rural areas. We have only just begun to think about delivery of virtual services in health, education and social care.

Nevertheless, rural communities have been coping with service withdrawal since the 1950s and filled the vacuum with self-help initiatives. From past experience, one lesson is clear – community action in rural areas is sustainable because it is small scale and often quite informal and we may lose it if we fail to respect its strengths. The living proof is an aspect of our work which is unlikely to change - the national support we provide for England's 10,000 community owned halls that are run by volunteers and which play such a crucial role in supporting local village activity. There is no alternative model for asset management in small rural communities that could see £3.1 billion of assets managed by volunteers, with an average income per hall of under £9,000 per annum.

Although we have had many funders, we would particularly like to acknowledge the relationship we have had with Defra and their predecessor agencies who also sustained many of our network's activities over the years. This publication contains just the highlights of ACRE's work over the past 25 years, a history of which we are rightly proud. We hope it does justice to the claim that ACRE, with the help of its members, has genuinely succeeded in making a difference to the rural communities we all serve.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sylvia Brown'.

Sylvia Brown, OBE
ACRE Chief Executive



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sue Shaw'.

Sue Shaw
ACRE Chair

Who are we...

Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) is a national non-governmental organisation whose charitable purpose is to promote and support the well-being of rural communities. Through our founder member organisations in the Rural Community Action Network, ACRE has an unrivalled ability to make a difference to rural communities.

We do this through influencing national policy for which we can draw on the evidence and expertise from the grass roots across the country. We also make a difference by helping our members to develop the skills and capacity of their staff to work with communities and through developing and delivering funding programmes aimed at stimulating community action.

The 38 member organisations in the Rural Community Action Network (RCAN) are charitable local development agencies that together cover rural England. With their unique reach, they are the traditional channel for delivery of rural initiatives and the primary conduit for expertise and knowledge about the state of play with rural communities. Their positioning with local authorities and local public service agencies makes them efficient agents of change and, for many decades, RCAN members have been the first port of call for rural communities and groups wanting support and advice.

Collectively, the Rural Community Action Network employs more than 500 frontline development workers in direct contact with local rural communities. The network has a local membership base of over 12,000 fee paying members and is in touch with 40,000 grass roots contacts.



Quotes...

'the rural housing association movement has already demonstrated both that there are real unmet needs for low cost housing in rural areas and that it can successfully meet those needs in ways that are welcomed by local people' Nicholas Ridley MP, Department of the Environment (Statement on rural housing, July 1988)

"... there is not an honourable Member in the House of Commons who does not believe that the idea of charging VAT on renewals to village halls and on their heating bills is little short of outrageous." William Powell, MP (Finance Bill Committee, 1988)

The Aston Business School's evaluation of RDC's Social Programme 1991 commented that 'The network of RCCs (RCAN Members) with their well developed local contacts gives ACRE some legitimacy in claiming they speak for England's rural communities and provides a unique source of local information.....and a ready means of promoting nationally community development initiatives. The establishment of ACRE has helped weld the RCCs into a more coherent and effective network.'

David Cameron MP quotes ACRE in moving a private members' bill in the House of Commons promoting lottery funding for village halls. Expresses gratitude for the 'excellent work they do' to Oxfordshire RCC and ACRE. Supporters of the bill included George Osbourne and Andrew Lansley. June 2003.

'You can't eat the scenery.'

Jeremy Fennell, the ACRE Head of Rural Policy is quoted in The Independent, 27 August 1992; 'The idyllic, rural image is far from truthful. Poverty, lack of housing, unemployment, poor or non-existent services are easily buried. You can't eat the scenery.'

- Forest of Dean MP says 'The most relevant definition of poverty that I could find was provided by ACRE....' House of Commons debate on Rural Poverty. February 1998.

Richard Benyon mentions ACRE, rural intelligence and broadband In Westminster Hall Rural Communities debate on 17 April 2012. 'In addition the government was working closely with Action with Communities in Rural England, so it benefited from regular access to up-to-date local intelligence about rural areas.....'

Beginnings...

1987-1995

1987: ACRE is formally launched as a charity, with the current members of the Rural Community Action Network as founder members

- ◆ The charitable purpose is to improve the conditions of life of people and communities in rural areas
- ◆ ACRE's early years are dominated by creating a national profile
- ◆ Rural matters are dominated by the role of the Rural Development Commission, the government agency that manages their significant rural investment
- ◆ HRH Prince Charles hosts a national seminar at St James' Palace to celebrate ACRE's 5th birthday
- ◆ Dr Malcolm Moseley is ACRE's Chief Executive.

Housing

- ◆ The Rural Development Commission (RDC) helps fund a Housing Officer for ACRE and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation funds a Rural Housing Enabler project
- ◆ The RCAN Member in Devon begins an 'options land bank' which enables options on suitable sites to be held in trust whilst a housing scheme is worked up. A positive evaluation leads to 8 RCAN members setting up similar local schemes
- ◆ Bristol-based School for Advanced Urban Studies and ACRE publish research on rural homelessness.

Health & Community Care

- ◆ The National Health Service and Community Care Act (1990) spurs RCAN Members on to identify care communities for groups of parishes
- ◆ ACRE and National Council of Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) publish research into RCAN Member involvement with local authorities and health authorities involved in social care contracts.

Charity Commission

- ◆ Through its network members, ACRE's Local Charities project enables 5,777 hard-to-reach charities to be contacted by the Charity Commission.

Community Led Planning

- ◆ The first Village Appraisals software is produced jointly by ACRE, Gloucestershire RCC, and the Countryside and Community Research Unit. Sponsors include British Petroleum, Municipal Mutual Insurance and the Countryside Commission
- ◆ RCAN Community Development Workers deliver a rapid roll out of the Village Appraisal software, recognising its value to community groups who want to get local facts and opinions in front of the key decision-makers.

Rural Advocacy

- ◆ ACRE is the secretariat for Rural Voice, a coalition of national organisations sharing an interest in rural issues. They meet with a range of Ministers and government officials on topics such as EU structural funds and housing needs in rural areas
- ◆ Rural Voice issues a policy statement on the social impact of coalfield closures and their Health Group publishes: Health Care in Rural England
- ◆ There are calls for a Rural Affairs White Paper in parliamentary debates and Country Life editorials as a result of ACRE's 1994 publication: Rural Life: Facts and Figures
- ◆ Funding from the RDC enables ACRE to prove that despite significant increases in the rural population in the 1980s, there was a sharp decline in the provision of many basic village services.



Village Halls

- ◆ Ronseal sponsors the first national survey of village halls in England in 1988 with 2,821 respondents, representing over 25% of halls across the country
- ◆ ACRE and the Village Halls Forum tackle increasing costs to village halls across England. They repel a threat to increase VAT on village hall rebuilds but ultimately lose the battle over the full rate of VAT on fuel and power
- ◆ ACRE administers the Rural Development Commission's Village Halls Loan Fund whose capital grows to £500k by 1995
- ◆ Best selling publications are, Making Village Halls Accessible and ACRE's publication on Heating, sponsored by Calor.

The Rural Economy

- ◆ CountryWork a review of rural local economic training initiatives, co-operatives and community enterprises, is published jointly by ACRE and the Glasgow-based Planning Exchange, eliciting international recognition
- ◆ The Post Office and RDC support the ACRE £40,000 CountryWork scheme to support rural community employment initiatives in six south west counties
- ◆ 1990 sees ACRE publish a report on Teleworking and Telecottages; a new way of rural working at a distance from employers using computers linked by telephone lines
- ◆ British Telecom funds England's first teleworking adviser at ACRE and 1993 sees the launch of an independent Telecottage Association
- ◆ Over 50 telecottages are established and the Telecottage Association makes computer equipment available on a low cost hire basis and supports teleworking training
- ◆ ACRE secures funding for a video: 'Parish, People and Place', showing the power of the parish council to represent local needs, and take action to improve local social and environmental conditions.



The middle years...

1995-2000

1997: ACRE becomes a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee

- ◆ In 1997, ACRE receives the Laurent Perrier Country Life Rural Charity of the Year award for outstanding achievements in the rural world
- ◆ Rural Action for the Environment, a national £4 million grants fund hosted by ACRE delivers 4,800 micro-grants to local community projects
- ◆ £10 million is secured from the Millennium Commission for a major capital scheme for village halls - the 21st Century Halls Project
- ◆ ACRE's Rural Poverty Initiative receives widespread interest under the title 'You can't eat the scenery'
- ◆ ACRE begins work with the Countryside Agency, the body which takes over the role of managing the rural investment in RCAN members
- ◆ RCAN members are making new strategic connections as a result of the government's creation of new regional structures
- ◆ Les Roberts is ACRE's Chief Executive to 2000.

Rural Advocacy

- ◆ ACRE provides the secretariat for the England LEADER Network
- ◆ ACRE convinces the government departments and the national Lottery to fund new regional voluntary sector structures
- ◆ ACRE joins the Sparsely Populated Local Authorities Team (SPLAT) to maintain the 'sparsity factor' in local authority standard spending assessments
- ◆ Oxford University and ACRE complete a pilot poverty mapping exercise
- ◆ ACRE's Bridge Project to improve life quality for the rural marginalised and excluded gets a kick start from the Department for Education and Employment.

The Rural Economy

- ◆ The CountryWork scheme continues and funds 5,000 rural people to receive training and 800 get employment
- ◆ ACRE and the Post Office produce a model occupational licence for Post Offices located in Village Halls.

Community Halls

- ◆ The second ACRE 10-year village hall survey was conducted, with responses from 3,348 halls, and the results published in 1998 with sponsorship from the Rural Development Commission and Stage Systems.

Quality Standards

- ◆ National Lotteries Charity Board funds the Good Practice project to create a code of practice for community development work
- ◆ The Quality Standards Task Group begins to shape the voluntary sector's approach to quality.

The Environment

- ◆ Rural Action for the Environment was a £4 million grants fund offering easy-access to micro-grants for community projects. Negotiated and hosted by ACRE, the fund was sponsored by a range of private and public investment over its 7 year life and benefited more than 4,800 projects
- ◆ Rural Action was delivered as a delegated scheme. RCAN members provided the local administration and the specialist support to local groups and provided local networking opportunities for projects to share experience
- ◆ Aston Business School's evaluation of Rural Action in the Environment applauds its speed of response and flexibility made possible by RCAN Members' grant administration at county level. Robert Atkins, the Minister for the Countryside praises Rural Action's 'vital contribution'.

The new Millennium...

2000-2005

2001: Sylvia Brown is appointed Chief Executive

- ◆ The Rural White Paper 2000 announces investment of £1 billion over 3 years in rural programmes, including £45 million in programmes to build social capital
- ◆ The 2004 Haskins Review concludes that rural programmes should be delivered through Regional Development Agencies or Local Authorities
- ◆ In 2002, Rural Affairs Minister Alun Michael, invites ACRE to join the Rural Affairs Forum for England in recognition of its expertise and representative capacity and Defra begins, for the first time, to fund ACRE's national role
- ◆ From 2001, ACRE establishes its position within 'third sector' arenas looking at future investment in the voluntary sector through CapacityBuilders
- ◆ The Treasury, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and DCMS all seek ACRE's expertise and ability to demonstrate grass roots reach through its members.

Rural Advocacy

- ◆ ACRE's Bridge Project exploring rural poverty and social isolation is launched at the House of Commons. ACRE is involved with the All Party Parliamentary Group on Poverty and joins the Joseph Rowntree Foundation's Steering Group on Poverty and Social Exclusion
- ◆ ACRE's membership of the National Rural Affairs Forum creates opportunities for partnership working with a new range of partners and, for the first time, Defra begins to fund ACRE's national role
- ◆ ACRE's input from its members helped shape the 2004 Haskins Review of Rural Delivery and, for non rural investment, the Home Office's Infrastructure Strategy for the Voluntary and Community Sector
- ◆ ACRE ran a rural regeneration programme and continued to provide the secretariat for the England LEADER Network
- ◆ National and regional media pick up ACRE's report: The Status of Funding for Village Halls in 2002 and the Defra Minister is summoned to respond to a Commons debate on the subject. Key government departments and funding bodies agree to focus efforts on the issue.

Quality Standards

- ◆ ACRE's Good Practice Project is introduced to the RCAN Network, 14 RCAN Members pilot the Quality Standards and implementation is later rolled out across all members. Every RCAN Member Board appoints a Quality Champion
- ◆ Defra invests in the rollout of peer-reviewed quality standards, with the aim of demonstrating that the network is 'fit for purpose' for continued investment.

Community Halls

- ◆ The Village Hall Loan Fund increases to £700K
- ◆ The 21st Century Halls for England capital funding programme ends in March 2001 having supported improvements worth nearly £10 million in 163 village halls
- ◆ ACRE and Community Matters work on the Governance Plus Project for community buildings
- ◆ ACRE undertakes groundbreaking research in 2004 to explore the role, funding and governance of village halls. The results feed into the production of a toolkit for village halls, sponsored by the Carnegie UK Foundation. AON later funded the printing and free hard copy distribution of the Village Hall Management Toolkit to village halls across the country.

Making rural mainstream...

2005-2010

2008: ACRE is commissioned to manage Defra's investment in RCAN members

- ◆ 2006 sees Rt Hon David Milliband, as Defra Secretary of State, initiate 'rural mainstreaming', heralding severe reductions in dedicated rural investment. Defra takes back direct delivery of remaining rural programmes from the Countryside Agency
- ◆ ACRE obtains 5 year strategic funding agreement with the Home Office and secures a rural element to CapacityBuilders investment
- ◆ RCAN Members show off their decades of experience in community environmental action through a network-wide project, 21st Century Village
- ◆ ACRE's Chief Executive, Sylvia Brown, is awarded the OBE for services to rural communities in 2007.

The Rural Economy

- ◆ ACRE and Business in the Community produce a toolkit on strengthening relationships with the private sector
- ◆ ACRE, Plunkett Foundation and Coops^{UK} mount Enterprise4Inclusion, an action research programme to explore the role of social enterprise in addressing rural social exclusion.

Quality Standards

- ◆ ACRE becomes a National Open College Network (NOCN) accreditation centre and the Peer Reviewer Training is NOCN accredited at 'A' Level Standard. 14 RCAN Member staff achieve the new NOCN ACRE Peer Reviewer accreditation
- ◆ ACRE seeks and gets formal Charity Commission endorsement of the ACRE Standards.

Improving support for communities

- ◆ ACRE holds the first 2-day Network Fieldworkers' Conference in 2006 and every subsequent year
- ◆ The success of the approach used to connect village hall advisers around the country is extended under ACRE's Rural Infrastructure for England programme. For the first time, RCAN benefits from the electronic networking and dedicated national support for local practitioners working on community led planning and rural housing.

Rural Advocacy

- ◆ ACRE works with the Home Office to explore the specific needs of rural frontline groups and, as a result, CapacityBuilders introduces their Improving Reach funding strand
- ◆ Membership of the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) Rural Housing Advisory Group enables ACRE to advocate on community-led action on housing provision
- ◆ The Quirk Review on Community Asset transfer benefits from ACRE's input of expertise on community management of assets
- ◆ ACRE is a founder member with 6 other organisations brought together by the Commission for Rural Communities under the banner of the Rural Coalition, chaired by Lord Matthew Taylor.

Funding

- ◆ ACRE is commissioned for the first time to manage Defra's investment in RCAN members. The grant total for RCAN Members is £10.35 million over 3 years.
- ◆ Big Lottery BASIS investment in ACRE's Rural Infrastructure for England programme and Office of the Third Sector strategic funding increases staff capacity and RCAN Member networks for community owned assets, community engagement, rural services and regional influencing
- ◆ ACRE obtains 5 year strategic funding agreement with the Home Office.



Community Halls

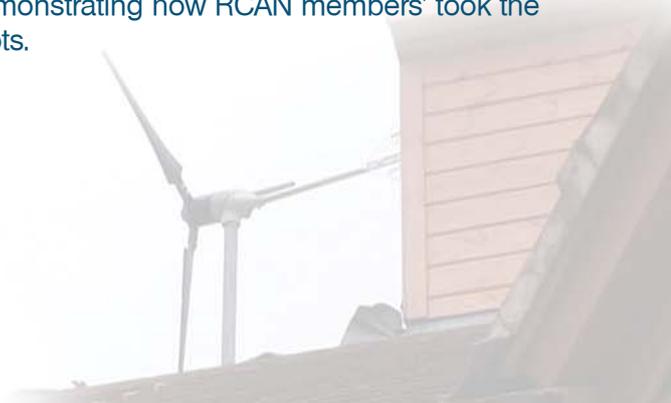
- ◆ The Rural Community Buildings Loan Fund now has a value of £700K
- ◆ ACRE publishes *How Green is our Hall?* and works with Community Matters to produce: *Your community building counts – a guide on environmental action for those running community halls*. RCAN Village Hall Advisers are trained to give energy efficiency advice and undertake energy audits in village halls
- ◆ Funding from CapacityBuilders enables ACRE to support the rollout of the Hallmark Quality Scheme for village halls, originally developed by our member in Somerset, and taken up in 19 English counties
- ◆ ACRE completes its third 10-year national survey of England's 10,000 rural community buildings with sponsorship from Defra. Around 25% of halls respond once again, showing an asset value of over £3 billion but only 3% of halls receive regular local authority funding.

Community Led Planning

- ◆ ACRE research shows over 4,000 rural communities have been stimulated and supported to take up the challenge of preparing a Community Led Plan to improve their local area
- ◆ 800 copies of the Neighbourhood and Parish Planning Toolkit, developed by the South East Rural Community Councils, are published by ACRE and disseminated to network members for use with the communities they support. This is later renamed the Community Led Planning Toolkit when its contents are reviewed and new resources added
- ◆ ACRE collaborates with the Centre for Sustainable Energy to make a low carbon future an essential part of rural community led planning.

The Environment

- ◆ ACRE and 75% of RCAN Members sign the Third Sector Declaration on Climate Change and ACRE's Chief Executive joins the Ministerial Task Force on Third Sector Climate Change, Environment and Sustainable Development. Defra funds ACRE to write a guide for local councils to adapt to the impact of climate change
- ◆ ACRE develops its own internal environmental management system
- ◆ Through a network-wide initiative, 21st Century Village, all RCAN members commit to stimulating activity during 2007/8 to support the role of rural communities in taking action on climate change and the environment. ACRE launches the final report of 21st Century Village in Westminster, demonstrating how RCAN members' took the challenge to the grass roots.



Where we are today...

2010-2012

2012: ACRE celebrates its 25th year

- ◆ ACRE and RCAN Members feel the knock-on effects of public funding constraints but RCAN's traditional focus on community-led action is at the forefront of the government's localism policies
- ◆ ACRE's Policy Position Papers and Topic Sheets demonstrate the breadth of our network's activities and the range of partners with which ACRE works
- ◆ ACRE's investment in the Rural Evidence OCSI concept brings new understanding of dispersed rural deprivation
- ◆ ACRE takes on the secretariat of the Rural Coalition, echoing its role 20 years previously with Rural Voice
- ◆ ACRE celebrates its 25th year and its long-standing relationship with Defra Rural Communities Policy Unit with a conference in London – Richard Benyon, the Rural Affairs Minister speaks.

Funding

- ◆ April 2011 sees the start of a new 4 year Defra investment programme with Defra, managed by ACRE on behalf of RCAN members
- ◆ ACRE is successful in bidding to the Big Lottery Fund, to extend its Rural Infrastructure for England Project to September 2013
- ◆ The COMMA Fund, which ACRE administered on behalf of Defra, closes in March 2011 having paid out nearly £1.4 million in grants to 190 local community projects. ACRE's delivery of COMMA is applauded for reaching genuine community projects
- ◆ ACRE joins the Plunkett Foundation and others in delivering the Big Lottery's Village SOS programme supporting and promoting rural community enterprise. RCAN members respond by mounting the best local roadshow events across the country.

The Rural Economy

- ◆ ACRE keeps track of RCAN member involvement in Local Enterprise Partnerships and informs government on the rural impact of the economic downturn
- ◆ Lack of access to broadband is acknowledged as a significant barrier to economic growth. With Defra's support, ACRE harnesses the reach of the Rural Community Action Network to stimulate demand for improved broadband supply in rural communities.

Rural Advocacy

- ◆ ACRE builds relationships with civil servants across Communities and Local Government to support the development and implementation of the Localism Act rights for communities
- ◆ Expertise gained from RCAN's community led planning and local housing initiatives leads to invites from a range of statutory and community sector partners across the country to talk about localism and the impact of planning deregulation
- ◆ The Rural Evidence OCSI resource is developed from work originated by a local RCAN member to demonstrate the extent of rural deprivation. Later developments enable demographic and other public data to be profiled for individual rural communities
- ◆ ACRE, the Rural Media Company and AGE UK promote DVDs and resources from 'Over the Hill?', a project financed by the Nationwide Foundation aimed at raising awareness about issues and initiatives to support the rural elderly
- ◆ ACRE takes over the secretariat of the Rural Coalition and membership rises to 15 major national organisations to become an independent focus for national rural advocacy, recognised by Defra as a valued national stakeholder. Lord Robin Teverson takes over as Chair from Lord Matthew Taylor.



Fuel Poverty

- ◆ ACRE and National Energy Action, funded by Calor UK, support local roadshows highlighting rural fuel poverty and offering solutions
- ◆ 'Best Practice for Oil Buying Groups' is published, supporting Oxfordshire RCC's initiative which has stimulated 23 RCAN members to set up similar county oil buying groups.

Community Halls

- ◆ The Hallmark Quality Scheme allows around 400 village halls to maintain, receive or renew an award
- ◆ September 2012 sees the launch of 'Community Assets – Keep their future vibrant', ACRE's campaign to support RCAN and village hall volunteers.

Community Led Planning

- ◆ RCAN Members take part in a major revision of the national toolkit which is launched in February 2012
- ◆ New topic sheets are produced on tourism, affordable warmth, community safety, emergency planning, heritage and older people are developed by working with different partner organisations
- ◆ ACRE works with partners and local authorities to publish a best practice guide for local government: 'Making the most of Community Led Planning'.

Improving the quality of support for communities

- ◆ ACRE and 32 out of 38 RCAN Members achieve Level 3 of the ACRE Standards. 35 members, including ACRE, have Charity Commission endorsement of their achievements
- ◆ Quality standards for County Associations of Local Councils are developed in a joint project between ACRE and NALC
- ◆ A series of 4 seminars on the planning system and localism measures are mounted by ACRE and Planning Aid
- ◆ The electronic communities of practice developed by ACRE to connect front line practitioners on a range of topics including housing, rural services and community led planning, are the medium through which experience is shared across the country. ACRE's annual residential Fieldworker event draws in expert speakers on a wide range of relevant topics.



Past Chief Executives and Chairs...

ACRE cannot celebrate its 25th year without thanking the men and women who helped steer us on our way.

Chief Executives

Dr Malcolm Moseley
March 1988 – February 1994

Les Roberts
February 1994 – March 2001

Sylvia Brown OBE
March 2001 - present

Chairs

Reverend Jeremy Martineau
March 1988 – March 1991

Audrey Lees
March 1991 – October 1992

John Spencer
October 1992 – November 1995

Alexina Gannon
November 1995 – March 1998

Simon MacLachlan
March 1998 – March 2001

Jolyon Dodgson
March 2001 – March 2003

Reverend Canon John Brown
March 2003 – March 2009

Sue Shaw
March 2009 - present

Funders...

ACRE and RCAN have been held worthy of funding over the past 25 years by some 150 different organisations in some cases more than once. Without these organisations our valuable work in rural communities would not be able to continue. Our funders are listed on this page with grateful thanks:

Abbey National plc
Advantage West Midlands
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Aon
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Association of District Councils
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Barclays Bank plc
Bass
Bookers plc
Bournemouth University
BP
British Rail
British Telecom
BTR plc
Business in the Community
Calor Gas Ltd
Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation
Campaign for the Countryside
CapacityBuilders
CCLA
Cementone Beaver
ChangeUp
Charities Aid Foundation
Charity Bank
Cheshire County Council
Community Fund
Community Matters
Co-Operative Bank
Cornhill Insurance Company
Countryside Commission
Courage Ltd
Cumber Family Trust
Dalgety plc
DCLG
Defra RCPU
Department of Health
DETR
DFEE-NIACE
Dulverton Trust
Eagle Star
Earl Fitzwilliam Charitable Trust
England LEADER Network
English Nature
Enterprise4Inclusion
Essex County Council
European Commission DGX
Eurotunnel
F. Wills Charitable Trust
Felix Foundation
Foundation for Alternatives
G J Lavanos Charitable Trust
Garfield Weston Foundation
George Wimpey Charitable Trust
Girobank plc
Gloucestershire Business Link
Goldsmith's Company
Halifax Building Society
Home Office Civil Renewal Unit
ICI plc
Kellogg Company of Great Britain
KMPG Peat Marwick
Le Chocolatier
Lincolnshire County Council
Lloyds Bank Charitable Trust
Lloyds Bank plc
Lloyds TSB
Marks & Spencer plc
Midland Bank plc
Millennium Commission
Mr & Mrs J A Pye Charitable
Settlement
National Freight Corporation
National Lottery Charity Board
National Westminster Bank plc
NCVCCO
NEBS
New Homes Marketing Board
NFU
Nigel Vinson Charitable Trust
Northern Rock Foundation
Office of the Third Sector
Polydron
Prudential Corporation plc
Rank Hovis McDougall
River Cottage Appeal
Royal Mail
RTZ Group
Rutland District Council
Savills plc
SCCD
Scottish Development Agency
Shell UK Ltd
Shropshire County Council
SICO Eupoe Ltd
Simms & Co
Sir Cyril Kleinwort Charitable Trust
Southern Tree Surgeons
St Peters Church Council
Stannah Lifts
Sterling Roncraft (Ronseal)
Summerfield Trust
Sun Life Assurance Society Ltd
Technology Choice Project
The Community Fund
The Allen Lane Foundation
The Arts Council
The Baring Foundation
The Big Lottery Fund
The Carnegie UK Trust
The Charities Aid Foundation
The Charity Commission
The Christopher Reeves Charitable
Trust
The Clothworkers Foundation
The Commission for Rural
Communities
The Ernest Cook Trust
The Esme Fairbairn Charitable Trust
The Forbes Trust
The Freemason's Grand Charity
The General Electric Company plc
The Hambland Foundation
The Home Office Voluntary Services
Unit
The House Builders Federation
The J Rothschild Group
The Joseph Rowntree Foundation
The Millichope Foundation
The Nigel Vinson Charitable Trust
The Plunkett Foundation
The Post Office
The Rayne Foundation
The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc
The Rural Development Commission
The Tudor Trust
The Workforce Hub
TSB Foundation for England and
Wales
TSB Group
UK LEADER Network (LRDP)
UK Villages
United Grand Charity
Viscount Amory Charitable Trust
Wagon Industries
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Welsh Development Agency
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Wiltshire County Council
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Acknowledgements...

A big 25th anniversary thank you to:

ACRE staff past and present for their dedication and hard work for and on behalf of RCAN Members and the grass roots communities they serve.

The 38 RCAN Member organisations without whom ACRE would have no reason to exist.

All the organisations who have been affiliates and partners of ACRE and helped keep rural communities vibrant and sustainable.

Thanks for all your hard work



The Rural Community Action Network



If you require this publication in large print please email your request to acre@acre.org.uk

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