The Anchor Society

APPEAL NEWS 2026

Improving the lives of older people in the **Greater Bristol Area**



SUPPORT THE ANCHOR SOCIETY

There are many ways you can support the Anchor Society from donations to leaving a gift in your will. You can find out more on our website **www.anchorsociety.org.uk/donation-form**

The Anchor Society

The Anchor Society | Charity Number 1167933 | Unit 1 Eco Studios, Clanage Road, Bristol BS3 2JX | admin@anchorsociety.org.uk | 0117 973 4161

A message from Anchor President, Ben Hardy

As I reflect on the impact of your donations to the 2025 appeal, I am humbled to see the life changing achievements this has enabled.

Your donations have had far reaching and impressive effects, but our work is not done. This year has seen growing demand for support across our region, as many older people are facing rising living costs, poor housing conditions and increasing isolation.

Thanks to your support, we have continued to respond with practical help where it is needed most. This year we have awarded more than **£119,000, providing essential goods through our Emergency Grants programme**, helping older people remain safe, warm and independent in their homes. These grants supported vital needs such as heating, flooring, household appliances, furniture and mobility aids – often making an immediate difference to people facing crisis.

Alongside this, we awarded over **£160,000 in Organisational Grants** to community organisations working to reduce isolation, improve wellbeing and support healthy ageing. Together, these grant programmes reached more than **6,000 older people** across Bristol, Bath & North East Somerset, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset.

One of the highlights of the year was visiting some of the organisations we support, including Life Cycle, where we witnessed first-hand the powerful impact of volunteering, rehabilitation and community connection. These visits are an important reminder that Anchor's funding is not simply financial support – it is an investment in people, dignity and hope.

On behalf of the Trustees, thank you for your continued commitment to Anchor and to the communities we serve. Your support enables us to respond compassionately and practically to those who need us most.





WAYS TO DONATE

1. Online Donate online via our website at **www.anchorsociety.org.uk**

2. By BACS – direct transfer or standing order to account number **42165325**, sort code **40-14-13**, using your name as the payment reference

3. By post You can send cash or a cheque directly to us at The Anchor Society Office: **Unit 1, Eco Studios, Clanage Road, Bristol BS3 2JX**. Cheques made payable to **"The Anchor Society"**

The Need In Our Region

29% of the population are over 55 in our region

Approximately 1 in 22 people are living with dementia

One in ten pensioners have no savings at all

1 in 6 people across the West of England report feeling isolated or lonely

Around 40% of older adults in Bristol live with a long-term health condition

1 in 10 households are in fuel poverty

Sources: Bristol City Council, Centre for Ageing Better, Bath & North Somerset Council, Age UK, South Gloucestershire Council.

ANCHOR GRANTS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Your donations have supported over 6000 people and funded 155 Emergency Grants in Bristol, Bath & North East Somerset, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire.

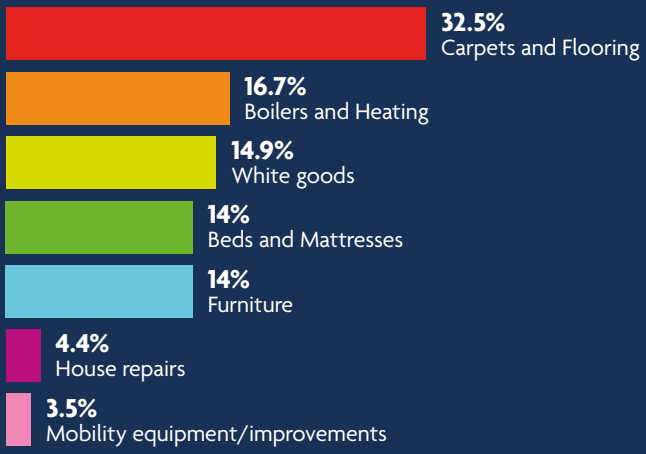
ORGANISATIONAL GRANTS

We have supported 31 organisations to deliver work with the over 55 community. Projects have addressed:

- Social isolation and loneliness
- Health and wellbeing improvements
- Digital inclusion
- Debt and benefits advice
- Dementia support

EMERGENCY GRANTS

From July 2025 – June 2026:



Anchor grants in action

Alongside our Emergency Grants programme, we support local organisations working to improve the lives of older people across our communities.



© Life Cycle

Between July 2025 to June 2026, we awarded 31 grants worth over £160,000 supporting work focused on reducing isolation, improving wellbeing, encouraging healthy ageing and providing practical support for older people. Together, these projects supported more than 6,000 people across Bristol, Bath & North East Somerset, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset.

Each year, we fund a variety of community activities, including dementia support groups, befriending services, social clubs, creative programmes, volunteering opportunities and digital inclusion projects. Grants were awarded to a wide range of organisations including **Bristol Dementia Action**, **Carers Centre in Bath**, **Goldies Charity** and **Age UK South Gloucestershire**, each helping older people remain connected, active and supported within their communities.

The work at **Life Cycle** is particularly inspiring and we are proud to support their **Bikes Beyond Bars** programme.

Anchor Members visited Life Cycle to see first-hand the impact of the work supported through our funding. Based at HMP Bristol, the programme brings together older volunteers, professional

mechanics and prisoners to refurbish unwanted bikes, helping people gain skills, confidence and purpose while reducing waste and supporting the wider community.

Anchor's funding supported volunteering opportunities for people aged over 55, including retirees and older ex-offenders. Volunteers work alongside mechanics and prisoners in the workshop, helping refurbish bikes and mentoring participants as they work towards accredited qualifications.

What stood out most during the visit, however, was the human impact behind these figures.

Volunteers spoke openly about the importance of purpose, routine and connection later in life. One reflected:

"I think showing respect to prisoners is one of the most powerful things we can do. Through these little interactions, every week, I come away bright and happy with a bit of a buzz."

Another volunteer described how the programme had positively affected his own wellbeing:

"I think it will keep me fit and healthy for many years to come – both physically and socially."

Members also heard how the workshop environment helps create dignity and trust for prisoners rebuilding their lives. One participant shared:

"Being in the workshop is the best medicine. You don't think about your problems as you are concentrating on your work. In prison you have no control over what happens to you, but in the workshop, you feel more like a human being."

The programme has achieved significant additional impact:

- **127 prisoner learners** gained bike maintenance qualifications
- **842 bikes** were saved from landfill
- **443 refurbished bikes** were redistributed to people experiencing transport poverty

Projects like these demonstrate the wider value of Anchor's Organisational Grants. Beyond the numbers, they create spaces where people feel connected, respected and valued.

Whether through music, volunteering, creativity, friendship or practical support, our Organisational Grants help older people remain active participants in their communities, improving quality of life.

Thank you to all our members and supporters whose generosity makes this work possible.

Emergency Grants: Restoring Warmth, Safety and Independence

Anchor's Emergency Grants programme continues to provide vital support to older people facing crisis and hardship across our region.



© Centre for Ageing Better

As the cost of living continues to affect those on low incomes, more older people are turning to Anchor for help. Over the past three years, the value of grants awarded has risen by almost 94%, reaching £119,853 over the past year. The average grant now exceeds £1,000, reflecting the rising cost of the essential goods and services people need.

These grants help older people remain safe, warm and independent at times when they have nowhere else to turn. Support has included:

- Heating support
- Flooring, beds and appliances
- Mobility aids

This year alone, 155 older people have received emergency support.

One of the most significant areas of growing demand has been emergency heating support. Rising costs, ageing housing stock and limited alternative support, mean many vulnerable older people are left without functioning heating for long periods.

The impact of these grants is immediate and deeply personal. One recipient told us:

"I am having a bath tonight for the first time in four years. Thank you for helping me feel warm and comfortable again."

Another shared:

"The mobility scooter has given me my freedom and independence back. I can now shop, attend appointments and be part of the world again."

This work would not be possible without the generosity of our members and supporters. Every donation helps ensure older people facing crisis can access practical support quickly, compassionately and with dignity.



Leave a lasting gift of support

Leave a gift in your Will to the Anchor Society

Throughout this newsletter, you will have seen how Anchor's grants help older people facing hardship to stay safe, warm, independent and connected. The stories in these pages remind us that growing older is a journey we all share. They also show how much a little practical support can mean when someone faces difficult circumstances. A gift in your Will can help ensure that older people across our region receive that support when they need it most.

Ros Kennedy, Past President, tells us why she plans to leave a gift to the Anchor Society:

"I am extremely proud of what Anchor does in supporting older people to live independently and have pledged to leave a gift in my Will so that the Society can continue its excellent work."

Your Will is an opportunity to reflect the values that matter most to you. After providing for family and loved ones, please consider leaving a gift to the Anchor Society. By remembering Anchor in your Will, you can continue helping older people live with dignity, comfort and independence for years to come.

Many people would like to give more during their lifetime but are limited by other financial commitments. A gift in your Will allows you to make a lasting difference in the future. Even a small percentage of your estate could provide practical support, comfort and security for an older person facing difficult circumstances.

If you would like to include the Anchor Society in your Will, please ask your solicitor to use our full name and details below:

- Our official name:
  The Anchor Society Bristol
- Our registered address:
  Bennetts, Barley Wood Stables, Long Lane, Wrington, BS40 5SA
- Our registered charity number:
  1167933

Telling us about your gift

Your Will is a personal matter, and whether you tell us about your gift is entirely your choice. If you do choose to let us know, we would be delighted to thank you and share how your future support could help older people across our region.

For more information on leaving a legacy gift, please contact us at **admin@anchorsociety.org.uk**.

A Legacy of Compassion and Care

Established in 1769, the **Anchor Society** upholds a longstanding tradition of fundraising through its **President's Appeal**, ensuring the continuation of its vital support services to older people in **Bristol**, **Bath & North East Somerset**, **North Somerset** and **South Gloucestershire**.

Thank you to our Past Presidents:

1936 Dr J Odery Symes
1937 A Anthony Skull
1938 Laurence Hosegood
1939 T Thornton Wills
1940 Sir Seymour Williams
1941 Colonel EW Lennard
1942 Ald T H J Underdown
1943 John R Skull
1944 H M C Hosegood
1945 F M Arkle
1946 J H Britton CBE
1947 Brig A L W Newth CBE, DSO, MC
1948 J P Hitchings CBE
1949 S W Cornwell
1950 E Peter Butler
1951 Ald Percy W Cann
1952 S T Carwardine
1953 C H Pritchard
1954 J B Steadman
1955 A W Bryant
1956 R C Brooks
1957 R H Brown
1958 T F Hewer
1959 T G C Butler OBE
1960 C H Clements
1961 J A Seymour Williams
1962 Robert W Melvin CBE
1963 F D Armstrong
1964 L Ashman Olive
1965 J F Durie
1966 Andrew Breach CBE
1967 Sir John Partridge KBE
1968 H P Lucas
1969 His Grace The Duke of Beaufort KG, PC, GCVO
1970 W H Needham Cooper
1971 Robert V Cooke
1972 A H G Butler
1973 Christopher Rowe
1974 Peter D Smith
1975 O D F Gardner
1976 D A Newton
1977 P S Hill
1978 Michael Collings
1979 Paul Watling
1980 J G S Young
1981 R A Garrett CBE
1982 J D Ware
1983 Norman Ricketts OBE
1984 R V S Castle
1985 J R Pool MBE
1986 His Honour Judge J A Cox
1987 C S Carwardine
1988 J B Patterson
1989 R A Lalonde
1990 F J Avery
1991 St John Hartnell OBE
1992 G J Clements
1993 R S Brooks
1994 Robert Durie OBE
1995 Paul Rowe
1996 Geoff Matthews
1997 Robert Melvin
1998 D'Arcy Parkes
1999 John Burke OBE
2000 Guy Arnoux
2001 Alan R Reed
2002 Dick Pearce
2003 Sir David Wills Bt
2004 John Cottrell
2005 Nicholas Hooper
2006 Richard Jarratt
2007 Charles Hignett
2008 John Ledbury
2009 Chris Patterson
2010 Michael Bothamley
2011 Dr Jo Gipps OBE
2012 Greg Corrigan
2013 Martin Griffiths
2014 Dr Michael McCaldin
2015 Canon Dr John Savage CBE
2016 Bob Reeves LLD
2017 Dr John Manley
2018 Prof. Sir Steve West CBE, DL
2019 Dr Ros Kennedy MBE
2020 Francis Montagu
2021 Bill Marshall
2022 Jenny Lacey
2023 Jane Oakland
2024 Dr Ros Kennedy MBE
2025 Sonia Mills

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