



Giving Circle launched in Bath

On Thursday 4th October, over fifty women gathered in The Chapel at St John's Foundation to launch the Bath Women's Fund, a new approach to philanthropy in Bath and North East Somerset through collective giving.

Inspiring local female role models spoke about the power of women coming together to give and support others in their community. The speakers were:

- The Chair of Bath and North East Somerset, Councillor Karen Walker
- Professor Carole Mundell, Professor of Extragalactic Astronomy at the University of Bath
- Amy Williams MBE
- Wera Hobhouse MP
- Sharron Davies MBE

The Bath Women's Fund is inspired by the many examples of Giving Circles around the world, engaging donors in giving and learning about philanthropy and the issues that they aim to address. The co-founders, Emma Beeston and Isobel Michael, wanted to replicate this successful model of place-based philanthropy in Bath, supported by a Steering Group and St John's Foundation in Bath.

Emma Beeston explained that "the Bath Women's Fund is a collective response to need and the giving circle will enable donors to pool resources to create more impact together".

Collective giving is a democratic approach to philanthropy, so the launch event helped to shape the new fund by voting on its structure. The votes clearly indicated that local women would like the Bath Women's Fund to have an annual grant making theme to be chosen by the members at the start of each year and a £50 monthly giving level, with young members giving at £25 per month.

The Bath Women's Fund aims to engage local women in the power of collective giving to support the local community. Women (and men) who are interested can sign up to the mailing list at:

<http://eepurl.com/dJrFwo>

CO-FOUNDER CONTACTS

Emma Beeston	emma@emmabeeston.co.uk www.emmabeeston.co.uk	07810 543737
Isobel Michael	isobel@nspimpact.org.uk www.nspphilanthropy.org.uk	07712 475163

Giving Circles

“Research shows that giving circles encourage members not only to give more, but to give more strategically and to more progressive causes, such as minority needs or advocacy work. This peer effect can have a significant impact on both sides of improving philanthropy, encouraging more and better giving”

New Philanthropy Capital “Ten innovations in global philanthropy, concepts worth spreading in the UK” report (Plum Lomax and Rachel Wharton, 2014)

www.thinknpc.org/resource-hub/10-innovations-in-global-philanthropy

St John’s Foundation

St. John’s Foundation has been supporting the community of Bath and the surrounding area for nearly eight and a half centuries. Founded in 1174 by Bishop Fitzjocelyn, it began life as a medieval refuge, set up to provide food and shelter for the poor and vulnerable in his parish. St John’s has continued to provide accommodation and support for over 840 years and now works to build resilient communities by supporting people to overcome challenges, improve their lives and live as independently as possible. St John’s does this through quality almshouse accommodation; funding support to individuals and charitable organisations locally; and Community Outreach Hubs

www.stjohnsbath.org.uk