

Grant Rule Trust News January 2022

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Cultivating Inclusive Communities

GRT News February 2022

Welcome to the latest update from the Grant Rule Trust, and apologies for the long gap since our last communication. The Trustees (and the Rule family in particular) have been preoccupied with family and other issues. However, the Trust has not been idle during the last couple of years.

After a meeting of Trustees in late 2020, we decided that it was important to put the funds held by the Trust (a little over £4,000) to good use.

As a considerable amount of the funds held had been raised by the folk music community in Kent, in memory of other friends and musicians we had lost as well as Grant, we agreed to set aside £2000 to be given as a grant for an initiative encouraging participation in folk music and folk heritage in Kent and the Weald.

Sue Rule is managing this project on behalf of the Trust and I am delighted to report that we have awarded this funding to [Broadstairs Folk Week](#). They will be partnering with James Kerry Music to run workshops at the festival next August, introducing young musicians to playing folk music. They will also be running some concerts in schools, presenting folk music in a lively and dynamic style to introduce young people to the fun and scope of a genre they may not have come across before.

GRT continues to maintain a relationship with the Pig's Ear Folk Ale, which is now being run by [Powdermill Productions](#). The new team have plans for a refreshed and re-vamped festival in 2022 – see www.folkale.co.uk for latest information.

The Trust also agreed to invest £500 in micro-loans, helping individuals and small groups around the world grow or start up a business or enterprise that would benefit themselves and their community. Paul Hookham has been in the driving seat for this initiative, and has identified two potential programmes to work with, Lend with Care and the Microloan Foundation.

[LEND WITH CARE](#)

Operated by [Care International](#), this programme has been running for 70 years and has over 60,000 lenders. Care use MFI (MicroFinance Institutions) partners in the various regions worldwide, who take on all the responsibility for funding the entrepreneurs.

Each entrepreneur has a profile which states clearly what they will use the money for and repayment of the loans are made pro-rata amongst the lenders or in total at the end of the period. Each profile indicates the country, the entrepreneur, what the money will be used for and how much (%) has been funded so far.

