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Stuart Halbert Foundation announces major boost to its charitable giving

North East projects are main beneficiaries of £1.2m charitable giving

[The Stuart Halbert Foundation](#) today announced that it will give £1.2m away to charities. The money will be used over the next three years to support individuals and projects that benefit people, animals, the armed forces and local communities.

The increase in the Foundation's charitable giving was announced at a celebratory event held at the Sage Gateshead last night (12th September 2013). Key projects that will benefit from drawing down the funds over a three year period include (but are not limited to):

- [Sage Gateshead](#) – will benefit from a total of £500,000 to enable even greater connections between its artistic programme and the community and people with which it works;
- [The Elderberries programme](#) – will benefit from a total of £250,000. Elderberries is a new project based at the Alwick Garden aimed at reducing isolation and loneliness among those aged 50 plus. Funding will be used to maintain and broaden the services available to the community;
- [Opera North](#) – will benefit from a total of £150,000 to allow it to continue to invest in its work with communities;
- [Haltwhistle Community Campus](#) – will benefit from a total of £100,000 to provide a firm foundation for its newly acquired Academy status; and
- Northumberland based [SSAFA](#) – will benefit from a total of £25,000 to support members of the armed forces and their family members.

The Stuart Halbert Foundation was established in 2010 by private individuals within the Halbert family to commemorate the important role that Stuart Halbert played in the evolution of Kilfrost from a family business into a global de/anti-icing brand, and the support he gave to the people of the North East of England. The charitable fund is supported from a mix of private donations from the Halbert family trustees and from Kilfrost.

Gary Lydiate, Chair of Trustees at the Stuart Halbert Foundation and CEO of Kilfrost said: "Stuart Halbert was not only instrumental in the growth of Kilfrost, he was proud of his roots in the North East. This fund is in his memory and should serve the local community and beyond to help those that may be disadvantaged or who simply merit our support.

“As family trustees we are great believers in giving something back to the community, whether this is directly through our own involvement in projects or by supporting those who are best placed to help those in need.”

The Foundation has already provided valuable support to a number of causes since 2010, including Safe Homes and Kindness (SHAK), a charity aimed at helping mistreated or neglected dogs, Hexham Hospital, Operation Eyeball and Haltwhistle Community Campus Academy.

Lydiate continued: “This latest injection of funds takes the Foundation to another level in charitable giving. It is with great pleasure therefore that we can announce these donations and look forward to seeing the impact they have on improving the lives of the people and animals that they seek to help.”

What the beneficiaries said:

Sage Gateshead

Commenting on the donation, general director, Anthony Sargent said, *“Quite simply, our cherished relationship with the extraordinary Halbert family and their company Kilfrost has been of defining importance throughout Sage Gateshead’s development. We share so many values and beliefs about the critical importance of nourishing the cultural life of our region, and I am very proud and enormously grateful that the Stuart Halbert Foundation Trustees have decided to make this further very generous investment in our work.”*

The Elderberries programme (based in Alnwick, Northumberland)

Commenting on the donation, Jane Northumberland, the Duchess of Northumberland, said, *“As a new project based at the Alnwick Garden, the funding will make a huge difference in helping us to deliver valuable services to the community. Isolation and loneliness are common themes among older members of society and will become an even greater concern as the population continues to age. Northumberland has a higher proportion of people aged over 55 than in the rest of England and the Elderberries programme aims to promote a healthy, more fulfilled quality of life for these important members of society.”*

Opera North (based in Newcastle and Leeds)

Commenting on the donation Richard Mantle, General Director said, *“As England’s only national opera company based outside London, Opera North has forged a strong relationship with audiences in the North East through our regular tours to Newcastle and Gateshead. This generous award by the Stuart Halbert Foundation recognises the significant national role we play as one of the most adventurous arts organisations in Britain today. This investment not only helps to secure future performances of world class opera and music throughout the North of England but ensures that Opera North can continue its invaluable work with young people to help them discover their own potential through the power of opera and music.”*

Haltwhistle Community Campus

Commenting on the donation, head teacher Mike Routledge said: *“The Stuart Halbert Foundation has been a firm supporter of what we have been trying to achieve as a community campus for several years. After discussions about how budget constraints and*

reductions will restrict some of the things we are able to do going forward, the Foundation has stepped in with this financial assistance. It's a fantastic gesture and one that our children will directly benefit from."

SSAFA (based in Northumberland)

Commenting on the donation, Major Brian Finlayson of SSAFA said: *"Our work to support the Forces and their families began in 1885 with Colonel Sir James Gildea who established the principle which lies at the very heart of the Association today - 'The ready help of friends to friends'. The Northumberland branch of SSAFA is one of ninety two branches nationwide. It is essential that we have 'friends' to offer all financial assistance to help our volunteers support members of our forces and their families. I would like to thank the Stuart Halbert Foundation for its wonderful donation, which will enable us to help those that serve or have served."*

For more information on the Stuart Halbert Foundation and how to apply for funding, visit <http://www.stuarthalbertfoundation.org.uk/>.

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Editors: For more information and interviews, contact kilfrost@admiralpr.com or call Admiral PR on 0191 222 0722.

About the Stuart Halbert Foundation

The Stuart Halbert Foundation was set up to commemorate the important role that Stuart Halbert played in the evolution of Kilfrost into a global business.

Not only was Stuart Halbert instrumental in the growth of Kilfrost, he was proud of his links in the North East, where he believed in a quiet philanthropic approach. This fund is in his memory and should serve to help those that may be disadvantaged or in need of support; not just in the local community but for those people and causes that merit support.

The Trustees of the Stuart Halbert Foundation meet regularly to assess all requests for support. The criteria are simple:

- 1) Are there sufficient funds available?
- 2) Does the request come under one of these four broad categories:
 - a) People
 - b) Animal welfare
 - c) Armed forces
 - d) Local community