



**FMPCT**

**The Francis and Maisie Pryor Charitable Trust**

*Leaving an Enduring legacy*





## **Francis and Maisie Pryor Charitable Trust - FMPCT**

The Francis and Maisie Pryor Charitable Trust (FMPCT) was set up by eminent archaeologist Professor Francis Pryor MBE and his wife Professor Maisie Taylor in 2007. The trust is a non for profit organisation run by volunteer trustees based in Peterborough.

The FMPCT is here to support community causes in the Eastern Region.

Our aim is to collect funds donated specifically for ecological, archaeological Education and community type projects, projects that often cannot attract major funding but ones that can offer strong community benefits, historical preservation and protection of natural habitats.

Projects can be varied, such as the provision for sensory gardens, equipment for outdoor classrooms, environmental community projects or archaeological digs and with our archaeological background means that we also support research digs for learning and field studies; books for students and bursaries for gifted students who would struggle to meet their university costs.

The range of projects FMPCT supports are wide and varied and our expert board of volunteer Trustees are happy to undertake talks and visits to schools, colleges and societies.

## Who are FMPCT?

As a regular expert on Channel 4's Time Team, our founder Francis Pryor, MBE, is the man who discovered the unique Bronze Age site of Flag Fen near Peterborough in 1982. Francis says of the Trust's award of the grants: "The British countryside is our finest asset, the envy of the world, and I am determined through using the many professionals I have met in my time to maintain grant giving donations to genuine good causes ensuring our wonderful environment survives for future generations."

The trust formed from Francis and Maisie's work at Fenland Archaeological Trust which was responsible for the protection and wider research within Britain's most prestigious Bronze Age site Flag Fen. This was the site Francis had discovered and subsequently excavated throughout the 1970's and early 1980's. Flag Fen later became a focus for two visits by Time Team (the successful Channel 4 Television programme) where Francis and Maisie later became regular on screen contributors; Francis, for his Bronze Age expertise and Maisie as a Prehistoric Wood Specialist. Francis is a founding member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, he has written many academic books, as well as two crime novels, and was also awarded an MBE for services to tourism in the 1999 Queens Birthday Honours List.

Francis and Maisie are now retired but still dedicate their lives to the natural world around them. They devote their time to sheep farming, being responsible for over 40 acres of fenland pasture near their home in Lincolnshire. They are passionate about their connection with the people of Bronze Age Britain, who also lived off this form of subsistence, and are vocal about human overpopulation threats to the human species.

The FMPCT formed when the Fenland Archaeological Trust, under Francis' leadership, handed over the site of Flag Fen to Vivacity. This is a Peterborough City Council run charity, providing access for the city to history and the arts.

However, Francis and Maisie remained committed to issuing funding for good causes, thus shaping what FMPCT has become. They have selected key people to serve on the board, all of whom are volunteers. The charity works hard for the benefit of the community and protection of the environment and encourages greater learning for future generations.

## *We have overseen funding for the following projects:*

**The Lost Words Project**, by Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris, began as a book but has since grown into a movement promoting connections with the natural world. The movement helps children and young people for whom nature might be challenging to reach, or perhaps for those - families and older generations - who aren't engaged with the natural world, to be inspired and connect with the world around them.

The FMPCT supported 'Lost Words' by purchasing and distributing books to all primary schools in the Peterborough District.

**The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire (BCN)** is a wildlife charity working to conserve the natural environment, and the grant they received has been used to fund 'From Ice to Flight', an exciting community field walk at Whittlesea Mere, Cambs. The walk is part of the Great Fen Project, part of a major project protecting 3,700 hectares of fenland between Huntingdon and Peterborough. From 'Ice to Flight' involves the local community in the discovery of the ancient droves hidden at the historic Whittlesea Mere site, which date from between the last Ice Age and World War II. The project also offers local volunteers the opportunity to learn on the ground skills such as excavation, identification and historical research.

### **Home Education and Explorers**

We supported a project to help young people get wildlife watching in the heart of the city.

Our funding was used to buy gardening tools and equipment.

**Railworld** volunteers helped by getting the children to start work on their very own allotment.

**Railworld and Wildlife Haven** applied for funding to put miniature cameras in habitat homes. These range from bird and bat boxes to hedgehog hotels.

The images are relayed live to The Globe Hall Environment Centre on the Railworld site for all the visitors to see all year round.

**The Landyke Countryside Trust (LCT)** is a community organisation dedicated to the preservation and conservation of the natural and manmade heritage in and around Peterborough and Stamford. Our grant allowed them to increase awareness and community involvement in the local medieval manor of Torpel Village. The grant allowed them to give a copy of The Story of Torpel to every pupil at John Clare Primary School at Helpston and Barnack CE Primary School. The book, written by Frieda Gosling, details what life was like at Torpel Village during medieval times and includes illustrations by pupils of two local schools.

# How can you help?

## Why not consider giving through our Donorship Scheme!

We accept donations from individuals, groups and companies. Because of this it is vital our benefactors understand that we are committed to see that their donations are used responsibly and positively for the community the Trust supports. You can be assured that any donations you make to the FMPCT are received transparently and will be used for project work only approved by the Trust. We would like to point out that no salary is paid to any of our serving trustees. We are wholly a 'not for profit organisation', ploughing every penny into the FMPCT fund.

Our donorship scheme is designed to give you the opportunity to regularly pay into a serving organisation that you feel committed to supporting, by donating via direct debit on a monthly/ annual basis which will ensure your money is distributed on receipt amongst worthy causes you value.

Through regular giving you will receive an annual newsletter and be invited to attend selected project events where your money has directly served positively.

Alternatively you can make a donation as a charitable gift at any point or by giving through your will. You can gift any level of funding you are comfortable with. When pledging a donation through your will, you can be satisfied in the knowledge that your legacy will be handled respectfully in your name. Your donation will make a huge difference to the next generation, creating a positive impact on individuals and communities, groups and organisations in the East of England.

## Applications

The process begins via an online funding application. This is done via our website: <https://www.francisandmaisiepryorct.org.uk/>

The application can be from an individual, group, school or club. The Trustees consider the proposal using the details supplied. The FMPCT scrutinise each project carefully to ensure that any money we would pledge on your behalf goes to the beneficial end you agreed to. Projects involving the environment, community and learning are our focus.

Once a project has been granted, we work together with the funding recipient to ensure that each project is successfully delivered.



## ***With your help the FMPCT are committed to:***

- Fully vet and support environmental based projects; including the protection of naturally sensitive ecosystems, archaeological and historical sites.
- Support schools in the provision of facilities for learning about archaeology and environmental issues.
- Provide funding for archaeological research, in its widest sense.
- Promote the learning of history and ecology to people of all ages.
- Promote more sustainable development and it's benefit to the public.
- Advance the education of the public in subjects relating to sustainable development and the protection, enhancement and rehabilitation of the environment.
- Support people to access further and higher education in archaeology, environmental studies, and related subjects.
- Connect and work together with other organisations with shared values in relation to archaeology, education, and environmental activities.
- Encourage benefactors to pledge amounts which can transparently and respectfully be given out to fully vetted deserved causes through grant giving and bursaries.

***If you feel as passionately as we do about the protection of our natural environment and want to ensure future learning and the protection of the environment is preserved for future generations, then the FMPCT are committed to ensure your wishes go to the right causes.***

***We encourage you to pledge whatever you can in your will to the FMPCT so we can deliver beneficial projects in your name for many years to come.***

**Donations can be made via:**  
[www.francisandmaisiepryorct.org.uk](http://www.francisandmaisiepryorct.org.uk)