

OUR CHARITY

Introduction

Welcome to the fifth edition of OUR CHARITY. Its hard to believe that I took over from Hilary Lindsay as Almoner a year ago – time definitely flies! This role is very fulfilling and under section 8 you can read Sally’s account of her time so far as trustee. We always welcome any help offered to us – charity experience is not a pre-requisite so don’t be put off.



Beverley Turner, Almoner

Being accountants, I know we all love numbers 🥰 so under section 1 I have graphed out our progress over the last 6 years. Our grant giving is one of the joys of being a trustee so lets see if we can give even more this year. Your donations really do make a huge difference to the lives of the individuals we help. The recipients are so happy to tell us how they have used our grants , and it is heart warming and humbling to visit them and see them in action. Please have a look at section 3 for some of their stories. And did you know that any member can sponsor a grant application? For details of how to do so take a look at section 5.

This is **Our Charity** so if there is anything you feel we should be doing please do contact either myself at almoner@accountantslivery.org or Clare Ferrar at charity@accountantslivery.org.

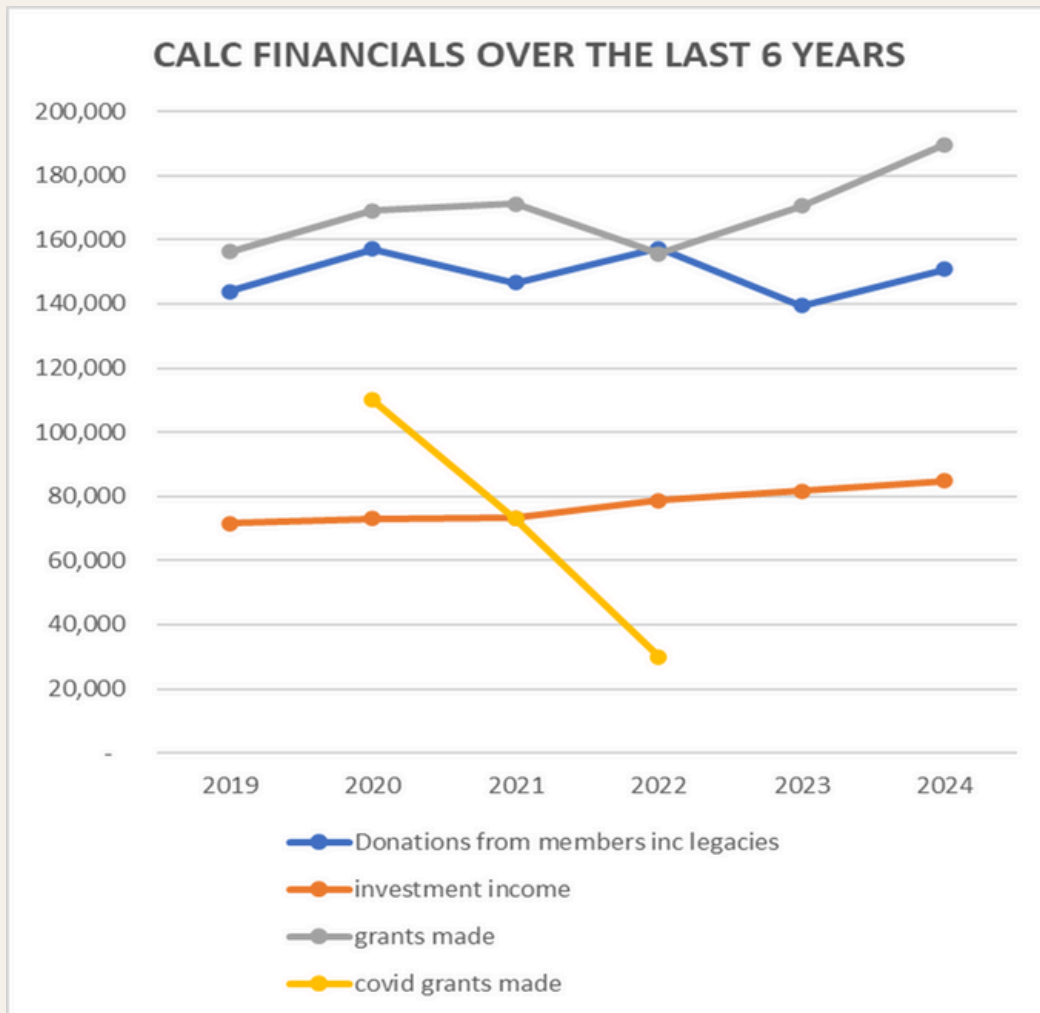
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OUR CHARITY - OCTOBER 2024

1. TRACKING OUR FINANCIALS OVER 6 YEARS

We have just completed another year and I am delighted to say that donations from members have increased to £151,000 from £139,500 last year. We have also increased our grants paid to £190,000 this last year, giving to 45 different charities and good causes. None of this would be possible without the continuing generosity of our members.



This graph sets out our success over recent years, and recovery in general grant-giving post emergency covid grants.

We would love to continue this impressive record; we are still turning down good applications we want to support.



2. UPDATE ON THE CORK CLUB



The principal aim of the Cork Club is to encourage members of the Livery Company to remember the Livery Charity in their wills. Of course, as chartered accountants, we know that one of the most tax effective ways of doing this is through legacies.

We named the Cork Club for Sir Kenneth Cork, a founder member of our Livery Company and Lord Mayor of London (1978-79), who was also an enthusiastic supporter of generous philanthropy.

How is the Cork Club connected to the Livery Charity?

The Cork Club exists to raise funds for the Livery Charity. The Club promotes lifetime gifts and legacy donations which are accumulated in the Cork Fund of the Livery Charity, thereby creating an ever increasing endowment. Income from this endowment fund will supplement the cash available from annual donations to enhance the grant giving ability of the Charity.

The Cork Fund:

- Is a separate fund within the Livery Charity – and therefore has the same trustees and charitable objects as the Charity
- Has a goal to enable the Charity to achieve sustainable growth and meet its charitable objectives for the long term.

You have generously supported the Charity with annual covenants but there is an ever-increasing demand to give more. As set out above, annual donations and investment income currently support grants of about £190k each year, but with tough choices and some good applications having to be turned down.

A lump sum from your estate to continue and increase the charitable work of your Livery while also saving inheritance tax, will be of huge benefit to future generations. We need to build the Cork Fund to establish a capital base which will deliver long term sustainable income for our Charity.

In addition to leaving a legacy in your will, we also welcome LIVING LEGACIES. You can donate to the Cork Club any time, not just on death. Of the £13,600 legacies we received last year £5,000 was a Living Legacy and I am delighted to say we have received 2 more Living Legacies totalling £15,000 this month.

We have started our journey so please help us build it for the future.

3. THANK YOU FROM THE CHARITIES WE'VE HELPED



Julian Opoku

In September 2023, we were delighted to receive a grant of £3,000 from The Chartered Accountants' Livery Charity to support one young person from London with the educational support and employment opportunities needed to kickstart their career in the Business and Finance sector.

The funding was allocated to a young man called Julian Opoku from an area of London which is one of the 30% most deprived areas in England (IMD 2019). Julian grew up in a single parent family, eligible for free school meals, with his brother Ethan. We supported Ethan, in 2021 with funding also from the Chartered Accountants Livery Charity on the same programme and he went on to secure a fantastic Level 3 Accounting Apprenticeship with BKL (and continues to thrive there). Ethan has been an inspiration to his younger brother and we were delighted when Julian applied to take part in the same programme and were able to allocate your grant in 2023 towards his journey. With your support Julian benefited from our intensive educational skills bootcamp and help in achieving his AAT Level 2 Bookkeeping qualification. We were also able to provide him with networking opportunities, corporate exposure activities, interview preparation and access to apprenticeship openings (with major firms).

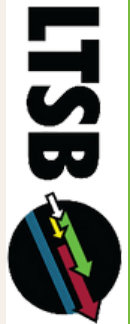
Of the 22 young people who started the bootcamp, 20 young people completed it and 17 completed their exams and achieved their AAT Level 2 in Bookkeeping qualification. The exam modules were: -

- Introduction to Bookkeeping
- Principles of Bookkeeping Controls

Julian has two interviews coming up this month with the Specialist Risk Group (SGR) for two separate roles; an Operations Supplier Admin Support role and a Business Operations Assistant role. Both roles will pay between £23,000 and £27,000 and are for immediate starts. We have everything crossed for Julian!



Practising their presentation skills at Page Group



3. THANK YOU FROM THE CHARITIES WE'VE HELPED

As you know, children with dyslexia do not often thrive in school, impacting on self-esteem, confidence and mental health. They can become side-lined, resulting in behavioural problems, mental health issues, persistent absence, exclusion, exam failure and even self-harm.



Schools often still don't have the resources to recognise dyslexia traits, or to diagnose children with dyslexia, so many go undiagnosed through life. Unemployment or low-paid jobs and negative life outcomes are more common for people with dyslexia (e.g. 1 in 5 people in prison are understood to have dyslexia and there is a high incidence in the homeless population).

Last year we directly supported 1,617 children, young people and adults from across the UK, through specialist 1 to 1 dyslexia assessments, tuition and coaching, giving them a new way forward in life:

- 1,227 individuals received assessments.
- 226 received tuition/coaching.
- 4,466 hours of specialist 1 to 1 tuition and coaching sessions.
- We helped people across 38 counties.

Supporting disadvantaged and lower-income families

The cost of dyslexia assessments and support services continue to be a barrier for disadvantaged families and individuals and no statutory funding is available. Over 80% of young people with dyslexia are estimated to leave education without a diagnosis and 75% of schools report having no access to specialist dyslexia teachers. Families are estimated as paying up to £1,000 extra per year for dyslexia specialist help and pupils from poorer backgrounds are being left behind.

Thank you again for your kind donation last year. Please pass on my thanks to all your trustees. With your help we are significantly increasing the numbers of children and adults with dyslexia whom we help, across a growing geography of the UK and across a wider socio-economic mix of diverse backgrounds.

Thank you very much for your brilliant support!

4. LATEST FROM **Beyond food**

We were honoured to be invited to attend the Beyond Food Graduation Ceremony of thirty individuals (BFF call them cohorts) who received their Graduation certificates for completing the FreshLife course, which Beyond Food were able to run with the help of our grant of £75,000.

The event was held at Brigade and it was absolutely packed with family, friends, supporters and staff. Simon Boyle introduced each successful person to say what impact the course had had on them. Their stories were so moving and uplifting. Most of them said how the course had given them confidence and a purpose in life.



One individual, Robert, told us that before the course he had been an alcoholic, had lost his job, his family and he felt worthless. Through doing the course he is now 117 days dry, has access to his children and has found a new purpose in life - he thoroughly enjoys cooking and wants to become a chef. We spoke to Robert and his mum after the graduation and he is genuinely such a lovely person. It was heart-warming to hear his story and to see at first hand how FreshLife and our grant is making such a positive impact on the lives of these individuals.



Don't forget to visit [Brigade Bar + Kitchen](#) if you are looking for drink or a meal in the City!

5. HOW TO APPLY FOR A GRANT AND MATCH FUNDING

Did you know that any member can sponsor a grant application?

All we ask is that you are involved with the charity making the application in some way, eg as a trustee or advisor, and that you know the history of the charity and the management team. That saves us having to do our own 'due diligence' on the charity and will enable the application to be processed more quickly and efficiently.

The application form is very straightforward to complete and can be found [here](#).

Alongside the grant application, we ask for the applicant's safeguarding policy and a link to their latest financial statements. Then submit these documents to us online – together with your covering email and your request automatically goes forward for consideration at the next trustees meeting.

It should be made clear in the application that the requested grant will be towards specific projects that will make a difference rather than just a contribution to overheads.

- Our next trustees meeting is 27 January 2025,
- The deadline for submitting applications is 6 January.
- You can apply for a grant up to £3,000.

We look especially favourably on requests for matched funds.

If your sponsored charity is already fundraising for a specific cause, we will match fund the amount raised up to £3,000.



So what are you waiting for?
Lets hear all about the
charities you are involved with
and let us help you help them.

PS – we don't actually give you cash! All transfers are via BACS!

6. FUTURE CHARITY EVENTS



Treloar's Annual Gala Dinner Wednesday 2 April 2025

Many WCCA EW members will be familiar with Treloar's, a charity supported by our company's livery charity which educates and cares for disabled young people with complex needs (more information on Treloar is available at [Our History | Treloar School & College](#)).

The charity has strong links with the City of London, having been established by Lord Mayor Treloar at the beginning of the last century and annually our Master, together with the Masters of other supporting Livery Companies, is invited to attend an open morning at the charity in thanks for our continuing support.

A key fundraising event for the charity is its annual dinner at the Mansion House (this year being held on 2 April 2025). Member of our company have supported this event for a number of years, and last year we filled two tables and had almost 20 members attending.

David Matthews, a trustee of the charity and one of our Court members says: **This is a cause very dear to the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress so we would again like to see a good turnout to show support for the charity, so if you would be interested in joining a WCCA EW table (tickets are £175), please respond to:**

Clare Ferrar on charity@accountantslivery.org who will co-ordinate our party.

Last year, tables sold quickly, and so an early response would be welcomed and advised!



Further information on the evening: [The Treloar's Gala Dinner 2025 | Treloar School & College](#).

7. A CALL TO HELP FROM THE NATIONAL COASTGUARD INSTITUTION



The National Coastwatch Institution, (NCI) is a key part of our coastal SAR alliance. They actively interact with the RNLI, HM Coastguard and other Rescue entities. In this calendar year alone, they have been involved with over 690 “incidents”, the majority initiated by NCI Watchkeeper, with many lives saved.

However, as NCI is operated by 100% volunteers, and 100% funded by public donations, it has a desperate need for accounting assistance. If you, or your firm can spare a part-qualified or qualified individual who lives at or close to the coast to assist a Station with their bookkeeping, please contact **Past Master Graeme Gordon, NCI National Treasurer** at Graeme.gordon@nci.org.uk



YOU TOO CAN HELP NCI SAVE LIVES AND BOOST YOUR FIRMS ESG CREDENTIALS.

8. WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A TRUSTEE AND WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP THE CHARITY??



Sally O'Neill, Trustee

Being a trustee, and being part of making great things happen as a member of a charity board, is a very important part of who I am.

Over my career I have been a trustee of 5 charities and also held senior exec positions in 4 major “not for profits”/charities.

I had been a member of the Livery Company for almost 9 years when I was approached to apply for the position of a trustee of the Livery Charity, by the previous Chair, Hilary Lindsay. I had known Hilary since her year as Master of the Company, when she actively sought out senior women in executive roles, and I recall a delightful meeting with her in a back office at the Royal Opera House, where I was CFO. We had kept in touch since then and I was very delighted, a few years later, to be asked to join the board of the Livery Charity.

As I joined the Livery Charity (as one of two new trustees), our current Chair, Bev Turner, was also new into her role. I was immediately impressed with how professionally run the charity is: my very first trustee meeting was a Training and Briefing Day, where governance matters and the purpose of the charity were covered in detail.

It is an immense privilege, and great fun, to be a trustee of the Livery Charity. With the very generous continuing donations from members and the growth of our investments, we are able to support a wide variety of important causes, many put forward by you as members, as well as a significant grant every three years to the winning bid for our Major Project Award (currently the amazing charity Beyond Food Foundation).

One of my roles within the Charity is to work on improving communications with you as our members. We know its important to let you know how your generous donations have been spent. We work hard, on your behalf, to raise funds and give to good causes. So if there is anything extra we can do to put the message across, do get in contact with Beverley or Clare on almoner@accountantslivery.org or charity@accountantslivery.org.

**Please do consider becoming a trustee of this wonderful charity.
The opportunity may be coming sooner than you think!!**