

OUR CHARITY

Introduction

Welcome to our sixth CHARITY newsletter. So much has been happening since the start of this financial year in October. We have already made donations of £28,826 to 16 good causes. Please see where your money has gone under section 1.



Beverley Turner, Almoner

The Master Jonathan Grosvenor had the inspired idea of holding flash appeals at the dinners. These have been so successful and have raised £3,177. For more information please read section 2. We would love to receive more applications for these flash appeals so please do send in your grant applications - see section 6 for how to do this.

After six years serving as a trustee Neeraj's term sadly is coming to an end. Please read his story about his experience of being a trustee under section 10. We will miss Neeraj and all his wisdom and we wish him well for the future and say a huge thank you for all he has done for the Charity.

This is our Charity so if there is anything you think 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 - MARCH 2025

1. OUR LATEST DONATIONS THIS FINANCIAL YEAR

I am delighted to report that we have received member donations of just over £72,400 in the 5 months to 28 February, £47,400 from non-legacy member donations (compared with £41,900 for the equivalent period last year) and £25,000 of legacies to the Cork Club (see section 4 for more information).



So far this financial year we have donated £28,826 to the following good causes:

Causes	Grant
1. Lord Mayor's 800th Anniversary Appeal	£250
2. British Red Cross	£1,500
3. United Guilds' Service	£400
4. City Harvest	£5,000
5. Special Forces Support Group	£3,000
6. 2158 Sevenoaks Cadets	£2,200
7. No Going Back	£400
8. Risley Avenue Primary School	£1,118
9. Rennie Grove Peace Hospice	£500
10. Stripey Stork	£3,000
11. XLP	£3,000
12. Words Matter	£3,000
13. Art Therapies for Children	£3,000
14. MyBnk UniDosh	£1,000
15. Earthworks Trust	£1,056
16. Source2City	£402
	£28,826

The trustees are meeting on 17 March and then again on 19 May so please do send in your grant applications for charities and good causes that you are involved with.

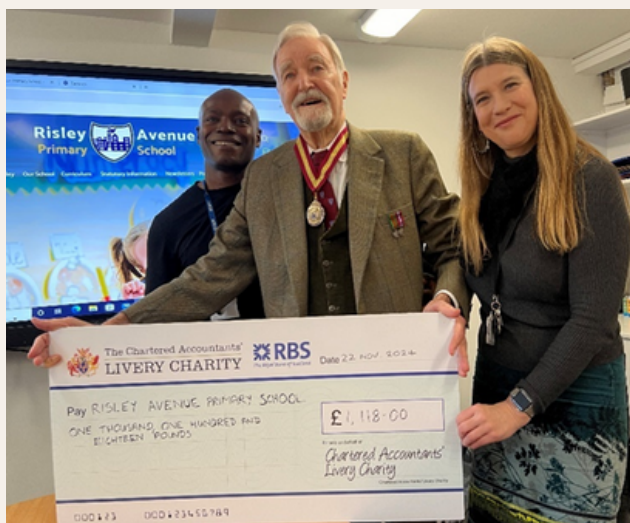
2. FUNDRAISING AT THE INSTALLATION AND WINTER DINNERS

So far this year we have held 2 flash appeals at our Dinners.

Installation Dinner Appeal

The first flash appeal at the installation dinner in October raised money for Risley Avenue Primary School and the British Red Cross.

Risley Avenue or RAPS as it's known were looking to raise about £1,000 to purchase sensory equipment to help their SEN pupils. This appeal was sponsored by Senior Past Master Ken Gardener who was a pupil at RAPS 90 years ago (Ken is 98 years young!). Ken and I had the pleasure of presenting the headmistress Linda Sarr with a cheque for £ 1,118.



Winter Dinner Appeal

The second flash appeal at the Winter Dinner was sponsored by Freeman, Chrissie Bacon, for the Earthworks Trust.

The appeal was to enable disadvantage pupils to visit the Sustainability Centre in order to help them understand about ecology, sustainability, climate change and the environment whilst experiencing high-quality learning outside the classroom. I am delighted to say that our members raised £1,056.

3. UPDATE ON THE LIVERY FOOD INITIATIVE

Report from Hilary Lindsay, Convenor Livery Charity Chairs Group

The Livery Charity Chairs Group is very grateful that the Chartered Accountants' Livery Charity has been able to contribute for a third year to the Livery Food Initiative for food redistribution charity City Harvest. At the time of writing the Van and Truck which LFI has been able to purchase will each have delivered food for around a million meals.

Once the Truck is fully funded, the Livery Food Initiative will be moving on to help City Harvest establish a new Distribution Centre at New Covent Garden Market (NCGM), Nine Elms. NCGM is the UK's largest market for fruit and vegetables, with 152 wholesalers based in the market. City Harvest will rescue nutritious food from the market traders, which will then be delivered directly to the charity's community partners. This location will give City Harvest access to surplus healthy food that was unavailable before. It is ideally placed for the charity to increase its support in South London and distribute the food to areas such as Wandsworth and Lewisham where the need is significant. Over its first year, the site will deliver 900,000 meals to people in need.

We are so pleased that we have been able to support this initiative, not just with our donations but by hosting Livery wide webinars in each of the three years, so potential donors have been able to hear in more detail about the issues City Harvest face and how they can help.

We may well also arrange a volunteering visit to their main depot at Acton later in the year. Please let the Almoner know if you might be interested in spending a day making a real difference.



- Van launched in March 2023
- 42 Companies have contributed £190,000 which will keep the van on the road to March 2026



- Truck launched in March 2024
- 47 Companies have contributed over £225,000 towards the £270,000 needed to keep the truck on the road to March 2027

4. 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 with legacies so that we can build the capital of the Charity investment fund enabling us to increase our grant giving. We have received both legacies left in wills of members, and 'living legacies' where members have gifted a donation to the Cork Fund. The trustees are so appreciative of the generosity and thoughtfulness of members who have donated.



Picture of the Cork Fund Cup with the newest names engraved on it

We named the Cork Club after 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.

Last year we received £13,600 in legacies and I am delighted to say that so far this year we have received another 3 legacies totalling £25,000! Our Cork Fund now stands at £40,000. We have started our journey so please do help us build it for the future.



Our Cork Cup on proud display in the Cabinet in the Members Room of Chartered Accountants' Hall

5. LATEST FROM **Beyond food**



This is the story of how Beyond Food Foundation has helped Cameron, aged 17:

Real impact, real lives...

Cameron

Cameron, 17, completed our Beyond the Classroom programme, having been referred through a Pupil Referral Unit. He was disengaged from learning and rarely attended school. Right away, from our initial inspirational school visit, it was evident that that food created a spark in Cameron.

After completing our programme Cameron completed work experience engaging with high profile events at Brigade Bar + Kitchen, which he loved. He completed his English and Maths functional skills qualifications to support his progression and after finishing year 11, facing a long empty summer, he took up our offer of work experience in the kitchen. This gave his confidence and skills a huge boost and put him in a position, with our support, to apply for a production chef apprentice position with BaxterStorey at the London Stock exchange.

He was successful and started the position being paid London living wage and continue to learn and hone his skills. We will keep in contact with Cameron to support him to make the most of this opportunity and to see this fine young Chef develop further.

Cameron: 1 of 165 individuals in 2024



6. HOW TO APPLY FOR A GRANT FOR A GOOD CAUSE YOU ARE INVOLVED WITH

Any member can sponsor a grant application for a good cause that you are involved in (trustee, adviser etc).

This is one of the great benefits of being a member. Because you are familiar with the history and management of the good cause, we can fast track your application as we trust your due diligence!

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 19 May 2025.
- The deadline for submitting applications is 28 April.
- 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.

We are also looking for applications for flash appeals for our next two dinners. If you are involved with a good cause that wishes to raise a smaller amount of about £1,000 then please write to either Clare or myself with your proposal.



7. HOW TO DONATE - IT'S NOT JUST GIVING MONEY!

We are only able to support the great causes outlined above because of your continuing generosity in donating to our charity. The expectation is that members make an annual donation equal to quarterage. Of course we recognise that some members may not be in a position to contribute at that level, and we completely understand that. We value every contribution we receive no matter how small and the trustees are extremely grateful for your generosity.

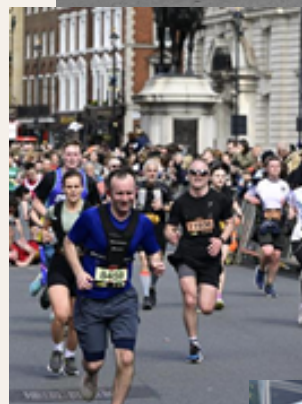
Did you know that you can raise money for the charity in other ways?

Last April four of our members ran to raise money – Olivia Carling ran in the London Marathon and Sally Orton, Kieran Johnson and John Feltham ran the London Landmarks Half Marathon. Between them they raised more than £1,500!

And not just marathons – what about skydives, abseiling, cycling, hiking, nighttime walking, rock climbing, zip wire and not to mention rowing the length of the Thames!!



If you are not the sporty type why not volunteer and donate your time to good causes. Many charities are crying out for volunteers to help them. If you already give up your time to help a charity please let us know your story.



Donating time is just as valuable as donating money

8. ALMONER'S VISIT TO THE SPECIAL FORCES SUPPORT GROUP



St Athan, 28 February 2025

I was very honoured to be invited to the MOD Saint Athan to visit our newest military affiliation - the Special Forces Support Group. The SFSG or Gs as they are now fondly known are an amazing unit of service men and women stationed at this top-secret remote site on the South Wales coast. So secretive in fact that there are no signposts and the Satnav postcode was not recognised!

We were greeted by Roger Lewis the chairman of Churchill Lines Foundation, the charity associated with SFSG, and by Captain Angus Caddick. Captain Angus laid on VIP treatment for us starting with lunch in the Officers' Mess and then taking us around the various locations on the site. He told us all about the history of the unit (very new being formed in 2006) and the essential work it does to keep the UK a safe place.

We had the opportunity to meet some of the servicemen who were on three-hour standby to be deployed on operations. They are so proud of the work that they do and were delighted that we had visited the unit and asked so many questions. The time absolutely flew by as there is so much to see. It was clear that they are equally honoured to be affiliated with our Livery Company and would welcome visits from other members.



I CAN DEFINITELY RECOMMEND A TRIP TO THIS WONDERFUL UNIT IN THIS REMOTE SPOT ON THE SOUTH WALES COAST, JUST DON'T USE SATNAV!

And yes! Wales was sunny all day!

9. LATEST MESSAGE OF THANKS FROM THE GOOD CAUSES WE HAVE HELPED

We are a small, national charity based in Somerset who support children and young adults with neurological and developmental difficulties. We deliver holistic assessments and bespoke therapy packages to support conditions such as autism, ADHD, brain injury, cerebral palsy and many more. *m* other members.



In the last 12 months Emma has delivered our bespoke assessments to 53 families. Each family then received an individualised therapy plan to support the individual's development. Emma also supported a further 7 families who were in their key working period of our support.

" I would like to say an enormous and heartfelt thank you for the support that I have received from you this year. Without you I would not have been able to meet and support so many families. You truly have made a difference to so many lives, in so many ways, giving families the opportunity to be listened to and heard and enabling them to look forward to the future"

Emma, Developmental Therapist



Your grant has helped seven people (two more than we anticipated) to access life-changing educational opportunities.

The learners are aged between 23 and 65 and are held across England and Wales, at HMP Usk, HMP Parc, HMP The Verne, HMP Kirkham, HMP Thorn Cross, HMP Parc and HMP Swinfen Hall. Six of the learners chose courses which were specifically linked to furthering their employability skills (in subjects and levels which aren't available in prison), and the remaining person is studying Foundation Journalism (before hopefully progressing onto an A-Level in History) to increase their chances of returning to university.

This will benefit me in prison by giving me something to focus my time and effort on. When out of prison this will help me secure employment in a sustainable industry to help me provide & support my family in the future.

Financial Smarties:

The Financial Smarties initiative aimed to transform the lives of 60 women, aged 25 and older, from low-income families by empowering them with financial literacy and stability for a promising future.

Jane: "The program's focus on digital literacy was a game-changer for me. I now feel comfortable using online services to manage my finances, which has saved me so much time and money. I'm grateful for the support and guidance provided by the Financial Smarties team."



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



Reflections on My Experience as a Trustee – Neeraj Kapur

Serving as a trustee for the Chartered Accountants Livery Charity has been a truly rewarding experience, offering me the opportunity to contribute to a cause I deeply believe in while developing valuable skills and insights.

The role has been both challenging and fulfilling, requiring a balance of strategic oversight, financial stewardship, and a commitment to good governance.

One of the key lessons I have learned is the importance of collaboration. As trustees, we come from diverse professional backgrounds, each bringing a unique perspective. Working together to make informed decisions that align with the charity's mission has reinforced the value of teamwork and collective responsibility.

I have also gained a deeper understanding of the charitable sector, particularly the complexities of ensuring financial sustainability while delivering meaningful impact. As accountants, we are well-placed to offer financial acumen and risk management skills, but being a trustee goes beyond numbers; it's about shaping the future of the charity and ensuring it continues to make a difference.

Perhaps the most significant takeaway from my time as a trustee is the personal satisfaction of giving back. It is incredibly fulfilling to see the direct impact of our work, whether through grants, scholarships, or community initiatives. The role has broadened my perspective and strengthened my leadership skills in ways that have also benefited my professional life.

As my term comes to an end, I encourage fellow members to consider stepping forward. The charity is looking for new trustees, and this is an excellent opportunity to contribute your expertise, develop new skills, and make a real difference. If you are passionate about supporting the profession and the wider community, I highly recommend getting involved.

If you would like to apply to become a trustee please complete the attached application form and email to either almoner@accountantslivery.org or charity@accountantslivery.org.

The deadline for applications is the 18th April.