

eNEWSLETTER: SUMMER 2016

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- 2017 Calendar
- Steve meets HRH
- Christmas cards selling fast



BT BENEVOLENT FUND

FUND TO THE RESCUE

'The Fund reacted quickly when a dishwasher fire gutted employee Peter Ferguson's house. A smoke alarm woke Peter and his family at 2am at their home in Forfar. "I rushed downstairs and found the dishwasher was in flames. The fire was spreading rapidly so we got out quickly and called the fire service," he says. The fire service stopped the flames spreading to their neighbour's house, but it will be months before Peter, Carolyn and their two boys can move back in. Their house is a burnt-out shell and their insurance claim will take time to settle. They're now staying with Carolyn's parents, but they needed new beds, clothes and various other necessities.

"Carolyn's company suggested we call BT's Benevolent Fund. I had no idea about it," says Peter, who's a technical support advisor for Business and Public Sector "And within 24 hours I'd received a payment for £500 for beds and clothes. A further £500 was awarded just a few days later. It was really amazing and I can't thank the Fund enough."



Calendars show Telecoms History



Thanks to the generous donation of images by the BT Archives, we've produced a 2017 calendar to raise money for the Fund. You can buy it online from our website for just £7.50: <http://www.benevolent.bt.com/bf/index.htm>



THE BT BENEVOLENT FUND

02087 262145
benevolent@bt.com
Room 323
Reading Central TE
41 Minster Street
READING
RG1 2JB

2016 ANNUAL

GENERAL

MEETING

The Fund's AGM was held on 26th July in BT Centre with Tom Keeney in the chair. He reported that in 2015 the Fund had made grants totalling just over £700,000. It dealt with 523 cases and at the end of the year 233 people on very low incomes were being paid weekly grants. Income for the year had once again exceeded £1 million, and after running costs a valuable surplus had been carried forward into 2016. As a result the Fund was currently increasing many of the weekly payments made to those on the lowest incomes. We know these payments make a huge difference to people's lives.

"To call this payment a blessing and a huge relief is an understatement."

Mary, Dumfries



At just £3.50 a pack, our 2016 Christmas cards are selling fast so please order soon if you'd like some.

Steve meets the Princess

Our long-serving Case Secretary, Steve Melhuish, recently went to a reception held by the Rowland Hill Fund which was attended by their patron, HRH The Princess Royal.



Steve (left) chats with HRH The Princess Royal

On meeting Steve, the Princess wished the Fund well in its work, and reminisced about the old Strowger exchange that had been sited in Buckingham Place many years ago.

The Rowland Hill Fund is the charity for Royal Mail and Post Office employees past and present.

GRANTS 2016

In the first half of this year, the Fund dealt with 243 cases including helping 43 current employees in need. At the end of June we were also paying weekly grants to 223 former BT people on very low incomes. The total paid out in grants was more than £388,000, made possible by income of just over £500,000 so far this year.

Among a wide variety of grants, we've made some substantial payments towards home adaptations for people with disabilities, and have also contributed to the cost of sixteen funerals and several new boilers.

MEMBERSHIP

At the end of June this year our membership totalled 18,277, down by more than 4% on the same time last year. 16,538 of the current members are pensioners and former employees, while just 1,739 are current BT people. Please pass on this newsletter and do all you can to persuade your colleagues to make a regular, tax-efficient donation through Give As You Earn:

www.btbf.givingonline.org.uk



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This eNewsletter is being emailed to employee members of the BT Benevolent Fund, as well as some pensioner members. Please do let us have any feedback:

benevolent@bt.com

www.benevolent.bt.com