

BT BENEVOLENT FUND

Newsletter Summer 2018



<https://www.btplc.com/bf/>

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PUSH FOR EMPLOYEE MEMBERS

Existing members, trustees and the BT Today team have all helped us gain a record number of new members in recent weeks.

Centre Manager **Richard Hudspith**, who works for Consumer in Newcastle, is a recent Fund member who decided to see what he could do to encourage more of his colleagues to support us. Working with the Payroll Giving team, and with great support from his own team, Richard arranged events at Gosforth, South Shields and Glasgow. As a result 65 people joined Payroll Giving to collectively give £466 every month to various charities, with over a third of them opting to support the Fund.

Meanwhile our trustee **Matt Rogers** has been leading work in Openreach to make new entrant engineers aware of our work and to encourage them to start a small monthly contribution. The CWU are

assisting with this and we're optimistic that it'll result in new BT people getting into the habit of giving.

Last but not least, a recent **BT Today** story about our half-year results had a huge impact and to date some 170 people have started contributing to the Fund, while some existing members have upped their donations. You can read that story here: <https://intra.bt.com/news2/Pages/BT-Benevolent-Fund-needs-our-help.aspx>.



Richard and some of the Gosforth team

New Chair for the Fund

In July we were very sorry to say goodbye to **Tom Keeney**, a trustee of the Fund for ten years and our Chair for the last three, when he left BT. However we're delighted that **Clare Dyer**, BT's new HR Director for Strategy and Transformation, has agreed to join our Board as Chair. We very much look forward to working with her in the future.

Clare Dyer





2018 CHRISTMAS CARD

What better time to buy your Christmas cards than during the height of summer?

Full details of the cards, which are just £3.50 a pack, are on our website:

<https://www.btplc.com/bf/christmascards/index.htm>

We've sold almost 2,000 packs already so please order soon.

So Far This Year

In the first half of 2018 the Fund dealt with 303 one-off requests for help, as well as continuing to pay weekly grants to 230 BT pensioners on very low incomes. 128 of our cases came from current employees, a rise of 103% over the same period last year. In all we made grants amounting to over £460,000, helping with a wide range of need, including debts arising from illness, rehousing following relationship breakdown, and urgent disability adaptations. As ever, among numerous other cases, we helped with the cost of 26 funerals and paid for nearly 50 new domestic appliances.

Staffing Changes at the Fund

In May we were delighted to welcome Lesley Norris to our team as our new treasurer; she's currently taking over the role from Mike Pearce, who will be stepping down later in the year after over 10 years of great service to the Fund.

In June we were very sorry to say farewell to our volunteer caseworker, Robin Snook. Formerly a BT Welfare Office, Robin had been a mainstay of our team for many years and is much missed.



Lesley Norris



Robin Snook

Join the Fund here

<https://www.handsonpayrollgiving.co.uk/BTpgrequest/index.php>



This newsletter is being emailed to employee contributors to the BTBF, as well as some pensioner members. Please do let us have any feedback: benevolent@bt.com

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