

eNEWSLETTER: WINTER 2014

- Fundraisers Boost the Fund
- Team Changes
- Christmas Card Success



BT BENEVOLENT FUND

FUNDRAISERS BOOST THE FUND

The final quarter of 2014 has seen some significant donations to the Fund as a result of employee enthusiasm and generosity.

Fund member Jo Geekie had the great idea of supporting us via a BT Legal teambuilding event. Colleagues were challenged to walk across broken glass for the benefit of the Fund, with each participant raising money from supporters. The final total achieved by the seventeen intrepid walkers was nearly £3,000.



The Fund has had huge help from BT Technology this year in the form of our new case management system and our updated website. As if that wasn't enough, we were recently surprised and delighted to receive an unexpected donation of £1,000 from Helping Hands, the BT staff charity fund at Adastral Park. In his accompanying letter Daryl Szebesta, MD for CIO Group, commented: *"The support that the Benevolent Fund provides to previous and current employees really makes a difference at times of great need, and is something I am proud my team supports."*

And if that wasn't enough great news, earlier this month the BT Better Future team offered us the chance to benefit from the sale of seats in the BT Box at the O2 Arena over Christmas. As a result many BT people and their families are looking forward to seeing 'Disney on Ice' while the Fund has benefitted by over £3,000.

Remember, you can give one-off amounts to the Fund through GAYE, PayPal or via BT's MyDonate service.



THE BT BENEVOLENT FUND

0208 726 2145
benevolent@bt.com
Room 323
Reading Central TE
41 Minster Street
READING
RG1 2JB

TEAM CHANGES

At the end of December one of our longest-serving case secretaries, Phil Jennings, is retiring from the Fund. His fifteen years here were preceded by thirty-four in BT, primarily as a Welfare Officer—a forty-nine year career in all. Phil has been a mainstay of the Fund throughout his time here and will be greatly missed by his colleagues and by many of our beneficiaries. We recently said farewell to Phil over lunch with current and former team members in Reading. The picture below shows Fund manager Debbie Terry with Phil and his wife Jan.



Phil's replacement is former BT manager and Fund volunteer Pippa Jones, who starts with us in January.

Please forward this Newsletter to colleagues—we always need new members!

COULD YOU SPARE JUST £2 A MONTH?

The **BT Benevolent Fund** exists to help current and former BT employees, or their dependents, who are experiencing financial hardship. Every year we spend about £3/4million helping people via grants and weekly payments. This work is only made possible by the generosity of our members. There's a clear and rising need for what we do, and we don't expect that situation to change in the years ahead.

However of our 19,000 members, only 2,000 are current BT people. If more employees supported us, we could help more people every year.

It takes only minutes to sign up via Give As You Earn at:

www.btbfgivingonline.org.uk

Donations are taken from salary before tax, so every £1 given only costs 80p, or just 60p for higher rate tax payers. What's even better is that BT enhances donations with their own contributions.

2014 Christmas Card Success

As our 2014 Christmas card sales come to an end, we're delighted to be able to report that sales, plus donations with orders, have raised over £18,000. We've sold almost 4,000 packs of cards, so a very sincere 'thank you' to all of you who bought them.



**A very Happy Christmas and peaceful
New Year to all our members.**



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