

## eNEWSLETTER: WINTER 2016

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# BT BENEVOLENT FUND

## TRUSTEE BOARD CHANGES

An effective Trustee Board is the lifeblood of any charity. Here at the Fund we're incredibly fortunate to have a really engaged group of trustees who generously give of their time to steer our work and ensure good governance.

We're therefore delighted that two new trustees have agreed to join the board: Clive Selley, Openreach MD, and Matt Rogers, Openreach Employee Relations Director. We know they'll both make a great contribution to our work, and we hope they can help us raise our profile in Openreach.

Meanwhile, after six years on our board, Group General Counsel and Company Secretary Dan Fitz is stepping down. Dan commented: "Shortly after arriving at BT, I was invited to become a trustee of the Benevolent Fund. I soon learned that the



Matt Rogers

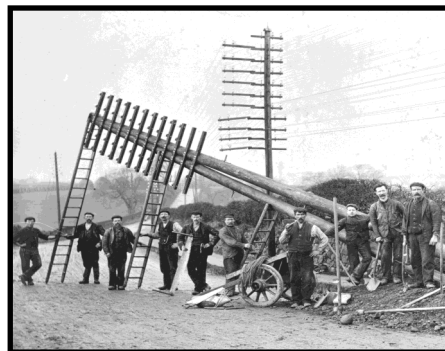
*Fund is one of those hidden gems that turns our big company into a community. I have enjoyed my years as a trustee enormously and am grateful to have had this opportunity."*

And finally, long-serving trustee Jane Shipway recently retired from BT, but we're extremely pleased that she's agreed to continue as a member of our board.



Clive Selley

## Calendars still available



Looking for that last-minute Christmas present? There's still time to order our 2017 calendar from our website for just £7.50:

<http://www.benevolent.bt.com/bf/calendar/index.htm>

### THE BT BENEVOLENT FUND

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## GRANTS 2016

In the first nine months of this year, the Fund dealt with 369 cases including helping 62 current employees in need. EE people are starting to hear about us and are surprised and delighted that the company has a charity that can help them. At the end of September we were also paying weekly grants to 224 former BT people on very low incomes. The total paid out in grants was almost £520,000.

We've recently reviewed the financial circumstances of the people we pay weekly grants to, and as a result have increased our maximum grant from £20 to £30 a week for those on the very lowest incomes. And a generous grant from the Civil Service Insurance Society Charity Fund means that we'll also be able to pay each of them a £100 winter fuel payment this winter, which we know will be very welcome.



### **Thanks to Chris and Alice**

Fund member Chris Ruff, who's a City of London guide, is currently giving donations made on his walks to the Fund, while Alice Hunt set up a 'Donate your First Fiver' page for us when the new notes came out. We're extremely grateful to them both.

### **Changing Lives**

We hear many great stories of how our help changes people's lives for the better. This is what one recent client told us:

*"To call the receipt of the payment a blessing and a huge relief is an understatement. We were particularly grateful for the speedy response to our application and the really understanding but thoroughly professional and fair way in which we were treated."*

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](mailto:benevolent@bt.com)

*BT supporters—keep up with our work via our monthly updates on BT Today 'Reader Stories'.*

### **FUND MEMBERSHIP**

Sadly this continues to decline. At the end of September this year it totalled 18,232, down by nearly 3% on the same time last year. 16,508 of the current members are pensioners and former employees, while just 1,724 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 Payroll Giving. As a 20% taxpayer, £5 a month costs only £4, or just £3 to 40% taxpayers:

[https://www.givingonline.org.uk/BT\\_96/index.html](https://www.givingonline.org.uk/BT_96/index.html)

### **Fund Manager Stands Up to Cancer**

BTBF manager Debbie Terry was one of hundreds of BT volunteers who collected for Cancer Research on 21st November, taking the 7am shift at Cardiff station.

"It wasn't an elegant look, but the woolly hat was most welcome, and those coming off the trains were incredibly generous. At some points the three of us collecting had queues waiting to give us their small change.

It was a great opportunity to do something for an incredibly worthwhile cause."

