

BT BENEVOLENT FUND

Newsletter Winter 2018



<http://www.benevolent.bt.com/bf/>

IN THIS ISSUE

Help to Employees

Membership Update

New People at the
Fund

Christmas Cards

Join the Fund

Thank You

EMPLOYEE HELP ROCKETS

For many years people tended to describe the Fund as “BT’s best kept secret”. We don’t think that’s the case any longer. In 2016 we helped 85 employees, and in 2017, 160. To date this year we’ve been asked for help by 233 current BT people. We increasingly see the impact of relationship breakdowns, mental health issues, inexperience in managing money and problems with benefits. It’s a good thing we’re here, as most of these people wouldn’t have anywhere else to turn for help, but it does mean that we’re forecasting a big deficit this year after six years of achieving surpluses at year-end.

If you work with someone who might need our help, please encourage them to phone Employee Assistance on 0800 917 6767, who refer cases to us.

MEMBERSHIP

At the end of September we had **17,243** contributing members of the Fund, but only **1,593** were employees. While this remains disappointing, 2018 has seen some encouraging signs. One of our trustees, Matt Rogers, has worked tirelessly to raise the profile of the Fund in Openreach, with the result that most of their new joiners are signing up as members during their training. We’re very grateful to everyone who’s made this happen, and hope the approach can be rolled out in other parts of BT in 2019.



Privacy notice: The BT Benevolent Fund is a registered charity. We are sending you this newsletter because you have said it is ok to do so. You can ask us to stop sending our newsletter by contacting us by phone on 020 8726 2145, by email at benevolent@bt.com or by post at: Room 323, Reading Central Telephone Exchange, 41 Minster Street, Reading RG1 2JB. For more information about how we process your personal information, please read our privacy notice on our website www.benevolent.bt.com/bf/.

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

The Team at the Fund

Recently we've gained two new people: Vivien Lantree, who's a BT data privacy lawyer, has joined our trustee board, and Jackie Standring, who left BT in October, has joined us as a case secretary. Vivien's been advising us on data privacy for some time now, and we're delighted that she's decided to become a trustee of the Fund. Jackie has carried out many different roles in BT and when she decided to retire we snapped her up as with the increase in our work volumes, we needed another pair of hands.



Vivien Lantree



Jackie Standring

Christmas Cards 2018



This year we sold some 3,600 packs of our Christmas cards, raising over £12,000 for our work. However we did have some delivery problems with a small number of orders, and want to apologise to anyone whose cards failed to arrive. If yours haven't been delivered, please contact us for a refund, and accept our very sincere apologies.

Recommend a colleague and the Fund will get £10:

https://www.handsonpayrollgiving.co.uk/BTpgrequest/refer_a_friend.php



Thank You

Recent feedback from an employee:

"Thank you for getting back to me so quickly. I don't know how to thank you for the help over my unforeseen time off work. Words can't express my sincere gratitude for the help and support - I'll sleep better knowing the bills are covered."

smile.amazon.co.uk

The Fund is now registered for charity donations through Amazon Smile



Thank you for your support, and a very Happy Christmas!