

# The British Hospitalité Trust

## TRUSTEES' REPORT – OCTOBER 2016

### Change of Chairman

In March 2016 Members were informed that the Trustees had agreed that Kathleen Dawson would take over from Michael King as chairman of the Trustees. Michael is continuing as a Trustee and we can still rely on his knowledge, experience and Counsel. We are grateful for all that Michael has done for the Trust. He was of course one of the Founder members.

### What Is The British Hospitalité Trust?

The British Hospitalité Trust was founded in 1988 to further the work of the Hospitalité Notre Dame de Lourdes and other work associated with Lourdes. It does this by:

*Collecting* en masse the annual subscriptions (cotisations) of British members of HNDL. These "cotisations" are then paid collectively to HNDL.

*Reclaiming* tax paid (under the Gift Aid scheme) from HM Revenue & Customs, and using this money reclaimed for Lourdes-related work, such as Hospitalité projects, providing equipment for pilgrims or Hospitaliers, or for training.

*Encouraging* members to give as much as they feel they can afford. This should not be for less than £18 which covers the minimum cotisation, currently €18, but likely to increase for next year. We hope you will feel able to send more, especially in the light of the fluctuation in the value of sterling.

We do not turn money away, as every little helps the work of the Hospitalité, but many standing orders are still much less than the minimum €18 cotisation, which means that some members' cotisations are being subsidized by those who pay more. We can no longer tell the Hospitalité that you have paid your cotisation if it is less than £18.

### The Benefits of joining the BHT are:

1. It's so easy!!! We collect your cotisation in sterling through standing order, so there's no need for you to remember it; we will provide you with a letter, written in French, confirming that you have already paid.
2. Via the tax reclaimed you help to fund projects connected to Lourdes. For the year 2015 we were able to recover approximately £2,400 and this year we hope to recover at least £1,500 from the Revenue.

### Cotisations for 2017 Season

If you are not currently a member of BHT, please think about joining - and can all of you please encourage *all* HNDL Volunteers who are British taxpayers, or who have a sterling bank account to pay their cotisations through the Trust.

### Les Inondations

In 2013 two serious floods from overflow of the R. Gave in Lourdes, caused damage to several buildings within the Domaine. We sent the bulk of our reserves to the Hospitalité in 2014 and 2015 to help pay for the very considerable uninsured losses and have also acted as the agent for collections within the UK.

The flood fund is still open.

Trustees: Andy Dutton; Liz O'Donnell; Michael King; Caroline Henzell; Kathleen Dawson; Trevor Owen; Debbie Gillion; John Dick

Charity Registration Number: 299315

Hon. Treasurer: John Dick, 1 Little Green Lane, Farnham, Surrey GU9 8TE

# The British Hospitalité Trust

## Other Gifts

In addition to assistance with the floods, during 2015 we sent funds to Service St Jean Baptiste, St Frai and St Joseph for specific projects.

We currently have available to send to HNDL approximately £1,750, to be increased when the Gift Aid repayment comes through from the Inland Revenue. During 2016/17 we expect to provide assistance to improving the computer systems and hardware for the Hospitalite which will be of benefit to all. A special fund has been established for this purpose. Details are on the website (see below).

## Return of Cotisations February 2016

Members will be aware that, due to a change in processes at our Bank, all payments made by standing order on 11 February were returned. Many members have repaid this money but some have not, for various reasons, mainly that they had not realized they were still paying and no longer served in Lourdes due to age or ill health. This is bound to have an effect on our income for 2016. We are still in discussions with the bank on the subject of compensation. A full report on this will be produced next year.

**BHT Website** - [www.britishhospitalitetrust.co.uk](http://www.britishhospitalitetrust.co.uk)

This is the website we have established to provide information primarily to English-speaking hospitaliers and hospitalieres. It also contains copies of the *Announce de Stage* and of the Newsletters of the Association of British Members of the Hospitalite plus links to British pilgrimages.

We are happy to add requests for help from HNDL councilors or from pilgrimages, or other information such as dates of stage groups or messages from HNDL itself. To ask for information to be added, click on "Contact us" and the message will be dealt with by Trevor Owen, the trustee who is responsible for the site [trevor493@btinternet.com]. Information must in the opinion of the Trustees be *bona fide* in relation to our work for pilgrims in Lourdes.

## Administration

We keep administration costs to a minimum. In 2015 we spent a total of £177, (£80 on bank charges, £43 on the website and £54 on postage costs). It would be helpful if any member who is receiving communication by post but who now has access to an Email account could let John Dick our Treasurer have details so that we can further reduce postage costs.

John's address and contact details are:

John Dick  
1 Little Green Lane, Farnham, Surrey, GU9 8TE  
01252 821238  
John Dick  
[jandfdick@btinternet.com](mailto:jandfdick@btinternet.com)

Kathleen Dawson  
Chairman of Trustees  
17 Heathfield  
West Allotment,  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE27 0BP  
[kathleen.dawson2@btinternet.com](mailto:kathleen.dawson2@btinternet.com)

**Trustees:** Andy Dutton; Liz O'Donnell; Michael King; Caroline Henzell; Kathleen Dawson; Trevor Owen; Debbie Gillion; John Dick

**Charity Registration Number:** 299315

**Hon. Treasurer:** John Dick, 1 Little Green Lane, Farnham, Surrey GU9 8TE