

The British Hospitalité Trust

TRUSTEES REPORT November 2019

Changes of Trustees

In March 2019, David Belcher took the decision to step down as a Trustee. We thank David for his service. We also welcomed two new Trustees to the board - Mark Fernandes and Chris Harrison – and Caroline Henzell agreed to take over from Kathleen Dawson as Chairperson following her decision to step down. We thank Kathleen for her hard work and her continued service as a Trustee.

What Is The British Hospitalité Trust?

The British Hospitalité Trust (BHT) was founded in 1988 to further the work of the Hospitalité Notre Dame de Lourdes (HNDL) and other work associated with Lourdes. We do this primarily by collecting the annual subscriptions (Cotisations) of British members of HNDL *en masse* and reclaiming tax paid on those sums from HMRC under the Gift Aid scheme. We pay the cotisations collectively to HNDL and use the additional money reclaimed through Gift Aid (or collected from additional donations) for Lourdes-related work, which in recent years has included making contributions to Hospitalité projects, providing equipment for pilgrims or Hospitaliers, or for training.

We encourage members of HNDL who pay their cotisation through BHT to give as much as they feel they can afford. This should not be less than £18 to cover the minimum cotisation (which is currently €18 but may increase). We hope you will feel able to send more, especially in the light of the fluctuation in the value of sterling and the fact that cotisation increases over time. Any donations made in excess of cotisation are, of course, put to good use towards the needs of HNDL.

In recent years, BHT has also been bequeathed additional sums in wills (discussed below) to be used to support the work of the Hospitaliers and HNDL in Lourdes. We are grateful to the individuals who chose to support HNDL by remembering the Trust in this way. If any BHT member is writing or rewriting their will, we would ask you to please consider leaving a legacy to BHT. Advice on wording can be obtained from the Treasurer.

The Benefits of joining BHT

If you are not currently a member of BHT (particularly if you are a British taxpayer) please do think about joining – and if you are a member, please encourage your family and friends to join if they have not already. The main benefits are:

- We collect your cotisation in sterling through standing order, so there's no need for you to remember to pay it when you are in Lourdes. We will provide a letter in French confirming that you have already paid. A new standing order form will shortly be available on our website to make it easier to keep track of your standing order and update your details as needed.
- The main benefit is that the tax reclaimed by virtue of the fact that you make your cotisation payment through BHT funds projects connected to Lourdes and HNDL. In 2018 we were able to recover approximately £1,450 from HMRC.

Update on Projects

The Trustees have regard to the Guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit by reviewing the guidance and considering it when planning activities for the year.

Charity Registration Number: 299315

**Trustees: Kathleen Dawson; John Dick; Mark Fernandes; Debbie Gillon; Chris Harrison; Caroline Henzell; Liz O'Donnell;
Trevor Owen; Ros Wood**

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

During 2018 we sent £1,091.67 to Service St Jean Baptiste, St Frai and St Joseph for various projects, details of which will be added to our website shortly. During 2019, we have sent additional funds to assist with purchasing a fridge for the use of the stagaires in St Frai and to purchase equipment such as pushchairs and baby gates for the use of families staying in HNDL accommodation. These payments will be reflected in the 2019 accounts.

We welcome any suggestions for HNDL-related projects on which Trust funds can usefully be spent and will consider anything suggested in line with our duties as Trustees, and against BHT's objectives, to see whether it can be actioned. Examples of previous projects will shortly be available on our website. We are considering ways to make it easier for members of HNDL to contact the Trustees to make recommendations (most likely an email address) but, in the meantime, please do continue to raise suggestions to Trustees directly or email the Chairperson on the details below.

Legacies

During 2017, BHT was bequeathed a legacy of £1,000 to be used as it wished. During 2018, it was decided by Trustees that this should be granted to the HNDL 1885 Youth Project, a group of young people aiming to promote the work of HNDL and encourage young people to volunteer. The funds are being used by the group to support their work and the Trustees are monitoring this to ensure that it is proportionate and remains in line with BHT's objectives. A more detailed update about this will be made available on our website shortly.

In addition, towards the end of 2017 the Trustees were informed that, under the terms of the will of the late Ken McLoughlin, a percentage of his estate had been left to BHT with certain conditions attached. The money was released as it was realised and BHT has now received the full amount of the legacy which comes to £42,468.63 (although please note that, as some of these funds were realised during 2019, they are not all reflected in our most recent accounts). The Trustees are considering how best to spend these funds in line with requirements stipulated in the legacy documents (in summary, the funds are to be used for "*the benefit of the Hospitalite Notre Dame de Lourdes*" and expressly not to build any churches or chapels) and in line with BHT's objectives. The funds will not be spent until an appropriate purpose has been identified and agreed upon.

BHT Website - www.britishhospitalitetrust.co.uk

Our website is intended to provide information about HNDL, primarily to its English-speaking members. We are happy to add requests for help from HNDL Councillors or 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 your message will be dealt with by Trevor Owen, the Trustee responsible for the site (trevor493@btinternet.com).

Administration

We keep administration costs to a minimum. In 2018 we spent a total of £179.25 on bank charges, our website and postage costs). It would be helpful if any member receiving communications by post who has access to an e-mail account could provide their details to a Trustee so that they can be updated on our systems before next year.

Caroline Henzell (Chair of the Trustees)

Flat 50 Wool House
74 Back Church Lane
London E1 1AB

Caroline.henzell@icloud.com

05 November 2019

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