

The British Hospitalité Trust

TRUSTEES REPORT November 2024

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 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 €20 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 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. It also means that your cotisation is also paid if you are unable to get to Lourdes any year.
We will provide a letter in French each year confirming that you have already paid. The Gift Aid form can be found on our website (<http://britishhospitalitetrust.co.uk/standing-order/>).
- The main benefit is that the tax reclaimed by the BHT funds projects connected to Lourdes and HNDL. In 2023 we were able to recover £1,364.98 from HMRC.
- In 2024 we sent £6,000 to HNDL, paying the Cotisations for 187 members. The remainder was to be used on various HNDL projects including repaired and replacement bretelles. Funds will also be used to upgrade the “boxes” in St Michel.
- Please could you check that your Standing Order is scheduled to leave your account **on or before 11th February** as this will help us to process the payments before the start of the pilgrimage season.
- We also funded a new kettle for the Stagiaires' Dining Room in Saint-Frai.

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.

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.

Charity Registration Number: 299315

Trustees: Kathleen Dawson; John Dick; Mark Fernandes; Debbie Gillon; Chris Harrison; Richard King; Lucy Walsh; Ros Wood

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

The Trustees can be contacted using the email address: trustees@britishhospitalitetrust.co.uk.

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 the Trustee responsible for the site.

Administration

We keep administration costs to a minimum. In 2023 we spent a total of £120.38 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.

Ros Wood

Chair of the Trustees
52 Nelson Road
London
E4 9AR

1 November 2024

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