

Newsletter 11– March 2017



GBCT's 3rd Anniversary – March 2017

In March GBCT reaches its third anniversary. We've set many milestones during our first three years, not least that we have now awarded over £43,000 in grants.

The GBCT has, and continues to, support communities across the UK in the provision of emergency aid, volunteering and the development of skills in young people. Our latest round of grants total in excess of £6000 and you can read all about them both below and on page 3.

Thank you to all our supporters who have made our achievements possible.



Search, Rescue & First Aid in Surrey

GBCT's latest grant is to Surrey Search and Rescue, a charity which exists to support the emergency services in the search for missing children and vulnerable adults. The team of 75 volunteers is trained in rapid searching techniques and navigation to cover Surrey's extensive rural land effectively. A member of the UK's Lowland Rescue Service, the team have already been called upon over 400 times in their 6 year history.

GBCT has awarded a grant of £800, which will enable the purchase of first aid kits to be provided to every team member. Often working in difficult to access areas, the kits will support the team, who are all trained in first aid, in providing potentially life saving first aid safely and effectively whilst awaiting the arrival of further assistance.

You can follow the work of Surrey Search and Rescue by visiting their website www.sursar.org.uk or following their Facebook page.



Welcome to our 3rd anniversary newsletter.

It is wonderful how GBCT has grown over the past three years and we owe a great deal of thanks to two of our founding Trustees, Matthew Leopold and Chris Monk, whose three year term of appointment comes to an end in March. They have been key in helping the Trust to grow to what it is today and I am pleased to report that both Matthew and Chris have accepted a further three year appointment from the Trustees.



Matthew's reappointment also leads me to introduce a new part of our newsletter, as Matthew will be the first of our volunteers to be featured in our supporter profile section. In addition to recognising the work of our existing supporters, we're also asking you if you'd like to get more involved. Could you help GBCT? As we continue to grow such support is invaluable, so if you're inspired, have skills and time to share, then please get in contact.

Maria, Chairman of Trustees

Updates from Grant Recipients



In our last newsletter, we reported that **All Saints Church in Weston, Surrey**, was soon to be running community first aid sessions with help from GBCT. All Saints installed a British Heart Foundation supported AED last year and GBCT provided a grant for a member of the Parish team to be first aid and AED trained.

Volunteers Iain Bennett and Matthew Leopold have now delivered a series of AED awareness sessions to over 30 members of the church and local community. After a busy day, Iain commented that "an AED is simple to use, yet it can save a life in the event of a cardiac arrest. It was a pleasure to visit Weston and give the community the confidence to use this brilliant piece of equipment".

In 2016 GBCT awarded a grant of £1600 to **Criminon**, which provides distance learning opportunities to serving prisoners and ex-offenders. In our September newsletter we reported that 56 young offenders were taking GBCT supported courses. The Trustees have now received testimonials from some of the young offenders GBCT has supported and their feedback is very pleasing. Below are some of the examples:

- JW took a parenting skills course and described how he now knew 'how to raise a responsible, polite, healthy child who will become a responsible member of society and will give so much to a community'.
- SG took a learning to learn course and wrote that 'I now know if I reach an impasse when studying due to myself not comprehending specific components, I can apply the skills I've learnt to overcome and study effectively'.

The volunteers at **Ulverston Inshore Rescue** have been making good use of their GBCT supported 4x4 response vehicle. The team have posted a few pictures on their Facebook page of recent rescue and training operations, including the new vehicle with the team's rescue hovercraft. In this case, the team supported Furness Coastguard in searching for a crashed paraglider, which they were thankfully able to confirm as a false alarm.



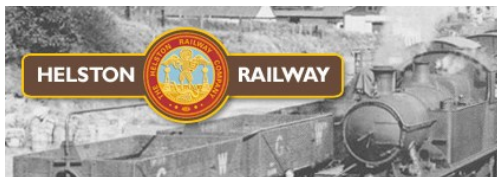
Empowering communities to make a difference

Emergency Aid

Skills

Volunteering

Supporting both the **enhancement of skills and volunteering** among young people, the Helston Railway Preservation Society has been awarded a £3400 grant towards its Juniors Day Project. Set up 12 years ago, the Society aims to re-open a section of the Helston branch line and, by this, re-introduce engineering skills to



Cornwall with a particular focus on young people, so they consider engineering when making further education and career choices.

The Juniors Day Project builds on the work the Society has done with Duke of Edinburgh Scheme participants, the Prince's Trust and Cornwall College. It will be an ongoing project that will provide a monthly opportunity for up to 20 young people at any session to gain work experience in an engineering environment. GBCT's grant funds the majority of the Project's start up costs, including safety equipment, tools, materials and travel costs. George himself was an engineer, studying engineering at Durham, so the GBCT is particularly pleased to be supporting the Helston Project. You can find out more about the Society and their work with young people at www.helstonrailway.org.

The **enhancement of skills** among young people is the aim of Armonico Consort's educational outreach programme, AC Academy. Armonico Consort is a critically acclaimed choir, orchestra and opera company, whose Academy provides free music education to young people across the UK. The aim of the programme is to nurture and harness the talent and prospects of young people, many of whom come from disadvantaged backgrounds, inspiring a passion for music and performing arts, driving ambition, and providing life-changing training and performance opportunities.

GBCT has awarded a grant of £2200 to support a Choir Creation Programme at the Grace Academy in Coventry, which is based in a deprived area of the city and rated by Ofsted as in need of improvement. The Programme will deliver five workshops to up to 120 young people at the school (15% of the total number of pupils) and five mentoring sessions to teaching staff to equip them with the skills to lead a choir in the school over the long-term. The school will then be invited to participate in forthcoming performance platforms, providing great opportunities for the students. You can find out more about AC Academy on Armonico's website, www.armonico.org.uk/ac-academy

Meet our Volunteers—Matthew Leopold

GBCT is run entirely by volunteers, so to recognise their work, and hopefully inspire others to get involved with GBCT, we're launching a new feature in our newsletter. In this edition, meet Matthew Leopold, who is one of our founding Trustees and was reappointed at January's Trustee meeting for a further 3 year term.



Matthew met George at Durham University through St John Ambulance (SJA) and continued to work with him in SJA's Medical Response Team in London after university. Matthew is currently the Trust Secretary and, amongst other duties, keeps the minutes of the Trustee Meetings under Vivian's watchful eye for grammatical correctness! Matthew's SJA experience means he is also a key part of our first aid outreach work. Day-to-day Matthew works in marketing in Surrey and regularly shares his expertise for the benefit of the Trust.

In our next newsletter, meet Faye, the inspiration behind GBCT's social media pages.

Thanks to our Supporters

Once again we'd like to say a big thank you to all of our supporters. Over the Christmas period approximately £1000 was received in donations of various amounts from GBCT supporters.

GBCT also received a donation of £100 from the Christmas raffle at Brompton-by-Sawdon's Old Post Office Tavern in December, followed in January by a donation of £200 from the Scarborough Dine and Dance Club. Neil Sands runs both the Tavern and the Club and is pictured below in the Tavern presenting the cheque to Vivian, George's father.

GBCT relies upon the generous donations of its supporters and the Trustees would like to thank all of GBCT's donors.

If you'd like to make a donation you can do so via our website www.gbct.org.uk and if you're raising funds for GBCT please let us know. We'd love to be able to say thank you and support you via our social media pages.



About the Trust

The GBCT was set up in March 2014 in memory of George Bairstow and exists so that the difference George made to people's lives can continue.

George was committed to charitable work and lived his life to help others. He died in November 2013 in a car accident, returning home from a volunteer duty with St John Ambulance on Bonfire Night.

The GBCT's goal is to empower communities to make a difference by providing grants in support of:

- The provision of emergency aid
- Volunteering among young people
- The enhancement of skills among young people

Keeping in contact with GBCT



Visit our website at www.gbct.org.uk or email us at info@gbct.org.uk



Find us on Facebook at [georgebairstowct](https://www.facebook.com/georgebairstowct) for all the latest news and pictures and, don't forget, we're on Twitter too at [gbct_uk](https://twitter.com/gbct_uk).

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