



Community Heroes

A message from the Chair of Trustees

'Community Heroes' was the title of my column in our last newsletter in March 2020, as the reality of COVID-19 was becoming apparent. It has been said of the pandemic that it has proved we are interdependent and not independent. The stories we've heard about the incredible work of our nation's community heroes, many of them volunteers and some of them GBCT supporters and / or beneficiaries, certainly supports this so it seems apt to repeat this title and recognise their efforts.

GBCT has seen a large increase in the number of grant enquires and applications, so whilst our outreach work has been reduced by the pandemic and we have less photos to share the Trustees have been by no means idle! The Trustees could have spent the GBCT's reserves times over, particularly because we received many applications for COVID related costs under our 'supporting emergency aid' criteria, but we decided to stay true to the original intent of our criteria and continue building George's legacy in the way we originally intended. In this way, the GBCT is continuing to support community groups where we can make the most difference and will continue to be able to do so in 2021 and beyond.

The Trustees and I appreciate the personal challenges our supporters may be facing because of the pandemic and we are grateful for your continued support. Over the past twelve months your support has enabled us to award grants totalling £21,600, taking our overall figure of grants awarded to over £141,000. Many of the grant recipients in the stories on the next pages are 'new' to GBCT, but three grant recipients are now well known to GBCT and it is pleasing to see year-on-year the difference our support is making.

I hope, that like the Trustees and I, you find inspiration from the stories that we share in this newsletter about the many wonderful things that GBCT support continues to enable.

Maria Bairstow, Chair of Trustees

Empowering communities to make a difference

Emergency Aid

Skills

Volunteering

Supporting the provision of **emergency aid** a grant of £5700 has been awarded to the [Durham County Scouts Association](#) to enable them to deliver first aid courses throughout their district. Over 3 years the programme will aim to train 142 14-17 year old Young Leader Scouts, who will then go on to run small group sessions in their own local groups. GBCT's grant will cover the cost of the Young Leaders' training and the training equipment. Tony Brewis, George's manager at Durham County St John Ambulance, has kindly agreed to be GBCT's ambassador for the project and will report back in due course.

Also enabling young people to learn **emergency aid** skills, both the [Molesey Sea Scout Group](#) and [Nautical Training Corps](#) have received £600 GBCT grants to support their young leader first aid training programmes.

Enabling both the **enhancement of skills** among young people and **volunteering**, the Trust has awarded £1800 to [Getting on Board's 'Future Trustees' programme](#). Delivered online via a series of webinars, masterclasses and one-to-one coaching, the programme has supported a cohort of 20 under-30s in learning about becoming effective charity trustees and to support them to become trustees. GBCT Trustee Ian joined two webinars, including one as a panel of Trustees taking Q&As from the participants, and was very impressed with the insights and support the Getting On Board team offered. Ian commented, 'supporting young people to become trustees is a hugely positive initiative for both the organisations they will volunteer with and the skills they themselves will learn along the way, as a number of us have had the opportunity to experience as GBCT Trustees thanks to the Bairstows' vision'.

The [Me2 Club](#) has received a £1500 GBCT grant to support its programme of training young people to **volunteer** with children who have a wide range of additional needs, supporting them to attend mainstream activities e.g. uniformed groups, sports clubs and drama groups. GBCT's grant will enable Me2 to recruit and train a further 33 volunteers. In its application, the Club reported that their young volunteers find that the Club provides a unique experience as they learn the specific skills required to support children with additional needs and these experiences often lead to a career path in working with children or in health and social care.

[Oarsome Chance](#) have received a £1600 GBCT grant to **support the enhancement of skills** among young people through their practical vocational training at their maritime workshops in Hampshire. They are planning to grow their post-16 training programme over the next 3 years, from 8 students in late 2020 to 26 in 2023, including 6 apprentices. Part of this programme will be the introduction of two-stroke engine repair and maintenance skills training at their Havant centre. GBCT's grant enables the purchase of some of the tooling and equipment to deliver these new training activities, including welding equipment and a hoist. George studied engineering at Durham, so the GBCT is particularly pleased to be supporting the enhancement of technical/engineering skills.

The GBCT has always believed that **volunteering** among young people matters, so are pleased to be supporting **Volunteering Matters** by providing a £3300 grant towards its Southend based WASSUP project. This is a volunteer youth project delivered by young women to support other young women and girls who have experienced, or are vulnerable to, violence and abuse. The Southend project was launched in September 2019, and follows their existing WASSUP project in Ipswich, running since 2012. GBCT's grant will contribute to the six week programme of induction and training, which will cover topics including prevention, child sexual exploitation, safeguarding, disclosure and boundaries. Once the group is established they will work closely with local schools to design workshops for pupils in Year 10 (aged 14-15) which will be delivered by volunteer group members.

The **North Tyneside Disability Forum's (NTDF) 'Mission Possible'** COVID-19 emergency response project has received an £800 GBCT grant. Supporting **emergency aid, the enhancement of skills and volunteering**, the grant has been used

to support NTDF's young disabled volunteers in their production of a regular newsletter, to help mitigate isolation whilst shielding, and the materials for knitting, sewing, pom pom making and crocheting hero dolls and bears with masks and rainbows to put into NTDF's emergency food parcels that go out to over 80 families a week. The project has been helping the young volunteers to improve their skills, fulfil their potential and develop their talents whilst helping those in need to get some emergency support by feeling part of the community to improve fragile mental health and wellbeing. Inset right is the cover of the newsletter, with GBCT logo.



www.ntdf.co.uk



Keeping the 'You' in NTDF Youth News



October brought Halloween Fun and Pic Nic packs to NTDF's children and young people thanks to our fabulous Community Champions at Morrisons WOW

The volunteers of **Exmoor Search and Rescue** have been given a GBCT grant of £1000 to enable them to continue providing **emergency aid**. A previous GBCT grant recipient, for an AED, GBCT's latest grant will cover the additional costs of COVID personal protective equipment (PPE) for their volunteers and replacement of first aid consumables. Whilst the GBCT does not ordinarily support organisations with what we would consider 'running costs', focusing instead on tangible projects, the Trustees recognise the importance of volunteer search and rescue teams and the unprecedented pressure on them in 2020—George was also a passionate Quartermaster for St John and would have fully understood the challenges faced!

Continuing to support the **enhancement of skills** among young people, the GBCT has given a further £2185 grant to **Criminon** to support another cohort of 20 young offenders in benefiting from the invaluable distance learning courses they offer. The Trustees continue to be impressed with the programme's outcomes and its value for money.

London Wildlife's Trust *Keeping it Wild* programme is another repeat GBCT beneficiary. Supporting the **enhancement of skills among young and volunteering**, Trustees continue to be impressed by the positive impact of the GBCT's prior grants and have agreed to support the third year of this programme with a further grant of £2500 taking the total number of young people supported by GBCT to 150. GBCT grants are targeted at the media training, recognizing George's love of photography and his passion for volunteering. The participants undertake practical outdoor conservation, work towards a John Muir Award, and complete accredited media training.

Updates from previous Grant Recipients

Ten of the volunteers of BASICS Essex Accident Rescue Service (BEARS) are now better equipped with new PPE (personal protective equipment) suits thanks to their GBCT grant. Pictured is BASICS Essex Chairman / Critical Care Paramedic - Paul Gates, in his new PPE complete with GBCT logo.



The Trustees were also delighted to read about the ongoing success of the Great Western Heartstarters first aid training programme in the Great Western Air Ambulance's (GWAA) annual report. GBCT grants supported the purchase of the training equipment, which has now enabled over 4000 school children to receive first aid training, which is a fantastic accomplishment. George enthusiastically delivered first aid training to hundreds of fellow students at Durham and would undoubtedly be impressed and proud of GWAA's achievement. You can find the report at [Our Impact - Great Western Air Ambulance Charity](#)

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.



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

Supporting the Trust

The Trust's online donation service is now provided by the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF), following the closure of Wonderful. The new service provides the option for one-off or regular donations, and also supports donations via PayPal. You can find the CAF link on our [Support](#) page.

Please also remember, that if you're shopping with Amazon and register with Amazon Smile (www.smile.amazon.co.uk) so that the Trust can receive 0.5% of the net purchase price as a donation from Amazon.

Thank you to all our donors for their continued support.

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