CBT Carmen Benevolent Trust

April 2026

# Bulletin

news and views from the Carmen Benevolent Trust

# CARMEN HELPING OTHERS

The CBT is the means by which the Livery gives charitable funds to help education, our transport and logistics industries and more broadly, where the disadvantaged are held back from fully contributing to society because of poverty or lack of opportunity.

Income is derived from donations from individual Carmen, but, sadly, these are significantly fewer than ten years ago. The Trust is always pleased to receive new standing orders or donations by other means, but, unless income increases, its work will have to be reduced. Already, two-thirds of grants are funded from growth in the value of investments rather than from donations. The impact of any recession that may occur would be devastating, not just to the Trust, and those who rely on its support, but to the image and standing of the Livery itself.

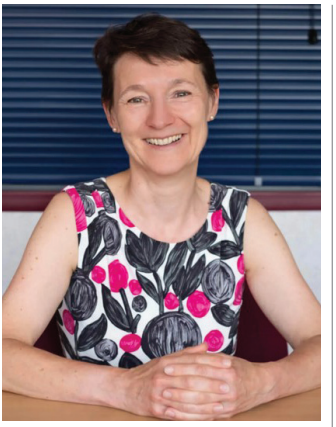
Time was when almost every new Carman signed a standing order to help the Trust do its work. Unfortunately, that is no longer the case. Benevolence is at the very heart of the Livery and, as our Chairman, Past Senior Warden Iain Golder, points out, we need to see a much greater proportion of Carmen contributing. The present situation does not give confidence for the future. Our Crowdfunding appeals are quite successful, but they are not a substitute for secure long-term funding.

Please think about what YOU can do to help the Trust reach its objectives. Your payments don't have to be substantial. Moderate contributions from every Carman would make all the difference.

**Over to you, but please don't ignore this appeal.**

## NATIONAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA (LONDON)

Your trustees have extended the help offered to young musicians by making a grant to the National Youth Orchestra (NYO). This is a world-first, an ambitious orchestra which gives some of the UK's most talented disabled musicians a progression route in the performing arts. Through collaboration with cutting-edge composers, NYO supports disabled and non-disabled musicians aged between 11 and 25 to rehearse and perform together as members of a pioneering inclusive ensemble. Many young disabled musicians rarely get the chance to spend time around their peers, and the Trust is pleased to devote some of its resources to helping them achieve.



## A NEW TRUSTEE

We are pleased to welcome Sharon Kindleysides as a trustee. She has been a Liveryman since 2022 and brings a wealth of experience from her former involvement with CILT (UK) and a range of charities.

## ANDREW TURNER

The trustees join everyone in the Livery in mourning the loss of Past Master and trustee Andrew Turner. No-one who knew Andrew could doubt his commitment to the Livery and the Trust. His advice and support were greatly appreciated. We extend our sincere condolences to Tania and the whole family.

# SUPPORTING EDUCATION

The Trust has always devoted resources to helping disadvantaged youngsters reach their potential. This takes many forms, including help for students at schools which enjoy City support (for example, Christ's Hospital and King Edward's School, Witley). Help for schools and their students continues to be a priority for the Trust, but the trustees are now focusing help for education on projects such as facilities or bursaries and new means of supporting students.

We recently visited King Edward's School, Witley (Surrey), to discuss future support and have funded the conversion of a further area at Aldgate School (the only State school in the City) to help youngsters – support gratefully received by the school, which is proud to record the help given by the Trust.

Emotional Literacy Area

The transformation of this room was made possible by a grant from the

**WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF CARMEN BENEVOLENT TRUST**

Registered charity No. 1164887

May 2025

Photo credit: LonSAR

# LONDON SEARCH & RESCUE

Carmen may not be aware of LonSAR, which provides vital support for the emergency services in locating missing persons. The charity is in need of support in its work – not only with money, but with those prepared to physically help. Please contact James Walker at **www.lonsar.com.**

# LONDON YOUTH CHOIRS

Making music is one of the best ways by which children gain confidence and social skills. Your Trust is pleased to support London Youth Choirs, who perform all over London. Details of future concerts can be found at **https://www.londonyouthchoirs.com/category/concerts/**

# CALLING POTENTIAL TRUSTEES

The Trust is continuing to look for Liverymen who might be prepared to become involved – perhaps initially as observers at board meetings, leading to possible later appointment as a trustee.

The trustees meet four times a year and are responsible for all the affairs of the self-governing Trust, including grant-making and fundraising. If you feel you might be interested in joining them, please contact the Honorary Secretary, Chris Godbold, at carmenbentrust@hotmail.com. This is an interesting role which supports the charitable purposes of the Livery.