Annual Review 2018-2019

Recognising everyday contributions to people, culture and the natural world
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We continued to prioritise supporting small and medium sized charities with long-term core funding through our grants programme. We made 360 grants to these organisations throughout the year, in recognition and support of the important contributions that they have made and their need for funding. While we continued to maintain a number of our existing grant-making relationships, we fostered new relationships with organisations across the charity sector, and these were predominately in the field of social welfare.

The Marsh Awards celebrate the outstanding everyday contributions that individuals and groups make to people, culture and the natural world. Over the past year we were pleased to be able to grow our Awards Scheme once again. Promoting volunteers has always been a key focus of the Awards and we were pleased to be able to launch a new Awards Scheme with Royal Museums Greenwich to celebrate their volunteers. More information about this, and other developments to the Awards, can be found later in this Review.

We would like to thank our Award partners, experts in their chosen fields, for their support and hard work on the Awards – without them we simply could not run this programme. We were pleased to celebrate anniversaries with a number of partners across the year, and look forward to continuing our work with them in the years to come.

We would also like to extend our greatest thanks to the 11 Ambassadors who voluntarily give their time to present Awards and help build and maintain our partnerships. Again, without their dedication and support, the Awards programme would not be able to run as it does and we would not be able to recognise the work of so many groups and individuals around the UK and internationally.

We are looking forward to continuing to develop both the Grants Programme and the Marsh Awards in the coming year. Due to the ever-increasing number of appeals for funding that we receive, we will be looking to increase the number of new organisations that are supported each month, whilst continuing to maintain the long-standing grantee relationships that we have developed.

As always, we welcome being approached regarding new possibilities for partnership through the Awards Scheme, both by new and existing partners. We are launching a new partnership with PACT, the Prison Advice and Care Trust, to help them recognise volunteers in prisons and prisoners themselves who volunteer as a way of improving their lives.

Overall, it has been a positive and encouraging year for the Trust, and we look forward to continuing our work in the years to come.

Brian Marsh OBE
Chairman
At the Marsh Christian Trust, we endeavour to increase the Trust’s charitable giving each year in response to the sector’s needs. As such, the total grants and Awards we made in the year to 5th April 2019 amounted to £296,871, which was up from £287,434 in 2018. Funds across the two programmes were allocated to the areas of social welfare, environmental & animal welfare, heritage & the arts, education & training and healthcare, as is shown in the pie chart below.

Financial review

From an original investment of £75,000, the Trust’s capital base has now grown to circa £14.7 million. This continues to be invested to produce suitable returns to fund the Trust’s work, balanced with achieving long-term capital growth of its assets. In the opinion of the Trustees, the reserves held represent a sufficient, but not excessive, income generating base that will ensure that the Trust is able to continue its charitable activities in years to come.

As part of its objectives, the Trust aims to increase charitable donations each year, as is demonstrated in the bar chart below which denotes charitable giving over the last 10 years. The Trust will continue to raise its donations in the year to come, as we seek to maintain our current grantees and Award partnerships and identify new opportunities for growth.

CHARITABLE GIVING OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS

- Social Welfare
- Heritage & the Arts
- Environmental & Animal Welfare
- Healthcare
- Education & Training

Celebrating, Showcasing, Promoting, Encouraging, Recognising, Commending
OUR PARTNERSHIPS

We work with Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, The Wildlife Trusts and The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust to recognise people working on grassroots environmental conservation projects.

Our Awards with The Churches Conservation Trust, National Historic Ships, The Council for British Archaeology and The National Churches Trust celebrate those who are preserving local heritage sites and opening them up to communities.

We work in partnership with The British Museum, The Royal Opera House, The Arts Society, Royal Museums Greenwich, The Heritage Crafts Association and The Museum of London to commend volunteers who share their passion for arts and heritage with the public.

Many volunteers support and act as advocates for marginalised members of our community. We work with Re-engage, The Refugee Council, Barnardo’s and Amnesty International UK to highlight their impact.

SUPPORTING OLDER PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY

Belinda Hankers was the National winner of the 2019 Marsh Award for Volunteering in Support of Older People, run in partnership with Re-engage.

Belinda has been the coordinator of the Horsham 1 Group since 2015, and is a stable and reliable leader for a group that had had 3 coordinators in as many years. She has also been instrumental in the development and launch of a second group in Horsham.

Belinda’s dedication and compassion shone through in her care for one of her oldest guests, Jessica, who lived on her own and had no family nearby. When Jessica had a fall, Belinda organised a rota to ensure that the Horsham 1 volunteers would be able to visit her every day. Jessica passed away 4 months later, but Belinda’s dedication continued as she organised her volunteers to help the Housing Officer clear Jessica’s flat.

Our Awards Scheme with Re-engage recognises 21 volunteers in total across the UK who are working to reduce isolation and loneliness for older people within their local communities.

Celebrating grassroots volunteering

Volunteering continues to be an invaluable resource for organisations across the charity sector. Without people dedicating their time, knowledge and skills, many charities would not be able to do the work that they do. The majority of our Awards celebrate these volunteers working at a grassroots level to help make the world a better place.

I was delighted to win the national UK Award not just for me but on behalf of my volunteers who pulled together as a group to help one of our older members at a very difficult time. Of course we didn’t expect it, but it is very nice to be recognised for all that we do. I donated my cheques to the group funds to be spent on special occasions like Christmas and birthdays, and it has certainly encouraged us to keep up our good work.”

Belinda Hankers
The Men’s Group at the Barnsley Refugee Advice Project were the winners of the 2019 Marsh Refugee Volunteer Awards, run in partnership with The Refugee Council.

On behalf of the Men’s Group I wanted to thank you again for your support with the Marsh Award 2019. The Award helped the group to organise the trip to Yorkshire sculpture park in Wakefield which was an amazing experience. Without the Award it wouldn’t have been possible.”

Ben Biduaya, Founder of the Group

Showcasing peer support

Increasingly, individuals and groups are using their life experiences to help others going through a similar situation. We are pleased to work with a number of partner organisations to showcase these contributions and highlight this crucial area of work.

OUR PARTNERSHIPS

Our work with Mind and partners of Peerfest, an annual event bringing together a network of peers in mental health, aims to promote the fantastic work of mental health peer support groups.

Our Awards with St Mungo’s often go to volunteers who have experienced homelessness, and promote the invaluable support that those with lived experience can offer to clients.

Our partnership with Addaction promotes the impact that people in recovery from drug, alcohol or mental health problem can make to helping others through their journey to recovery.

Many of the winners of our Awards with Barnardo’s are adults and young people who have accessed Barnardo’s services and then choose to give back to other families, children and young people, as volunteers.

Our Awards with The Refugee Council often go to refugees and asylum seekers drawing upon their own experiences to run support projects for other refugees and asylum seekers.

PEER SUPPORT FOR REFUGEES

The group was the initial idea of Ben Biduaya, who arrived in Barnsley in January 2018 and noticed, from talking to other men seeking asylum in the community, that there was a need for a men’s only space to talk, share and support one another.

The group run various sessions and discussions around men’s physical health, mental health awareness and cancer safe awareness training. They also hold discussions around life in the UK and British politics, as well as a number of other sessions which help the men to settle into their new community. The men share their ideas for future sessions and activities, meaning that the group is tailored around their needs based on what they have experienced.

The group have built a strong, trusting bond with one another and created a safe space, to help them feel less isolated.

On behalf of the Men’s Group I wanted to thank you again for your support with the Marsh Award 2019. The Award helped the group to organise the trip to Yorkshire sculpture park in Wakefield which was an amazing experience. Without the Award it wouldn’t have been possible.”

Ben Biduaya, Founder of the Group
Promoting young people

Young people are becoming more and more involved with the charity sector and are often at the heart of moves to make changes in organisations. Our Awards continue to promote the contributions of young volunteers and celebrate their achievements.

OUR PARTNERSHIPS


Our work with The Council for British Archaeology, The Churches Conservation Trust and The Museum of London celebrates young people striving to preserve our heritage and culture and inspire others to do the same.

Our partnership with Barnardo’s includes Awards for young volunteers helping to shape and run services for other young people, children and families, alongside Awards for those volunteering in Barnardo’s stores.

Our Awards with Amnesty International UK promote young people raising awareness of human rights in their schools, universities and local communities.

Kabir Kaul

Kabir Kaul won the 2019 Marsh Award for Young Ornithologist of the Year, run in partnership with the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO).

Kabir is an outstanding young ornithologist who is hugely passionate about wildlife in London and is a great Ambassador for other young people with an interest in ornithology and wildlife in general. He has attended BTO Bird Camps for two years, and attended BTO’s ‘An Agenda for Change’ event at the House of Lords. Kabir undertakes a variety of survey work for the BTO and has submitted data for sites including Broadwater Lake and Moorhall Gravel Pits.

Kabir is an active wildlife blogger through his platform, ‘Kaul of the Wild’. He has produced a map of the Nature Reserves of London, which has become a useful and interactive tool for birders and wildlife enthusiasts. The map helps to engage the urban population with the nature on their doorstep and, in line with the BTO’s objectives, engages new and different groups of people in the urban environment.

“...I am very surprised and grateful to be the recipient of this Award. I thank BTO and the Marsh Christian Trust for this honour. I am hopeful that after I receive the award, the attention given to the map will help people to discover the wild side of our capital.”

Kabir Kaul
2019 New Awards

In 2019, we continued to develop our existing Award Scheme through the introduction of 6 new Awards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marsh Award for International Arts Society Committee of the Year</td>
<td>Run in partnership with the Arts Society. Recognising the collective and voluntary achievements of committee members who have driven the cause of the Arts Society internationally.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marsh Award for Early Career Research in Archaeology</td>
<td>Run in partnership with the Council for British Archaeology. Highlighting the early career contributions of an archaeologist that will have a single or ongoing impact on the discipline.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marsh Lifetime Achievement Award with Engage</td>
<td>Run in partnership with Engage. Celebrating the contributions of someone working, or who has worked, in learning or education in or for galleries or visual arts organisations in the UK.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J.O. Westwood Medal for Excellence in Insect Taxonomy and Marsh Prize</td>
<td>Run in partnership with the Royal Entomological Society. Celebrating the best descriptive taxonomic work on a group of insects or related arthropods.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marsh Awards for Volunteering with Royal Museums Greenwich</td>
<td>Run in partnership with Royal Museums Greenwich. Recognising the outstanding contributions made by volunteers across the Museum’s sites.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marsh Award for International Wetland Conservation</td>
<td>Run in partnership with the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust. Recognising a local citizen in a developing country whose conservation work has resulted in a sustainable benefit for people and wildlife that rely on wetlands.</td>
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Engage
Bringing people and art together

Archeolgy for All

Royal Museums Greenwich

Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust
Annette Broderick won the 2019 Marsh Award for Marine and Freshwater Conservation, run in partnership with the Zoological Society of London. She is an inspiring leader, researcher and conservationist and her achievements in marine conservation are extensive and diverse.

When still an undergraduate student Annette founded a marine turtle conservation project in Cyprus – a project that is now in its 28th field season! The project provides an extraordinary continual data series on turtles, and has seen over 1000 students from around the world trained in research, conservation and environmental education. This work has resulted in five major nesting sites being granted full legal protection, and signs of green turtle population recovery.

Annette’s work in UK Overseas Territories in the Cayman Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands is characterised by careful stakeholder engagement and partnerships with local government. Annette has researched Ascension Island’s iconic green turtle nesting population for 20 years, data which have contributed to the designation of a large scale marine protected area encompassing 100% of the Exclusive Economic Zone around Ascension Island as part of the Blue Belt Initiative.
Joe Burn won the 2019 Marsh Award for Lifetime Achievement with the Rare Breeds Survival Trust (RBST). He has worked with native and rare breeds for most of his adult life and has been an active member of the RBST for many years.

Between 1990 and 2001, Joe ran a rare breed farm park which was successful until it was forced to close due to the outbreak of foot and mouth disease. Since then, he has worked hard to restock the farm with sheep, focusing on Greyface, Dartmoors, Lincoln Longwool, Norfolk Horn, Herdwick and Shetland.

Joe remains an active volunteer for the RBST Border Group. He helps to man stalls at the Royal Highland and Border Union shows, as well as providing animals for school visits and any other event that he is asked to assist with.

Joe has quietly dedicated his working life to rare breeds, keeping a huge array of different livestock on his farm in the Scottish Borders and travelling all over the country for farming-related activities. Immensely knowledgeable and always encouraging to new breeders and young people, Joe’s wisdom and sense of fun are valued by all who know him.”

Ruth Dalton,
Northern Field Officer, RBST

Recognising lifetime achievements

The longstanding commitment of volunteers and professionals allows the organisations that they are affiliated with to carry out effective and wide-reaching work. Without their years of service and ongoing dedication, the sector would miss out on some invaluable knowledge and experience.

Our Partnerships

We work with The British Ecological Society, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew and Butterfly Conservation to recognise the lifetime achievements of professionals working to protect and make discoveries about the natural world.

We celebrate the selfless commitment of people who dedicate their time to improving the lives of others through our Awards with Re-engage and Barnardo’s.

Our work with The Rare Breeds Survival Trust and The Churches Conservation Trust are some examples of the Awards we give commending longstanding grassroots volunteering.

We highlight the important lifelong contributions that volunteers and professionals make to the promotion of heritage and the arts through our Awards with The Institute of Historic Building Conservation, The Natural History Museum and Engage.
Johnny Clegg won the 2019 Marsh Award for Anthropology in the World, run in partnership with The Royal Anthropological Institute. He was a South African musician and was one of few white artists to confront the apartheid government in the late 1970s and 1980s. Johnny sadly passed away in July 2019.

At a young age, Johnny was introduced to Zulu language, music and dance by Zulu migrant workers and felt able to relate to their feeling of marginality in the city. He studied anthropology at Wits University focusing on Zulu music and dance and stayed on as a lecturer. He challenged apartheid laws prohibiting public mixed-race performances by forming a mixed-race band to perform with.

Johnny made an indelible mark in the music industry, especially with the 1987 hit song Asimbonanga. The song was a tribute to Nelson Mandela while he was imprisoned on Robben Island, and became an anthem for South Africa’s anti-apartheid movement. Johnny and his hybrid music were a powerful rebuke to the white-minority government, and a reminder that apartheid was a political choice. It is felt among South Africans that Johnny powerfully showed what it was to assimilate and embrace other cultures without losing your identity.

ANTHROPOLOGY THROUGH MUSIC

Johnny Clegg was a remarkable man. It was said of him that whereas Mandela helped to break down apartheid at the political level, Clegg did so through music. He showed how anthropology can make an enormous difference.”

Dr David Shankland,
Director of the Royal Anthropological Institute

OUR PARTNERSHIPS

We run Awards for those working in regions of conflict, whether they are protecting the natural world or running services for survivors of conflict, through our partnerships with Wilton Park and The Marjan Centre.

We partner with organisations such as Fauna and Flora International, Botanic Gardens Conservation International and The Royal Anthropological Institute to support those bringing about positive change through grassroots public engagement.

We run Awards with The Arts Society and Engage to commend and celebrate those encouraging public engagement with the arts and culture on a grassroots level.

We also work with partners such The Zoological Society of London, The British Ecological Society, The British Trust for Ornithology, The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust and Butterfly Conservation to recognise scientists and researchers working on environmental conservation across borders.

Commending international work

The important work happening in the voluntary sector in the UK is mirrored by similar work across borders or in grassroots locations around the world. Through our growing number of international Awards and through the international networks of our partner organisations, we are able to recognise and promote the people who are driving this work.

18
Our international winners

Over the past year, 20 winners were recognised for their work in locations around the world.

The Caucasus Nature Fund won the Marsh Marjan Award for their work to both restore the national parks of Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia, and help build bridges between local communities in order to reduce regional tensions in the area.

Eurobirdportal won the Marsh Award for Innovative Ornithology, run in partnership with the British Trust for Ornithology, for their efforts to establish and maintain a European data repository based on data gathered from online bird recording portals across Europe.

Benjamin Ong won the Marsh Award for Education in Botanic Gardens, run in partnership with Botanic Gardens Conservation International, for his work in founding and developing a community engagement and volunteer development project at the Rimba Ilmu Botanic Gardens.

Ana Sandoval won the Marsh Award for International Plant Conservation, run in partnership with Botanic Gardens Conservation International, for her dedication and commitment to protecting the most threatened endemic native Chilean plant species.

The Caucasus Nature Fund won the Marsh Marjan Award for their work to both restore the national parks of Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia, and help build bridges between local communities in order to reduce regional tensions in the area.
was allocated across the grants and Awards programmes.

new organisations were supported through our grants programme.

grants were made throughout the year through the grants programme and to Award partners.

partner organisations that helped to deliver the Awards.

new Awards, including new categories for existing Awards, were presented for the first time.

appeals for funding were received.

of charities supported through the grants programme had a voluntary income of under £1 million.
Grant making

The vast majority of organisations in the charity sector, over 80% in fact, have an annual income of under £100,000. The Trust focuses its funding through the grants programme on organisations such as these, providing them with vital core funding to help cover their running costs. Funding from the Trust is unrestricted and can be used for costs such as volunteer expenses, updating vital equipment and other outgoings that need to be covered so that charitable activities can be carried out effectively.

We support organisations from across the whole of the charity sector, as demonstrated in the graph below.

**Allocation of Resources**

The majority of the Trust’s funding is provided to organisations working in social welfare: responding to community needs, working with young people, combating homelessness and addiction and supporting people living with disabilities and those that care for them. A number of grants are also given to organisations working to research treatment and cures for a range of healthcare issues, to protect and conserve the environment and to promote heritage and the arts.

Grants usually range from £400 to £1,500 and successful new applicants can expect to receive a grant at the lower end of this scale. Applications are considered based on the organisation’s financial position, performance against charitable aims and objectives and the ratio of voluntary income against fundraising expenses. The Trust predominately supports organisations based in and around London, however funding is provided to organisations across the UK, as demonstrated by the bar graph on the next page.

We aim to establish long-term funding relationships with successful applicants, as organisations have indicated that being able to rely on a modest grant from the Trust each year can provide them with vital support. The graph on the following page demonstrates the longevity of these partnerships in the last financial year, with some dating back over 30 years to when the Trust was founded in 1981.

Organisations with an income of under £10,000 receive just 15% of the government funding allocated to the charity sector. We therefore recognise the important role that the Trust plays as a grant funder and have sought to increase the grants that we provide over the past financial year to reflect this. We continue to evaluate the impact of our funding strategy by visiting the organisations that we support and learning first-hand about the work that they do.

The following case studies detail some organisations that we have supported through the grants programme in the last financial year and are examples of the important work that the Trust seeks to support across the charity sector.

Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust seeks to preserve the heritage of the historic dockyard at Chatham, engage the public with the vessels and their history, and provide unique educative and interactive experiences with a piece of maritime history.

The Trust supports a fully accredited Museum which gives its visitors a unique understanding of warship design and construction and the dockyard’s support of the Royal Navy during Britain’s growth as a world power through to the closure of the working dockyard in 1984.

The MCT has supported Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust since 2010, with funding being used towards exhibitions which enhance visitor engagement, maintenance work and other essential running costs for the Dockyard.

The unrestricted nature of your funding enables us to direct this support to undertaking a wide range of activities. The annual grant we have been fortunate to receive plays a significant role in supporting the delivery of our core charitable objectives.” – Paul Barnard, Director of Communications and Development (Assistant Chief Executive)

The Cogwheel Trust provides affordable, professional counselling and psychotherapy services in Cambridgeshire. Its 45 trained counsellors provide weekly one-to-one counselling sessions to around 600 people every year.

The Cogwheel Trust provides support to people struggling with a wide range of issues, most commonly depression, anxiety and stress, but also relationship difficulties, grief and loss, and abuse.

Clients self-refer, with most people being signposted to Cogwheel by their GP or other mental health support services. Cogwheel works with children aged five and over, young people and adults of all ages.

The MCT have provided The Cogwheel Trust with core funding since 1997, which has enabled the organisation to continue running their vital counselling services as the demand continues to increase.

We really value the ongoing support of the Marsh Christian Trust. Core funding is often not seen as exciting but is vital to enable us to continue to provide life-changing counselling to financially disadvantaged people.”

– Jane, Cogwheel Trust Fundraiser

Grantees

CHATHAM HISTORIC DOCKYARD TRUST

THE COGWHEEL TRUST
FARESHARE

FareShare is the UK’s biggest charity fighting food waste and hunger – working with the food industry and charity sector to divert good surplus food to people in need.

FareShare have 22 Regional Centres across the UK, from where surplus food is distributed to a wide range of local charities and community groups, such as school breakfast clubs, homeless shelters and women’s refuges. There are currently more than 8 million people living in the UK who struggle to afford to eat. Almost 11,000 frontline charities – which run support services for the community such as therapy or housing advice – regularly receive food from FareShare, which they then use to create nutritious meals for those in need.

The MCT has been supporting FareShare with funding since 2009 to enable them to reach out to manufacturers and retailers and encourage them to redistribute their surplus food to those in need.

The amount of food FareShare diverts to good causes is currently a drop in the ocean compared to the amount of surplus food which is available. The financial support we received from the Marsh Christian Trust is vital for us to access more food within the supply chain and ensure it gets onto the plates of people who need it most.” – Lindsey Cape, Head of Fundraising at FareShare

FARMS FOR CITY CHILDREN

Farms for City Children has three farms, one in Devon, one in Gloucestershire and one in Pembrokeshire. They provide inner-city children with the unique experience of a week spent away from the city on a real working farm in the countryside.

Over 3,000 children stay on the farms every year and have the opportunity to live an intense ‘learning through doing’ experience of a completely different way of life. Many of these children come from disadvantaged backgrounds and have limited opportunities to explore nature and the countryside.

The MCT have supported Farms for City Children since 1999, with an annual grant which enables more disadvantaged children to enjoy a unique and educational experience.

Thanks to funders like the Marsh Christian Trust, they enable Farms for City Children to offer disadvantaged inner-city children a whole week staying on a real working farm. In this nurturing environment, we have found that children discover an active enjoyment in life, and a sense of achievement, the effects of which remain with them long after they have waved the farms goodbye.”
For over 20 years, Off The Fence has worked to eradicate social poverty in Brighton and Hove by helping struggling members of the community who have nowhere to turn.

Off The Fence provides a range of Christian outreach services to restore hope to vulnerable women facing crisis, helps to rebuild the lives of those without homes, and assists hundreds of young people every week.

The MCT has supported Off The Fence since 2007 and our funding has been used towards the running costs of a number of their services, including Antifreeze.

Off The Fence’s service Antifreeze supports those who have struggled with addiction, mental health issues, job loss, relationship breakdowns and bereavement which has led to homelessness. Over 800 people, from all backgrounds, have accessed this service which aims to restore self-worth and independence to help people get off the streets. In the last year Antifreeze has introduced a new project ‘House-Reach’ to support those who are newly housed, who often find the transition from homelessness extremely hard to manage. Also, they have introduced the third van in their project ‘Hygiene For All’, which is made up of three vans that take showers, laundry facilities and hygiene products to the homeless, around the city.

Off The Fence have said “we are so thankful for the way that MCT has partnered with our work serving the most vulnerable people in our city, and sharing the love of God with those we meet.”