
Annual Review 2019-2020

MARSH
Christian Trust

Award Partners



Contents

- Our Values 2
- Chairman's Statement 3
- Financial Review 4
- Celebrating Grassroots Volunteering 6
- Showcasing Peer Support 8
- Promoting Young People 10
- Encouraging Professional Contribution 12
- Recognising Lifetime Achievements 14
- Commending International Work 16
- Our international winners 18
- 2019/20 in Numbers 20
- Grant making 22
- Grantees 24

Our Values

Long-term support

We begin all Grant and Award relationships on an ongoing basis

Partnerships

We believe in the strength of working together

Recognition

We raise awareness of the achievements of unsung heroes across the voluntary sector

Celebration

We promote contributions across the voluntary sector, to say thank you and inspire others

Chairman's review

The need to support the individuals and organisations across the charity sector which are striving to make a difference has been proved more important than ever this year. We at the Marsh Christian Trust have continued to play our part through our two main areas of work – the Marsh Awards and the grants programme.

THE MARSH AWARDS

The Marsh Awards celebrate the outstanding everyday contributions that individuals and groups make to people, culture and the natural world. Over the past year, despite the difficult circumstances, we were pleased to be able to continue and, in some areas, develop our Awards Scheme. We recognised the vital importance of grassroots volunteers in the community and were able to highlight these commitments through adapting some of our existing Award programmes to reflect volunteers' responses to the Pandemic.

We were pleased to introduce a new Award Partnership with the Prison Advice and Care Trust and more about this and other Award developments 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 our Awards – without them we simply could not run this Programme. We were pleased

to celebrate long-term anniversaries with a number of our Partners during the year and look forward to continuing our work with them in the years to come.

We would also like to record our thanks to our 11 Ambassadors who voluntarily give their time to present Awards and help build and maintain our partnerships. Again, without their dedication and support, this year in particular in the business of mastering the 'art' of virtual presentations, the Awards programme would not be able to run as it does.

GRANTS PROGRAMME

We continued to prioritise supporting small and medium sized charities with long-term core funding through our grants programme. We made over 350 grants to these organisations throughout the year, in recognition of the important work that they do and their increased need for funding as a result of the effects of the Pandemic. 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.

LOOKING TO THE YEAR AHEAD

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 increasing the number of new organisations that we support whilst continuing to maintain our existing (and sometimes long-standing) Grantee relationships.

As always, we welcome being approached regarding new possibilities for partnership through the Awards Scheme, both by new and existing Partners. The Coronavirus Pandemic has caused us to present a number of Awards via video conferencing this year, and we are looking forward to getting back to holding in-person presentations and meeting our winners face to face when it is safe for us to do so.

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

Brian Marsh OBE
Chairman

Financial review

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 2020 amounted to £305,638, which was up from £296,871 in 2019. Funds across our 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.

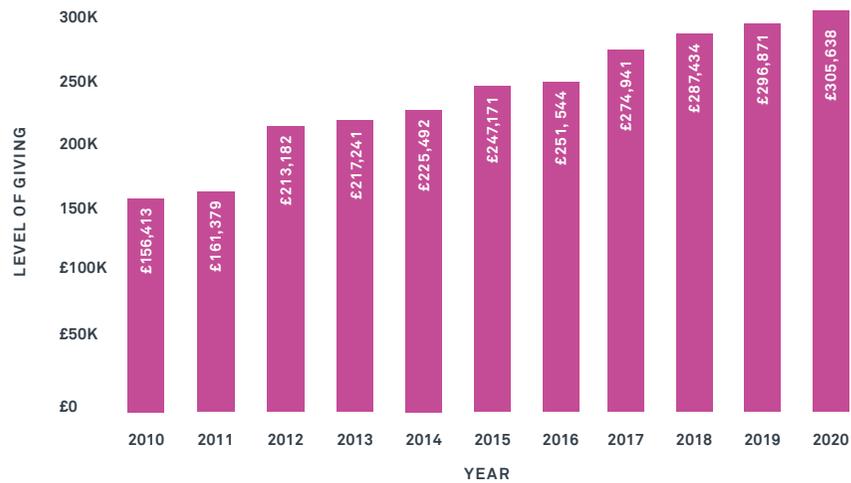
From an original investment of £75,000, the Trust's capital base has now grown to circa £12.3 million. This continues to be invested to produce suitable returns to fund the Trust's work, balanced with achieving long-term capital growth of its assets. In the opinion of the Trustees, the reserves held 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. We plan to maintain and increase our current Grantee and Award partnerships and identify new opportunities for growth.

ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES



CHARITABLE GIVING OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS



Celebrating Showcasing Promoting Encouraging Recognising Commending

Celebrating grassroots volunteering

Volunteering continues to be an invaluable resource for organisations across the charity sector and this has become particularly evident throughout the last year. 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.

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 The Refugee Council, Barnardo's and the Prison Advice and Care Trust to highlight their impact.



I felt very honoured to receive the Marsh Volunteer Award. It was great to be recognised for my work making the sail covers for Duet. A project which occupied me when the sail training season was cancelled, and it combined my love of sailing and textile skills. I really hope all sail training can open again next year to provide wonderful opportunities for children's mental and physical well-being whilst at sea."

Demonstrating commitment to volunteering

Charlotte Hole was named winner of the 2020 **Marsh Award for Historic Vessel Conservation** in partnership with National Historic Ships.

Charlotte has been involved with the Cirdan Sailing Trust for over 2 years, but was unfortunately made redundant from her seasonal contract due to the impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic, after a period of furlough. While on furlough, Charlotte continued to show her commitment to the vessel by

taking it upon herself to look after her accommodation on a voluntary basis as the government guidelines prevented her from doing any paid work during this time. She sanded and painted areas that she knew needed attention and made new matching sailing bags for *Duet*, a 22m long vessel that is on permanent loan to the Trust.

Even after being made redundant, Charlotte's dedication to Cirdan didn't end and she offered to make much-

needed sail and hatch covers for *Duet*, taking over her family home with metres of canvas in order to do so. These covers will not only improve the appearance of the vessel but will also help preserve the aging wood and equipment on board. By volunteering to complete the work, Charlotte saved the Cirdan Sailing Trust over £2,000 which proved to be of enormous support in a difficult time.

Showcasing peer support

Individuals and groups often use their own life experiences to help others who are going through a similar situation. We are pleased to continue our work with partner organisations to showcase these contributions and highlight this crucial area of work, which has proven to be a lifeline for many people.

OUR PARTNERSHIPS

Our work with **Mind** and partners of **Peerfest**, an annual event, held online for the first time this year, bringing together a network of peers in mental health, aims to promote the vital 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 **We Are With You** promotes the impact that people in recovery from drug, alcohol or mental health problems can make to helping other 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.



Our close friends and families care enormously but don't truly understand the challenges we face. WWY is a space where we can get advice or support that really helps. So I'm grateful for that, as well as grateful to work with an amazing (award winning) team to keep making it better."

Parental peer support

The volunteers from the **Child and Adult Mental Health Service** group, 'Walking With You', won the **2020 Marsh Team of the Year Award**, run in partnership with **Barnardo's**.

'Walking With You' is a parent led support group for anyone supporting children and young people who are experiencing mental health difficulties. The group was set up in 2018, after feedback from parents that it would be helpful to have "the chance to connect with like-minded people who have walked in your shoes". The volunteers really understand the pressure the

families they support are under and this is evident in the support and empathy they demonstrate to help the attendees feel less alone.

The volunteers helped with the set-up of the group from the very beginning, shaping the remit, deciding on the name, designing and producing the logo and posters and helping with promotion of the group. They meet regularly to plan each session, which cover topics chosen by the group, and following the sessions, a newsletter is put together with a summary of the session and any useful links and resources for the parents to

use going forward. The volunteers have demonstrated drive, determination, commitment and enthusiasm to ensure that the sessions are of high quality and provide parents with the support and resources they need.

During the pandemic, the volunteers have gone above and beyond to keep the meetings running via online platforms. They have focused on issues related to lockdown, such as anxiety around isolation and returning to school, and the volunteers' on-going enthusiasm and commitment has been invaluable at such a difficult time.

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, while hopefully inspiring other young people to get involved in the charity sector through causes they believe in.

OUR PARTNERSHIPS

Our Awards with the Zoological Society of London, The British Trust for Ornithology, The Wildlife Trusts and Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew promote young people showing a passion for environmental conservation and science.

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 Awards with The British Museum are sometimes presented to young people who share their passion for heritage with the public and endeavour to encourage them to engage in museum learning.

Our partnership with Barnardo's includes Awards for young volunteers helping to shape and run services for other young people, children and families, and also Awards for those giving up their time to volunteer in Barnardo's stores.



“

I am so happy to have won this award. It is a huge honour and a lovely surprise! I really am very keen to get other young people interested in Ellisland, which is such an atmospheric place. It's so special to perform in the same spot where Robert Burns wrote his world-famous songs and tunes.”

An Ambassador for young volunteering

Rose Byers was named the national winner of the 2020 **Marsh Volunteers for Museum Learning Award**, run in partnership with the British Museum.

Rose has been volunteering at the Robert Burns Ellisland Museum and Farm for two years and is the Museum's first Young Ambassador, part of a scheme which allowed young people to be represented in the running of the museum and the development of future programmes. She has been able

to influence the future direction of the Museum and organise events and activities that are engaging for wider audiences, including young people and families. One of these events was a Young Trad concert which helped to raise funds for Ellisland and attracted performances from BBC Scotland Young Musicians of the Year.

Rose is an asset to the development of young people at the Museum, providing opportunities for other young

volunteers and helping them to build their confidence to become involved in decision making. She is an excellent Ambassador for the museum locally and internationally and her work is encouraging more young people to be involved with Ellisland, be that through visiting or volunteering.

Encouraging professional contributions

Many individuals use their skills, expertise and passion through their professional lives to improve the world we live in. A number of our Awards highlight these professionals who make invaluable contributions across the charity sector and go above and beyond for causes that they believe in.

OUR PARTNERSHIPS

We celebrate academic contributions in the fields of environmental conservation and science with organisations such as **The British Ecological Society**, **The Zoological Society of London**, **The British Trust for Ornithology** and **The Natural History Museum**.

Our Awards with **The British Art Medal Society**, **The Heritage Crafts Association** and **The Institute of Historic Building Conservation** highlight the importance of the continuation of heritage skills and training.

We promote those who develop our understanding of the issues and challenges our society faces through our work with **The Royal Anthropological Institute** and **The Human Trafficking Foundation**.

Through our Awards with **The Royal Horticultural Society**, **The Council for British Archaeology**, **Fauna and Flora International** and **Engage** we recognise researchers and professionals who have made a great impact at the early stages of their careers, and suggest that the Award can be used to further their professional development.



On a road full of these obstacles, when we have to hear many slanderous accusations, rewards like Marsh Award become a big motivation. Moreover, it strengthens our positions and helps us gain international recognition."

An Important Early Career Conservationist

Natia Javakhishvili won the inaugural Marsh Award for Early Career Conservationist, run in partnership with **Fauna and Flora International (FFI)** to recognise a conservationist in the early stages of their career who has made an impact in either marine or terrestrial conservation.

Natia's main motivation throughout her short career so far has been to save the threatened Imperial Eagle. She began this fight in 2014 when she volunteered with the Society for Nature Conservation (SABUKO), a BirdLife partner in Georgia, and she was soon promoted

to Chief Specialist of Environmental Education. In 2015, Natia was given a Future Conservationist Award by the Conservation Leadership Programme, which allowed her to lead a project focused solely on conserving the Imperial Eagle where she identified that poaching, nest destruction and pylon electrocution were the major threats which needed to be addressed. In 2017, Natia and her team developed a proposal which won a landscape restoration grant under the Endangered Landscapes Programme, to help save the major breeding habitats of the Imperial Eagle. In 2015 – 2017, Natia was also leading the Department

of Education at the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Nature Resources of Georgia, and where she was trying to bring greater media attention to conservation in the Country.

In recognition of her successes, Natia became the CEO of SABUKO in 2017 and is credited with leading the organisation to become financially sustainable and growing the organisation in terms of staff members and attracting donors. SABUKO operates alongside government departments and is building the first volunteer network for nature protection in Georgia.

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 which ultimately improves the service they are able to provide.

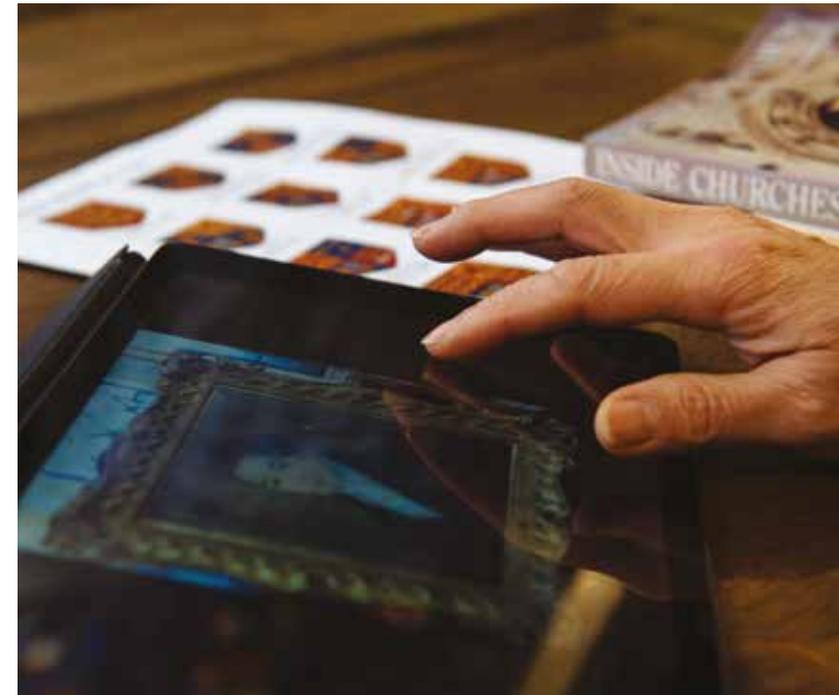
OUR PARTNERSHIPS

We work with **The British Entomological Society** and **Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew** 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 some of the most vulnerable people in society through our Awards with **Barnardo's**.

Our work with **The Rare Breeds Survival Trust** and **The Churches Conservation Trust** allows us to commend those who have given many years of their lives to grassroots volunteering roles.

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**, **Engage** and **The Arts Society**.



I was very surprised to hear I had been awarded a Marsh award as I had no idea I had been nominated, it is so lovely to be rewarded for doing something you enjoy so much."



Celebrating a lifetime of Church Recording

Angela Goedicke won the **Marsh Award for Lifetime Achievement in Church Recording**, a one-off Award for 2020 in partnership with the **Arts Society** which was introduced in recognition of her **outstanding contribution**.

When Church Recording began in 1973, Angela was in one of the first Groups to join. She eventually became involved in helping with the first edition of the Church Recording handbook. She soon became a Group Leader and was then Chairman of the Church Recording Committee from 1992 to 1996.

Angela has continued to be a key member of the Church Recording team, supporting individual recorders and devising new processes to encourage better collaboration with central office. She helped produce the catalogue 'Stained Glass Makers' Mark and Monograms', used by many Recorders and stained-glass enthusiasts. She is incredibly supportive, answering all queries promptly and clearly. Angela is a key member of the auditing team who check recordings before they are sent to be archived and the depth and breadth of her knowledge is

extraordinary, and shared widely with new Church Recorders.

Almost all of the 2000 Church Records completed have included some level of input from Angela and she is known as the 'go to' person for Church Recording information both within the Arts Society and externally. From January 2021, Angela will be involved in a new charitable body, Church Recording Society, to make sure Church Recording continues in the future.

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.

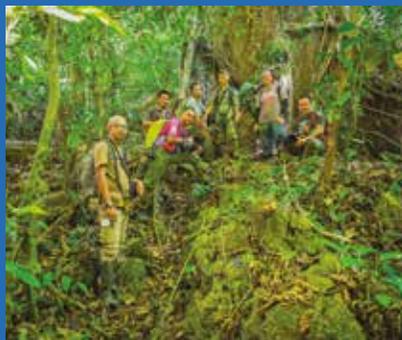
OUR PARTNERSHIPS

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

Our Awards with **Fawwuna** and **Flora International**, **Botanic Gardens Conservation International** and **The Royal Anthropological Institute** recognise 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.

Our work with partners such as **The Zoological Society of London**, **The British Ecological Society** and **The British Trust for Ornithology** recognises scientists and researchers working on environmental conservation across borders.



The real value of this award is to give me confidence that I must be doing something right and to urge me on to do more."

Steering international plant conservation

Jeannie Raharimampiona won the Marsh Award for International Plant Conservation, run in partnership with **Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI)**.

Jeannie joined the Missouri Botanical Gardens Madagascar Program in 1999 to work on their electronic database to the plants of Madagascar, capturing information from specimens whilst working as a curator. Due to her work in this area, Jeannie was asked to launch and co-manage a project to identify orphan Priority Areas for Plant Conservation (PAPCs) in the country. She successfully integrated these into her government's vision to enlarge the network of protected areas, convinced

conservation organisations to adopt some of these sites, and then worked with colleagues to develop MBG's own site-based conservation program in the country. This program, now 17 years old, includes the community-based conservation of 11 PAPCs. This work has certainly prevented the extinction of a number of locally endemic plant species. Jeannie's next challenge is to transform some of the strongest site-based teams into National NGOs who are independent of Missouri Botanical Gardens: providing a strong Malagasy voice to efforts to conserve Madagascar's wonderful flora

Jeannie has contributed to nearly all the Global Strategy for Plant

Conservation targets, which include ensuring that at least 15% of each ecological region or vegetation type is secured through effective management and restoration, ensuring 75% of the most important areas for plant diversity are protected and at that at least 75% of known threatened plant species are conserved. She has also helped to keep all wild harvested plant-based products sourced sustainably and keep the number of trained people working with appropriate facilities sufficient according to national needs when meeting targets. Her team and the diverse work programs that they implement is almost entirely supported by fundraising efforts.

Our international winners



Tara Moreau – Canada

Tara Moreau won the Marsh Award for Education in Botanic Gardens, run in partnership with Botanic Gardens Conservation International, for her important contributions to expanding the education and outreach programmes at the University of British Columbia's Botanical Garden.



Verena Keller – Switzerland

Verena Keller won the Marsh Award for International Ornithology, run in partnership with the British Trust for Ornithology, for her influential work and research at the Swiss Ornithological Institute for over 20 years.



Sebastien Boret – Japan

Sebastien Boret won the Lucy Mair Medal and Marsh Prize, run in partnership with the Royal Anthropological Institute, in recognition of his interdisciplinary and applied research on the anthropology of death and disaster at Tohoku University.



Ravinder Kaur – Malaysia

Ravinder Kaur won the Marsh Award for Terrestrial Conservation Leadership, run in partnership with Fauna and Flora International, for her important conservation work with the Malaysian Hornbill, in an area where resources are hard to come by.

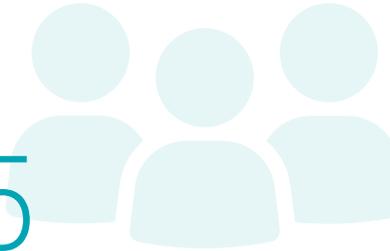
2019/2020 in numbers

£305k



was allocated across the Grants and Awards programme.

195



individuals and groups were recognised through our Awards programme.

38



partner organisations that helped to deliver the Awards.

6



new Awards were presented for the first time.

81



new organisations were supported through our grants programme.

351



grants were made during the year.

1050



appeals for funding were received.

72%



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

Grant making

The Trust focuses its funding through the grants programme on smaller organisations, providing them with vital core funding to help cover their running costs. The 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 to ensure that charitable activities can be carried out effectively. 80% of organisations in the charity sector have an income of under £100,000 and have faced increasing strains on their funds during the coronavirus outbreak.¹ With more than 50 % of them having an income of under £10,000, the Trust recognises the important role it plays in helping to fund to smaller organisations so that they can continue their important grassroots work.²

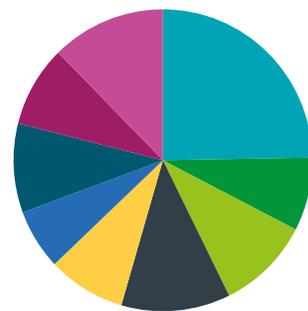
The majority of the Trust's funding is provided to organisations working in social welfare, which is the largest subsector within the charity sector, containing over 32,000 charities.³

These organisations respond to community needs; working with young people, combatting homelessness and addiction, and supporting people living with disabilities and those that care for them. The Trust also provides grants 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.

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

ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES



- CARE AND SUPPORT
- LITERATURE, ARTS & HERITAGE
- ENVIRONMENT
- HEALTHCARE
- EDUCATION
- DISABILITY
- COMMUNITY
- YOUTH
- HOMELESSNESS

Grants usually range from £400 to £2,000, and successful new applicants can expect to receive a grant at the lower end of this scale. Applications are

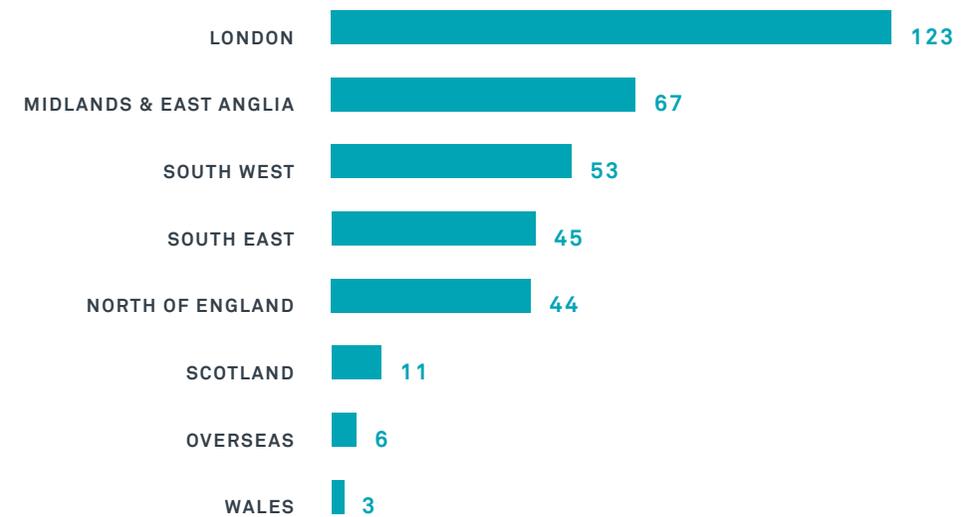
considered based on the organisation's financial position, performance against charitable aims and objectives, and the ratio of voluntary income against fundraising expenses. The majority of organisations the Trusts supports are based in and around London, however funding is provided to organisations 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.

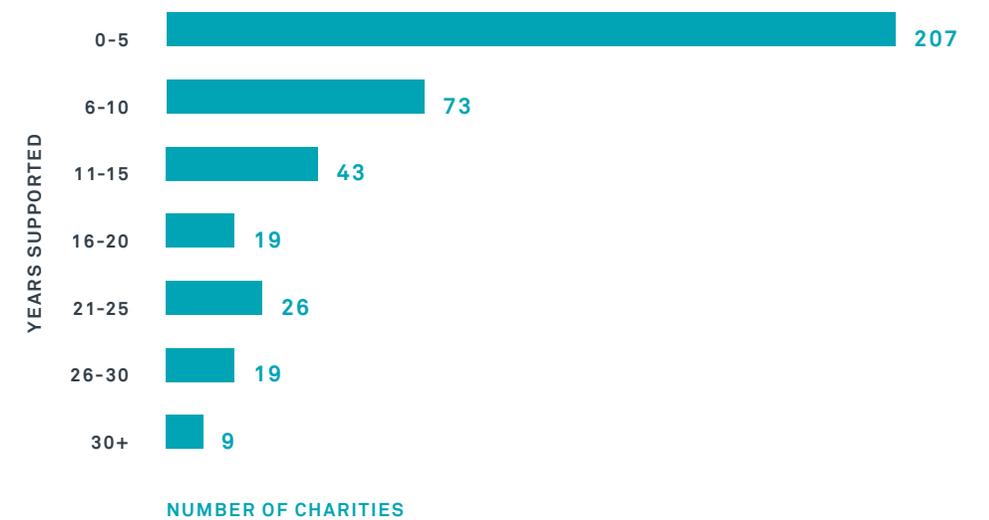
We continue to evaluate the impact of our funding strategy by visiting the organisations that we support and learning first-hand about the work that they do.

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 with the Trust seeks to support across the charity sector.

LOCATION OF GRANTEES



2019-2020 GRANT RECIPIENTS



¹ <https://data.ncvo.org.uk/profile/size-and-scope/>
² <https://blogs.ncvo.org.uk/2019/01/21/small-charities-key-findings-from-our-data/>
³ <https://data.ncvo.org.uk/>

Grantees

BARNABUS



Barnabus is a Christian charity based in Manchester giving hope and support to rough sleepers and people experiencing homelessness, through early morning street outreach, 1-1 support at their Beacon Support Centre, Dwell project and their Resettlement Tenancy Scheme.

Barnabus supported 2,892 people between 2019 and 2020. They provide

support with accommodation, addictions, mental health and healthcare and links to training and employment. Their case workers and resettlement tenancy scheme empower people back into independent living, into a home with hope for the future.

The MCT has been supporting Barnabus since 2008 and our funding is used for running costs and assisting people to get back on their feet.

“MCT’s funding vitally supports our aims enabling us together to give people who feel all hope is lost; a future that they hope for and recovery into independent living. We’re so blessed and grateful for their faithful and ongoing support.”

C Price
Fundraising Manager



CAMPAIGN FOR NATIONAL PARKS



Campaign for National Parks is the only independent national voice for the 13 National Parks in England and Wales. Their mission is to inspire everyone to enjoy and look after National Parks – the nation’s green treasures. The organisation has been campaigning for over 80 years to ensure that our National Parks are beautiful, inspirational places that are relevant, valued and protected for all.

The MCT has supported Campaign for National Parks since 1994, enabling them to protect our precious landscapes for future generations.

“Campaign for National Parks is immensely grateful for the MCT’s continued support. As a small charity, we rely on grants and donations. Even though our team is small, we also represent over 10,000 members of National Park Societies and work in close partnership with other environmental charities. MCT’s contribution to our core costs enables us to tackle big issues such as climate change, loss of biodiversity and equal access to the natural environment for everyone.”

Anita Konrad
Chief Executive



Grantees

LISTENING BOOKS

Listening Books provides access to online downloads and streaming services and a postal MP3CD lending service to any child or adult who finds it difficult or impossible to read print due to any illness or disability.

Listening Books makes these services available to individuals, hospitals, hospices, residential homes and schools. Listening to audiobooks allows children and young people to listen to the same books their friends and peers are reading, improving comprehension and word recognition. For older members, audiobooks can

provide relief from pain, boredom and loneliness as well as being enjoyable.

The MCT have supported Listening Books with funding since 2007 which is used to eliminate the struggle some may have decoding the words on the page, allowing their listeners to visualise as they listen.

“*We at Listening Books are so grateful to The Marsh Christian Trust for their longstanding support for our charity. Over the years, the Trust has helped us to deliver the joy and educational benefits of reading via audio to many print-impaired people around the UK. Without such generosity, our work simply wouldn't be possible.*”

William Dee
Chief Executive



SERVE

Serve provides support for the elderly and wants to ensure that anyone who wishes to stay in their home has the chance to do so, despite their age or disability.

Serve offers a range of services to help their clients stay fit and healthy while enjoying the independence that living at home provides. These services include helping to get to medical appointments, providing personal care, day care and help with cleaning and shopping.

Since 2012, the MCT have supported Serve with annual funding to support the services they provide to the community.

The most recent grant received has supported people with dementia through their Singing for Brain activity, 'Musical Moments', enabling them to enjoy later life and reducing the risk of common diseases at the same time.

“*More and more of the elderly are suffering from the effects of Dementia, they end up living on the edge of society. At Serve our objective is to build community connections so these service users feel integrated and part of the local community. In addition, it gives that extra support to informal carers, who are in desperate need of respite from being isolated and this programme enables them to enjoy an activity with their loved ones. This funding from the Marsh Christian Trust couldn't have come at a better time, it's made a real difference to the service users' quality of life*”

Jess Slater
CEO



Grantees

THE OLIVE BRANCH (FAITH IN ACTION)

The Olive Branch (Faith in Action) is a Christian charity, established in 2004, offering three main services to its 'Guests' who are worthy of respect whatever their circumstances: a Drop-in Support Centre, a Food Bank operating on referrals with three meals per day and an 'Advocate' for the Christian charity ACTS 435.



Anyone is welcome but generally comprise the homeless, people experiencing benefit issues, asylum seekers and refugees, people with incomes not able to meet necessary

expenditure, the lonely, people affected by addictions and poor health.

The charity relies upon grocery and financial donations of all sizes and from various sources. The faithful financial support given by MCT since 2007 has contributed towards easing the stress caused by a shortage of funds and many success stories such as;

Emma (not her real name) is a single mum living with her 5-year old son. She lost her job at the beginning of lock down and a local advice agency has been giving support to help her recoup some of the pay she is still owed by her employer. Expecting a second child, and with no source of income, Emma struggled to prepare for her baby's arrival. The Olive Branch sourced a bottle sterilizer and a pushchair for Emma along with providing weekly food parcels. Emma's baby arrived early in challenging circumstances leaving Emma very unwell in hospital. Once mother and baby were home again, we added baby formula (as requested), nappies and wipes to her food parcels in the following weeks. Even though we have not met Emma in person we still aim to demonstrate that God cares about her and her situation.



WILLOW FOUNDATION

Willow Foundation is the only national charity working with seriously ill young adults ages 16 to 40 to provide them with Special Days that lift spirits and reunify families.

The Special Day provides an uplifting and positive experience to be shared with a partner, parents, siblings, children or close friends. Since 1999 Willow has fulfilled more than 17,000 Special Days for young adults living with life-threatening conditions such as cancer, motor neurone disease, cystic fibrosis, muscular dystrophy and Huntington's disease.



The MCT has supported Willow Foundation with funding since 2017 to enable them to help create everlasting memories.



The impact of COVID-19 has been a challenge for Willow and saw us have to temporarily suspend our usual Special Day service from April to September 2020. However we were so grateful that the MCT was able to continue their valuable support in helping fund 'alternative' Special Days which included Positivity Packs being sent out to our beneficiaries. Thank you on behalf of everyone at Willow!"

Jonathan Aves
CEO



Grantees

YOUNG MUSICIANS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Young Musicians Symphony Orchestra is Britain's leading orchestra for young musicians on the threshold of their professional careers.

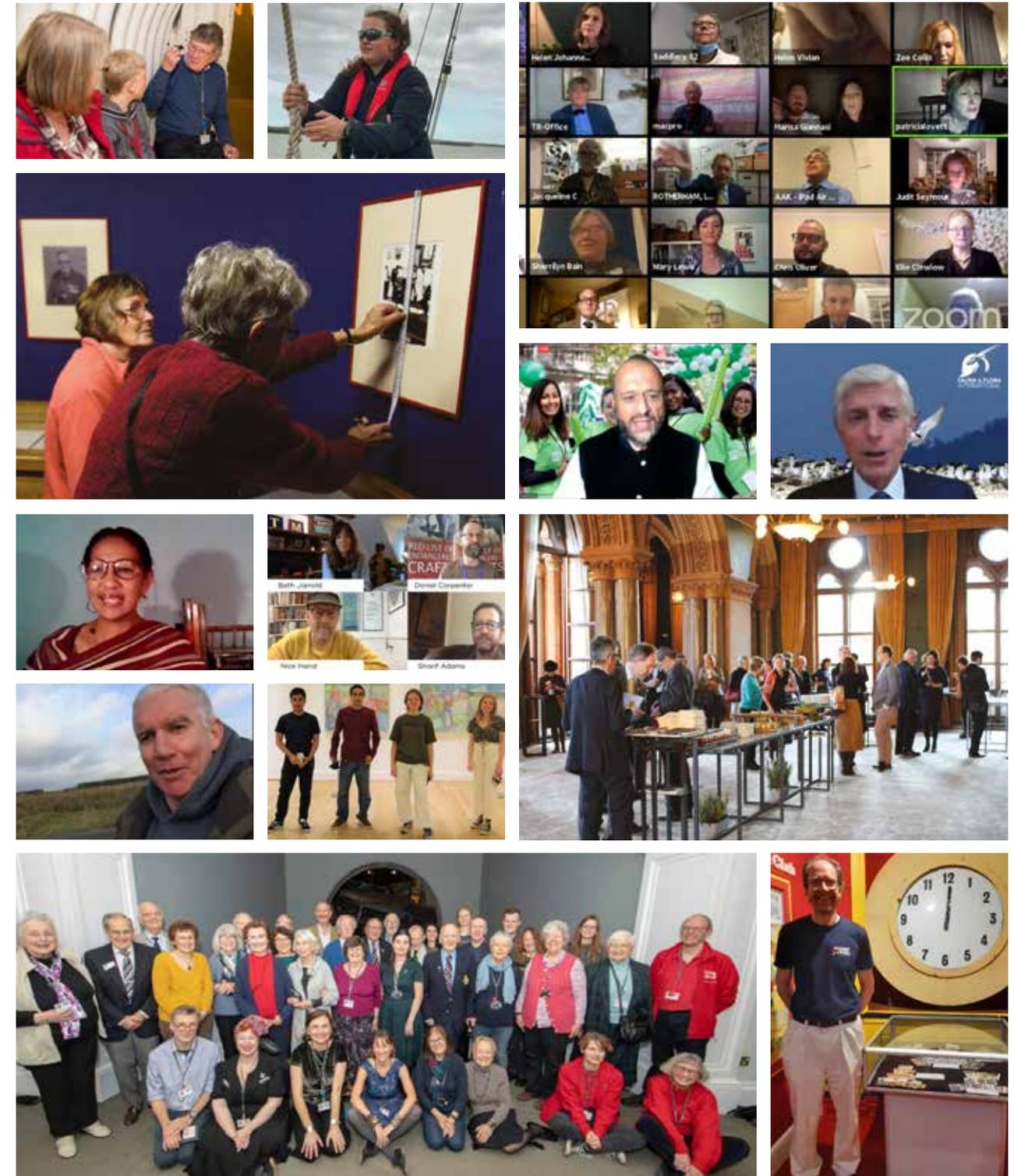
It is the only full-size symphony which provides orchestral training, performance experience and professional development opportunities to outstanding young classical musicians from across the UK, between the ages of 18-25.

The Marsh Christian Trust has been supporting the Young Musicians

Symphony Orchestra, which helps to bridge the gap between college life and the orchestral profession, since 1998.

“*The grant from the Marsh Christian Trust has helped to fund music hire for the YMSO in 2020. Your grant alone has enabled us to hire music for three of our concerts this year. These have involved upwards of one hundred young musicians*”

James Blair
Artistic Director





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