

The Catenian Association Benevolent and Children's Fund.

Chairman's Report 2021/2022

Due to ongoing concerns with the Coronavirus, the Trustees had only one face to face meeting, in July 2021. The Board of nine Managing Trustees subsequently met bi-monthly using Zoom. The Board has considered and made appropriate awards in respect of new applications for financial help, repeat applications, and reviewed other cases on a biennial basis. The Emergency Committee has also continued to act on many occasions, to ensure that any of the qualifying beneficiaries have not needed to wait for financial help, in the event of an emergency, that help is often provided within 48 hours of the request being received. Details of the many cases considered by email were password protected, to ensure that strict confidentiality was maintained.

The nine Managing Trustees have a wide spread of expertise, which enables the Board to analyse in great detail the cases presented to them and to provide the most appropriate and effective form of financial help required. In this way, many of the underlying problems giving rise to the application are often resolved, and future stability is achieved.

Confidentiality remains the overriding principle when dealing with applications for financial help. Applicants for assistance, whether from members or dependants, can be re-assured that their particular situation will be handled with the utmost sensitivity and confidentiality, by both the Board of Trustees, and by members of the Circle Benevolent Boards.

Circles have an obligation by Rule, to ensure that they have an effective Circle Benevolent Board in place, which should meet at least once a year with the responsible Director, who is an ex officio member of the Circle Board. The CBB remains the main agency through which the majority of cases are presented to the Managing Trustees, though in exceptional circumstances, cases can be presented solely by the responsible Director. The Managing Trustees can only deal with the applications that they receive and remain concerned that many potential cases are not being met, either due to the reticence of the individuals concerned or a lack of vigilance by CBBs or the wider membership of the Association.

The Charity's website displays all of the information required to enable potential applicants for help, to be able to navigate the system, During the course of the year Virgin Money Giving ceased to operate and therefore currently, there is no facility on the website to enable one off donations to be made to the Fund. At the time of writing, we are about to go live with an alternative supplier called Stockcrowd. The Vice Chairman, David Cawdery, is thanked for the work he has undertaken to progress this arrangement.

The Managing Trustees acknowledge and thank the following, for the efficient and effective administration of the Fund during the past year; Brother Phil Roberts, Clerk to the Trustees, Brother Mark Allanson, Chairman of the Investment Committee and the members of that committee, the Senior Administrator and Staff at Head Office, the members of the Circle Benevolent Boards and the Directors involved generating new cases, and providing information to enable the Board of Trustees to review existing cases.

Brief details of awards made during the past year are set out below.

Peter Devine.

Chairman July 2022.

	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20
New applications	7	20	22
From members	5	15	18
From defendants	2	5	4
Re-applications	37	25	21
From members	29	19	19
From dependants	8	6	2
Disbursements			
Grants	£165,028	£209,289	£212,390
Unsecured loans	£663,884	£455,021	£689,169
Total	£828,912	£664,310	£901,474
Number of meetings held in the year	6	6	5
Loans reviewed in the year	71	57	63