

The Anchor Society Appeal News

2020

Trev, Rich and Dave from Fareshare, sorting food to deliver to older people in the Bristol area



Message from the President

It has been a great honour to be President in this unusual and tumultuous year in Bristol's life.

My father was fond of saying to my brothers and me in difficult times "Humanity in adversity is humanity at its best". I expect many of us had parents who said the same. Anchor has sought to give of its best in the past twelve months.

First Covid-19. The three Societies, Grateful, Dolphin and Anchor, decided that we should act together to assist those most in need. I found the input from my fellow Presidents invaluable. The result was that we funded Fareshare South West, enabling them to provide 40,000 meals to 700 older people in isolated and vulnerable situations. We also gave significant financial support to Bristol After Stroke to enable counselling for stroke victims.

Covid-19 sadly prevented us from holding our annual tea party for those connected with the Society, but instead we took tea to them. Our visitors brought teas to people in their own homes. We also went to our Kirkby Road sheltered accommodation and The Beehive Centre. At The Beehive we, the residents and helpers had a very happy afternoon together.

Next, Linkage. Anchor has supported this project for some years. It is flourishing following its merger earlier in the year with Age UK and is complementing Age UK in a very positive way by its provision of online services to older people.

Then, day to day the steady work of the Society has continued, with working from home and meetings via Zoom.

"Humanity in adversity is humanity at its best"

Earlier this year I visited our digital health project at UWE. We are very fortunate in having Professor Praminda Solly to lead this. She and her very bright and committed team are now turning their research into practical applications for older people.

Our building and housing projects are progressing. We are delighted that Bill Marshall has accepted the invitation to be our next President, with all his expertise in this field.

Anchor has been active in our city for 250 years. In all we do we seek an improved quality of life for older people; to build on and learn from the past, to make a difference in the present and by so doing create the future.

I hope you will see some of what we do from this Newsletter and ask for your support for this year's appeal.

Francis Montagu, President



The three Presidents: Mimi Avery (Dolphin), Francis Montagu (Anchor) Jackie Cornish (Grateful)



Please support our work

See inside for full details of how to make a donation to The Anchor Society or go to:

anchorsociety.co.uk

Huge boost for the Anchor Business In the Community employment programme

For the last three years Anchor has worked with Business in The Community (BiTC) to help over 55's back into employment, through the BiTC Ready for Work programme.

We are delighted to report that our funding has been substantially enhanced by a £200,000 grant to BiTC from the Aviva Foundation, to grow the project both in Bristol and the rest of the UK. This means that significantly more people, many of whom are long-term unemployed, can have the opportunity to find work again. At the launch event we were able to meet Julia and Brendan, two people who were being supported back into work through the project. We are delighted to report that Julia had found employment and Brendan was on his way.

This is Brendan's story – Brendan came to the programme with a really good CV and work history, but was struggling with getting interviews. If he did get an interview, he did not get the position. He felt that age was his major barrier.

Brendan completed his placement with Bouygues working at Southmead hospital and excelled during his two weeks. Unfortunately, they were unable to recruit as they had no openings at the time, but said they would hire him immediately if a position did come up.

During the training day Brendan impressed the hosting business, Barclays, so much that they also wanted to offer him a work placement, with a view to a position at one of their Branches.



Anchor CEO Richard Pendlebury with Julia and Brendan at the Aviva launch

The Anchor Tea Party – Covid-19 Style

One of the highlights of the Anchor calendar is the annual summer Tea Party, which is an opportunity for the President and his wife to host an event for our beneficiaries.

The Covid-19 restrictions resulted in the intended venue cancelling their 2020 bookings, leaving us with a dilemma; did we abandon the event altogether or consider another option? Ultimately, the decision was made to take the

Tea Party to the recipients at their home!

Delicious cream tea party bags were made up and delivered to the door, which enabled those who felt comfortable to picnic with friends or, alternatively, enjoy their tea in the privacy and protection of their own home.

The residents of the Bristol and Anchor Almshouses were able to meet in The Beehive Centre, whilst observing

appropriate safeguarding measures, with the majority choosing to attend. It was also an opportunity for The Beehive Centre to host their first event since lockdown, before re-opening for some of their activities.

It proved to be a phenomenally successful exercise and will, no doubt, always be remembered as the 2020 Alternative Anchor Tea Party!

This is just some of the feedback we received – *"We would like to thank all the people involved for arranging and distributing tea party food to us, it was all very enjoyable"*

"Please pass on our thanks for the treat bag yesterday. We had our own tea party in the garden with our neighbours." – Kirkby Road residents

Left: Social distancing at The Beehive Centre, St George, Bristol



4 Ways to make a donation

1 By cash or cheque

You can send cash, a cheque or a CAF voucher directly to us at The Anchor Society Office: 29 Alma Vale Road, Clifton, Bristol BS8 2HL. Cheques made payable to "The Anchor Society"

2 Online

Via your bank account to: The Anchor Society, account number: 42165325, sort code: 40-14-13 either as a single donation or a regular payment.

Keeping fit and well at home with assisted technology – Getting going together study

Covid-19 has given many of us a glimpse of what it is like to be stuck at home; a reality for many older people. One of the big problems with not being able to go out and becoming inactive is that our physical strength can deteriorate. This is compounded if you have a health condition and it can be hard to motivate yourself to engage in strengthening exercise at home. There are limited resources for occupational and physical therapy at home, so is there a complimentary solution?



This year Anchor project Active Ageing Bristol worked with a research team comprising of Bristol Robotics Laboratory (UWE), Allied Health Professionals (UWE), Bristol Health Partners, Bristol City Council and the Red Cross, on a project to test the acceptability of technology to promote physical fitness in the home. The technology tested included Fitbits, Amazon Echo and a telepresence robot. The study engaged participants with mobility issues and asked them questions about the suitability of these technologies in daily use. The study is ongoing, but early indications were very positive and evidenced that these devices could make a real difference in the home. Watch this space!

Photo above: Anchor members meet the interdisciplinary team at the Bristol Robotics Laboratory at UWE

Adapting our Grant Giving in challenging times

Over the past 12 months the plight of many older people in our community has become more desperate, which we have seen reflected in requests from vulnerable individuals in need of help. With the aid of a specific large donation to boost our grant funds, we were able to assist more people through emergency grants, providing the most basic requirements for comfort and safety.

However, with the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic we experienced greater challenges in reaching those in need. Many support workers were working remotely and had limited direct contact with clients and, in response to the Government guidelines, our usual suppliers were closed.

Our greatest concern was being able to respond to requests whilst keeping people safe. New providers had to be sourced for the supply of essential goods, who we were satisfied could deliver and install appliances whilst adhering to the safeguarding compliance. Less critical requests had to be put on hold until safe access was possible.

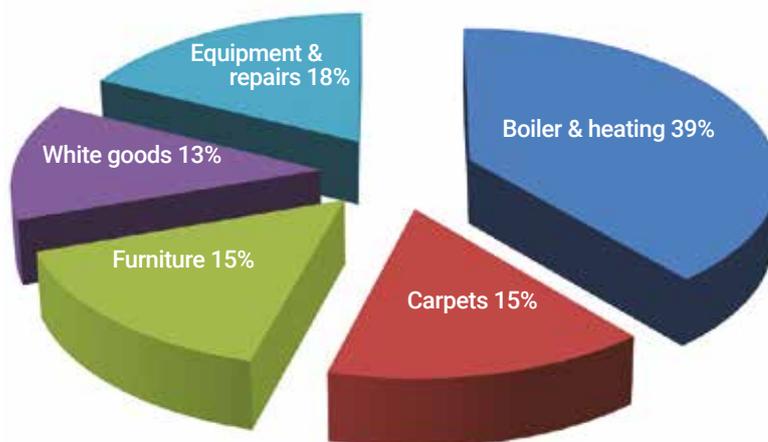
Thankfully, with the easing of restrictions, things have generally returned to normal and all services have resumed. We have also had the opportunity to develop useful new relationships with suppliers to enable us to respond more effectively to the ongoing demand.

This was the response from one of our beneficiaries, Ms S, April 2020.

"I was into a really difficult situation after my dad passed away. I [was homeless and] had to be in one place after another, and then I took sick and then from there I've still been moving from one daughter to another. It never worked and I really was down and very low.

I give God the thanks for a home that I didn't have before. Give thanks to all the charities who put out to help me to get all my furniture and everything that I really needed in the flat. It's a real blessing to me. Give God thanks for them and that they continue to help those that are really needy and that they have the funds to do so for someone else."

Anchor Society one off grants 2019



3 Virgin Money Giving

Donate online with a bank card or via PayPal at [virginmoneygiving.com/charities/anchorsociety](https://www.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/anchorsociety)



4 By standing order

Please print and complete the Standing Order mandate which can be found on our website at [anchorsociety.co.uk/fundraising](https://www.anchorsociety.co.uk/fundraising)

Unless you are giving via Virgin Money Giving or CAF, please complete the Donation Form and return to us in the reply paid envelope enclosed to ensure that your donation is gift aided. We would very much appreciate receiving your donation before 13th November if possible.



Presidents who have served in recent years

The Annual Appeal 250 years of service to the Bristol region

The Anchor Society was founded in 1769, when a dinner was held at the Three Tuns, a tavern on the site of the present Corn Exchange, with 22 members present. At this dinner the President, Gilbert Davies, took up a collection of twelve guineas to benefit the poor and elderly in Bristol. Since then there has been an unbroken record of Presidents' annual appointments and personal collections.

Each year the Anchor, Dolphin and Grateful Societies simultaneously launch an Appeal, at the end of which the results are shared and announced at the annual dinner.

You will find a full list of Presidents and their annual collections on our website:

anchorsociety.co.uk/fundraising/collections

Over the years there have been many notable speakers at the Anchor dinners; including Prime Minister Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, in 1907, and Winston Churchill, who at that time was President of the Board of Trade, in 1909.

In 2020, to mark the Society's 250th anniversary, a special dinner was held to celebrate the contribution of our Past Presidents. Thanks to their endeavours and the generosity of our donors, over £2 million pounds has been raised in the past 25 years to support older people in the greater Bristol area.

Past presidents and annual collections

1932	H G Tanner	1,980
1933	Eric W Butler	1,816
1934	F Percy Jenkins	1,526
1935	Harold G Robinson	2,017
1936	Dr J Odery Symes	1,726
1937	A Anthony Skull	2,077
1938	Laurence Hosegood	2,224
1939	T Thornton Wills	1,463
1940	Sir Seymour Williams	1,158
1941	Colonel EW Lennard	1,643
1942	Ald T H J Underdown	1,373
1943	John R. Skull	2,389
1944	H M C Hosegood	2,212
1945	F M Arkle	2,263
1946	J H Britton, CBE	2,231
1947	Brig A L W Newth, CBE, DSO, MC	2,306
1948	J P Hitchings, CBE	2,605
1949	S W Cornwell	2,214
1950	E Peter Butler	2,712
1951	Alderman Percy W Cann	2,027
1952	S T Carwardine	2,882
1953	C H Pritchard	3,196
1954	J B Steadman	4,102
1955	A W Bryant	2,723
1956	R C Brooks	2,782
1957	R H Brown	2,924
1958	T F Hewer	2,254
1959	T G C Butler, OBE	2,930
1960	C H Clements	3,131
1961	J A Seymour Williams	3,249
1962	Robert W. Melvin, CBE	4,112
1963	F D Armstrong	11,618
1964	L Ashman Olive	8,601
1965	J F Durie	5,644
1966	Andrew Breach, CBE	4,781
1967	Sir John Partridge, KBE	5,775
1968	H P Lucas	6,108
1969	His Grace The Duke of Beaufort, KG, PC, GCVO	10,056
1970	W H Needham Cooper	5,800
1971	Robert V. Cooke	6,120
1972	A H G Butler	5,231
1973	Christopher Rowe	7,314
1974	Peter D Smith	8,115
1975	O D F Gardner	9,193
1976	D A Newton	10,695
1977	P S Hill	9,490
1978	Michael Collings	12,632
1979	Paul Watling	9,552
1980	J G S Young	15,645
1981	R A Garrett CBE	12,807
1982	J D Ware	18,724
1983	Norman Ricketts, OBE	21,060
1984	R V S Castle	17,103
1985	J R Pool, MBE	28,174
1986	His Honour Judge J A Cox	23,339
1987	C S Carwardine	34,584
1988	J B Patterson	34,734
1989	R A Lalonde	53,100
1990	F J Avery	50,269
1991	St John Hartnell, OBE	77,777
1992	G J Clements	44,722
1993	R S Brooks	69,887
1994	Robert Durie, OBE	71,686
1995	Paul Rowe	73,268
1996	Geoff Matthews	78,575
1997	Robert Melvin	66,065
1998	D'Arcy Parkes	79,069
1999	John Burke, OBE	95,656
2000	Guy Arnoux	90,635
2001	Alan R Reed	71,271
2002	Dick Pearce	74,117
2003	Sir David Wills Bt	74,255
2004	John Cottrell	94,433
2005	Nicholas Hooper	80,172
2006	Richard Jarratt	76,195
2007	Charles Hignett	90,476
2008	John Ledbury	90,252
2009	Chris Patterson	86,137
2010	Michael Bothamley	97,328
2011	Dr Jo Gipps, OBE	75,822
2012	Greg Corrigan	72,018
2013	Martin Griffiths	102,112
2014	Dr Michael McCaldin	86,945
2015	Canon Dr John Savage, CBE	83,067
2016	Bob Reeves LLD	100,897
2017	Dr John Manley	103,186
2018	Prof. Steve West CBE DL	108,186
2019	Dr Ros Kennedy	104,763

The Anchor Society

Established 1769

President
Francis Montagu

Committee
Robert Durie OBE
Richard Jarratt
Paul Rowe
Dr Ros Kennedy

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