

Needlemakers Charity: volunteers please!

The purpose of the Livery is not only to provide occasions for us to come together and enjoy one another's company, but also to raise money or enlist volunteer help to support our chosen charities. Some of the richer livery companies are able to grant millions of pounds a year. We do not have these resources, but still manage to gift between £60-£70 thousand pounds annually to the causes we support. We aim to establish long term relationships with our chosen organisations to ensure that our support brings the maximum positive change and that the Needlemakers are recognised for their contribution.

As a Livery company, we support the Lord Mayor's chosen charity as well as our own Master's for the current year. However, there are specific areas in which we provide long-term support. These are:

- City of London Institutions (eg. Guildhall School of Music, Sheriff's and Recorders Fund)
- Industry Related – managed by Industry Committee (for example: Arkwright Scholarships, Forge Needle Museum)
- Education related to the use of needles (supporting nurses and surgeons as well as sewing related professions)
- Education in schools (bursaries for students studying STEM subjects, equipment and training for schools catering for special needs)
- Special Initiatives (Fine Cell Work, Quilt and Stitch Village)

Whilst the Charity Committee has an overview of the finances and grant applications, it is supported by a team of Liverymen who have taken on the role of Charity Liaison. The Charity Liaisons create a strong relationship with the organisations we fund and report back to the Charity Committee. The Liaison identifies areas in which the Needlemakers can provide support. This might be financial, or practical; such mentoring or networking on behalf of an individual or organisation. For example, Ken Allen, Chair of our Industry Committee is liaison for Arkwright Engineering Scholarships and he is seeking volunteers for mentors for the students we support.

The Liaison ensures that the Livery is represented at official occasions such as prize giving events and award ceremonies and, if the Master is unavailable, attends as our representative. The Liaison also has unofficial progress meetings to ensure that our grants are bringing the intended benefits.

There are a couple of charities which are in need of a dedicated Liaison:

1. Royal College of Surgeons
2. Treloars School

If you would be interested in taking on any of these roles, please contact Liveryman Pippa Rousselet and state whether you have a special connection with the charity you wish to represent.

Pippa Rousselet

Charity Liaison Lead

Charity Committee

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