

## Sheriffs' & Recorder's Fund and the Needlemakers

The Sheriffs' and Recorder's Fund has a long history in the City – founded in 1808. Traditionally S&R supports those leaving prison with small grants to ease them back into their lives: last year 261 grants were made. The immediate impact of some money to buy some new clothes, undertake some basic training and turn up for a job interview (or start a new business) is huge – and has a dramatic impact on re-offending.

S&R also supports prison initiatives - such the Clink restaurants and a nursery at HMP Brixton – but is particularly effective by providing funds to other charities who provide critical support to offenders. Recent projects include Cranstoun <https://www.cranstoun.org/> who focus on drug/alcohol abuse, Bounce Back <https://www.bouncebackproject.com> (training and jobs for ex-offenders in the construction industry) and PACT <https://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/> who are able to work directly with those leaving prison with their network of Engagement Workers.

It is a small charity (last year turnover was £300,000) and half of the income is raised from donations, largely from Livery Companies (we gave £1,500). Special events and investment income make up the balance: the Sheriffs always step up (last year Chris Hayward raised £16,000 for his personal weight loss campaign). The annual 'Trial and Error' shows at the Old Bailey will resume March 2022 and are not to be missed. Liverymen will recall the presentations bravely made by young offenders supported by Cranstoun at our reception in aid of S&R attended by TRH Duke and Duchess of Gloucester during Martyn Chase's year as Master: we raised £30,000.



Do have a look at the website and Annual Report. Martyn Chase liaises with the charity and the Chair, Lady Brewer wrote to him recently:

'I have just been told that the Needlemakers generous cheque has arrived. Huge thanks as always. This is greatly appreciated and also your continued support.

Over the last year things have been up and down. We had a surge in demand for grants for prisoners leaving at the start of lockdown and then of course it went the other way as they were unable to be released. However as the year has progressed it has evened out and we are back at the same numbers or almost.

We have given financial support to PACT who are doing amazing work during the pandemic in keeping families in touch.

As you probably know it was not possible for training organisations to get into prison so other initiatives have helped, such as giving each prisoner a mobile phone with which they can phone their families. We have also provided LOTS of books to HMP ISIS in particular. Prisoners have been locked up for 23 to 23 and half hours a day ... can't imagine what that must be like.

We have plans for when things return to normal and we can get back to the office!!!'