

Our Benevolent Fund is in urgent need of your support – Click Here !!

Year by year our Fund is more widely known. Therefore year by year the number of construction workers and families that we help increases, and it follows that the total amount of money given as aid also increases - in 2008 it was £734,000.

Most of our Fund's income comes from Lighthouse Club activities, branch and national events. This year, not surprisingly, support has fallen away by about 20%. Without your help next year - 2010 - will present our Fund's Trustees with an impossible problem.

If at all possible we, all of us, have to make good that shortfall because our Fund is not rich - reserves are less than a year's aid - and our running costs are already no more than pennies in the pound. Have a look at the accounts.

Therefore we have taken one important step to counter the downturn, we have made it easier, for those who are able, to support our fund raising or to donate directly to our Fund.

Reprinted from our newsletter, here is:

A Message from our Chairman Steve Barnett

"We're moving with the times and have teamed up with Justgiving the UK's leading online fundraising website. This means anyone who wishes to raise funds for us or simply to make a donation can do so online.



The benefits for our Benevolent Fund are huge. For one thing the site is 100% secure so people can feel confident using it. What's also really exciting is that 'Justgiving' automatically reclaims Gift Aid and pays donations directly to us each week. Imagine how much administration time this is going to save. Using 'Justgiving' will be one of the most efficient ways of supporting us.

Possibly the most important point is that it's really simple to use. A few clicks on the mouse is all it takes to make a one-off or a regular donation and payments can be made using a credit or debit card. Why not go to www.justgiving.com/lighthouseclub/donate and try it for yourself.

But 'Justgiving' lets us do a lot more. Individuals involved in fundraising for our fund can create their own online pages which work in the same way as paper sponsorship forms - people pledge an amount of money to sponsor you for your chosen event. In terms of events anything goes, from something really challenging like mountain climbing to something silly like a sponsored shave your head and because it's online you don't have to spend time collecting cash and cheques at the end, it's all done for you. You can even create a page in memory of someone or instead of wedding gifts. The only limit is your imagination".

Kevin Minton, Deputy Chairman for our Midlands Branch was the first to set up a page, he commented "Training and preparation for the Marathon gave me enough to think about – after all, it takes me half a day to go on a 20-mile training run, plus recovery time. So the ability to manage sponsorship and raise extra support through JustGiving was very welcome. It was very easy, I simply logged on to <http://www.justgiving.com/lighthouseclub/raisemoney/> and created my page following the click through instructions. It also gave my supporters the chance to be a bit more involved, by leaving messages of support – or comments on my performance!"

Steve concludes "So what do we need to do? Well now we have this fantastic new facility we need to spread the word and encourage everyone to use it. Shout it from the roof-tops if you have to. Remember the more people who make use of it, the more money we will collect and the more people we can help".