

Benevolent fund



The ASCL Benevolent Fund is an important element in the association's policy of providing protection and care for all its members, past and present, and their dependants. While most members, active and in post, are unlikely to need help, a serious accident, redundancy, chronic illness or disability can change the situation quite traumatically. Whether it is a short-term financial crisis or a long-term problem, the fund stands ready to help.

Originally established as the SHA Benevolent Fund, the ASCL Benevolent Fund is a registered charity, administered by independent trustees, all of whom are serving or retired members of the association. The fund itself has been built up over many years entirely by the voluntary donations of members.

What the fund does

In accordance with its Scheme of Administration and the rules of the

Charity Commission, the trustees provide support and assistance in a wide variety of circumstances, where members or their dependants experience financial hardship, whether temporarily or permanently.

Help may be offered instantly, in the case of emergencies or on a regular basis over time. The trustees are well aware that illness or disability can have a shattering impact on an individual's quality of life and on that of an entire family. They may be able to soften the blow by one-off or recurrent grants or by loans at a low rate of interest. Every case is carefully considered on its merits and in complete confidence. The trustees have also found, that there are some retired members, particularly those who are advanced in years or living alone, who, while not in financial need, are lonely and short of social contacts. For them, a Christmas or birthday gift and an occasional friendly visit are as valuable as any grant of money.



What you can do to help

The benevolent fund can only help those it knows about. The only way the trustees can know about deserving cases is through members themselves. If you know of anyone, whether in need of financial help or simply of friendly support, please do not hesitate to alert the trustees. Most of the cases only come to light because friends or colleagues have taken the trouble to contact the trustees.

Contributing to the fund

ASCL grows ever larger and this will inevitably mean that the number of those in need of the benevolent fund's support will also grow. Redundancy, accident and illness all take their toll of members, often in mid-career. At the same time, increased longevity and the escalating costs of care impose greater burdens on those in need. The greater the fund, the greater the help we can give.

Donations may be made at any time, but regular contributions are ideal. Every member is invited to contribute at least £2 a month which, added to the membership subscription, can be collected by direct debit. By making your contribution within the gift aid scheme, its value is increased by 28 per cent. If you are not already a contributor, please complete the form now and return it to headquarters.

Information

All enquiries and any report of potential beneficiaries should be directed to Carole Baldam, Secretary of the ASCL Benevolent Fund, at headquarters on 0116 299 1122 or via carole.baldam@ascl.org.uk

Your support counts

If you'd like to make a donation to the ASCL Benevolent fund, please complete both sides of the attached form and return it to ASCL headquarters.