



Annual Review of Charitable Giving 2024-2025

The Company makes a number of donations every year from the charitable contributions of Liverymen to the Education and Almshouse Charities, as well as some from the General Charity Account, gifts in kind and fundraising. Highlights from this year include:

The **Knit for Community** project started by Past Master Liz Green during lockdown, continues. The total number of blankets made to date now stands at **over 2000**.



Worshipful Company of Framework Knitters 'Knit for Community' initiative has helped over 2,000 individuals

In April 2020, at the start of the pandemic, The Worshipful Company of Framework Knitters began 'Knit for Community'. Our initial aim was to produce 20-30 blankets to support charities in Leicestershire. Thanks to fantastic support from over 700 volunteers across the UK, over 2,000 unique and warm blankets/lap blankets have been created. One of our volunteers heard first hand the difference this made to an individual who, with the cost-of-living crisis, had to choose between heating their home or putting food on the table. The project continues to gain new volunteers who knit/crochet/sew up the squares, and a quote from one of our volunteers during lockdown was particularly poignant *'It just reminds me that each of us apart can't do much, but TOGETHER we can!'* Members and friends of over 40 Livery companies have supported this initiative to date, and we welcome help from new volunteers, or anyone who would like to donate towards purchasing wool or the cost of sending the blankets to charities. For further information please contact Liz Green liz@lizgreen.co.uk



Over the last year **105** full size and **367** lap blankets have been distributed to **7** charities. The costs of wool and distribution are covered from our general charity funds and amounted to **£896**

Treloar's School and College: Four of our beautiful blankets were auctioned at events in support of Treloar's, a school and college for severely disabled children, that has strong, ongoing, links with the City of London. The total raised was **£605**. We have also donated several lap blankets for students to use when travelling in wheelchairs across outside areas.

Education Charity bursaries and awards: A total of 49 students were interviewed this year from 18 universities and colleges. 2 bursaries and 14 awards to the value of **£21,000** were made and a further 27 were Highly Commended and received certificates. All are invited to become Associates of the Company.

In addition, **£25,170** covered training for 12 students at Shima and **£1,050** to provide tools for a technical student at Shima. We are extremely grateful to the Worshipful Company of Drapers who donated £15,000 towards the cost of the Shima training.

Museum support: Donations totalling **£3,000** were made to Wigston, Hinckley and Ruddington Framework Knitting museums in support of their outreach work.

Livery schools Link: Once again we contributed **£125** in support of the Livery Schools Link event at Guildhall. The event is designed to make young people aware of the range of employment and training opportunities represented by Livery Companies and their members.



Jonathan, the Master, Olivia and Toni with their impressive stand

Master, Under Warden Jonathan Pears and Liveryman Toni Hicks who were joined by 2024 Student Bursary Award winner Olivia Rushton from The London College of Fashion. Olivia had brought along much of her coursework to impress the schoolchildren. A big hit was the Griswold knitting machine that literally “wowed” the children as they could make their own knitted tube. We even had the Lady Mayoress having a go!

Our stall, filled with knitted samples ranging from leggings, socks, hats, shoes, scarves, gloves and much more was manned by the



The Lady Mayoress trying out the Griswold knitting machine

The Big Curry Lunch 2024: This annual event raised £402,000 for the Army Benevolent Fund,



The Master presenting a selection of appropriately themed Corgi socks

The Royal Navy Charity and the RAF Benevolent Fund. We manned our customary stall selling donated socks, knitwear and some of our blankets and raised an impressive **£2067**. HRH Princess Anne visited the stall and chatted to the Master who presented her with a cashmere scarf from Johnsons of Elgin and a selection of Corgi socks for her and her husband with appropriate designs on them. She was clearly delighted, and the Framework Knitters’ stall was mentioned in an article about her busy life in the Telegraph magazine. We also featured on the cover of the 2024 lunch report.

Leicestershire and Derbyshire Yeomanry statue: We have an affiliation with this regiment and some senior officers are Liverymen. This national appeal by the Yeomanry Trust for £150,000 is for a life-sized bronze statue of a yeomanry charger. The statue will be located at the head of Yeomanry Avenue at the National Memorial Arboretum. We made a modest donation of **£250**.

The Livery Food Initiative: We are one of the 64 Livery Companies and Guilds supporting this pan-Livery project. The truck we contributed to last year has rescued 321,058 tonnes of food and transported supplies for 764,423 meals. We donated a further **£250** to support the project to continue to source and supply much needed food to communities across the City London.

“Standing in this place” statue: The Master was invited to attend the official installation of Rachel Carter’s statue in Nottingham. The statue represents the



contribution of thousands of unnamed women who were the driving force behind the East Midlands cotton textile industry during the industrialisation in the 18th and 19th Century. We had given a modest donation in support of their appeal last year, and we are

mentioned on the plaque in front of the statue which is situated just outside the Central Nottingham Library.

“Escape from the Tower”: This is an annual event undertaken by Livery Masters to raise funds for the British Red Cross. Our Master took part in the event at the Tower of London and a total of **£2540** (the largest contribution - possibly reflecting his crimes!) was raised to secure his release.



The Almshouse Charity: The Almshouse Charity donations fund provided **£2700** to support the Cottage Homes residents’ social activities. These included a rather damp barge trip from Loughborough followed by lunch at the Waterside pub at



On the barge Sheltering from the rain!

Mountsorrel, a trip to Gates Garden Centre and a tour of Ruddington Framework Knitting Museum and lunch.



Sir Knit-a lot with the Master and the rest of the team

Inter Livery Pancake races: This annual event took place in glorious sunshine in Guildhall yard on Shrove Tuesday. The Master and his team took part in a series of races. Competing in the fancy dress category as Sir Knit-a-lot Jonathan and his impressive costume won a well-deserved first place. The event raised money for the Lord Mayor’s Appeal and the Poulters Charity.

Other donations made to the **Lord Mayor’s Appeal** included **£1500** at the banquet, and through a variety of Livery associated events including the annual Garden of Remembrance Ceremony and the United Guilds Service totalling **£400**

The Textile Livery Group: **£250** was donated to support the annual UKFT Sustainability Conference. This year’s topic was Tackling Textile Waste.

Annual Summary:

The Education Charity:	Total expenditure £50,345
The Almshouse Charity	
Donations fund:	Total expenditure £2700
The General Charity Account:	Total donations £3546
Fundraising for charities:	Total £5212
	TOTAL £61,803