

### Executive Committee (at 31/12/13)

Lynda Bending – Harborne Parish Lands Charity (Treasurer)

Melinda Connelly – BBC Children in Need

Peter Hughes – Charity Bank (co-opted September 2013)

David Owen – Rubery Owen Holdings Charity

Yvonne Palmer – Individual member (Co-Chair)

Donald Payne – Bewley Charitable Trust (Vice Chairman)

Debbie Pippard – Barrow Cadbury Trust

Pauline Roche – Individual member (Co-Chair)

Barbara Welford – Grantham Yorke Charitable Trust

The Committee met 4 times during the year and all the meetings were generously hosted by Anthony Collins Solicitors.

### Thanks

The Committee would like to take the opportunity to thank:

Barrow Cadbury Trust for providing additional funds to take forward plans to develop the work and services of the Group to its members. Lynda Bending, Treasurer of CTWM for many years who stepped down on 30th January 2014.

We would also like to thank Dipali Chandra, the CTWM Secretary, for her dedicated services and our colleagues on the Executive Committee for the hard work they have put into CTWM's activities and development.

### Events calendar 2013

**Tuesday 22nd January -Workshop: Inspiring Impact - what can trusts realistically measure? James Magowan (Attendance 9)**

**Wednesday 13th March - ABM and Talk: "Surviving in difficult times". Speaker: Caroline Hutton, Director, Martineau Gardens (Attendance 19)**

**Wednesday 24th April - Roundtable discussion: Commissioning - What is the impact on charities? Helen Cochrane, Aquarius and Katherine Hewitt, Gateway Family Service (Attendance 4)**

**Thursday 27th June - Members Networking Event - Taking Nothing for Granted Joe Saxton, nfp @ mac (Attendance 25)**

**Thursday 4th July - Roundtable Discussion: Advice Services in Birmingham the future? Emma Cooke, CAB, Martin Holcombe, Birmingham Settlement (Attendance 13)**

**Tuesday 24th September - Roundtable discussion: Charities and Data - Nick Booth, Podnosh, and Andrew MacKenzie, Open Mercia (Attendance 13)**

**Wednesday 23rd October - Annual Autumn event: Speaker: Debra Allcock Tyler, CE, Directory of Social Change @ Chantrey Vellacott: Challenges Facing Charities and the Charity Commission (Attendance 43)**



# Charitable Trusts West Midlands ANNUAL REPORT 2013



Debra Allcock Tyler, Directory of Social Change with CTWM Executive Committee members (except for Lynda Bending, Peter Hughes and Yvonne Palmer). Nick Simkins, Chantrey Vellacott on right.

CHARITABLE TRUSTS WEST MIDLANDS is a network of charitable trusts and foundations that operate across the West Midlands. It exists to support the development of effective, sustainable, independent grant making practice in the West Midlands. Charitable Trusts West Midlands does this by providing opportunities to share and learn from each others experience of grant giving; explore matters of common concern and forge productive relationships that contribute to the wider benefits and overall sustainability of the region's voluntary and community sector. The organisation also aims to provide a route for charitable trust funders to be able to engage formally with private and public funders and their networks to increase opportunities for co-ordination and collaboration to better meet the needs of the diverse communities in the region.

[www.ctwm.net](http://www.ctwm.net)  
@westmidsfunders

## DEVELOPMENTS AND ACTIVITIES 2013

With the help of the Barrow Cadbury Trust (@BarrowCadbury) grant we continued making progress on membership development, as well as marketing and communications. Membership numbers has increased slightly and this has brought a welcome increase in the membership income. Deborah Walton (@DebsRWalton), Researcher, looked at membership development over 2013 and this led to a networking event that increased the visibility of the group. We continue to strive to increase our membership each year, especially by smaller trusts.

Our Twitter account (@westmidsfunders) continues to be maintained by co-Chair Pauline Roche (@paulinerocche). We now have 212 followers (+95), are following 163 others (+32) (including the members who are also on Twitter) and have tweeted 527 (+277) times, using hashtags for our events. We continue to use this route to circulate information and promote members work. We are still retweeting members' tweets as a priority, and we are adding this service to the membership offer.

At the AGM in 2013 a robust new constitution was introduced and agreed by members, making our governance more fit for purpose.

As we move towards making our information and updates available electronically, we have introduced quarterly e-bulletins instead of a newsletter. This saves both time and postage, and has enabled a wider circulation of the newsletter amongst the members – both staff and trustees.

Our ABM in March 2013, kindly hosted by Harborne Parish Lands Trust, featured a local speaker, Caroline Hutton, Director, Martineau Garden Centre (@Martineau27), Edgbaston. The centre has been running a therapeutic horticulture programme since 2003, and has been supported by several CTWM members.

In January 2013 we held a workshop on impact assessment and what is good practice for trusts and foundations. The discussion was facilitated by James Magowan (@TJMagowan), Co-ordinator of Inspiring Impact. This enabled members to provide some feedback on regional experience in the development of a good practice guide.

In April Helen Cochrane, Aquarius (@Aquariustweets), and Katherine Hewitt, Gateway Family Services (@Gateway\_FS), spoke of the impact of commissioning, particularly by the public sector on their management and delivery of services.

In June, we held a successful members networking event at the mac (arts charity funded by several CTWM members), where Joe Saxton, nfp synergy (@nfpSynergy), was the key speaker.

His well-received talk, based on research with both charities and grant-makers, was commissioned by the John Ellerman Foundation and looked at what both sides want, and how the relationship can be moved forward and made more productive and effective. As part of a strategic review, the John Ellerman Foundation wanted to find out what the model grant maker looked like in the eyes of applicants and grantees and to compare practices among grant makers.

The roundtable meeting in July focussed on the state of advice provision in Birmingham. With the closure of Birmingham Law Centre and drastic cuts to Birmingham CAB and other voluntary sector advice services, some trusts were galvanised into looking at what role they could play to ensure that good quality specialist legal advice provision could still be provided. This has led to the establishment of a new Birmingham community law centre, managed by Coventry Law Centre, and based in Small Heath.

In September we held a roundtable discussion on Charities and data, including open data. The use of data, and open data, is a fascinating and growing movement that is leading to a shift in the way a growing number of organisations, including charities, manage their information and data. Government and research bodies have particularly embraced this movement and open data is increasingly coming to play a role in the charitable sector. Nick Booth, Podnosh (@Podnosh), and Andrew Mackenzie (@DJSoup), Open Mercia, spoke about how open data can support greater public engagement, target services better and support knowledge sharing and collaboration, though it was recognised that there are technical and management challenges.

Our annual Autumn event in October saw us hosting the inimitable Debra Allcock Tyler (@DebAllcockTyler), Chief Executive, Directory of Social Change, in front of a sell-out audience hosted by Chantrey Vellacott. Debra provided a challenging and lively talk on 'Challenges facing Charities and the Charity Commission' that was followed by an interesting discussion.

CTWM is working to remain an essential and challenging network for trusts and foundations, and for the voluntary and community sector, and to build on our partnerships and potential alliances with other relevant regional organisations.

### Membership

At the end of December 2013 there were 35 Trusts, 2 associate organisations, 5 individual members and 6 honorary members (two ACF staff, Erik Pearse, Northern Rock Foundation). The total membership based on subscriptions paid is 87 (Trusts can nominate up to 3 members per subscription)