

Your Sheffield Mutual

The newsletter for Sheffield Mutual members



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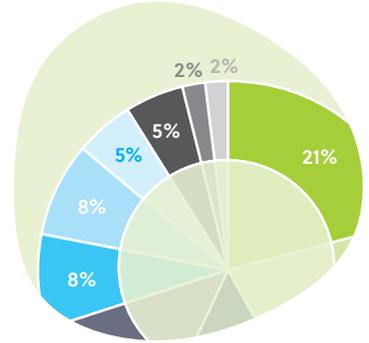
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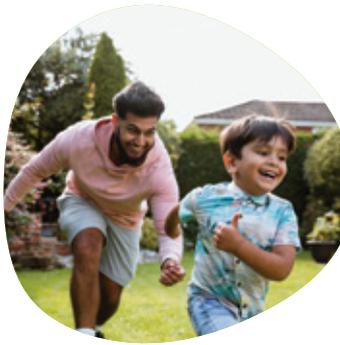
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We'd love to know what you think of this year's Newsletter!

Please send your feedback by completing the enclosed flyer or for further information visit

www.sheffieldmutual.com/newsletter-2021-member-feedback/ to complete a short survey online.

Welcome to the 20th edition of 'Your Sheffield Mutual'

Welcome to the 20th edition of Your Sheffield Mutual. We've included a number of interesting articles for you to read around our additional member benefits, more information about Child Trust Funds, a review of 2020 and a feature on Lewis, our very own Financial Reporting Specialist.

I'd like to open this edition by wishing everyone the best of health for 2021 and thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. Last year, and moving into this year, has been difficult for everyone; the virus and the subsequent lockdown policies have had a substantial effect on our lives. As an organisation owned by our members, we aimed to be available throughout the restrictions by all methods of communication possible. I strongly believe that due to the efforts of our team, our levels of service were maintained, as demonstrated by some of the excellent feedback and reviews we received.

Our original business expectations were revised part way through the year to take account of the effect of the pandemic during traditionally the Society's busiest period of between April and June. However, by the end of the year assets still grew to a record £183.0 million and we received £17.8m premium income. This has enabled us to declare policy bonuses in line with interim rates – please see pages four and five for more details.

The evolution of our stance on Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance (ESG) issues continue to take place and we will be making improvements, with several steps already taken with regards to our investment management strategy. We acknowledge the magnitude of the challenge ahead in tackling climate change. Businesses will however need to continually adapt to ensure that their carbon footprint is reduced. There is no one size fits all approach but as a mutual we will strive to go further than the basic expectations.

On 1 January 2021 we took a landmark step in becoming an incorporated society. For clarity, this does not mean that the Society has lost its mutual status but allows for a more updated approach to the running of the business; we continue to be owned by our members. On the same date, we also appointed a Chief Commercial Officer, Dawn Gregory, who has progressed her career with us for over twelve years.

I hope you enjoy our Newsletter. I would also like to encourage all members to return the voting slip within the enclosed notice of AGM booklet to offer your support. We have partnered with The National Trust and if we reach the target of 500 votes, we will plant a 1,000 square metre area of woodland in the UK.

Kind regards



Jamie Bellamy
Chief Executive



2020 declared and 2021 interim bonus rates

Policy Type	Interim rate for 2020	Declared rate for 2020	Interim rate for 2021
¹ Investment ISA	3.50%	3.50%	3.50%
¹ Junior ISA	3.75%	3.75%	3.75%
² Tax Exempt Savings Plan (Type 23)	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%
² Tax Exempt Savings Plan (Type 43)	0.70%	0.70%	0.70%
² Tax Exempt Savings Plan with Life Insurance (Type 24)	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%
² Regular Savings Plan (Type 27)	0.30%	0.30%	0.30%
² Regular Savings Plan (Type 47)	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%
Investment Bond	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%
Income Bond	1.75%	1.75%	1.75%
Pension Bond	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%

¹ Rates shown before the deduction of the **1.50% annual management charge** for ISAs and JISAs.

² Regular premium savings plans where the bonus rate is calculated and added to the 'sum assured' (guaranteed final amount), not the amount paid in, so the rates are not directly comparable to other rates.

You may also receive a final bonus on maturity or encashment of your plan. Final bonuses are not guaranteed. Please contact our office for further details.

You can now invest more with the Society

? Did you know?

From the 1st January 2021, we increased the investment limits for some of our lump sum plans. This means that you can invest up to £150,000 (each calendar year) into our Investment/Income Bonds or transfer up to this amount from another provider into ISAs/Junior ISAs with Sheffield Mutual.

With such large investment amounts involved, you want to be sure that you are putting away your hard-earned cash somewhere that takes every step to ensure your investments are as safe and secure as possible.



FSCS protected

Sheffield Mutual is a member of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS), which is the UK's statutory compensation scheme for customers. The products we offer are classed as long-term life insurance policies with a savings element, which means an eligible claim in the event of the firm's insolvency may be protected. Investment loss is not covered.

How can I find out more?

You can read more via our website or contact us for further information. Alternatively, please visit www.fscs.org.uk.



2020 performance highlights



Premium income = £17.8m



Assets = £183m



New policies = 1,927



Membership = 12,258



Overview of 2020

2020 proved to be a year that is unlikely to be easily forgotten, a year in which Brexit negotiations and the looming end of the transition period were expected to dominate headlines. Instead, the Covid-19 pandemic took hold, rapidly spreading across the globe and forcing lockdowns to be applied to the majority of the worldwide population. Although several global stock indices did finish the year at record breaking highs, the FTSE 100, which tracks the largest 100 UK companies, ended 2020 having fallen by around 15% over the course of the year.

The overseas equities held by the Society had a remarkable year, with the Fidelity Emerging Markets fund, and the Fidelity Global Special Situations fund, which now equal a combined 14% of the with-profits fund, returning 25% and 22% respectively.

“The Society’s overall assets grew by 5% to a record £183m”

The property portfolio returned a respectable 2% over 2020, with an average of 5% per year over the past five years highlighting the merits of the diversification within the directly held properties.

The Society’s overall assets grew by 5% to a record £183m, illustrating that by ensuring a strong level of diversification, positive returns are achievable in volatile markets.

Despite the fall in the UK index, the Society’s with-profits fund provided an overall return of 3.70%.

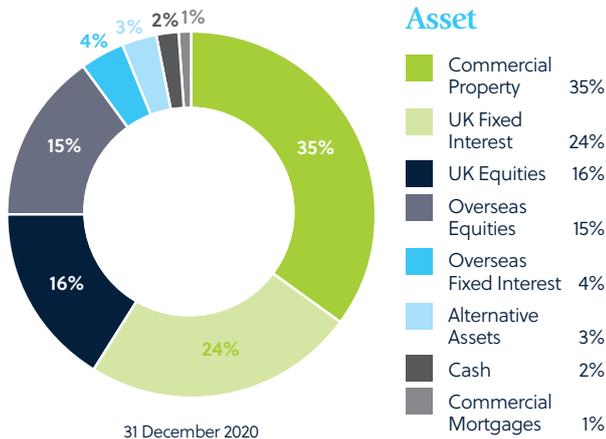
Where we invest your money...

Our with-profits fund

The with-profits fund is built upon a cautious approach to investing within a diverse range of asset classes.

The Society's overseas exposure was increased throughout 2020, with further investments into the Fidelity Global Strategic Bond fund, which targets a mix of global government and corporate bonds to ensure that a strong yield is achieved with the assurance of investing within the fixed interest sector. Additional investments were also made throughout the year into the Fidelity Emerging Markets fund, and the Fidelity Global Special Situations fund, which have both provided several years of strong returns for the Society, as well as diversified the with-profits fund to reduce reliance on the UK market.

Additional investments made through Investec, our main investment manager, saw our holdings of UK listed equities, corporate bonds, and government gilts reach £58m. The extensive knowledge and expertise provided by Investec, as well as their proactive management, allow the Society to plan ahead for future investments.



The 'E' in ESG

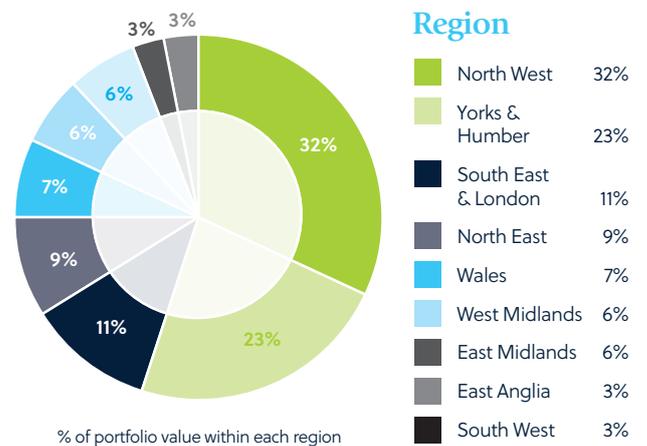
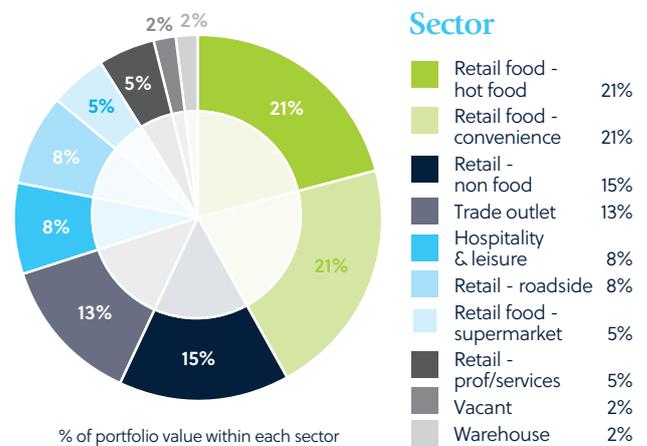
Over many years the Society has aimed not to invest knowingly or directly in industries relating to armaments, tobacco, gambling or pornography. We have also now divested from our direct equity holdings in the oil and gas sector. The Society's ESG score (per the Sustainalytics independent rating system which considers many factors, such as carbon footprint, human rights, resource use and corporate governance) is targeted to be maintained at least 5% below the UK equity market average score. The Society also aims not to hold any individual equity holdings with a 'severe' ESG risk score.



Our Property Portfolio

The Society's investment within the commercial property sector is our longstanding unique selling point, which has supported our consistent returns and bonus payments over the years due to the stable element of the rental income received.

The Society's property portfolio, which is valued at over £41m, has a strong mix of tenants in a variety of different sectors, which helps to minimise exposure to any one sector. Similarly, this can also be evidenced in the geographical weighting of the property portfolio. Despite having a slight bias towards our Yorkshire heartland and the north, the Society hold properties across the whole of the UK.



Summary

Over the year we increased exposure to overseas markets to continue with our long term aim of reducing reliance on our UK investments, with small reductions in UK equities and commercial property as a result. We're also looking to develop our investment strategy around our wider impact on the environment and community.

The with-profits fund provided a healthy return given the backdrop of uncertainty and volatility seen in markets throughout 2020. The overall asset mix of the fund remains stable year on year, with a view of achieving healthy returns over the medium to long term, rather than chasing short term gains.

Special offer for our readers...

Open a new policy or transfer an ISA from another provider to Sheffield Mutual (before 31st July 2021), quoting NL21 for a gift card worth up to £50⁴.

You will also be entered into our prize draw for the chance to win the choice of:

**Hive Active Heating package
with Amazon Echo Dot worth £179**

OR

A luxury hamper worth up to £180

The winners will be announced 9th August 2021.

⁴Based on the amount you save or invest (see table below), minimum premium of £10 per month/£100 single. For regular premium plans the amount will be based on year one contributions. Terms and Conditions apply, please visit our website for full T&Cs. In certain circumstances, your capital may be at risk.

Up to £4,999 = £25 | £5,000 - £9,999 = £30
| £10,000 - £19,999 = £40 | £20,000+ = £50

Please note, the image of the hamper is for illustrative purposes only and may not be the hamper you receive.



Your opinion matters to us...

Recommendations contribute significantly to our growth and success, posting a review and showing your support would be very much appreciated. Head over to www.reviews.co.uk and search for Sheffield Mutual.

"I have several investments with Sheffield Mutual and as always they respond quickly, efficiently and are very friendly and professional. I would certainly recommend Sheffield Mutual."

Nick Megson, East Yorkshire

Everyone's a winner when you Tell-a-Friend

If you're happy with the service you've received from us, we'd like you to recommend a friend or family member so that they too can enjoy the benefits of being a member.

As a thank you for every new member you introduce, you'll receive a £50 gift card and your friend will receive a gift card when they save or invest of up to £50 too (referral form enclosed).

Subject to minimum amounts invested. Terms and conditions apply.

Are you making the most of your member benefits?

Our members have been our number one priority for over 125 years, and we aren't about to change that now. As well as our members benefitting from being part of a mutual organisation, where all surplus profits go back to members not shareholders, you also have access to a whole host of other benefits – but are you using them?

Optical and dental benefits

We currently offer discretionary grants of up to £30 every two years per member for both optical and dental treatment, once the policy has passed its first anniversary.

Exclusive access to a range of savings with BenefitHub

As a Sheffield Mutual member, you also have access to BenefitHub, provided by UK Healthcare. A platform with exclusive discounts from every category you can think of and featuring the brands you love.

Access to a member assistance programme

As a member, you also have access to the Member Assistance Programme, which includes a range of valuable telephone services for you to use.

Enhanced guaranteed amount on reinvestments

We will offer an enhanced final amount of 104% (normally 103%) on all maturing endowments reinvested into our Investment Bond.

More information on your member benefits can be found on our website.

Making sure your children's savings grow... whilst they do.

Child Trust Funds (CTFs) have started to mature...

Does your child/grandchild have one?

If they were born in the UK between 1st September 2002 and 2nd January 2011 then they should.

Children were issued with a voucher from the government worth £50 or £250, depending on when the child became entitled. The voucher enabled the parent/guardian of the child to choose a provider for the CTF. If the voucher was not used before the expiry date, then the government allocated these accounts to various product providers (like us), to ensure children didn't miss out.



If you think your child may have a CTF, but you're unsure who the provider is, head over to the HMRC website and search 'Child Trust Fund' to find out more. You can no longer open a new CTF as all the government vouchers have now expired however, you still have the option to transfer the CTF to a different provider or transfer the amount to a Junior ISA (JISA), more about JISAs below.

If they have a CTF, there are a few options to consider before they mature.

What type of CTF is it?

There are different types of CTF accounts available, some more 'risky' than others. Cash CTFs are considered more secure but can carry little prospect for growth. Unit-linked funds could give potentially better returns but can also fluctuate in line with the stock market.

Are you happy with the provider?

Check out the performance of the CTF, does it have good prospects and is it performing well? Does the provider fit with your values?

CTFs mature (pay out) when the child reaches the age of 18, the first CTFs started to mature just last year. The money held in the CTF is in the child's name, so it is up to them what happens with the funds. It may be a good idea to start talking with them early on to discuss what their options are and perhaps provide some guidance.

They have several options as to what they can do with their money on maturity with Sheffield Mutual (may vary with provider):

1. Continue to enjoy tax-free returns, with access to their money when it is needed, by investing all or part of the funds into our adult Investment ISA
2. Withdraw the whole amount
3. Transfer their monies to another provider
4. If they don't want to decide straight away, they can keep the funds in a 'matured CTF' account until they're ready to decide. However, if they choose this option, no further payments can be made into the account

The key here is to be sure to do your research and pick the option that's right for you and your child's circumstances. If you are unsure which is the best option, you should consider consulting a financial adviser, which may incur a fee.

All references to taxation are based on the Society's understanding of current tax legislation and practice, which may change in the future.





A quick guide to our Investment Junior ISA

JISAs could be an ideal way to build up a tax-free lump sum to give young people a great financial start in life. This account is available to all children under the age of 18 who do not already have a CTF, or those who have an existing CTF and wish to transfer. JISAs are flexible in terms of making top up payments, so it could be an ideal place for their birthday/Christmas money (minimum of £50). The minimum investment amount is just £10 per month, or £100 as a single amount. Once opened by the parent/guardian, payments can be made by anyone including other family members and friends. The child will be able to withdraw their money on their 18th birthday, or it can automatically roll over into an adult ISA.

In certain circumstances your capital is at risk, but money invested for five years or longer is guaranteed.

We also have other children's plans available, all of which can be opened by parents, family members or friends.

Children's Tax Exempt Savings Plan

One of our most popular plans is the Tax Exempt Savings Plan. You can start saving from as little as £5 per month (up to £25 per month) and choose a term between 10 – 25 years so that the plan will mature at a time when you think they're old enough to manage the proceeds properly. TESP's are popular with parents and grandparents as it is a great way to save small regular amounts to build up a lump sum and helps to get you into the habit of saving without 'dipping in'. This is an extra tax-free allowance in addition to JISA allowances, but not many people know that they even exist. If you want to save more than £25 per month, you could also consider the Regular Savings Plan.

It is worth noting also that these plans won't be found in the well-known, high street banks, as they are only available through friendly societies.

The Tax Exempt Savings Plan is a long-term policy. If you cash-in early you may get back less than you paid in.

All references to taxation are based on the Society's understanding of current tax legislation and practice, which may change in the future.

Children's Investment Bond

The Investment Bond could be ideal if you have a lump sum that you would like to invest for a child for a minimum of five years to allow them to receive a guaranteed minimum return plus bonuses (bonuses are not guaranteed). You could start an Investment Bond today with a minimum amount of just £1,000 and they'll receive a guaranteed return of at least 103% of your original investment after five years. The bond is open-ended and can be left to run until the child needs the funds – as the proposer of the plan, you decide when they receive the funds.

If you surrender in the first five years a surrender penalty will apply, meaning you might get back less than you invested.

If you'd like any further information on any of the products listed, please contact us, or visit our website. You can also see the latest bonus rates for these products on page four of this newsletter.

This feature provides generic information and opinions of the writer and should not be relied upon for making investment decisions. No advice has been provided by Sheffield Mutual. If you are in any doubt as to whether a savings or investment plan is suitable for you or your child, you should consider contacting a financial adviser for advice. If you do not have a financial adviser, you can get details of local financial advisers by visiting <http://www.unbiased.co.uk> or www.vouchedfor.co.uk. Advisers may charge for providing such advice and should confirm any costs beforehand. Any reference to taxation is based on the writer's understanding of current tax legislation and practice, which could change in the future.

Get to know... our Financial Reporting Specialist

Ever wondered about the team behind Sheffield Mutual? We caught up with Financial Reporting Specialist, Lewis Kerry, to find out more about his role, day-to-day responsibilities and what he gets up to on the weekend...



What is your role at Sheffield Mutual?

I am the Financial Reporting Specialist for the Society, and as such I am responsible for the monthly and quarterly management accounts, as well as the statutory year end audited accounts. I also provide general support to the Chief Executive, as well as the finance team, so as you can imagine it is a rather varied role with no two days the same.

How long have you worked for SM?

After studying accountancy and economics at college, I started my career at a national business-to-business IT supplier, gaining my AAT accountancy qualification in the process. I made the switch to the financial services sector at the beginning of 2017 having been attracted to Sheffield Mutual's ethos of always putting members first, rather than the usual corporate aims of profit, profit, profit! As well as the members first approach, the Society is also a believer of investing in its people. I am currently studying towards becoming a chartered management accountant, safe in the knowledge that the Society not only provides a base for me, but also actively encourages the development of my career.

Although I have only worked for Sheffield Mutual for a relatively short four years, there have been some rather significant changes over this period. There has been investment in the internal IT systems, the hiring of additional employees, as well as the creation of two separate teams; the Business Development Team, and the Member Services Team, all of which are aimed at streamlining and improving the efficiency at which we can service our members. This is just another sign of how much the Society puts its members first, recognising that although we are proud of the excellent and personable service that we provide, we are still striving for improvement.

What's your favourite thing to do at the weekend?

Before the pandemic hit my favourite thing to do at the weekend would have been socialising with friends and family, enjoying meals out with my fiancée, or being in the gym. Obviously, things are slightly different at the moment, so now that all the productive jobs such as redecorating the house have been completed, you can find me on the settee catching up on the latest box set. When I do decide to venture out, the peak district is the usual destination for a long walk to blow off the cobwebs and take in the spectacular scenery. Although I am quite partial to a leisurely walk, at the time of writing this, I am set to participate in the Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge with several of my colleagues at Sheffield Mutual. This challenge involves scaling the peaks of Whernside, Ingleborough and Pen-y-ghent, a total of 24 miles, all within 12 hours, with the aim of raising much needed funds for Sheffield Mind, a charity which provides support to people with mental health issues. Hopefully we will be able to complete our challenge!

Finance aside, if you could have a career in anything, what would it be?

As a self-proclaimed petrol-head, it would have to be something related to the automotive industry. The obvious choice would be a Formula One driver, and all the fame and fortune that comes with it. Although, I would be just as happy anywhere else in the automotive industry, whether it be a mechanic, engineer or designer.

What three items would you take with you to a deserted island?

As most of my colleagues know, I am a bit of a "serial holidayer", whether it be the hustle and bustle of a major tourist city, or the white sands of a faraway beach. Item number one on my list would have to be sun cream. There's nothing I would rather do more than lay on a sunny beach all day doing nothing whatsoever, but I do burn quite easily, so sun cream is a must. Second on the list would be a radio. The sound of the waves crashing can be so peaceful and therapeutic, but a bit of background music wouldn't go amiss. Last but not least, my final item would be a pop-up bar. This may be stretching the rules slightly, but I'm sure most will agree that there is nothing better than laying on that bright white beach with an ice-cold beverage!

Society News

Say hello to our newest team members

We welcomed not one, not two but four new people to the team. Say hello to Dawn Barnes and Jane Cantrill who joined our Member Services Team, Thomas Rofe who joined our Business Development Team and William Powell who joined our Risk and Compliance Team. You can find out more about them on page 14 and 15 of this newsletter.

The launch of our new website

You may have seen it - we launched our brand-new website in December 2020. Whilst we hope you love the new look and feel, we're excited for the next phases of the project – which include updates to the member portal and application process. Stay tuned!

Board News: We are now incorporated

At our Annual General Meeting (AGM), members voted for the Society to incorporate on 1st January 2021. Incorporation does not mean that the Society has lost its mutual status but allows for a more updated approach to the running of the business. One main difference is that the Society is now named: Sheffield Mutual Friendly Society Limited. The other is that the Society now refers to 'the Committee' as 'the Board'.

A major benefit to incorporation is that Trustees are no longer required to own property on behalf of the Society; the Society itself can now directly own property. Incorporation does not alter the fact that the Society is well placed to remain a successful independent friendly society, well run, financially strong, ethically minded and with good prospects for growth.

In January 2021 we were pleased to welcome Dawn Gregory (pictured) to the Board of Directors as Chief Commercial Officer. The Board now consists of eleven members, all with relevant and varied experience and skills (Chairman, Senior Independent Director, three Executive Directors and six Non-Executive Directors). Further information about the members of the Board can be found in the 2020 Report & Accounts.

The Board always has its members' best interests at heart; that's why we have appointed Stephen Birch to act as our Ambassador to Members. Stephen, who is a long-standing Board member with a strong understanding of the Society's heritage, is now charged with monitoring and reviewing members' feedback and submitting reports of his findings to the Board on a regular basis. If you do have any feedback or ideas please contact enquiries@sheffieldmutual.com.



Sheffield Mutual in the community...

Sheffield Mutual Charity Award 2020

Charities of all shapes and sizes needed extra help and funding throughout 2020, many were forced to reduce resources, reschedule fundraising or close their doors altogether. That's why our aim to support charities through our Charity Award felt particularly worthwhile and important.

Launched in 2017, the interest in our Charity Award has grown significantly year on year. Each year we ask members and the public to nominate their favourite charities. At the end of the nomination process, our charity team shortlist the charities to the final ten. Then comes the exciting part, as the voting for the ten charities is set live and it's up to the chosen charities (with a little help from us), to get as many votes as possible from their supporters.

The final ten charities were as follows: Andy's Man Club, Angels Small Paws Dog Rescue, ASSIST Sheffield, Baby Basics, Golddigger Trust, Paces Sheffield, Roundabout, Ruddi's Retreat, Saffron and The Children's Hospital Charity.

After a fantastic response with thousands of votes being cast, the winners were as follows:



1st place - Paces Sheffield - £5,000

Julie Booth, Head of Fundraising said:

"We are delighted to have won £5,000 from Sheffield Mutual and we can't thank them enough for this wonderful donation. We'd also like to thank each and every single person who voted for us to win!

This donation will be used towards our 'New Home for Paces' appeal as we are in the process of raising funds to build a brand new school and centre for our children and adults. This will mean that we no longer have to turn away families who need us and that we can support up to three times as many families as we currently do!"



2nd place – Angels Small Paws Dog Rescue - £1,500

Liz Greenwood, from Angels Small Paws said:

"This is fantastic news and really appreciated at this moment in time as we have been hit really hard with our fundraising activities. Thank you to everyone who voted for us."

3rd place – Baby Basics - £1,000

Sheffield Coordinator, Louise Hutchings said:

"We are so fortunate that Sheffield is a city that cares, and we enabled, through the kind support of the public, organisations, grant makers and awards to help meet this need to help support families facing hardship.

We are so grateful for your support to make sure that we can continue to support Sheffield's most vulnerable families."

Nominations for this year's Charity Award are now open. Please visit our 'Charity & Sponsorship' page on our website to submit your nomination (voting closes 30th June 2021).



Community Fund

As well as our Charity Award, we also aim to make donations to smaller local charities, community groups and voluntary organisations from our Community Fund.

In 2020, we were delighted to donate over £2,000 to four charities who applied to the fund.

NSPCC

The NSPCC made a request for a donation for the NSPCC's 'Still here for children' campaign. The campaign (which was established following the NSPCC's response to Covid-19), aims to give children who are feeling anxious, trapped, and hopeless during the pandemic the ability to contact Childline counsellors.

We were delighted to donate £1,039 to fund a headset and laptop for one Childline volunteer to work remotely in Yorkshire.

Children's Heart Surgery Fund (CHSF)

Simon Tewson requested a donation for the Children's Heart Surgery Fund. The Fund aims to support the Leeds Congenital Heart Unit by providing the funding and resources needed to care for patient's heart, mind, family and future.

Simon Tewson, a member of the Society requested a donation from the Community Fund, as he has first-hand experience of the support offered by the Children's Heart Surgery Fund.

"I first started saving with Sheffield Mutual via my mum and dad, who set up policies for me and my three siblings when we were children over four decades ago. I have remained a member throughout my life (I have three policies at present) and this will continue.

At the ripe old age of 48, I became a father for the first time and my intention was to open a Sheffield Mutual account for my son, Lucas Brook, just as my mum and dad had done for me.

Sadly, events were not to turn out as we had hoped. Lucas was born with Congenital Heart Disease, and after three open heart surgeries, three months in hospital and all the while showing immense strength and bravery, Lucas sadly passed away on 18th July 2018.

Our immense sadness at the passing of our beautiful baby boy is difficult to bear, but the care he received was exceptional and the support from CHSF was amazing."

Over 10,000 babies, children and adults pass through the Leeds Congenital Heart Unit each year and over 400 of those have open heart surgery. This can be a very daunting experience for all concerned, especially young children. One method of trying to ease the worry and strain involves the Children's Heart Surgery Fund mascot, Katie Bear.

The Society was more than happy to donate £500 to fund the next batch of Katie bears.



Simon concluded:

"I am one proud dad. The tears are flowing as I type this, but in a good way. Lucas's memory lives on with all his family but also with the babies and children who, in the future, will receive a Katie Bear from CHSF, having undergone heart surgery at the Leeds Congenital Heart Unit."

Sheffield Asperger's Parents' Action Group

We donated £250 to Sheffield Asperger's Parents' Group to help fund one of their classes.

Committee member at Sheffield Asperger's Parents' Action Group, Sylvia Johnson said:

"Please convey our many thanks to everyone at Sheffield Mutual for this donation.

It will definitely be put to good use. We have been really heartened by how many of our members have been engaged in our 'lockdown' activities and are really looking forward to being able to do more face-to-face activity once things ease even more.

We have started our walking groups again and have also replaced our monthly cafe meets with a monthly picnic."

Barnsley Brass Band

We donated £300 towards the end of the year to Barnsley Brass Band.

Peter Webster, Chairman of Barnsley Brass Band said: "Barnsley Brass has like many other brass bands suffered over the last year. Socially, we have only met and rehearsed six times in the summer when we could, socially distanced of course.

Financially, we have not been able to perform at any concerts and more crucially at Christmas time when we play carols and collect money for the band at supermarkets and Meadowhall, this all had to stop.

What did not stop was the need to pay for the hire of the band room and our instrument insurance.

So, the money we received from our supporters and Sheffield Mutual meant these bills have been paid and we still exist.

Over 50% of the band have a policy with Sheffield Mutual and some of their family members too.

Thank you Sheffield Mutual for your help."

Meet the team

Our members are at the forefront of everything we do and the people we care about the most, but have you ever wondered about the team behind Sheffield Mutual? Well, wonder no more.

Jamie Bellamy
Chief Executive Officer



Jamie is the Society's Chief Executive Officer and a member of the Board. He is responsible for the management of the Society's business conduct, overseeing regulatory compliance and managing financial assets.

Three words to describe you?

Loyal, passionate and kind

Paul Galloway
Chief Operating Officer



Paul is a member of the Board and is responsible for the Society's risk and compliance management, operations, anti-money laundering, IT and the financial risks of climate change.

Three words to describe you?

Bald, tall and bearded

Dawn Gregory
Chief Commercial Officer



Dawn manages the busy and growing Business Development team. She is also responsible for creating and implementing the Society's strategic Business Plan and Sales & Marketing Strategy, as well as identifying and overseeing implementation of all business development activities.

Three words to describe you?

Caring, organised and hardworking

Curtis Parker
Lead Business Development Specialist



Curtis is responsible for maintaining intermediary relationships and attaining new members and policies. He also delivers training to employees and provides compliance support to the Chief Operating Officer.

Three words to describe you?

Ambitious, meticulous and dynamic

Andrew Bonner
Business Development Specialist



Andrew's main focus is to build and maintain strong relationships with our supporting intermediaries and potential new members, ensuring our exceptional service standards are attained.

Three words to describe you?

Ambitious, hardworking and conscientious

Thomas Rofe
Business Development Administrator



Tom is the newest member of the Business Development team. His main focus is to support the Business Development team in maintaining intermediary relationships and attaining new members and policies.

Three words to describe you?

Tidy, tenacious and timeless

Laura Browse
Campaign and Communications Specialist



Laura is responsible for implementing the Society's digital and printed marketing strategy and campaigns, as well as promoting Sheffield Mutual on our social platforms and website.

Three words to describe you?

Hardworking, friendly and organised

Susan Squires
Member Services Team Manager



Sue ensures the smooth running of the office, including the organisation of the Member Services team and managing workloads effectively to guarantee that our service standards are met.

Three words to describe you?

Patient, perfectionist and placid

Debra Roberts
Lead Child Trust Fund Specialist



Debra is one of our longest-serving team members, with ten years' experience. Debra manages our Child Trust Fund accounts, as well as processing new policy applications for members.

Three words to describe you?

Kind, humorous and caring

Megan Carrie
Child Trust Fund Administrator



Megan's main roles are administering and processing new policies, member applications and Child Trust Fund accounts, as well as fulfilling information requests.

Three words to describe you?

Clumsy, caring and opinionated

“I strongly believe that due to the efforts of our team, our levels of service were maintained over such a challenging year, as demonstrated by some of the excellent feedback and reviews we received.”

Jamie Bellamy, Chief Executive Officer

Peter Leverton
Member Services Specialist



Peter concentrates on looking after our existing members and assisting with the processing of new policies during busier periods. Peter's other main role is assisting the Lead Business Development Specialist and the Chief Operating Officer with all things risk and compliance-related.

Three words to describe you?
Empathetic, composed and creative

Dawn Barnes
Member Services Administrator



Dawn has a wealth of customer service experience which she has recently brought to the busy Member Services Team. Her main role is to fulfill the processing of new business enquiries and to deal with existing member requests, whether that be over the phone, face to face, by post or online.

Three words to describe you?
Hardworking, considerate and kind

Jane Cantrill
Member Services Administrator



Jane is responsible for dealing with existing member enquiries and processing new business administration as part of the Member Services Team.

Three words to describe you?
Optimistic, analytical, committed

Sharon Pursley
Financial Controls Specialist



Sharon has worked for Sheffield Mutual for over ten years and is responsible for the property portfolio, payroll, pensions, VAT and other financial duties, including support for the Chief Executive.

Three words to describe you?
Honest, hardworking and caring

Lewis Kerry
Financial Reporting Specialist



Lewis is responsible for the preparation of the monthly and quarterly management accounts and completion of the year-end statutory audited accounts, as well as providing general support for the finance team and Chief Executive.

Three words to describe you?
Grateful, respectful and sarcastic

Rosie Wells
Finance Administrator



Rosie worked on the Member Services team for over five years but has now moved over to our Finance team to pursue a new challenge, as well as support Sharon on our property portfolio, payroll, pensions and any other financial responsibilities.

Three words to describe you?
Thoughtful, ambitious and funny

William Powell
IT & Cyber Risk Specialist



Will is a key member of the Risk and Compliance team working closely with the Chief Operating Officer (COO) on day-to-day IT management, cybersecurity, and other IT-related responsibilities. Will is also supporting the COO in developing the technology roadmap for the future.

Three words to describe you?
Loyal, honest, adventurous





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