

# What is the CILIP Benevolent Fund?



Librarians and information professionals and their families are liable to suffer from the same difficulties and misfortunes as other groups of people. They may fall ill, become unemployed or be faced with unexpected bills which they are unable to pay.

CILIP is fortunate in having an active and caring Benevolent Fund which for many years has been able to help colleagues and their families who have fallen on hard times or have been faced with unexpected financial difficulties.

## What help can the Fund give?

It can help with any unusual or unexpected expenses that may be causing anxiety and hardship. For example, urgent house repairs; the replacement of necessary household equipment; unexpectedly large heating bills; respite breaks; bank overdrafts or other debts that have accumulated unavoidably on account of illness. These are, however, only limited examples from the very wide range of difficulties which the Fund has been able to help resolve.

The Fund's help is given as a grant of money and usually directly to the supplier.

The Fund, as a result of its considerable experience, has built up contacts with a wide range of charities and other bodies, and, by referring claimants, has been able to supplement the help it gives members by additional help from these other bodies.

## What help is it not able to give?

The Fund cannot provide:

- a regular pension
- a supplement to a member's income
- substantial grants nor loans
- membership subscriptions
- for conference attendance.

Neither can it help librarianship or information studies students with tuition fees, accommodation or maintenance.

## Who is eligible for this help?

The Fund's Trustees have been given authority to assist members and former members and their dependants of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals, IIS and its forbears.

## Where does the money come from?

The Fund is a registered charity in its own right and as such is separate from CILIP, although its Trustees are appointed by CILIP Council. Its income derives principally from donations made by CILIP members, many of whom add a sum for this purpose to their annual membership subscription. Some CILIP Branches and Groups make donations or raise money from events they organise. The Trustees for their part also from time to time write to members seeking donations. If these donations are gift aided by members, the Fund is able to recover income tax on the sum donated from the Inland Revenue.

Members also make bequests to the Fund in their wills, and this has in recent years become an increasingly important element of its income. A separate leaflet - *a will to help* - giving advice on how this may be done is available on the website. A large part of the Fund is invested and this brings in further income from dividends and interest.

### How do I apply for help?

The Trustees usually meet three or four times a year, but can act immediately and urgently between meetings.

The usual procedure is for applicants to contact the Fund outlining their difficulties either by using the following link

<https://www.cilip.org.uk/page/benevolent>  
Or by email: [benevolentfund@cilip.org.uk](mailto:benevolentfund@cilip.org.uk)

It is important to emphasise that the business of the Fund is conducted with strict confidentiality. With the agreement of the applicant, a telephone call or a visit is arranged to discuss the difficulty with him or her, and the way in which the Fund can best help resolve it. On the basis of this and the information derived from it, the Chair, after consulting fellow Trustees, will take a decision, usually within a few days.

### How can you as a CILIP member help?

The Trustees ask all members to help them in the work they do, first of all by contributing to the Fund. Without this help from members the Fund would be unable to operate. You may do this by adding a sum to your annual CILIP membership subscription, or by completing the attached form and sending it with your donation to the Fund Chair.

But we also ask members to look out for colleagues who may need our help, and to encourage them to approach us. Not only older, retired members but many younger colleagues in financial difficulty could derive some benefit from the Fund, yet may not think of applying to it.

If such members are encouraged to make their needs known, perhaps life can be made a little easier for them. Even a small sum given as a grant can be significantly beneficial.

### Donation Form

To: The Chair  
CILIP Benevolent Fund  
7 Ridgmount Street  
LONDON WC1E 7AE

I have pleasure in making a donation of £..... and I enclose a cheque/ CAF voucher for this amount, payable to CILIP Benevolent Fund

Please tick this box if you are willing for your donation to be gift aided

Please send me information on how to make a regular donation  
Please send me a copy of your leaflet *a will to help* which explains how I may leave the Fund a legacy in my will.

Your contact details (postal address & email):

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For Visa/Mastercard payments please refer to the secure online donation form listed on the cilip website:

[www.cilip.org.uk/donations](http://www.cilip.org.uk/donations)

or telephone 020 7255 0500 for the Finance Department.