

THE Openwork Foundation

Proudly Making a Difference

# Winter 2025 Newsletter

www.openworkfoundation.org

# Openwork heroes endure tough conditions at Yorkshire 3 Peaks

In what has become the biggest 'Fit for the Foundation' challenge of the year, 80 intrepid trekkers from 2plan, Openwork, Omnis and Owl, journeyed to the Yorkshire Dales to take on the iconic Yorkshire 3 Peaks Challenge. A trek that tested not only their physical endurance but their grit and determination in the face of truly unforgiving weather.

As daylight crept in, the first walkers set off at 6:30am, head torches glowing through thick cloud and steady rain. Despite an amber weather warning, spirits were high. The paths quickly turned to streams, and before long participants were soaked, but they pushed on, undeterred.

The trek was a true test of resilience. With visibility low and the terrain slippery, every step was a challenge. But our teams pressed on, supporting each other along the way. There were moments of magic too; a brief break in the cloud revealed stunning views of the Ribblehead Viaduct and a cascading waterfall, offering a much-needed morale boost.

The trek was a true triumph of teamwork, perseverance, and passion. We are in awe of every single participant who took on the challenge and pushed through the wind, rain, and exhaustion to support the Foundation.

Watch our video capturing the realities of the challenge, the teams' efforts and the incredible sense of achievement that followed.

Yorkshire Three Peaks
HIKING CHALLENGE

**Their fantastic efforts raised an incredible £37,000, including the Openwork Partnership's 50% uplift, and you can still show your support for the team.**

Click here













Get fit for the Foundation





# Cuban Cycle Challenge

In November, twenty three colleagues and advisers will set off for a week-long demanding cycle across challenging terrain, cycling 380km route from Cuba's cultural capital Havana to the stunning Caribbean coast.

**All sponsorship, plus any gift aid, will be matched at 50% by the Openwork Partnership, so the totals raised will go even further to support amazing causes.**






Follow their progress on the Foundation Instagram and Partnership social channels

**Support them here**

# Our latest grant awards

The Grants Committee met again in early September to review the latest applications and awarded a further £164,500 to 15 nominated charities.

Every charity nominated is important to someone in our network and it is very moving to hear of the wonderful work they are doing where help is desperately needed. The grants committee need to make difficult decisions as we receive more requests than we can fund with very high quality, deserving applications to evaluate.

**You can find information on how to nominate charities for a grant on the colleague hub and adviser portal or email the Foundation.**



# Funding eye care in Ghana

Do take a few minutes to watch this wonderful 'thank you' video we recently received from charity Precious Sight who we gave a grant of **£5,495** last year. The grant funded eye clinics in Ghana which screened and treated 1,000 patients.



# Supporting the elderly in Cumbernauld

We recently heard from 2plan's **Iain Lowe** who explained how he had come to put the grant the application after a conversation with a client and shared their delight on hearing that funds had been awarded to support the charity's work.

"I was with a client recently, who, until her recent retirement, had been the CEO of a local charity in Cumbernauld, called CACE. She explained that the charity support over 400 elderly people every month in the local and further area, with lunches, workshops, wellbeing clinics and just to contact providing help in any way they can. As everyone is aware, **many elderly living within every community struggle from day to day, not only with higher living costs, but also being lonely and sometimes invisible to everyone else. If they do not have family or limited contact, they often see no one and that is where this charity comes in.**

I happened to mention the Openwork Foundation to the client and that we could put CACE forward. I advised that nothing was guaranteed as there are so many charities that need assistance.

However, I received a phone call from the Foundation late last week to advise that CACE were being awarded **£13,000**. I called the former CEO and she was over the moon, she said as an example that, this would keep the equivalent of the daily lunch service going for the OAPs, for at least 6-months.

It was wonderful to hear that the Openwork Foundation is far reaching and has helped out a local charity that is so much in need of help."





# Seasonal Activities

THE Openwork Foundation
Colleague Champion

NSPCC



## Give a Gift this Christmas with the NSPCC

Donate a gift for a child this Christmas with a special collection organised by Openwork Foundation Colleague Champions in collaboration with the NSPCC. You can buy a gift from the online **Amazon wish list** or email **stuart.lusty@openworkpartnership.com** to arrange to buy a gift and bring it into Auckland House by the 3 December deadline.



## Christmas Events

**Share in the celebrations of the season with your staff and enjoy a wonderful start to the festivities at one of our Christmas events.**

## Christmas Dinner, Liverpool

Join us at **West Lancashire Golf Club, Blundellsands, Liverpool** on **Friday 21 November** for a celebratory Christmas Dinner for just £50 per person and help support the Foundation.

Dress to impress and come and enjoy a great night out.

**Click here**

## Adviser Christmas Lunch, London

Join our London Christmas lunch at **The Dickens Inn, St Katherine's Way London** on **Thursday 4th December** from 12pm till 3.30pm. It's a fabulous pub where you will have a traditional menu to enjoy and socialise with your peers. Tickets are £80.

Openwork Adviser Christmas Lunch December 4th 2025

**Click here**



# Coming in 2026

## Volunteering Opportunities

**In 2026 we have two fantastic opportunities to experience some unique volunteering opportunities abroad.**

## Uganda Trip

Travel to Uganda next June and take part in a transformative volunteering experience with charity **Fields of Life** who support **vulnerable children** through education, clean water, and health initiatives. The organisation has **years of experience** working on the ground in **partnership** with local professionals.

This is your chance to grow, give back, and create lasting memories while supporting communities in need.





Email Claire Nicholl or the Foundation for the full information.

**Click here**

fields of life
CHANGING LIVES, BUILDING HOPE

## Supporting Wounded Veterans Ski Weekend

Are you a confident skier who would like to take part in next year's '**Supporting Wounded Veterans**' ski weekend from **12th – 15th March 2026**? We have four spaces to take part in a team challenge weekend, competing with able bodied and disabled skiers and taking part in challenges that are designed to stretch your ability to work together and think outside the box, in order to win the challenge cup. The weekend will also include a world affairs symposium and networking dinner. Participants will cover their costs and will have a fundraising target associated with the challenge.

Get involved! Find out more and email us to find out more and sign-up.

**Find out more**

**Sign-up**




SUPPORTING WOUNDED VETERANS

## High Rollers Foundation Ball

**Claire Nicholl** and **Lorraine Stevenson** are teaming up again with Helen Armitage for their next fabulous evening event to support the Foundation. Join us at the **Europa Hotel in Belfast** on **21st May 2026** for a Casino Royale inspired High Rollers Ball.

Dress to impress, sip champagne under the chandeliers while you try your luck at Blackjack, Roulette and Poker - raising the stakes for a better tomorrow.



See more details and purchase your early bird tickets now.

**Click here**









# Fundraising Highlights

## Lord's event raises £50,000

An unforgettable evening at Lord's Cricket Ground! On Thursday 16 October, The Openwork Foundation brought together colleagues, advisers, and providers for a truly special evening, hosted by **Rohit Vaswani**, **Sasha Dabliz**, and **Cliff Gray**.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our guests, and a fantastic 50% uplift from The Openwork Partnership, we raised an outstanding **£50,000** for charity! The evening was made even more powerful by heartfelt talks from **Dr. Sarah Ruggins** and **Ben Gallagher of AFPST** who shared inspiring stories of resilience and the transformative impact of charitable support.

A huge thank you to all those who generously donated auction prizes.

## Supporters get golfing!

They year our PDMs have done amazing work setting up fantastic golf days, bringing together colleagues, advisers, clients and providers. The final two events of the year took place in September in Solihull, organised by **Emma Briggs** and Bristol, organised by **Matt Ruthen**. Congratulations on these hugely successful events which together raised an impressive **£7,400**.

## Adviser Conference Support

Thank you to the **Omnis team** and everyone who supported us by donating to their specialist barista coffees at the Adviser Conference in Coventry as well as to those who entered our raffle. A big thank you to **Brian Downton** who donated the top prize of dinner and tickets to Phantom of the Opera.

**All amounts raised are matched at 50% by the Openwork Partnership.**

## Michael Bowyer tackles the Jurassic Coast

On 18th October the **Penny Group's Michael Bowyer** took on the 100km Jurassic Coast Run for the Foundation.

"After a long day filled with highs, lows, and a lot of uphill battles (literally), I'm thrilled to say I've officially completed the Jurassic Coast race! 103km, 2,700+ meters of elevation, 14 hours and 54 minutes of grit, sweat, and questionable snack choices! A huge thank you to everyone who's already supported me."




## Taking a dive!

Congratulations to **2plan's Katie Laycock** (Membership Team) and **Samantha Balderstone** (Financial Promotions) who took on a breathtaking 15,000-foot sky dive in aid of Foundation in September raising a wonderful **£2,121**. We're in awe of their bravery!



## Great North Runners

Congratulations to the incredible team who took on the Great North Run; **Mike Fitchett**, **Mike Thompson**, **Cameron Brown**, **Tom Hicks** and **Andrzej Kuich**,  lacing up their trainers and running 13.1 miles in support of The Foundation and raising an impressive **£3,750**.

Their commitment, energy, and fundraising efforts are truly inspiring—and every step they take helps make a real difference




## Downton & Ali Charity Evening

Thanks to **Brian Downton** who organised a fantastic Casino night at Dartford Football Club. The evening raised a wonderful **£910** for the Foundation.











# Volunteering

## Teams come together to help out at Dorothy House

Following a recent volunteering day at Dorothy House involving colleagues from **Risk and Compliance, Omnis and 2plan** we received this wonderful message from the hospice team:

"Thank you so very much to you and the wonderful Openwork Partnership team who travelled from near and far to generously offer your time and help in our Firefly woods and at the Corsham Warehouse yesterday.

Your support was truly invaluable, and we're so grateful for your contribution to purchase and lay the membrane in our playground area, which was very generous of Stuart, and the team as a whole. The woods and the playground mat look fantastic and will be a great help to maintain the area going forward.

I have also heard from Wendy in our Retail team that it was a very productive afternoon, which means so much when they are busy preparing for the warehouse sale this Saturday."

## Technology architecture team reclaim community garden

The Technology Architecture team recently came together to help reclaim the community garden behind a local library which hadn't been used since before the Covid pandemic. The team got busy cutting back hedges and grass, clearing debris and prepping fences and furniture for painting, so the area can be made suitable for community activities for people of all ages.

"The enjoyment for me was the chance to connect with colleagues outside of our usual work setting. Despite the heat, there was a fun sense of camaraderie as we tackled the physical challenge together. It was refreshing to chat about life beyond the office and discover shared interests, all while contributing to a meaningful community project. The day left me with a deeper appreciation for the team and a few laughs to take home" Stuart Turvey, Business Architect.

## Back 2 School

### Get involved! YE Volunteering

YE Young Enterprise
Member of JA Worldwide

We partner with Young Enterprise and they offer many volunteering opportunities across the country to supporting young people to build business skills and confidence.

**There are opportunities available across the UK.**

Find out more and sign-up here. **Click here**





# Support us by Giving Monthly

2plan wealth management · The Openwork Partnership · Omnis Investments · Owl Financial

Regular donations are essential to the work of The Openwork Foundation, allowing us to effectively plan our grant programmes.

Regular giving can be paid directly from your salary, with donations uplifted by The Openwork Partnership by 50%.

Tax is reduced via payroll, for colleagues, or through your self-assessment.

Set up a regular donation today. **Click here**

**All funds raised will be matched at 50% by The Openwork Partnership**

# Monthly Lottery

THE OPENWORK FOUNDATION Lottery — PLAY AND SUPPORT VITAL UK CHARITIES

All advisers, partners and colleagues are invited to take part in the monthly lottery for just £1/ ticket.

**The top prize is now £500 (or £250 if fewer than 1,000 tickets are entered for the month), plus two runners up winning £50 and a spot prize of £25 for new entrants.**

The lottery is drawn on the last working day of the month using a random number generator and winners will be notified on the day via email.

Congratulations to our latest winners **Lee Brennan, Pratish Vaghadia The Mortgage Shop** and **Clair Byrne**.

Sign-up today **Click here**




# Payday Bingo

Colleagues can also take part in our monthly Payday Bingo Game which is played online.

Congratulations to our most recent winner, **Cheryl D'Cruz.**

Sign up for next month's game. **Click here**

## Contact the Team to Get Involved

contact@theopenworkfoundation.com

www.openworkfoundation.org

## Follow us on Social Media

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Openwork Partnership

The Openwork Foundation, Registered Charity No. 1184592

Auckland House, Lydiard Fields, Swindon, SN5 8UB



**Alex Davies**

Head of Openwork Foundation and Sustainability



**Lisa Willingham**

Openwork Foundation Manager



**Abigail Hart**

Openwork Foundation Executive



**Elizabeth Tucker**

Openwork Foundation Communications & Engagement Executive



**Emma Coates**

Openwork Foundation National Fundraising Events Executive

THE Openwork Foundation
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# Thank you for your support

We would love to hear from you with ideas and suggestions to help us do even more for causes that are important to you.