

GUILD OF GUARDIANS

INTRODUCTION

“The City of Bristol has so much to offer, both to the business organisation and to the private citizen”
Alfred Telling CBE, founder of the Guild of Guardians

The Guild of Guardians was initially established to enhance the good name of the city of Bristol, its traditions, trade and commerce. It started out supporting the Office of the Lord Mayor and in particular the Lord Mayor’s Mansion House and Chapel, but has evolved into a significant business networking organisation and charity supporting many good causes in the city.

WHAT CAN THE GUILD OF GUARDIANS OFFER TO YOU?

Our aim is to create a thriving hub for business and trade with a strong sense of community and heritage. We are focused on creating a meaningful network for organisations with shared values and aspirations, fostering collaboration and showcasing the city’s strengths and accomplishments to the widest audiences.

Since 1978, the Guild of Guardians has played an active part in Bristol’s twinning ties and international relations, ensuring the city’s traditions, trade and commerce are promoted and showcased on an international stage. We also continue to support the Lord Mayor’s office and the Mansion House in Clifton, where we hold many of our annual events.

WHO WE ARE

Our real strength is our members. Spanning multiple sectors of Bristol life including business, charity and education, all of the Guardians share their passion, commitment and resources for the benefit of Bristol.

Through our direct and charitable funding:

- We have restored important civic heritage sites
- We are members of Bristol City Council’s international strategy board and actively support twinning groups
- We have continued to fund awards for music and business-focussed study for local young people.

We are committed to working hard to achieve greater inclusivity and representation from across the city, welcoming businesses from diverse backgrounds and industries, and working collaboratively to promote the city’s interests and support the people of Bristol through charitable giving.



WHAT WE DO

The Guild of Guardians hosts a range of activities each year that bring our members together. From behind-the-scenes tours to festive events and awards dinners to celebrate local young people, our diary includes formal and informal opportunities to get together.

In recent years, guest speakers have ranged from the Secretary of State for Trade to our elected Mayor, and from officers of HMS Prince of Wales to many of the leading charities in the city, as well as those holding the office of the Lord Mayor.

We work closely with Bristol City Council’s International Office. We play host to VIPs, arrange flag-raising events, represent the city on twinning visits and take every opportunity to showcase the city’s trades and traditions.





OUR PURPOSE & CHARITABLE GIVING

Our mission is to promote local trade, investment and business, whilst maintaining our commitment to charitable giving for the enhancement of the city.

One way we do that is by supporting young people through a series of awards and bursaries. We also provide a platform for charitable organisations to present requests for support.

OUR AMBITIONS

We are passionate about the city of Bristol and ambitious about what we can achieve together in the next five years. Our aims include:

- Welcoming more people to the Guild of Guardians, enabling more people from across the city to see benefit from our activities and events.
- Increasing our charitable awards and fundraising and engaging with our members to identify more ways to support our city.
- Increasing the number of awards and bursaries we give to the young people of Bristol. Giving young musicians even more opportunities to perform beyond the City Waits Awards and supporting Bristol's young entrepreneurs.
- Supporting the long-term sustainability of the Lord Mayor's Chapel by promoting it to visitors and supporting the fundraising for Bristol Cathedral.
- Continuing to support business links and overseas trade through visible twinning activities, such as our signpost on College Green, and hosting international guests
- Being actively more inclusive in both our membership and our activities, with a particular aim to help young people from all backgrounds to gain new experiences and opportunities.

GET INVOLVED

We want to represent the city that we serve and we have a strong emphasis on inclusivity, so we encourage new members and supporters from all backgrounds and industries.

Member organisations pay an annual subscription, a substantial proportion of which goes directly to the Guild of Guardians charity.

The remainder of the subscription goes to support our annual calendar of events. We also support The Lord Mayor of Bristol's Children Appeal with a sponsored walk around Clifton Downs and celebrate the festive period with a candlelit carol concert at the Lord Mayor's Chapel.

If your organisation would like to help us achieve our charitable aims, and you would like to be one of Bristol Guardian's, please get in touch with our committee via the website.

www.guildofguardians.org



THE CITY WAITS AWARDS

The Guild supports young musicians through the City Waits Awards.

Its name dates back to medieval times, when musicians were employed to provide entertainment at civil occasions.

The awards now focus on supporting outstanding young musicians and their continuing musical education.

Young people can apply and are selected by a panel from Bristol Beacon and St George's Bristol. With the support of Bristol Beacon, St George's Bristol and The Quartet Foundation, the awards are providing increased bursary amounts and money-can't-buy opportunities to perform and be mentored by professional musicians across the city.

We support young people in other ways too, through the Alfred Telling Scholarship, which focuses on young entrepreneurs, and the Tom Clark and Grant Watson Awards.

