

**NIGEL SAVORY**  
Chairman of  
The RC Snelling  
Charitable Trust.

↑ A range of activities within the Group & Trust, including the new Fusion Energy centre in Oxfordshire, the Nobilia kitchen range from Germany, our successful showrooms and Mark, our employee elected Trustee.

**WELCOME TO THE SPRING ISSUE** of the Snellings Newsletter. It brings you news about the great things that have been happening in our two businesses and the support that we give to many good local charitable causes.

I always love the Spring as it brings so much promise. However, this year Spring seems slow in coming as whilst we are getting some beautiful periods of bright sunshine, we are also getting prolonged periods of unsettled weather with wind and rain. So, it seems to me this Spring is a mixed bag, a bit like the macro-economic climate that is influencing our daily lives and businesses. Whilst Mr Sunak is leading a more stable Government, interest rates and tax are going up to deal with inflation which is then forecast to come down later in the year.

I have been reading about the troubles facing John Lewis and it seems to me that Mary Portas's view that John Lewis has "let go of its soul" and that its problems are not just financial is a good call. She is also right in that we need a strong John Lewis. At Snellings we have invested a great deal of time in building the Snellings brand and underpinning it with a strong set of values that bind

together the Charitable Trust and its two businesses. Mary Portas talks about the importance of balancing the financial necessities with the commercially instinctive, reactive and creative skills that born entrepreneurs and retail folk have. We are lucky to have such people helping run our businesses and we must listen and react. If we concentrate on understanding what our clients want, servicing their needs and giving excellent service and if we live by our values of being professional, trustworthy and friendly we should continue to do well. We of course rely on the wonderful Snelling's team because it is you who deliver everything we do, and I do not underestimate the importance of your input.

I look forward to seeing you at the AGM in May and thanking you for your help and hard work.

**Nigel Savory**  
Chairman, The R C Snelling Charitable Trust.





**GRANT UPDATES. – A REVIEW OF THE WORK WHICH HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT AFTER A GRANT FROM THE TRUST.**

**ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH**, in Thorpe Hamlet, Norfolk had asked for a grant to help them improve the access to their building and to make it easier for less able members of



their congregation to use the church. *“Our congregation and visitors are very grateful for your contribution that has made this possible. It has made such a difference,”* explained Bridgid Everitt, from the Church. The much

↑ *The improved access helped with our grant.*

improved and accessible entrance is shown in the photos. 🍷



**NORFOLK ACCIDENT RESCUE SERVICE** are the volunteer first responders helping the under fire NHS ambulance service. Consisting of doctors, senior nurses and critical care paramedics they specialise in saving lives during the vital first moments following a traumatic event. They had asked the Trust for support for new uniforms,

and the Trust was happy to make a grant of £2,000 *“The uniforms are excellent and serve our team very well in the field,”* explained Peter Sefton-Smalley, the CEO. *“These uniforms are designed to be visible and allow our clinicians to work in environments where there may be broken glass and other sharp materials so we can keep our team safe. Thank you for your valuable donation.”* 🍷



*The SARS team of volunteers in their new uniforms.*

**THE SILVER ROAD COMMUNITY CENTRE** asked the Trust for a grant to make up a number of Christmas Food Hampers for disadvantaged households in their area. *“With the Trust’s support we were able to make up 100 food bags for the vulnerable people in our area who use our foodbanks,”* said Julie Brociek-Coulton, one of the volunteers at the Community Centre. 🍷



*Food bags being packed ready for distribution.*

**HEAR FOR NORFOLK**, is a Norfolk charity set up in 1898 to help people feel less isolated through being hard of hearing. It launched a campaign for an outreach campaign which included getting a bespoke mini bus called the Cuppa Care bus. The project cost £58,000 and the Trust and a number of other local charities combined to raise the funds for the project. The bus was delivered and officially opened by HM Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk, The Lady Dannatt on 22 December 2022. Aliona Derrett, CEO of Hear for Norfolk said *“I’d like to express my heartfelt appreciation to all the funders who have provided the required financial support to help us purchase and convert this vehicle.”* 🍷



*The bus showing the Trust's support.*

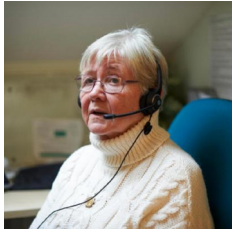




Picture of the family, with Sam's parents, Charlie and Caroline Barratt.



Picture of family with the goods donated by Snellings / Gerald Giles.



### **Samaritans Norwich reach their appeal target with help from the Trust.**

**IN SEPTEMBER 2022,** The Trustees approved an application for a grant for the Samaritans in Norwich, who were wishing to raise a considerable sum to help with their aim of setting up a new hub for their staff and volunteers in Norwich. A grant of £10,000 was awarded to help them and recently James Ellis, their Branch Director wrote to thank the Trustees as well as informing us that they had reached their target and work was already underway on their new hub at Varah House.

*“The first, great, news is that we reached our fundraising target at the end of 2022. With your generous support we have made our ambitious goal and we are now fully funded for the whole project, with things now underway. Thank you for your amazing support,”* explained James in a recent letter to the Trustees. 🍷

### **Last years accounts now completed.**

**THE TRUST AND GROUP** companies’ accounts for the year ended 30th April 2022 have been signed off and filed with Companies house and the Charity Commission. “This involves a lot of audit work and preparation from a large number of our colleagues,” said Rowland, who is the Trustee tasked with making sure this important work is completed properly and on time. “M+A Partners conduct a thorough audit and governance report of the Charity, as well as the operating companies and this is shared with all Trustees at the appropriate Trustee meeting. The total of funds carried forward in the Charity accounts (Registered Charity Number 1074776) is £14.54m compared to £13.94m the previous year. The bulk of these funds comprise various endowments which are used to generate income leaving £100k available for distribution (last year was £126k)”.

The combined results for the current year will show a reduction in total funds (net assets) as the group contends with the impacts surrounding the cost of living increases, supply problems associated with Covid and the volatile stock market indices, which are currently showing an unrealised reduction in market valuation compared to April 2022 of £272k. Despite this fall in value, the investment income of the group is showing improvement over last year as companies return to distributions similar to pre-Covid times. 🍷

## **Independent Trustee, Sam Barratt’s family help a Ukrainian refugee family.**

**SAM’S FAMILY HAVE POOLED** resources to offer a Ukrainian family a home under the scheme to help house Ukrainian refugees in the UK. “The family arrived at our house at Church Farm in Cawston in July and we’re helping them at least for the first year. Our Ukrainian family drove out of Ukraine through Romania, Hungary, Austria and Germany, before arriving at Cawston”, explained Sam. “They had to escape, since the children’s school, which was quite close to an air base, was constantly under Russian missile fire and the school had been bombed.”

*“My Mum and Dad have been fantastic at helping them, with stocking the house with everything a family needs to be comfortable in a new home and we were incredibly grateful to Paul Giles and the team from Snellings who donated all the electrical and white goods.”* “Our Ukrainian family is made up of Dad Arthur, 38 and Mum Svilana, 36 with the children, Eduard, 11, Elina 8 and Emilia 6. The children all go to local schools and are settling in well. But without the help from Snellings their life would not be as comfortable as it is. They want to go back home to Ukraine as soon as possible since they have elderly parents there, but at the moment they are safe and well with us.” 🍷

### **Trustee Update.**

**IN THIS NEWSLETTER** we learn more about Stephan Phillips, one of our Independent Trustees. Stephan has been a Trustee of the R C Snelling Charitable Trust since 2011. He is a Director of Snellings Ltd and is a Non Executive Director of SBS.

#### **Q. Why did you become a Trustee?**

**A.** I was asked by Roy Snelling to become a Trustee and after meeting him and hearing of his desire to help people, I enthusiastically agreed.

#### **Q. What work did you do and what qualifications do you have to help in your role as a Trustee?**

**A.** I worked for over 21 years in the regional newspaper industry, working for Archant in Norfolk. I was the Managing Director and responsible for almost 400 staff. After that I was the MD of one of the UK’s largest food related websites. As for qualifications, I hold a first degree from Nottingham Trent and an M.Sc degree in marketing from the University of Glamorgan..

#### **Q. We understand you are involved with Norwich City Football Club. Is that still the case?**

**A.** I was asked by Delia Smith and her husband to join the Board of Norwich City Football Club in 2009. Whilst I was part of the board, we managed back to back promotions to the Premier League. Like the Trust, NCFC is run for the benefit of its supporters and it really is a community Club. I chaired the Audit committee, But I’ve stepped down from being involved at that level and now I’m a Vice President of the Club.

#### **Q. What does your role at SBS entail?**

**A.** I’m a Non Exec Director of SBS, so I sit on the Board. I liaise with Toby regularly and we often have review meetings. My role is to help and support Toby and his senior team. My work is really about future strategic direction.

#### **Q. What do you do outside of work?**

**A.** I have the luxury of spending much more time with my 3 grandchildren, William who is 4, Edward who is 3 and Alice who is 18 months old. They enjoy digging in the garden and now have their own vegetable plot to look after! William has started school full time so weekends when we see them all are quite precious. 🍷



Stephan and his grandchildren working on dinosaur puzzles.





## AN UPDATE ON OUR EMPLOYEE NOMINATED CHARITY, WINGS4WARRIORS.

WINGS4WARRIORS was set up to help military personnel who could no longer serve due to injury and to train them as commercial pilots. Many of our staff will remember the story about Norfolk veteran Joe Zipfel who was undertaking his training. In the recent W4W newsletter, our staff were singled out for thanks for their valuable contribution in helping fund the extensive training which is required to produce a competent commercial airline pilot. Joe has passed his initial flying course and is now embedded with holiday operator TUI on the final part of his training to become a pilot on a Boeing 737, a jet liner capable of carrying 189 passengers. "Can I take this opportunity to thank everyone at Snellings, Gerald Giles and SBS for helping me to get to this point", said Joe.

We all wish Joe continued success in his training and hope to hear the details of his first commercial flight.

Meanwhile, Alex Weston at SBS is organising a W4W fundraising cake bake day for Easter and a group wide spectacular raffle, which will include prizes of a helicopter ride, champagne, cases of wine and a range of must have electrical goodies, donated by the kind permission of our suppliers.

For more detail or to buy tickets, contact Alex on alexander.weston@snellingbiz.com or Mark Gook on mark.gook@geraldgiles.co.uk. 📧



## SBS'S ANASTASIIA MAKES EMOTIONAL HALF TERM TRIP BACK HOME TO THE UKRAINE.

DURING THE RECENT school half term, Anastasiia Yumatova, who joined SBS in September 2022, went back to the Ukraine with her 6 year old daughter Varvara, to meet up with her husband Denys, who remains in the Ukraine

"My daughter really wanted to see her Dad, because we haven't seen each other for the last 9 months. It was a very long and tiresome journey because there are currently no direct flights to Ukraine. So, first we flew to Bucharest. And the road by bus from Bucharest to Odesa took 12 hours. I was

very nervous because of the constant rocket attacks, but thank God it was quiet in our city".

**Anastasiia went on to explain about her traumatic journey when she first left Odesa and came to the UK on the Homes for Ukrainians scheme.**

"Our trip to the UK was very difficult and tiring. We left our native city Odesa on the first week, when the war was starting. And we stayed 2 months in Western Ukraine. I knew that nowhere was safe and so we needed leave the country. And then I found out about the UK's Home for Ukrainians scheme. Then we came to the UK".

**Anastasiia also spoke about what it's like working for a company like ours.**

"Leaving Ukraine was a very difficult decision for my family, but my husband and I want our daughter to grow up in a safe place and to have the opportunity of a happy childhood. Even though we live in a safe place, I'm all the time thinking and praying about my family and the people who are fighting for our freedom. Thank you so much for the opportunity to work in the company. And I really appreciate everything you do for me and also I want to thank my colleagues for supporting us and in understanding our situation".

**Anastasiia already holds a degree in Accountancy and Audit from the Ukraine State University and SBS is helping her by supporting her to obtain her ACCA qualifications, over a 3 year period. 📧**

Anastasiia and her daughter Varvara, reunited with her husband Denys in Ukraine.

