



Coram's Fields Patron Circle

Supporting local families since 1936

Introducing the Coram's Fields Patron Circle

A message from the Co-Chairs of the Patron Circle:



"I would like to invite you to celebrate the work of Coram's Fields by becoming a supporter of one of London's most inspiring children's charities. I have been a local resident for over 20 years, a current Trustee and the Treasurer for Coram's Fields. I have seen first-hand the unique facilities and support that we provide to the many thousands of children and families that use and enjoy our park and services each year."

Michael Horowitz QC



"Coram's Fields has been a huge part of my children's lives since they were born. Now they are both teenagers and my daughter still attends every week with the 8th Holborn Scouts. The park and services cost over £1.7 million to run and with the loss of local authority funding there are more young people in need at a time when we have fewer resources with which to deliver. I am pleased in joining Michael to invite you to join the Patron Circle and support this magical place."

Chloe Mackay

As a Patron, your financial support can help to make sure that Coram's Fields continues to serve London's children and young people. Join Now!

Coram's Fields:

A safe haven for play since 1936

Coram's Fields is a unique and special place.

We are a seven-acre park and playground in Central London that has, for over 80 years, provided a safe space for London's children. Through our range of facilities, services and activities, we support the development and welfare of young people, from birth through to early adulthood, often providing critical support when they need it most, in a safe, protected environment.

To this day, to safeguard young people, we proudly continue to enforce a strict rule for which we are well known:

'Adults may only enter if accompanied by a child.'



Our Story:

Providing for children for over 275 years

Coram's Fields stands on the site of the former Foundling Hospital.

The Foundling Hospital was built in 1739 by Captain Thomas Coram, to take in and provide a home for



abandoned babies and nurture them through their childhood. Captain Coram, a seafarer who made his wealth through trade, was appalled at the lack of provision for children born in and out of marriage, whose mothers were forced to abandon them through poverty and want.

Captain Coram's Foundling Hospital was the first of its kind in Britain, secured by the patronage of King George II and supported by famous contemporaries, including the

composer, George Handel, and the artists, William Hogarth, Joshua Reynolds and Thomas Gainsborough. Through Captain Coram's pioneering vision, thousands of children, who might otherwise have died, received a home and an education at the Foundling Hospital, which continued to function as a children's home into the 20th century.

By the 1920s, the development of state provision for orphans and children in need had begun to overtake the Foundling Hospital's mission. In addition, there was growing concern at the harmful effects of exposure to the fumes and pollution of inner city London. The Governors elected to relocate the hospital to a new site in Hertfordshire.

Initially the site was proposed to be put up for commercial development. But an energetic campaign, fronted by local residents and Harold Harmsworth, 1st Viscount Rothermere, who himself made a generous donation in memory

of two of his sons killed in the First World War, raised the then large sum of £475,000 to buy back the site and endow it in perpetuity as an open space for children. Through their hard efforts, the site was opened in 1936 as the Coram's Fields & the Harmsworth Memorial Playground.

In the decades that followed, Coram's Fields has developed from a simple playground to a thriving hub for children, young people and their families. Today, across our site, as well as a park and playground, you will find a small city farm, a wildlife garden, and over two acres of sports pitches and courts, providing



essential opportunities for children living in the city to play in the open air and enjoy a wide range of sports and activities. Coram's Fields is open all year round and records an impressive 150,000 visitors annually, with our services supporting over 200 children and young people each day.

Over the past 80 years, the range of activities and facilities Coram's Fields provides has expanded beyond the expectation and imagination of the original founders. Coram's Fields remains a much-loved and much-used playground, but we also deliver a number of services supporting

children and young people from birth to early adulthood. Our Under 5s Drop In, Nursery and Out of School Club ensure that young people receive the very best start in life. Through our Youth and Sports programmes, we work tirelessly to give young people the support and encouragement that they need to make the kind of life choices that so often can be the difference between them thriving, or falling foul of the kind of peer pressures that far too often see their lives spiral away from them.



Tyler's Journey

Previously charged with robbery and disengaged from education and employment, Tyler was repeatedly told by professionals that he would never achieve his dream of coaching young people in sport because of his criminal record. This is not true. Our Youth Programme provided intensive one-to-one casework, helping him to apply for a sports coaching level 3 course and supporting him to volunteer on our Sports Programme. Tyler is thriving in college and continues to work towards his goal of becoming a P.E. teacher with our support.



Why do we need your support?

The generosity of our Founders enabled the purchase of the site, but left no endowment to the Charity for running costs.

All the facilities, services and activities we provide and deliver cost approximately £1.7 million each year – costs which increase annually. In the post-war period and until recently, we were greatly assisted by grants from our local authority, Camden Council, however, this valuable support has now almost completely disappeared.

Coram's Fields is at the heart of the local community; a space where families from all walks of life, circumstance and means, come together to use our park and playground, mix and build friendships.

Located between King's Cross and Bloomsbury, the area in which we are based is a tale of two cities; very affluent neighbourhoods sit alongside pockets of severe deprivation. The facilities we provide and services we deliver are open to all, but our location means that we provide vital support to some of the most vulnerable children, young people and families living in the vicinity. Whether that be a single parent of a young child experiencing social isolation or supporting a teenager at risk of offending to turn their lives around, **we provide an essential lifeline for many young people and their families.**

We have already maximised our potential for earned income, but we start each year with a significant deficit between our expenditure and the income we generate from our activities. If we are to maintain our commitment to change the lives of local children and young people for the better and for Coram's Fields to continue its role as one of the safest spaces for children in London, more support is needed. Our Patron Circle is one way we are hoping to diversify our income streams and to bring together local people who would like to support our work and the community that surrounds us.

What is the Patron Circle?

Members of the Patron Circle are a group of individuals with a common objective:

To change the lives of children and young people living in central London.

Some of our Patrons are nearby residents, others work in the vicinity, all recognise the vital role that Coram's Fields plays in the local community.

As well as providing essential financial support, our Patrons also act as ambassadors of Coram's Fields, raising awareness of our work and inspiring others to support one of London's most cherished children's charities.





Coram's Fields Patron

As a Patron of Coram's Fields, your generosity will enable us to ensure that Coram's Fields continues to be a safe haven for play and a lifeline for children and young people.

Being a Patron of Coram's Fields means that you will enjoy opportunities to be actively engaged with the services and facilities you are supporting through a series of inspiring events, talks and visits. You can also, if you wish, offer your talent and time to help our young people. **Benefits of membership include:**

- Annual drinks reception
- Recognition in our annual report, our website and our Patron board
- A private tour of Coram's Fields for you and your guests
- Regular Patrons e-newsletter

"I used to come as a child myself, for school activities, country dance, sports day and with my parents as a treat. Now I come with my children. I don't know what I would have done without this park."

Jolika Miah

To join our Patron Circle, please complete the enclosed forms with your details and send back to:

patrons@coramsfields.org.uk

or post to:

**Patron Circle, Coram's Fields,
93 Guilford Street, London
WC1N 1DN**

How to pay

I would like to become a Patron of Coram's Fields for a three-year period and would like to commit to make an annual donation of:

£

Please note, the minimum amount is £1,000*, but further support is greatly appreciated

*The benefits associated with a Patron membership are available for £25 (including VAT) and we kindly ask that you make a minimum donation of £975, which is a discretionary donation not connected with the benefits. As the value of benefits falls within the limits of the HMRC Benefit Rule, the entire amount, subject to eligibility, can qualify for Gift Aid. Additional amounts donated beyond the minimum amount are eligible for Gift Aid.

Gift Aid

Coram's Fields is able to claim Gift Aid on your patronage at no extra cost to you. In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below.

- ☐ I wish to Gift Aid my donation and any donations I make in the future or have made in the last four years to Coram's Fields:

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that Coram's Fields will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give. If you are a higher rate taxpayer, Coram's Fields can still claim the basic rate of tax on your donation, but you can personally reclaim the difference in your tax return between the higher rate and the basic rate of tax on the total value of the donation, providing the eligibility requirements for Gift Aid are met

Signature:

Date:

Or

- ☐ I am not eligible as a UK taxpayer/do not consent

Please notify Coram's Fields if you:

- Want to cancel this declaration
- Change your name or home address
- No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or Capital Gains
- Wish your support to be anonymous



Personal details

Please print your details in block capitals

Title:

Name(s):

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Email:

Data Protection: Coram's Fields is committed to protecting your privacy. All personal data given on this form will be held securely and in compliance with the GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018. It will be used to administer your Patron Circle application and thereafter to provide you with regular email updates about events, fundraising campaigns, benefits and charitable work undertaken. It will not be passed on to any third parties without your permission.

If you would like to receive Patron Circle communications from Coram's Fields, please tick this box: ☐



Payment details

☐ **Cheque** (enclosed, made payable to 'Coram's Fields & the Harmsworth Memorial Playground')

☐ **Credit/Debit Card** (Please circle card type below):

Visa

Mastercard

Maestro

Solo

Other

If paying by card, we will be in contact by email to arrange a time to take payment over the telephone.

Standing Order

Instruction to your bank or building society to pay by standing order

Name(s) of Account Holder:

Bank/Building Society Account Number:

Address of Bank/Building Society:

Postcode:

Branch Sort Code:

Until further notice, please pay Coram's Fields & the Harmsworth Memorial Playground monthly/annually (please delete accordingly), the sum of:

£

To commence on (please insert date):

Signature:

Date:

Beneficiary Details:

Bank: Lloyds Bank, 344 Gray's Inn Road,
London WC1X 8BX

A/C No: 21597260 Sort Code: 30-94-73





Instagram: @coramsfields

Twitter: @coramsfields

Facebook: @OfficialCoramsFields

Website: www.coramsfields.org

Coram's Fields & The Harmsworth Memorial Playground is a registered charity in England and Wales (Registered No: 302963)