

CAC News #1 January 2024



climbersagainstcancer.org

Happy New Year to all our friends and supporters!!

This is traditionally a time for taking stock, and for looking forward. So, we thought you'd like to hear about what's been and will be going on! There's a lot of it!

Four trustees and a birthday



First, you may be aware that we've got [a new team of Trustees](#), full of ideas to take our charity forward now that we're 'all grown up'. CAC turned 10 in 2023! And over those ten years, **we have donated over £500,000 to**

cancer research around the world.

You made that happen!

We are constantly amazed at the number of orders we receive from far-flung destinations, and love pictures of you in your CAC gear in amazing spots. Also amazing is your creativity, imagination, and sheer determination in [fundraising events](#), which we are keen to showcase so do **send us your stories and pictures**, we love to share!! Through these and your generous donations, you raised **over £45k in 2023. Can we beat that in 2024?**

We'll try to keep you up-to-date on developments and to consult you as often as possible on some of the decisions regarding CAC and its development. **This is your charity after all**, and we are keen to hear your views and suggestions on how to take it forward. Don't be shy! Contact details below!

Grants in 2023

To mark our 10th anniversary, we aim to give £10,000 each to 10 deserving organisations, ideally on every continent.

We have created [a funding application form](#) and a number of research organisations have so far applied. In line with our revised mission statement, we are looking to help not only research but also organisations that help cancer patients and their families live with and beyond their illness.

We are happy to receive more applications, so please help us get the word out!

06/23 - Grant #1 - Monaco

Trustee Sheila McCarron presented the first of our '10 for 10' donations to Dr. Vincent Picco of the [Centre Scientifique de Monaco](#).



09/23 - Grant #2 – UK

Trustee Dom Oughton handed cheque 2 to [The Ledge Climbing Wall, Inverness](#).



09/23 - Grant #3 – Serbia

As you can see, athlete ambassador Staša Gejo was pleased as punch to [present this cheque at her national championships](#) in Belgrade!



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Other grants in the pipeline are 'far flung', in line with founder **John Ellison's desire for CAC to help on every continent**. More news soon on Nepal, Tanzania, USA... and we hope New Zealand! Tell your favourite researchers and support charities about us (and get them to fill in [a funding application form!](#)) so we can hit our target 10 donations before the anniversary of the charity's official registration, in August.

New athlete Ambassadors



Much as the Trustees felt the previous mission statement limited us to funding research, so our pool of lovely ambassadors felt mostly confined to competition

climbers. We invited **Kenton Cool** (above) to join us. Scottish hill runner & mountaineer **Finlay Wild** (right) came on board mid-year, as did Belgian big wall



climber **Siebe Vanhee** (left).



We now have a number of para-climbing ambassadors, with (right)

unsighted international and outdoor climber **Jesse Dufton**, French arm amputee **Solenne Piret** (below, 4x world champion, *sacre bleu!*) joining this year.



Anita Aggarwal (right), a GB paraclimber, coach and a cancer sufferer herself, joins us as an advisor.



Also new to the ambassador posse are Swiss comp climber **Sofya Yokoyama** (left) and UK born climber / writer **Tom Livingstone**



(right). A special mention for one of our newest recruits and (ahem) **Olympian!** - **Campbell Harrison** (left).

Adam Ondra is not a new ambassador per se, but a 2023 highlight was when sales of our [10-year anniversary T shirt](#) went through the roof after he posted this pic (right). Maybe we should have mentioned it won't necessarily mean you'll climb 9b outdoors? Oops!



Not forgetting our other existing and loyal ambassadors, who you'll find [on our Instagram account](#). Our tech-tastic trustee Andy Dodd has taken the **raising awareness** part of our remit very seriously on the socials. Result? **10x more interactions on Insta!!** Don't forget to like, tag and share! Andy's currently frantically finishing off our **new website, due to launch very soon!!**

Existing **partnerships** have been consolidated and new ones made throughout the year, including collaborations for [Blue September](#) and [Pink October](#), now permanent calendar fixtures. **More colour-themed collabs to come** in 2024!



Oh look, we've run out of space to tell you about all the great events we attended, like Kendal Mountain Festival, our [limited series multi-lingual T shirt](#)

and what's coming in 2024... guess you'll just have to sign up for the **online newsletter** when the new website comes out!! Watch our socials for an announcement!!



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