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The Story of Christmas goes online in 2020

Wednesday 16 December at 7pm

Starring:

Dame Judi Dench, Ian Hislop, Aled Jones, Clare Balding, Sanjeev Bhaskar, Jim Carter, Olivia Colman, Dawn French, Freddie Fox, Tim Henman, Sir Derek Jacobi, Vanessa Kirby, Miriam Margolyes, Sophie Raworth, John Sessions, Eleanor Tomlinson & Dame Penelope Wilton.

Over the past few months we have been agonising about The Story of Christmas in view of the pandemic crisis. Staging an event with over 500 guests in a packed-out church and ballroom seems increasingly problematic for all the obvious reasons. At the same time we cannot abandon our charities at a time when they need us more than ever. The show must go on! Therefore we are excited to announce that The Story of Christmas 2020 will proceed as a star-studded, televised online event.

Some of our most popular associated celebrities – Dame Judi Dench, Ian Hislop, Aled Jones, Clare Balding, Sanjeev Bhaskar, Jim Carter, Olivia Colman, Dawn French, Freddie Fox, Tim Henman, Sir Derek Jacobi, Vanessa Kirby, Miriam Margolyes, Sophie Raworth, John Sessions, Eleanor Tomlinson & Dame Penelope Wilton – will be performing. We are very grateful that many of our longstanding sponsors and donors have already confirmed their usual wonderful support.

The fundraising campaign will proceed in the usual way with sponsored pages in our Souvenir Brochure. Two weeks before the event, our Silent Auction will launch online. Around a week ahead of the event, guests who would usually attend the church service and reception will be sent a Christmas parcel – including their copy of the brochure, a bottle of champagne, a celebrity autographed Christmas Card, a range of special Christmas gifts to enjoy, details of the online event and the online Live and Silent Auctions. The event will commence at 7pm, opening with a Christmas message of thanks to all of our marvellous supporters from The Story of Christmas's Life President Dame Judi Dench. Our President Ian Hislop will introduce the event, while our Deputy President Aled Jones will read the narration in the usual way. The silent auction will conclude at 11pm when the successful bidders will be revealed.

Please join us as we bring the magic of The Story of Christmas to you, while also broadcasting to an international audience and raising funds for our fantastic charities.



Patron: The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE, Lord Bishop of London

Life President: Dame Judi Dench CH DBE

President: Ian Hislop

Deputy President: Aled Jones MBE

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The Story of Christmas

(Lilian Sutton Bequest) Trust

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Robert Dudley
The Revd Roderick Leece
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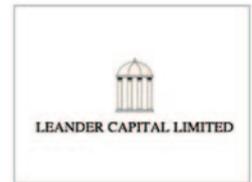
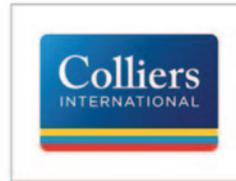
The Story of Christmas would like to thank, once again, all those who supported the 2019 event by taking a corporate donation package



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THE EVENT: MAJOR SPONSORS





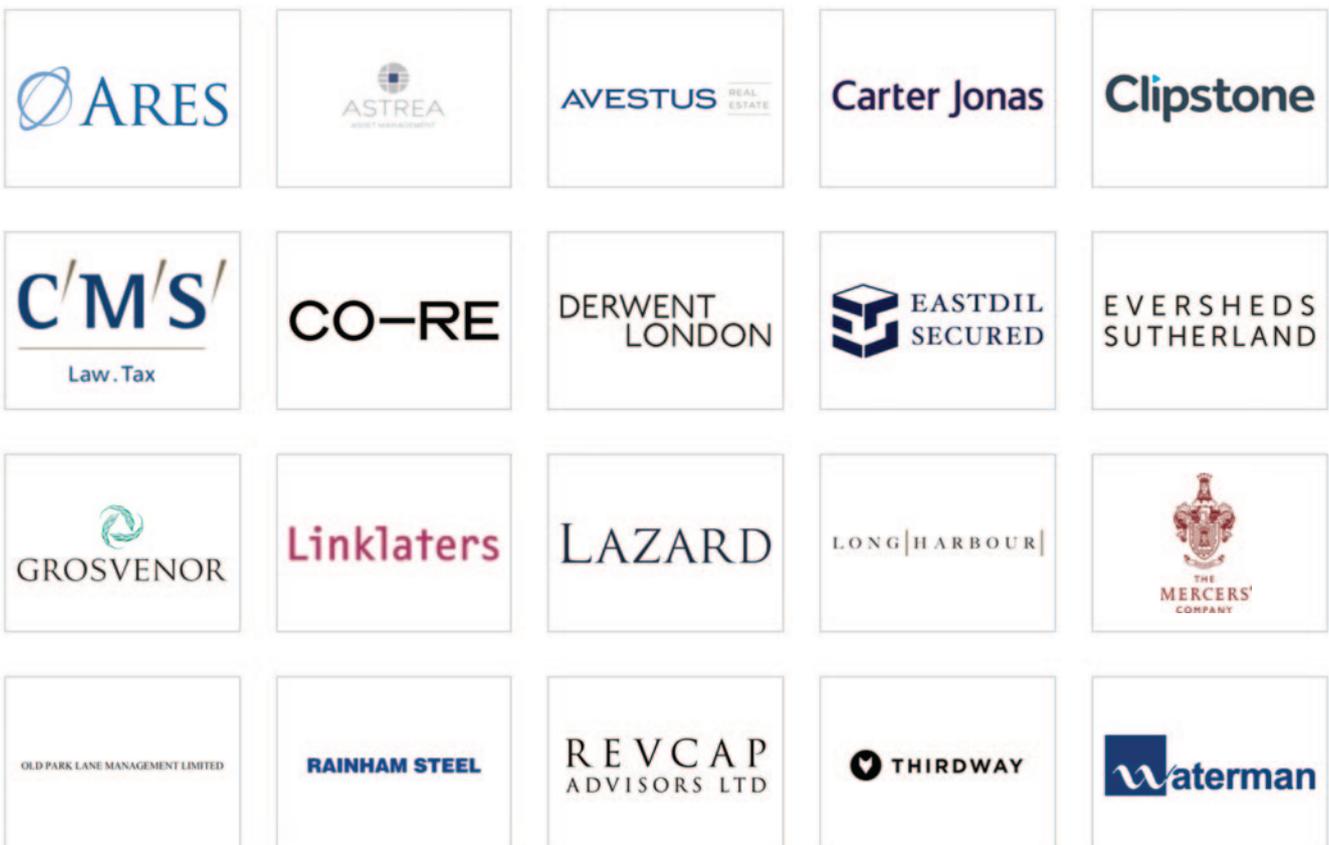
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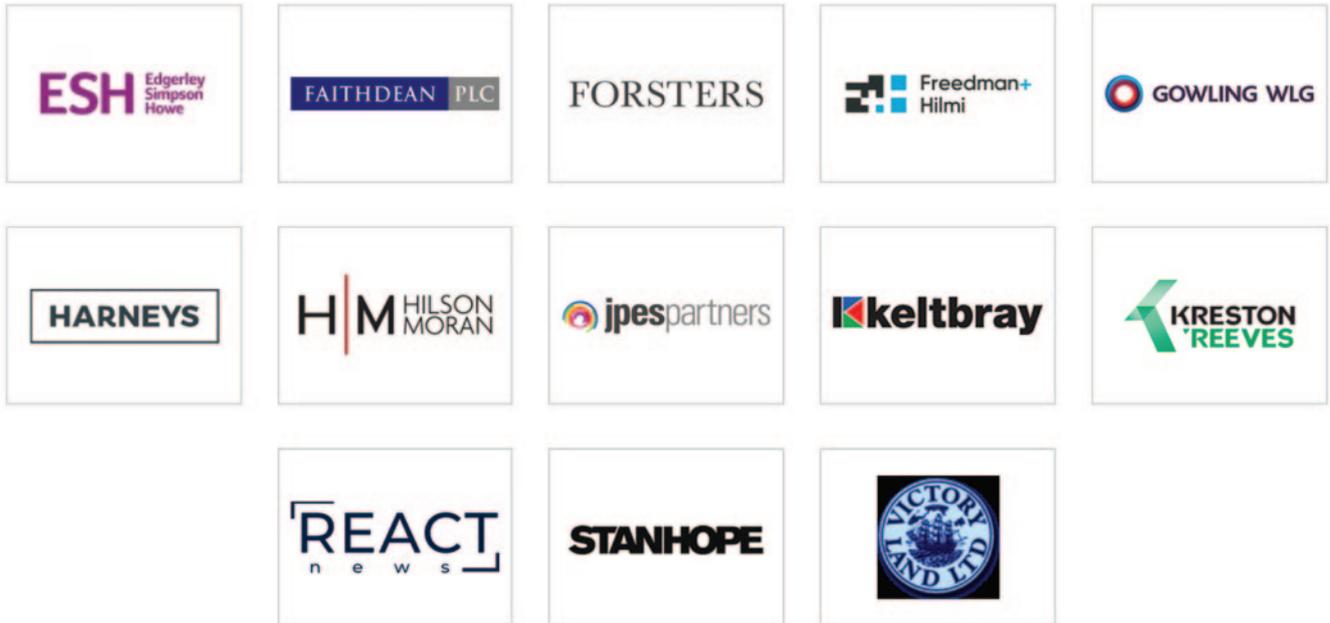
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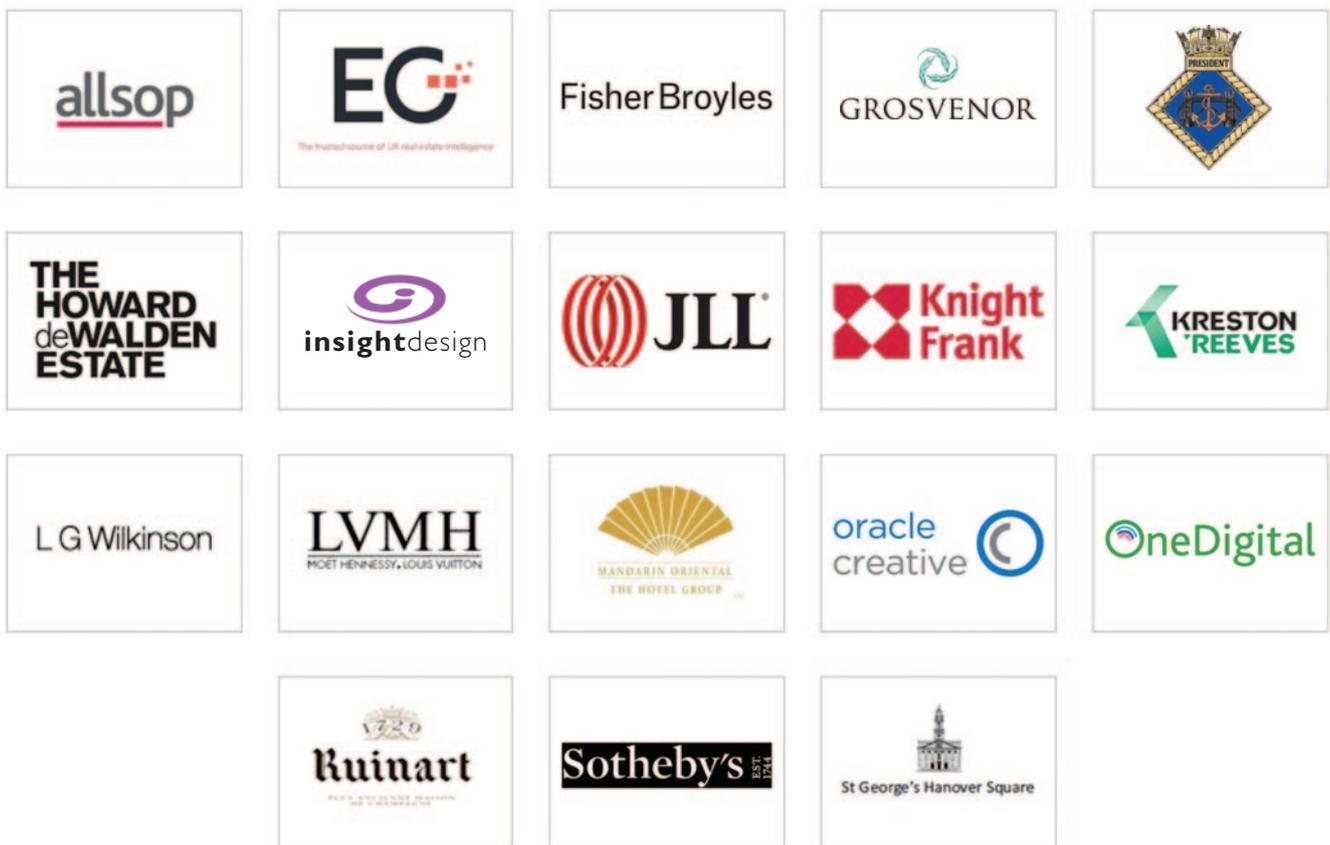
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CORPORATE BENEFACTORS



SUPPORT IN-KIND



CHARITABLE PROJECTS 2020



999 Club

The 999 Club is a community-based homelessness charity in Deptford Broadway. It provides homeless people with much-needed support to address housing needs, build supportive networks to help them through their journey and avoid future homelessness. Having supported over 20,000 people since its inception 25 years ago, the charity now provides direct services to around 1,000 homeless and vulnerably-housed people each year. The Story of Christmas is funding the refurbishment of the charity's large basement space to provide washing and shower facilities to homeless people.



Ambitious about Autism

Ambitious about Autism is the national charity for children and young people with autism. It provides specialist education services, raises awareness and promotes understanding of autism, and campaigns for change. Its TreeHouse School is a trailblazing school for children with autism, based in Muswell Hill, North London. The Story of Christmas is funding the transformation of its outside learning space. This redevelopment will create a multi-sensory learning experience tailored to the needs of children with complex autism. It will maximise the space to create a safe, stimulating and inspiring environment where pupils can play, learn and form friendships.

Cherry Trees

Cherry Trees has, for 40 years, provided 'home from home' short break/respite care for children and young people aged 0-19 years with severe learning, physical and sensory disabilities. It recognises that children are best looked after at home, however, because of their complex special needs, they require specialist care often 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Cherry Trees provides that care and supports parents to help them cope with the pressures of caring for children with disabilities. They are a lifeline for more than 100 families. The Story of Christmas is funding the installation of a new interactive sensory activity play area where the children can activate different colour lighting, sounds and air movement and even weather effects by blending sounds. For children with complex special needs, the new play area will stimulate their senses and provide a fun, safe environment.



CHARITABLE PROJECTS 2020



Harington

Harington has provided individually tailored training opportunities for young people with learning difficulties and disabilities for 10 years, helping them in their first steps towards the world of work. Harington's trainee gardeners gain the hands-on experience, communication and independent living skills they need to secure their first job by delivering gardening services in North London. The Story of Christmas is funding a crew van which will meet new emissions criteria and will support one of their teams of budding gardeners for the next 10 years.

Look Ahead – in association with LandAid & SEGRO

The Story of Christmas is working in partnership with LandAid (the property industry charity working to end youth homelessness in the UK) and SEGRO (a major donor) on a new project managed by the charity Look Ahead - a charity which provides care, support and housing to thousands of people across the South East. The project will enable Look Ahead to extend and renovate a home for four young vulnerable people in West London. The Story of Christmas will help create three new bedrooms, expand the kitchen so the residents can cook and eat together, knock down an under-used garage and create office space for support workers providing vital support to young residents.



CHARITABLE PROJECTS 2020



Momentum

Momentum Children's Charity supports families across South West London, Surrey and West Sussex where children are facing cancer or a life-challenging condition. They provide personally-tailored support to the entire family, both in hospital and at home. The Story of Christmas is supporting its 'Children First' project - refurbishing isolation and treatment rooms in four of Momentum's partner hospitals, providing a more positive hospital experience for around 2,700 seriously sick children.

West London Mission

The West London Mission provides supported accommodation for formerly homeless ex-military personnel at two projects in South London, one of which is Burgess Park House in Southwark. Here, The Story of Christmas is funding the refurbishment of the kitchens in the studio flats, as well as the main shared kitchen where residents learn crucial life skills. These flats provide a base for residents to rebuild their lives, take up new training opportunities, find work and integrate back into civilian life.

Young Westminster Foundation

Fourth Feathers Youth and Community Centre (supported by the Young Westminster Foundation) is a key youth club in Westminster based in the North East of the Borough. Located in one of the most deprived neighbourhoods in the UK, it provides a safe space for children and young people aged 8-25. The centre has around 500 members, around 40 of whom visit each day. It offers a full range of activities from homework clubs to sports activities and volunteering opportunities. The Story of Christmas is funding a significant and much-needed renovation to the building.





For further information, please contact:-
Marc Corbett-Weaver,
The Story of Christmas's Artistic Director & Chief Executive
by emailing: info@socappeal.com

The Story of Christmas has an emailing-list
which is used very occasionally to provide news about the appeal,
its success and details of future events.
To receive such emails, please sign-up using the form on our home page:

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