

livelife

The magazine for HASSRA members

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WIN
ONE OF 20
Halfords Vouchers
worth **£300**

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HASSRA
Living Life 

Get on Your Bike with HASSRA

It's that time of year again. The days are getting longer and many of us are looking to move outdoors for our all-important exercise. What better way to do this than cycling? We know bikes and the essential safety equipment can be expensive. So to help you on your way HASSRA is giving away 20 Halfords Bike Hut vouchers worth £300.



All you have to do is answer the following question:

What was the surname of British cyclist Laura Kenny before she got married?

- CANTER
- TROTT
- GALLOP

To enter, just visit the **Get On Your Bike Competition** on **HASSRA Live** by 3rd May 2021.

All correct entries will go into the draw and the first 20 selected at random will win the prizes.

So have a go and good luck!

You must be signed in to your HASSRA Live account to take part.

HASSRA members can now join Boundless for just £15 per year*

Join today

boundless
by CSMA

In partnership with
HASSRA
Living Life

*Terms and conditions apply



Welcome to the first livelife of 2021

At the time of writing, it is exactly a year since the Covid Lockdown changed all our lives. Some organisations pulled down the shutters, hoping to ride the storm. HASSRA decided its services were never more needed, and so pushed forward with a Lockdown Programme, offering a range of competitions, challenges and activities, with something for everyone. Tell us how you made the most of Lockdown and HASSRA over the last year and you could win up to £150. See page 4 for details.

Spring has sprung and the better weather will no doubt inspire many of us to take up outdoor activities again. Our Halfords Bike Hut competition is giving members the chance to win one of 20 cycling vouchers worth £300. See page 2 for details of how to enter. And why not join the HASSRA Cycling Club? You can find us on **Strava**.

This year kicked off with some great new HASSRA partnerships. You can now save on car insurance, breakdown cover and so much more with discounted membership of Boundless (see page 2). *I personally saved over £70 on my car insurance renewal when I joined!*

You can also continue to take advantage of huge discounts on Sky Store and CHILI home-streaming with The Cinema Society as we await the reopening of cinemas (see page 7).

Following the ever-popular Christmas Cracker, there are lots of great competitions for HASSRA members to win some fantastic prizes. See page 5 to see some of our winners enjoying their spoils. And with a jackpot of £12,500 and over 100 prizes each month, the HASSRA Lottery offers even more chances to win a prize throughout the year. Check out page 6 to see how our luckiest ever Lottery member has scooped £31k over the years. It could be you next!

Read how the HASSRA Development Fund and the CSIS Charity Fund helped one of our members get back on track with his marathon training. See if the fund can also help you on pages 8 & 9.

Finally, as light approaches at the end of the tunnel, we are thrilled to announce the planned return of the HASSRA Festivals in September. See page 12 for details.



In the meantime, please keep you and your loved ones safe and we'll get through these challenging times stronger than ever.

Robbie Miller
Editor

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In partnership with:



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LIVING LA VIDA LOCKDOWN

Living Life in Lockdown

It's a year since Covid 19 brought life as we knew it to an abrupt halt, with cinemas and theme parks closing and many of your favourite HASSRA offers on hold. From the outset HASSRA wanted to help you stay connected with all your colleagues, whether in the office, isolating or working from home. So we launched our Lockdown Programme to bring back some much needed positivity.

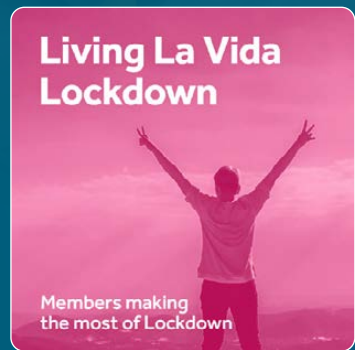
It clearly hit the spot because there have been nearly 200,000 entries into our puzzles, quizzes and competitions, and you've enjoyed over £200,000 in prizes. We also awarded grants of £166k to help keep things moving in our local offices. Our cycling, yoga and running programmes have also been hugely popular with members wanting to stay fit and healthy. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, and it's uplifting to see the impact this has had on members and their families.

As we begin to see light at the end of the tunnel, we would like you to share your stories from the last year. Have you taken on a physical challenge, a home DIY project or a new role at work? Maybe you have finally taken up something you always meant to do and never had the time, like baking, learning a new language, painting, poetry – the list is endless! And if HASSRA helped you through lockdown, we want to know about it.

Send us your stories and photos and we will share them on HASSRA Live and award cash prizes for the most inspiring.

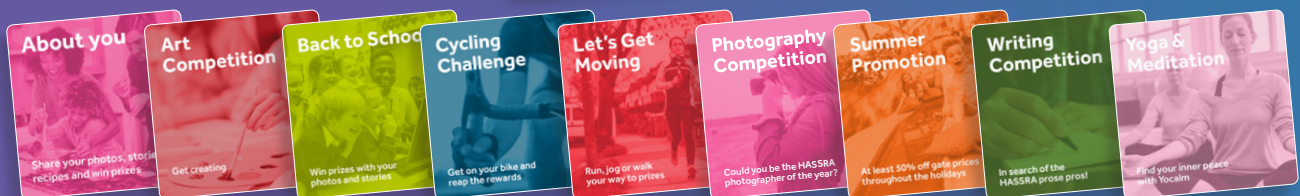
PRIZES

- 1ST - £150
- 2ND - £100
- 3RD - £50
- UP TO 35 HIGHLY COMMENDED - £20



**VISIT LIVING LA VIDA
LOCKDOWN NOW TO FIND
OUT HOW TO ENTER!**

**PLUS - DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT
THE HASSRA LOCKDOWN LIBRARY**
which gives a flavour of everything members
have been doing over the last year.



Make sure you're in it to win it.

HASSRA runs lots of Fun & Free Competitions throughout the year with a wide range of fantastic prizes for our members.

Since the last edition of livelife hundreds of members have benefited from some wonderful giveaways. The £50,000 Christmas Cracker saw 200 members win cash prizes and electronic gadgets. **First prize was a phenomenal £5,000 and the lucky winner, Fiona from HASSRA Scotland, told us:**



I have been a member of HASSRA for over 15 years. I hadn't really entered many of the competitions before and this was my first win. I was at my desk when I found out I'd won. I was in disbelief, excited, delighted and, to be honest, my head was all over the place. I plan to put the money towards going to Australia for my nephew's wedding in 2022.

We began 2021 by giving members the chance to win one of 75 traditional family board games, plus a top prize of a compendium of limited-edition games. **The winner, Lesley from HASSRA Scotland, said:**

I was so surprised and delighted to win first prize in this competition. I can't wait till we can get together with family to have a games night. I've really enjoyed entering loads



of HASSRA competitions through lockdown and I've been lucky enough to win a few vouchers as well. Thanks so much for my prize. (Lesley received a Stirling edition of Monopoly for that extra special touch).

Our most recent competition was for 60 delicious Mother's Day hampers of Afternoon Tea with Fizz from our friends at The Cornish Hamper Store. **One winner, Julia from HASSRA North East, told us:**

I just want to say 'thank you' to HASSRA for all these great competitions. I received my hamper yesterday and have already eaten the clotted cream scones - absolutely delicious. I have been a HASSRA member for over 30 years. I always buy discounted tickets for the cinema and theme parks. Through lockdown I started entering the competitions even more. I have recently been lucky in receiving Love2Shop vouchers at Christmas, as well as winning this beautiful Mother's Day Hamper!



With more fantastic prize draws coming up in 2021, you really do need to be in it to win it. Regional and club competitions are also beginning to roll out. So make sure you regularly check out what's available to you. Once you've signed into your account, visit the **WIN!** section of HASSRA Live and you'll automatically see all the competitions you're eligible to enter. **Best of luck!**

31,000 reasons to join the HASSRA Lottery!

In addition to our competitions and prize giveaways, members can increase their chances of winning big prizes by joining the HASSRA Lottery!

With a total of £55,000 in cash prizes every month, the HASSRA Lottery could change your life.

There are over 100 fantastic prizes each month, including a top prize of £12,500, and you can increase your chances of winning with up to 20 tickets @ £1.00 each per month.

Once you join, we'll automatically enter your tickets every month and notify you as soon as you win. It's as simple as that. For more information and details of how to apply, visit the [HASSRA Lottery page](#).



Remember, you could be the next big winner. Check out [HASSRA Lottery](#) for full details.



Nicky Smalley
HASSRA Yorkshire & The Humber

Nicky Smalley (HASSRA Yorkshire & The Humber), is without doubt the luckiest ever member of the HASSRA Lottery. He tells us:

"I have been in HASSRA since I joined DWP in 2002, after being persuaded by my line manager; the day I signed up I also subscribed to the Lottery. Within my first year I had won £500, which I frivolously spent on a gold and pewter 'Lord of the Rings chess set'. The year after that I won £1000.

By the Spring of 2016, I had banked six wins amounting to £16,000, and HASSRA published my first article in Livelife.

As of September, I have won just under a dozen times, including drawing two top prizes - one of which was a Mini Cooper.

Now I know my luck is rare, but like my father before me, my motto is you have to be in it to win it. I have always had the maximum number of shares costing me £20 a month - about the same amount of a cinema trip, right?

To date I have paid out £4,360 and received £31,000, which is a better return than the bank!

That money has enabled me to pay for new cars, the deposit for my first house and trips to New York. Now I am a father of two daughters, it will help with whatever they'll need in the future.

Being a HASSRA member, I have had access to many opportunities and discounts including performing at HASSRA's annual Amateur Dramatics Competition, quiz nights and fun trips out - such as when I saw Blondie at York Races. I also have my heavily discounted Cineworld season pass which I used on a weekly basis before lockdown.

So, take a punt, buy some HASSRA lottery tickets today (which has better odds than the National or Euro lotteries) and see for yourself. You've got to be in it to win it!"



HASSRA Buddy Draw

HASSRA is delighted to offer all new and existing members the opportunity to win cash prizes. By recruiting a colleague who isn't already a HASSRA member, both the current and the new member will be entered into a cash prize draw. Existing members will receive an entry for each new member they refer - with no limit on the number of entries. So, the more members you recruit, the more chances you have of winning!

There are **200 prizes of £50 up for grabs**, 100 for new members and an identical prize for the member who recruited them. With a wide range of benefits and a packed programme on offer, recruiting new members has never been more attractive or more important.

The first draw will be based on new member applications received by 31st March. But don't worry, there will be another identical draw based on applications made between 1st April and 31st July. If you're quick, you can be entered in both draws!

**Find out more at
HASSRA Buddy Draw**



HASSRA
Living Life 

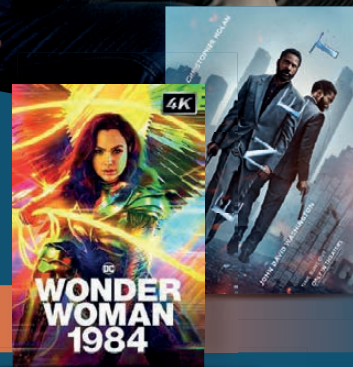
THE CINEMA SOCIETY.

BRING MOVIE NIGHT HOME

HASSRA members save up to 50% on home movie streaming courtesy of the HASSRA Cinema Society.

- Watch all the latest streaming releases plus choose your favourites from tens of thousands of catalogue titles courtesy of Sky Store and CHILI.
- No subscriptions or long term tie-in, just pay for what you watch.
- For a limited time £10 CHILI vouchers are available for just £5

SAVE UP TO 50% NOW AT HASSRA.ORG.UK/CINEMAS



The Civil Service Insurance Society (CSIS) – Our Story

The Civil Service Insurance Society was founded in 1890 to enable civil servants to purchase life assurance on advantageous terms to help provide valuable protection for their widows and orphans. The life assurance business was eventually replaced by Home, Motor and Travel insurance products. It was also extended to all serving, retired and former civil and public servants and partners.

The Society is a company limited by guarantee, and has no shareholders, but accounts to members drawn from within its public sector audience.

Throughout the last century CSIS has maintained a 'Not for Profit' status, and so after meeting the expenses of carrying on the business, donates all the remaining annual surplus to deserving charities within the Civil and Public Service through the CSIS Charity Fund. www.csischarityfund.org. In the last five years CSIS has donated over **£3.6m**.

The primary role of the Charity Fund is to support civil and public service charities. Full details of the many organisations supported by the Charity Fund can be seen on the website.

The Charity Fund is also proud to support the HASSRA Development Fund in helping disadvantaged and disabled HASSRA members fulfil their potential in a variety of activities. On the next page, you can read how the Fund has helped Sean from HASSRA North East.

In addition, during that time the Civil Service Insurance Society has regularly supported over 30 local charities through its Corporate Social Responsibility budget which has seen more than £360,000 donated to good causes.

CSIS sets great store in the provision of quality insurance products and a close personal relationship between the client and CSIS team. The CSIS office is based in Maidstone and is dedicated to trust and fairness when looking after our customers.

You can obtain full details of our products on our website www.csis.co.uk/hassra

If you would like a quote our phone number is **01622 766960**



Call us for your quote



£25 off*



Car and Home Insurance

Plus

- ✓ Interest-free direct debit (0% APR)
- ✓ No administration charges

*Terms and conditions apply, visit www.csis.co.uk/hassra

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.
Car and Home Insurance is underwritten and finance provided by Zurich Insurance plc.

Great value insurance for all HASSRA members and their partners



Please call a member of our friendly Sales Team on **01622 766960** quoting 'hassra' to see if we can save you money on your insurance.

Or for more information visit: www.csis.co.uk/hassra



Civil Service Insurance Society

HASSRA

Development Fund

The HASSRA Development Fund (HDF) is here to help you achieve your best in your chosen activity and has funds to help you overcome financial barriers to accessing your activity and making progress.

The fund is available to assist HASSRA members with a wide range of activities in the following categories:

Sports & Leisure – developing skills in your chosen activity where you can show you have an existing interest and potential to go on and do more. Examples in this category include sports (including coaching and refereeing), arts and crafts.

Volunteering & Community – developing your potential to serve HASSRA or your local community where you can show you have an existing interest and potential to go on and do more. Examples in this category include life skills coaching, youth worker, scout or guide leader, and so on.

With additional funding provided by the CSIS Charity Fund (see previous page), members who consider themselves to be disadvantaged or to have a disability may apply under the above categories for help either to take up a new activity or to realise their potential in an existing activity.

Nearly 1500 members have applied for funding so far with applicants achieving success at all levels, demonstrating HASSRA's commitment to both able-bodied and disabled members throughout the Association.

Sean (HASSRA North East) tells us, **Running is a big part of my life. I do it competitively, for fun and good causes.**

I've completed road races, trail runs and even the odd obstacle course.

Before Covid, I was training for the Edinburgh marathon to raise money for Thomas Bewick School, a specialist provision for children with autism, and although my heart was in it unfortunately my legs were not.

I have always had problems with injuries. However, not until I increased my mileage had it become such a constant problem, restricting my ability to stay on track with my training.

After exhausting several options to remedy the issue, I was unsure if I would be able to continue with the training. With financial support from the HDF, I underwent a biomechanical assessment which identified that my foot strike was supinated - rolling to the outside when walking or running.

I was then able to take steps to correct the problem which might have not been possible without the help from the Fund.

Although the marathon has been postponed because of Covid, I have been able to continue training with far less injuries. While it is unclear if the marathon will go ahead this year, I am still very grateful for the help and support of the HDF.

Check out **HASSRA Development Fund** on our website to see how **HASSRA** can help you reach your full potential.

"I am still very grateful for the help and support of the HDF"

Sean Wright
HASSRA North East



SPRING GRANTS

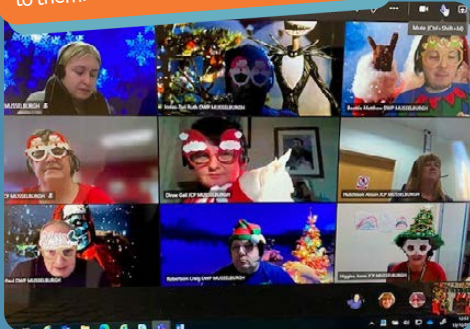
Further Support for Clubs

These continue to be challenging times for everyone and especially staff in frontline departments like DWP and DHSC. Following the success of last year's Lockdown and Festive Grants, we are once again inviting HASSRA clubs to apply for a grant that can be used to help staff morale. We don't want to be prescriptive about how this money is used, we just hope it will go some way to making a difference, however small.

The scheme will run from 6th April, from when clubs will be able to apply for one payment each month until the end of July or until the money runs out – whichever is sooner. In the meantime, get thinking about what you can do to raise morale for as many members as possible.

Clubs used last year's grants in many ways: prizes for office quizzes or bingo, fitness trackers as prizes for step challenge, Bluetooth speakers for the office, goodie bags for colleagues.

Musselburgh Jobcentre used their Festive Grant Fund on a Virtual Christmas Lunch and some of Virtual Christmas activities. Doing things virtually allowed all staff to get involved, which was really important to them.



Grangemouth JCP provided Xmas crackers and a selection box to all home workers, office staff and security, followed by virtual bingo with prizes.



Birkenhead JCP made planters to cheer colleagues up when they arrive at work. These were all built and painted by staff and all materials were purchased using the grant.

Walsall Bridle Court usually holds a barbecue each summer but 2020 saw a socially distanced and virtual Afternoon Tea using the grant. Food parcels were delivered to home-workers, and Skype allowed everyone to catch up and have a natter.



HASSRA CHARITABLE FUNDRAISING FOR 2020.

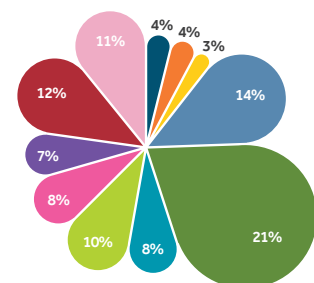
2020 was such a challenging year on all fronts. The charity sector has been one of the hardest hit, with many fundraising activities postponed, staff furloughed and charity shops closed due to Covid. However, HASSRA members continued to do their bit, and some! In the face of adversity, you had another extremely successful year of fundraising, with almost £120,000.00 being raised nationally.

Your achievements are exceptional, once again. A massive 'well done' to everybody who has contributed to this magnificent sum, especially HASSRA North West who raised a fantastic £25,000. Here's to an even more successful 2021!

We want to showcase the great work you do. Please **get in touch** and let us know what you have been doing and for which charities you have been raising funds.

We can then showcase your efforts on HASSRA Live. Just send your stories to: HASSRA Fundraising Stories.

We will also be in touch at the end of 2021 for full details of your club's fundraising, so please try to keep a running total!



- East Midlands 4%
- East of England 4%
- London 3%
- North East 14%
- North West 21%
- Scotland 8%
- South East 10%
- South West 8%
- Wales 7%
- West Midlands 12%
- Yorkshire & Humber 11%

*The figures shown are based on reported fundraising and will be updated as further details are received.

Commsave is your financial friend!



Commsave offers safe savings and affordable loan services. Anyone working for the home civil service can join, and DWP employees can save and borrow direct from pay.

More than 3,000 civil servants are already enjoying the benefits of Commsave membership, including:

- Earn a regular dividend to help your savings grow!
- Borrow up to £6,000 with no prior saving requirement or waiting period! *
- Bereavement fund cover at no cost to you.

* Introductory Loan available for all new members – borrow up to £6,000 at 26.8% APR – all applications subject to credit checks and approval.



26% of Commsave members said they saved regularly before joining

71% say they do now

Join Commsave before the end of May and get a £25 sign-up bonus to kick-start your savings!

Join online today by clicking [here](#).



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ENJOY £25 OFF TERM TIME BREAKS AT BUTLIN'S!

To book please visit BUTLINS.COM/PHC or call **0330 100 6651** quoting **Q5292**

T&C's: £s off apply to new bookings only for Butlin's Term Time breaks made between 1st March 2021 and 31st May 2021. Bookings made during this time will receive £25 off per booking for Term Time Breaks (including Just for Tot's) due to take place between March to June *Breaks from £99 is a per accommodation price based on a family of four sharing a Silver Room on a room only basis and includes all discounts and £s off. Price is correct as of 04.02.2021. All other breaks will have the usual £20 off offer for all PHC partners. £s off do not apply to two-night breaks or rooms for two. All offers are subject to promotional availability, may be withdrawn at any time and cannot be combined with any other offer or internet code except the % Premier Club loyalty discount. For full terms and conditions please visit butlins.com/terms. Butlin's Skyline Limited, Park Lane, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire HPYL. Registered in England No. 04011665.

HASSRA FESTIVALS ARE BACK – WE HOPE!

In light of the Government's timetable for ending Covid restrictions, HASSRA is looking to re-instate the September Festival after the cancellation of the last three events.

This promises to be the biggest Festival so far, focusing on our National Championships and some additional activities, such as fitness and cycling, to underline HASSRA's commitment to health and wellbeing.

As is now traditional, an action-packed Saturday will be followed by a presentation dinner in the evening, with a chance to dress up and celebrate the successes of the day.

With more than 700 participants involved in events running across campus, HASSRA volunteers will once again play a key part in keeping everything on track.

At time of writing the line-up for September includes Badminton, Darts, Chess, Cycling Challenge, 5-a-side Football, Fitness Workshop, GK Quiz, Golf, Netball, Rounders, Sports Quiz, Squash and Tennis.

All of this, however, is subject to Government advice and any prevailing restrictions or controls leading up to and at the time of the event. So you may be reassured that we will only proceed with the Festival if the Government advises that it is safe to do so.

In the meantime, we will be dropping past Festival goes a line by email to check that members still want the event to go ahead this year. So if you should receive an email from us, please take the time to let us know your thoughts.

