



## CSR Report 2019

Gardner Leader have been at the heart of Berkshire for nearly 120 years and supporting the community has always been important to us. As such, Gardner Leader's Corporate Social Responsibility Group (CSR Group) was established in 2014. Employees at all levels across all of our offices are encouraged to be involved with the CSR Group and members currently total 52. Headed by a core committee of 5, the CSR Group meets regularly and timetables fundraising events, plus volunteering opportunities.

### Charity, Community and Environmental

Gardner Leader is proud to say that it believes the firm is fairly unique in that all employees have a say which charity Gardner Leader supports annually. Taking place in spring each year, a 'charity of the year' is selected by a firmwide vote, from charities which have been nominated by employees. Annual charities supported since 2014 include Naomi House, Newbury District Cancer Care Trust, Bloodwise, Swings and Smiles and Pancreatic Cancer UK.

Fundraising activities have included a 1980s day, quizzes, half and full marathons, plus cycling events. In addition, Partners of the firm have taken their turn in the stocks being soaked for charity. There was a very heroic parachute jump and several employees took part in a 'Wolf Run'. Gardner Leader have collected tonnes of charity bags of pre-loved clothing and toys and we have run Bake Off-style competitions and several silent auctions! Most recently, one Partner climbed to the top of Kilimanjaro.

Since 2014, employees and clients of Gardner Leader have raised in excess of £30,000.00.

In addition to fundraising, support for the charity of the year includes sponsorship, a 'will week', skills sharing including social media training, pro bono legal advice, volunteering for charity organised events and grounds maintenance.

Gardner Leader employees are also proud to support national annual fundraising events such as Children In Need and Christmas Jumper Day. Every year, ladies of Gardner Leader take part in Cancer Research's Newbury Race for Life event -

[www.gardner-leader.co.uk/news/gardner-leader-ladies-take-on-race-for-life/](http://www.gardner-leader.co.uk/news/gardner-leader-ladies-take-on-race-for-life/)

We are proud that five of our Partners are Trustees for local and national charities, with many more employees being involved in charities on a personal level.



Gardner Leader provide sponsorship for local community events, such as Newbury Lions Fireworks display, Thatcham Fun on the Broadway, Marlow Regatta and Newbury Real Ale Festival.

In addition to sponsoring community events, Gardner Leader supports schools, providing input at careers fairs and mock interview events. We also offer work experience for Year 11 pupils from local schools across all three of its offices, together with university students.

Because of Gardner Leader's strong ties with its community, Gardner Leader is proud of its involvement with the Twin Towns Association - [www.newburytwintown.org.uk](http://www.newburytwintown.org.uk) and the Education Business Partnership - [www.educationbusinesspartnership.co.uk](http://www.educationbusinesspartnership.co.uk).

Gardner Leader takes its responsibility to the environment very seriously, having implemented an Environmental Group to look at ways we can further improve Gardner Leader's impact on the environment. We encourage employees to work with paperless files and where this is not appropriate, we support recycling and effective waste management. Where possible, we source ethical products and suppliers.

#### Newbury Office

White Hart House  
Market Place  
Newbury  
Berkshire  
RG14 5BA

01635 508080

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#### Maidenhead Office

First Floor  
7 Frascati Way  
Maidenhead  
Berkshire  
SL6 4UY

01628 671636

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#### Thatcham Office

Winbolt House  
The Broadway  
Thatcham  
Berkshire  
RG19 3HX

01635 508080