



Welcome to the July 2024 Newsletter!

Hello philanthropoids,

Now, I know I suggested that the last newsletter would be the final edition before the summer break, but it turns out I just can't help myself when it comes to curating philanthropy news in a mildly sardonic way... so here I am squeezing in one more before I head off on my holidays.

In that time we've obviously had a General Election in the UK, which saw the Labour Party win a historic landslide victory. I mention this primarily because it is otherwise noticeably absent from the remainder of the newsletter – not because I am not interested, but because there isn't really an obvious philanthropy angle at this point. (I could engage in some wild speculation if you like, but given that we don't even know yet who the new Minister for Civil Society is – or indeed if there is even going to be one – it feels like it might be worth holding off just for a bit).

Despite that obvious lacuna, and the fact that this edition of the newsletter is coming earlier in the month than normal, it still feels like there is more than enough content to get through (as I'm sure you will agree by the time you get to the end of this!) So let's crack on and get philanthropy-ing.

Best,

Rhodri

PHILANTHROPY IN THE NEWS

All You Can Leave Buffett?

The first piece of Big Philanthropy Big News this month was that billionaire investor [Warren Buffett has confirmed that when he dies, his remaining wealth will be used to create a gigantic new philanthropic foundation](#), controlled by his three children (Susie, Howard and Peter). In many respects this is not particularly surprising: Buffett declared back in 2010 when he founded the Giving Pledge with Bill Gates that “[more than 99% of my wealth will go to philanthropy during my lifetime or at death](#)”, so this isn’t exactly coming out of the blue. Perhaps the only surprising thing is that Buffett has quite so much money left (an estimated \$130bn in Berkshire Hathaway stock), since he has been giving it away at a pretty significant rate over the last 20 years. But perhaps that is simply testament to the fact that when you have wealth at that sort of level, it becomes almost self-perpetuating: even if you give lots of it away, you’ll probably still end up with more of it than you started with.



The other cause for eyebrow-raising is the fact that Buffett has made it clear that none of the money he leaves will be going to the Gates Foundation. Some people saw this as surprising, since he has been using the Gates Foundation as the primary vehicle for his philanthropy for a long time now. There doesn't seem to be any suggestion that this reflects a change of heart from Buffett, or dissatisfaction with the gifts he had given the Gates Foundation over the last two decades (indeed, it was also announced this month that Buffett has given them a new \$4 billion dollar donation, bringing his total donations to around \$43 billion, which suggests he is broadly happy!) Rather it seems to suggest Buffett's belief that his efforts to engage his children in philanthropy over the last 20 years - by giving each of them their own foundations that are topped up each year with stock from Berkshire Hathway - have been a success, and that they all now have sufficiently clear identities as philanthropists, as well as proven track records, that he feels confident in giving them control over the assets he leaves behind.

This does, of course, mean that the Buffett children are set to become three of America's biggest philanthropists in coming years. Until now

they have flown slightly under the radar, perhaps because ([as a piece in Forbes suggests](#)) the regular annual gifts they received from their father allowed them to spend out more of their assets than normal foundations tend to (because those foundations have at least one eye on maintaining their endowment), so when measured solely by the yardstick of endowment size the Buffett childrens' foundations looked smaller in scale than they might otherwise have done. That will not be true, however, of the \$130 billion philanthropic behemoth they will be taking control of once their father passes away; which will very much be in the top tier of US foundations. Hence there will inevitably be a lot of scrutiny from now on of what each of the Buffett children has said and done when it comes to philanthropy in the past. (The youngest scion, Peter Buffett, for instance, is best known to most philanthropy watchers at this point as the author of an excoriating 2013 opinion piece in the *New York Times* in which he denounced the "[Charitable-Industrial Complex](#)"...) It will be fascinating to see when the time comes whether the approach the children take to philanthropy reflects that of their father, or radically diverges from it.

Bloomberg's Medical Support

The second bit of Big Philanthropy Big News this month was the [announcement by Michael Bloomberg that he has given a \\$1 billion donation to Johns Hopkins medical school](#), which will be used to make tuition free for a large proportion of students. (Those from families earning less than \$300K will have their full tuition covered, whilst those from families earning less than \$175K will have living expenses covered as well).



[Image by Gage Skidmore, CC BY-SA 2.0](#)

This comes hot on the heels of a \$1 billion donation by Dr Ruth Gottesman to the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York earlier this year, which is similarly being used to make tuition free (and which [we covered in the February edition of the newsletter](#)). It is interesting to note that, unlike Bloomberg, Gottesman did not attach any eligibility criteria in terms of which students were to benefit from her gift – but that may simply reflect the differing demographics of the student intake, as Albert Einstein Medical College attracts primarily students from less economically privileged backgrounds, whereas Johns Hopkins is more likely to get some students who would have sufficient financial means of their own that subsidising their education might not have felt to Bloomberg like a good use of his money. (Which makes plenty of sense, although it does also open up all the thorny questions around universal vs means-tested benefits).

The interesting question to my mind (certainly coming from a UK perspective) is why we are all of a sudden seeing such big gifts being directed towards student tuition? There is obviously a long history of philanthropy being used to support access to university education in the form of scholarships, bursaries etc, but these kinds of huge donations being used to make tuition free (or for paying off existing student debts) definitely feel as though they are taking things to another level. Does

the particular focus on medical schools suggest that this is partly driven by concerns that there would be an insufficient supply (and diversity) of graduates to fill positions in the US medical system in the future without these kinds of interventions? Or does this reflect a view that student debt in the US (which has gone off the charts in recent years and become a major political issue) represents in itself an injustice that needs to be addressed? If so, then how should initiatives like those taken by Bloomberg or Gottesman be understood in the context of wider efforts to address the problem at a more fundamental level – for instance by calling for new policies of debt cancellation? One can certainly argue that where there is obvious immediate need, it is perfectly legitimate (and, indeed, necessary) to focus efforts on meeting that need. However, philanthropy is always susceptible (and has been for hundreds of years) to the criticism that it too often addresses the symptoms of society's problems whilst leaving their underlying causes untouched; and it seems likely that this is a criticism that some will level in this case too.

State of Donation Address

This month also saw the [launch of this year's edition of *Giving USA*, the authoritative look at individual giving in the US](#). (OK, technically it was last month, but it came out literally as a I pressed send on the last newsletter, so I'm pretending it was this month...) This is always a vital opportunity for nonprofit nerds to dig into the data in order to understand what is going on in terms of trends in giving, although unfortunately this year's headline news was not great (as, indeed, it wasn't last year [when we reported on the 2023 edition](#)).



According to the report charitable giving in the US was down for another year; by 2.1% after inflation in 2023 compared to the previous year. Some have pointed out that whilst this is obviously not great, it is significantly better than the precipitous drop in giving of more than 8% in 2022, and perhaps signals that levels of giving are beginning to stabilise after a few years in which they have been heavily affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and difficult macroeconomic conditions that brought high inflation and an increased cost of living. However, faint silver linings aside, this obvious adds to concerns that the US is suffering a “generosity crisis” in which levels of giving are in long-term decline, and it places further emphasis on the need to understand what might be driving this decline and what can be done to address it.

On that note, there was [an interesting article in Vox this month exploring the idea that the apparent generosity crisis might not actually reflect a fundamental decline in people giving](#), but rather that people (and particularly younger people) are choosing to give in different ways that are not adequately captured in our existing measures. This is an idea that has been around for a few years now – Lucy Bernholz’s book [How We Give Now](#), for instance, (which [I discussed with her on one of the earliest episodes of the Philanthropisms podcast](#)) gives a really good overview of many of the key issues. You can also [hear me discuss it with global philanthropy Pamala Wiepking on the latest episode of the](#)

[podcast](#), where she suggests that further research is required in order to understand whether giving is genuinely declining or merely evolving into new forms. (Or, of course, it might be that it is evolving into new forms *and* declining at the same time...) And to complete the trifecta of relevant podcast episode recommendations, you can also check out the episode in which [I talk to David King about the relationship between faith and philanthropy](#), since (as the Vox article notes) one of the potential explanatory factors behind the decline in giving that has been identified by many researchers is a decline in religiosity and religious observance. (Though whether that is because religious belief instills the relevant sense of duty to give, or because attendance at a place of worship strengthens bridging social capital and provides a locus for fundraising still remains to be determined).

A Vance Warning?

This has obviously been a hugely turbulent month in US politics, with the assassination attempt on former President Donald Trump and growing calls from senior Democrats for President Biden to stand aside as the Democratic candidate for this year's elections, as concerns about his recent performance in debates and interviews continue to mount. As if this wasn't enough, we also had the announcement of JD Vance as Trump's running mate. Vance is a relative newcomer to politics; he was previously best known for his controversial personal memoir *Hillbilly Elegy*, which details his time growing up in poverty in Appalachia, and his meteoric recent rise to potential future Vice President has been [fuelled largely by huge support from powerful Silicon Valley figures such as Peter Thiel](#).



(Vance also co-founded a venture capital firm named after a mythic object in *Lord of the Rings*, which is an absolutely enormous red flag in my opinion. “Nazgul Technologies”? “Cirith Ungol Capital”? No thanks).

That is all well and good, I hear you saying, but why has it made the news section of this philanthropy-focused newsletter? Well, as a number of commentators have pointed out (e.g. in this [article by Alex Daniels in the Chronicle of Philanthropy](#) or [this article by David Bowermaster in Forbes](#)), one of the notable elements of Vance’s political identity to date has been his outspoken criticism of certain philanthropic organisations that he accuses of harbouring “left-wing ideology”. He has even gone so

far as to call the Ford Foundation and the Gates Foundation “cancers on American society”, and has previously suggested that they should be stripped of their tax-exempt status and have their assets seized.

Obviously that is just rhetoric, and Vance is likely to have other, far more mainstream, policy issues to focus on whilst campaigning as Trump’s running mate. However the fact that he clearly has such genuine antipathy towards some aspects of philanthropy may well be a cause for concern among parts of the nonprofit sector; and there is certainly some historical precedent to suggest that a single politician who has a particular bee in their bonnet about foundations can have a significant impact in terms of policy and legislation. The most notable example being Democratic Congressman Wright Patman, whose dogged campaign against foundations throughout the 1960s was a key factor in the eventual introduction of the 1969 Tax Act, which introduced mandatory payout rates and imposed new limits on the ownership of corporate stock by foundations. (You can read a bit more about that [in this WPM article on the history of foundations](#)).

Whether Vance’s anti-foundation agenda gets sidelined by other things, and whether he ends up in a position to do implement any of it in any case, obviously remains to be seen. But what is most interesting about it, to my mind, is how closely some of what he is saying mirrors criticisms of big philanthropy made from the other side of the political spectrum (even though it is coming from a very different starting point). There are plenty of people who wouldn’t agree with Vance for once second on his political views, but who might well agree with him that philanthropic foundations are problematic and that steps should be taken to make them more accountable or to take away their privileges. And when issues sit at the intersection of widely differing political interests in that way, there is always a chance of coalitions of interests forming that make radical policy changes possible.

The Political Awakening of MrBeast?

Regular newsletter readers will know that I’m weirdly fascinated by the philanthropic antics of YouTube sensation Jimmy “MrBeast” Donaldson

(to the extent of having published an entire academic journal article about it earlier this year, which [you can read here if you want a quick catch-up on my thoughts](#)). So I was very interested to see a [report in Fortune this month of further comments from MrBeast which address the criticisms levelled by some people that his philanthropy is problematic because governments should be providing solutions instead](#).



MrBeast ✓
@MrBeast

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When we help people (curing 1000 blind people, building 100 houses, 100 wells, etc) people get mad and say I shouldn't be doing this and governments should. Yes, ideally a YouTuber isn't the one fixing these issues but I'm not just gonna stand by and do nothing 🙄

1:54 PM · Jun 30, 2024 · **12.8M** Views

In a recent tweet MrBeast said:

"When we help people (curing 1,000 blind people, building 100 houses, 100 wells, etc) people get mad and say I shouldn't be doing this and governments should. Yes, ideally a YouTuber isn't the one fixing these issues but I'm not just gonna stand by and do nothing."

The interesting thing here to me is that like a lot of other philanthropists before him, MrBeast does seem to recognise that there is often a gap between the ideal of governments meeting needs and the reality that sometimes they don't. The choice then, as he makes clear, is do you NOT give money to help people in need for fear of legitimising the status quo? Or do you try to address the symptoms whilst also (ideally) at the same time addressing the underlying causes and getting government to do what is needed? There is no real suggestion at this point that Donaldson has branched out into advocacy or campaigning designed to address the underlying causes of the poverty and health issues he focuses his giving on, so he is still quite susceptible to criticism that his philanthropy only deals with symptoms – however, it is certainly far from impossible that he will expand his approach in future, so this is a space that is very much watching. (Especially given how much potential

influence he has over how children and young adults think about philanthropy).

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

Here's a little update on what we have been up to at WPM over the last couple of weeks.

Sport, Philanthropy & Activism

This month, to mark a particularly sport-laden summer, I published a [WPM long read exploring the relationship between sport, activism and philanthropy](#). In it I take a look at the role that philanthropy has played in the origins of many modern sports, the way in which athletes continue to benefit as recipients of philanthropy, and the role that sports stars themselves play as donors and activists.



[Read the article](#)

On the Philanthropisms podcast

On the podcast this month we had the sixth instalment of our partnership series with ERNOP, in which we hear from European philanthropy academics about their work. In this edition we heard from René Bekkers, Tara Bryan, Vladimír Hyánek and Julia Litofcenko. Our other episode this month (the final one before a short break over the summer) featured a conversation with Pamala Wiepking about how we understand and measure global generosity.



Philanthropisms

ERNOP: Connecting Philanthropy
Academia & Practice #6



Philanthropisms

Pamala Wiepking: Understanding
Global Generosity



UKGrantmaking launch

This month I attended the launch of the excellent new [UKGrantmaking platform](#), which provides a valuable source of information on grantmaking in the UK, including by foundations. (Full disclosure: I am also on the advisory group). If you are at all interested in what funding for civil society in the UK looks like, I very much recommend having a play about with it!



[Read the article](#)

UK History Map

I decided this month to fling out into the world something I have been fiddling with in my brief moments of idle time for a while now: [an interactive map of resources on the history of philanthropy in places around the UK](#). For now this mostly just lists books and journal articles that I have collected and links them to specific places around the country, but eventually I am hoping to expand it to encompass other sources of info and types of content as well, so that it becomes a rich resource that allows you to find out about the history of philanthropy in all kinds of different areas. For now, feel free to have a look (at some point I will probably embed it on the WPM site as well). If you have suggestions for additions, there is a link on the map itself to a Google spreadsheet where you can submit ideas (so please do!). And if you have any digital mapping expertise or large amounts of grant money that you want to put into this (or preferably both), then please do get in touch.



Explore the map

OTHER GOOD STUFF

This is the bit where I share other philanthropy-related things I have come across this month that might not quite count as news but are definitely worth checking out.

Rutger Bregman, philanthropy convert?:

One of the most interesting things to happen this month has been the apparent damascene conversion of Rutger Bregman to the idea that philanthropy might have some merit. Dutch historian and author Bregman [went viral in 2019 for his comments during a panel session at](#)

[that year's World Economic Forum event in Davos](#) that “philanthropy is bullshit” and that we should instead be talking only about “taxes, taxes, taxes”. As a result most philanthropy commentators (myself included) have probably got at least one slide somewhere featuring Bregman as a paradigm example of the new wave of critical perspectives on philanthropy. So it was perhaps something of a surprise to see a post on LinkedIn in which Bregman explained that as a result of “studying the history of the great social movements” he has now [come round to the view that “there *is* a place for ambitious philanthropy”](#).



[Image by Maartje ter Horst, CC BY 4.0](#)

Not entirely coincidentally, Bregman is currently promoting a forthcoming new book on “Moral Ambition” which, [as a piece in *Big Think* details](#), seems to have led him to conclude that whilst his earlier structural critiques are valid, the conclusion he drew (that all

philanthropy is "bullshit") was a step too far - and perhaps even represented something of an abdication of moral responsibility, since absolutist criticism of that kind can often become merely an excuse for inaction.

Which is obviously welcome news to those of us who were already in the camp of accepting that philanthropy raises plenty of challenges and questions, but had decided to put our efforts into trying to reform it rather than rubbish it. (Although, as [my University of Kent colleague Beth Breeze argues in a piece for Alliance](#), perhaps we shouldn't be too hasty in welcoming Bregman into the fold with entirely open arms; or at least until he has addressed a few outstanding questions...)

I realise, too, that if you are promoting a new book you need to lay claim to a Big And Bold New Idea; however, the suggestion that it is somehow radical and counterintuitive to recognise that philanthropy might have value as a means of bringing marginalised issues to the mainstream and driving social change does make me roll my eyes just a little. (But then again, I'm a pretty tough audience for this kind of thing I suppose!)

[Read Bregman's LinkedIn post](#)

[Read the Big Think article](#)

[Read Beth Breeze's Alliance Magazine piece](#)

Solidarity in Philanthropy:

There was an [interesting piece in the *Chronicle of Philanthropy* by oil fortune heir and philanthropist Leah Hunt Hendrix](#), outlining an argument for the concept of solidarity to be placed at the heart of approaches to philanthropy. Hunt Hendrix has a new book out on this topic co-authored with Astra Taylor, which I am currently about 2/3rds of the way through and finding very interesting (more thoughts on that to follow at some point!) So the argument was already familiar to me, but this article is a great place to get the short version (and if you want the longer version I can definitely recommend the book). (NB: [if you](#)

[want more on Leah Hunt-Hendrix's philanthropy in the meantime, you can also check out this WPM article about her](#)).



[Read the COP comment piece](#)

Impact of Foreign Funding restrictions in India

A worrying piece on Thomson Reuters Foundation's *Context* platform this month highlighted [the damaging impact of the new FCRA rules introduced in India in 2020](#), which were designed to tighten restrictions on civil society organisations receiving donations from overseas funders. The article details how, as a result of the new rules, many CSOs are no longer able to operate in India and have either shut their offices in the country or, in the case of domestic organisations, closed down entirely – at the cost of many needs going unmet. This was always the concern when the new FCRA rules were first introduced (you can [hear me discuss them with Indian philanthropy expert Ingrid Srinath on an episode of CAF's Giving Thought podcast back in 2020](#)) so this story has

an air of depressing inevitability about it. It is also reflective of a much wider phenomenon across the world, in which rules and laws designed to protect against the influence of foreign funding on domestic politics are being weaponised against legitimate civil society organisations by governments keen to stifle criticism and dissent.



[Read the article](#)

Three Coins NOT in the Fountain:

There was an interesting fundraising story this month from the English city of Bath (where – Fun Fact – I lived for a bit when I was a kid). About a year ago, the Roman Baths (one of the city's major tourist attractions, and an amazing piece of Roman history) banned a longstanding tradition of visitors throwing coins in a cold plunge pool, and encouraged them to donate via contactless payment points instead. As a result the baths have now reported a drop in donations of £90,000.



[Image by David Illif, CC BY-SA 3.0](#)

The decision to stop people using the pool as a wishing well was taken for totally understandable conservation reasons (it is 2000 years old after all...), but the really interesting question is whether the reduction in potential damage to this one pool is worth the loss of revenue (which would have gone to The Roman Baths Foundation and been used partly to fund wider conservation work)?

[Read the article](#)

MrBeast and GiveDirectly:

If you will indulge me a second mention of MrBeast in this edition of the newsletter, I was fascinated to see a report this month from the direct cash transfer organisation GiveDirectly, about [a recent partnership with MrBeast in which they helped distribute \\$200k in direct cash gifts to people living in poverty in Uganda](#) for one of his philanthropy videos ("[We Gave Every Family in a Village a Full Year's Salary](#)"). The whole

report was really interesting, but the most intriguing part for me was that a team from GiveDirectly subsequently went back to Uganda and showed the video to people from the community featured in it.

The top line seems to be that those people really liked it, and were happy with the process and the way they were portrayed. ([You can read lots of their actual comments in this Google Doc](#)). It may be that GiveDirectly made greater efforts to ensure consent and avoid any of the criticisms levelled at this kind of YouTube philanthropy for being exploitative than would normally be the case, but in any case does it suggest that perhaps we should be less quick to assume people in these videos are unwitting participants or that they are simply being taken advantage of for content?

GiveDirectly

[Read the GiveDirectly report](#)

Medical Crowdfunding in historical context:

There was a really [interesting extract on HistPhil this month from what looks like a great new book by Nora Kenworthy, *Crowded Out: The True Costs of Crowdfunding Healthcare*](#). I was particularly delighted to see that in her exploration of historical precedents for modern day crowdfunding she appears to go into the weird history of 'voting charities' in Victorian Britain, which is something I have thought about myself in the past (e.g. [in this Philliteracy Twitter thread](#)) but singularly failed to do anything substantive on. And now I don't need to!

CROWDED OUT

The
True
Costs
of Crowdfunding
Healthcare

NORA KENWORTHY

[Read the HistPhil piece](#)

[Buy the book](#)

Philanthropy and futures thinking:

Forum For The Future published a good blog this [month looking at the growing use of futures thinking tools by philanthropic funders and civil society organisations](#), and outlining some of the key things they have learned in their own work about why futures tools are valuable in this context and what it takes to make them work.

[Read the blog](#)

Autonomous agents and altruism:

Speaking of the future, I spotted [an intriguing article in Nature this month about an experiment in how autonomous AI agents \(i.e. chatbots\) can be used to nudge prosocial behaviour](#). In particular, the autonomous agents were found to be effective in getting participants to act altruistically towards 'out-group members' as well as 'in-group' ones. Obviously this is a long way from the real world at this stage, but it is certainly possible to envisage how tools like this could be used to drive and shape philanthropic behaviour in the future. (And if you want some more thoughts on the ethical challenges that might pose, then do check out the chapter I've got forthcoming in [The Routledge Handbook of Artificial Intelligence and Philanthropy](#) later this year, which is on that exact topic!)



Image created using Dall-E 3. And I think we can all agree: Nailed It.

[Read the paper](#)

Manchester philanthropy:

BBC news carried an article this month about [the role that philanthropy is playing in the modern growth of Manchester](#). I wouldn't say it is the deepest in terms of its analysis of the role of philanthropy in relation to civic identity and the reimagination of former industrial cities in the UK, but again I am probably an annoyingly demanding audience here (as it is something that [I have written whole reports about in the past](#)), and there are some good examples in the article so it is definitely worth a read.

[Read the article](#)

Baillie Gifford and Arts Funding

The Guardian carried a couple of interesting pieces this month about the ongoing fallout of the decision by various literary festivals to boycott sponsorship from the investment firm Baillie Gifford over its claimed ties to companies linked to Israel and to fossil fuels, following pressure from activists and authors. The first article reported that [the book festivals that have severed ties with Baillie Gifford are now \(unsurprisingly\) having to look elsewhere for donations](#). A subsequent [comment piece then questioned whether this kind of boycotting was a good idea at all](#), on the grounds that it is questionable whether it has any real impact on the issues that activists are concerned about (other than perhaps some symbolic power), whilst at the same time having a very clear negative effect on important cultural organisations at a time when funding is becoming ever more difficult.

[Read the article](#)

Sharon Stone on philanthropy

There was [an interesting write-up of a new “Social Impact Summit” in *The Hollywood Reporter*](#) this month. Sharon Stone apparently gave “a rousing, expletive-sprinkled keynote address”, which I always like to see, and I enjoyed her sweary take on the reciprocal nature of philanthropy:

“I’ve been on my knees a lot, and I will tell you that if you cannot forgive, you cannot serve. You must learn to forgive, and you must learn to give,” she declared, adding, “Even if someone pushed you to the ground, you better reach out and put up your hand, and you better let that very same motherfucker pick you up because that is the way the world works. And if you think you are here to do anything else on this planet, you have not yet learned the meaning of love, the meaning of giving, and the meaning of philanthropy.”



[Image by Harald Krichel, CC BY-SA 4.0](#)

AND FINALLY: He Who Dares, Gives Rodney...

Definitely my favourite story this month was the news that [the National Trust is planning to impose a new "tax" on visitors: anyone caught quoting lines from "Only Fools And Horses" when looking at chandeliers](#) in any of the NT's properties will be encouraged to make a voluntary donation to help with the property's upkeep. Obviously this is partly tongue-in-cheek, but I can imagine some people working in those properties are genuinely sick of hearing the quotes too!



Explainer for non-UK readers, or anyone under the age of 30: “Only Fools And Horses” is a nostalgically beloved UK sitcom from the 1980s and 90s centring on the antics of a loveable Thatcherite rogue called Del Boy Trotter, his somewhat put upon brother Rodney and their Grandad/Uncle (depending on which series you are watching), who get into various scrapes as a result of Del’s money-making schemes. In one

of the most famous and popular episodes, the three of them set up a chandelier cleaning business and “hilarity” ensues... (Hence the National Trust announcement about their chandeliers).

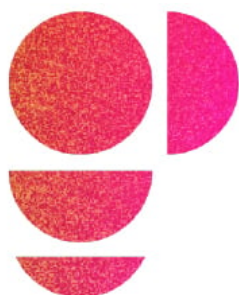
Fun Fact #2: I also have a personal link to this story, as for a few years when I was a kid I actually lived in the building where that famous chandelier scene was filmed. (A boarding school in Dorset where my mum was a sixth form housemistress so we lived in a flat on the school grounds). So the floor where you see grandad unscrewing the wrong chandelier (spoiler alert) is the exact same floor where I sat to watch Thundercats before heading off to free swimming every Thursday when I was 6. I expect they will erect a blue plaque any day now.

[Read the article](#)

Right, that's your lot for this month. And this time, that definitely is it until September! I'm going to take a well-earned break over the summer, but never fear - I will be sure to keep my ear to the ground for suitably choice philanthropy nuggets and will share them on my return. Until then, enjoy your own summer holidays! (Unless you are in a different hemisphere, of course, in which case this is all totally irrelevant).

Bye!

Rhodri



**Why
Philanthropy
Matters**

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