

INTERVIEW WITH CATHY HARROWER, CHAIRMAN OF THE ÇALIŞ  
CHILDREN'S CHARITY

Gülşen YEGEN<sup>1</sup>

*The 3Cs Charity – Çalış Children's Charity - is based in Çalış, Fethiye, Turkey. It raises funds through its retail outlet, winter car boot sales and fun events to enhance the lives of local, disadvantaged children.*



**Photograph-1.** The shop front of Çalış Children's Charity, Fethiye. **Source:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/136984733042545> (Retrieved 04.01.2022)

**GY: Could you introduce yourself? What is your job in the 3 C's?**

**CH:** My name is Cathy Harrower and I work for the Three C's - Çalış Children's Charity. At the moment, I am chairman of the charity, but we are all volunteers.

**GY: What can you say about this foundation's purpose?**

**CH:** Our purpose is to support and help disadvantaged children in the Fethiye area. In terms of that, we help children with medical expenses. That's very variable. It could be for specialized hearing aids, wheelchairs, cochlear implants for deaf children, sometimes cancer treatment. But also we help schools, poor schools in poor areas that need equipment to help with the education of the students.

**GY: What are the activities of the Three Cs?**

**CH:** Activities? How do you mean? Probably the main way that we produce funds to help the children is here, through the secondhand shop. People donate items, we clean them, we then put them up for sale. And the shop at the moment is open three days a week. Outside

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**Journal of Anglo-Turkish Relations Volume 3 Number 1 January 2022**

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of that we hold a Christmas fair which is very successful. We usually do that every year. But of course, last year because of COVID, we couldn't do this. Often we have a spring fair and an autumn fair, which again is a craft fair. And sometimes we have coffee mornings and fashion shows when we can. We do those twice a year. And at those, friends, bake cakes and pies and we sell them and we do a fashion show which uses clothes from here in the shop and our volunteers model them and then customers can buy them on the day. We also, on the first of January, have a New Year's Day Splash and friends and colleagues. They volunteer to go into the sea in Çalış, often in fancy dress, and they get sponsorship. They must stay in the sea for five minutes. And then they can come out, but they get friends to sponsor them to support the Three C's.

**GY: What does the Three Cs think about relations between Turkey and England?**

**CH:** Well, you know, the volunteers here mostly are English. We do have some Turkish volunteers, as well. But you know, we've chosen to come and live here in Turkey. This is our home now. England is where we came from. But Turkey is our home. So, we feel as though relations are very, very good with our Turkish friends.

**GY:** Yes. I'm very happy if you are living here because you join many things and you know how poor all our children this is too, too important for me.

**CH:** It's our way of giving back something to the country that we now call home.

**GY: What are you planning for the next years?**

**CH:** All we try to do is continue what we are doing. We hope to be able to continue helping and supporting local children as much as we can. Sometimes we have other ideas. Some local bars and restaurants allow us to have small events, like raffles. So people can buy tickets and win prizes. And that is a very good way. Last year, especially because of COVID, it's been a good way of raising some funds to help the children again. So, I think that sort of thing will continue. We hope in 2022 that we will be able to run our Autumn and Spring Fairs, and restart our fashion show. This all helps to support the area.

**GY:** Thank you for this interview.



**Journal of Anglo-Turkish Relations Volume 3 Number 1 January 2022**

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**Photograph 2** – Volunteers at the Çalış Children's Charity, Fethiye. **Source:** Gülşen Yeğen.