

Cymru am Byth



Welsh Guards Charity Impact Report 2022-23



Registered Charity Number 1152766



Foreword 2022/23

**Brigadier G R Harris DSO OBE
Regimental Lieutenant Colonel and Chairman of Trustees**

I believe this Report bears testimony to how active the Welsh Guards Charity is in achieving our charitable objectives and this is spelt out in the following pages.

Much of what we do is sustained by the considerable number of donations and the fund-raising efforts of so many coming from all corners of the Regimental family as well as from outside. Much of this is down to the close bonds that exist within the Regiment and the considerable amount of mutual support we give each other, and this includes also from our affiliated Livery Company, the Drapers and our Friends of the Regiment. My warmest thanks to them and to the many who devote their time and energy to supporting our Charity including the ABF The Soldiers Charity, SSAFA Forces Help, the Royal British Legion and Help for Heroes.

Whilst our income comes from a variety of sources, a significant proportion comes from the Days Paying Scheme generated by the Battalion. The £72,000 that came from it in 22/23 represents a

significant sum and I am hugely appreciative that close on 100 per cent of the Battalion have signed up to this scheme, a figure that must be one of the highest across the Army.

As a Regiment and Charity we invest heavily in fostering *Espirit de Corps* and we do everything we can to support this not just in the Battalion but also in our Association and Band, not forgetting also our cadet detachments in Wales and elsewhere. Veterans and our Heritage also remain important to us, and we engage heavily in both these areas. The fact that we run our own Museum, support annual trips to the Falklands and run both a Regimental and Association battlefield tour each year demonstrates how important our history is to us. It is through such activities that we keep our distinguished Regimental history alive.

Particular recognition must be given to our Trustees who do so much for the Charity. They remain hugely supportive of the Battalion and wider Regiment and without their guidance and expertise we would



not be as successful as we are. They deserve our most sincere gratitude.

In conclusion, I believe our Charity remains in excellent shape and we can look to the future with confidence. We will continue to ensure that our Charity remains strong and one that continues to achieve its objectives. Our Charity really is a force for good and I have no doubt it will remain so going forward. Finally, I would like to extend a huge thank you to Major Martin Browne, who similar to the Regimental Magazine, has produced this excellent report and to Jiffy Myers, our Regimental Veterans Officer, who does so much to care for our veterans and families.

*Cover Photo – Welsh Guards Association
Battlefield Tour party at the Welsh memorial at
Passchendaele 2022*



Welsh Guards Charity

The Welsh Guards Charity was established in 2013 as a result of amalgamating several different Regimental Charities and Funds. The Welsh Guards Afghanistan Appeal, which was started in 2009 because of the significant numbers killed in action and injured on the Battalion's first tour to Afghanistan in 2009, is also part of the charity. With further deaths and casualties on the Battalion's second tour in 2012, the Appeal continued to grow into a nationwide appeal with an immense amount of success and support, including from the Worshipful Company of Drapers, former Welsh Rugby Union Captain Ryan Jones, the Peterson Family, Walk on Wales and our families and friends raising very large sums of money.

Registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (Registration Number 1152766), the Welsh Guards charity has the following charitable objectives:

- ▶ **To promote the efficiency of the Welsh Guards, by fostering esprit de corps and by such other means as the trustees shall from time to time determine.**

REGIMENTAL TRUSTEES 2023

Brigadier G R Harris DSO OBE
 Captain TC Macdonald-Milner
 Captain BMH Branston
 Captain RS Mason
 Captain PWH Craig-Cooper
 Captain RAJ Forrest
 Captain OG James
 Mrs M Bowen
 JAJ Price Esq
 SC Rhodes Esq
 Lieutenant Colonel CK Antelme DSO

- ▶ **To commemorate and remember those members, or former members, of the Welsh Guards who have lost their lives or suffered injury or put themselves at risk of loss of life or injury, in service to the public.**
- ▶ **To relieve either generally or individually persons who are serving or who have served in the Welsh Guards or the dependants of such persons who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress.**
- ▶ **To advance the education of the public, including members of the Welsh Guards, in the history deeds, traditions and role of the Welsh Guards.**

Useful Links

Welsh Guards Charity

www.welshguardscharity.co.uk

1st Battalion Welsh Guards Website

www.army.mod.uk/who-we-are/corps-regiments-and-units/infantry/welsh-guards/

1st Battalion Welsh Guards Facebook

www.facebook.com/1stBattalionWelshGuards

Welsh Guards Just Giving Page

www.justgiving.com/welshguardscharity

Welsh Guards Reunited

www.welshguardsreunited.co.uk

REGIMENTAL VETERANS OFFICER

Funded by the Welsh Guards Charity and established in 2014, the Regimental Veterans Officer (RVO) ensures that Welsh Guardsmen, past, present, future and their families have a dedicated individual to turn to in times of need, hardship or simply for advice.

Jiffy Myers MBE is available to anyone requiring help or advice from the Welsh Guards charity and is contactable on:

welshguardsrvo@gmail.com

Tel: 07456 985729

Facebook: Welsh Guards Regimental Veterans Officer or Jiffy Myers

Facebook Messenger: Jiffy Myers

WhatsApp: 07411 950784 - Jiffy Myers

The Welsh Guards Charity website is *the* place to go for all things Welsh Guards. Pulling together all the various Welsh Guards strands into one place, it gives examples of the work we do, details on fundraising, news on the Battalion and the Association, future events, a PRI shop, guidance on how to donate and much more besides. It can be visited at: **www.welshguardscharity.co.uk**



2023 Regimental Christmas Card

This quality card from an original painting by Sean Bolan depicting the Hyde Park Magazine Guard exiting Hyde Park circa 1936 is sold in aid of the Welsh Guards Charity at a cost of £1 per card and is available to order online at the Welsh Guards Charity website PRI Shop:

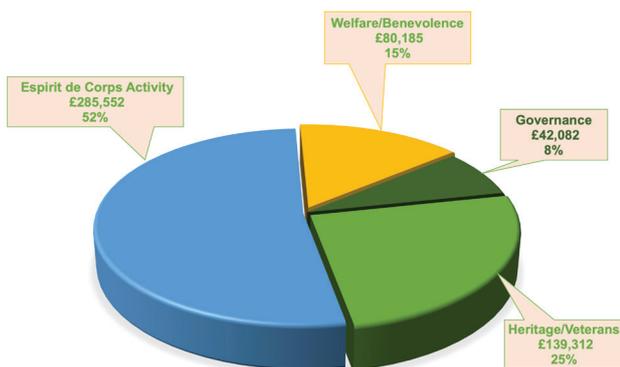
www.welshguardscharity.co.uk



Income and Expenditure

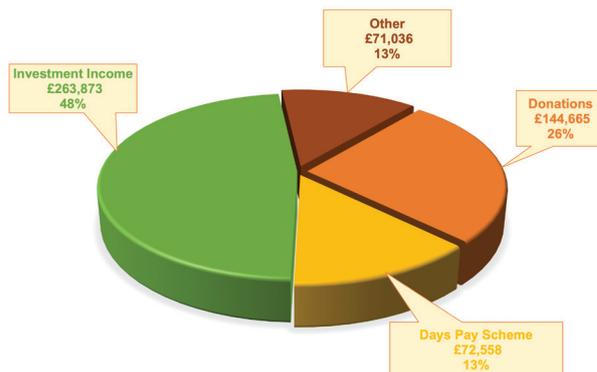
Income

WELSH GUARDS CHARITY EXPENDITURE 2022-23
£547,130.00



Expenditure

WELSH GUARDS CHARITY INCOME 2022-23
£552,131.00



Income into the WG Charity in 2022 was £552,131, which was up on the previous year with donations and fundraising increasing by 55% and income from investments, held by Rathbones, increasing by 18%. Our serving officers and soldiers have continued to magnificently support the charity via the Day’s Pay Scheme (DPS) with around 99.6% signed up to the scheme resulting in an income of over £72,000. It should be noted that one receipt, income from the DPS is split 50/50, in accordance with current MOD policy, between the welfare fund, which is ringfenced for welfare purposes and the Lt Col fund with the full 50% invariably being returned to 1WG for esprit de corps activities. We are fortunate to have some superb fundraisers, donors and supporters who regularly support our charity and we are indebted to them all and thank them for their continued support.

Following the previous two years of Covid restrictions when the majority of our charitable spending was curtailed, the Regimental Trustees had forecast our greatest ever expenditure for 2022/23, with nearly £693,000 allocated to the various charitable objectives. This expenditure was based on a forecast income of around £461,000 and demonstrates that our Trustees are willing to use capital, if necessary, to ensure that our charitable objectives are met and that our people looked after. As it was our expenditure in 2022 was £547,000, just £5,000 less than our overall income and this was due in main to 1WG being fully committed to operations and being unable to take part in as much sport and adventurous training as one might hope. 2022/23 did however see a return to the majority of our routine wider regimental esprit de corps and other activities and examples of these are given in the following pages.

Amazon Smile

Donate without knowing through Amazon Smile. Once signed up, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price of eligible items to the Welsh Guards Charity.



Charity Aid Foundation

You can make a one off donation to the Welsh Guards Charity campaign via the Charity Aid Foundation website.



JustGiving

You can make a donation or process your fundraising on the Welsh Guards Charity Just Giving Page: www.justgiving.com/welshguardscharity



FREE WG Charity T-Shirt for all fundraisers



for details
www.welshguardscharity.co.uk



How we help - Welfare and Benevolence

During the period 2022/2023, the Welsh Guards Charity received 73 requests for financial support grants. Most of the needs assessments for these requests are carried out independently by SSAFA. Serving Soldiers apply through the Unit Welfare Officer. All requests are treated with the strictest of confidence.

With over £80,000 spent on Welfare and Benevolence in 2022/2023, the Welsh Guards Charity has continued to help when and where it can and made over £29,000 worth of individual grants to support veterans and their families when no other means of funding had been available. With all requests for financial support, the Regimental Veterans Officer, Jiffy Myers MBE, is also able to seek funding from elsewhere for most cases with the Royal British Legion and Army Benevolent Fund invariably helping when asked to do so. The following are a few examples on the individual grants made by the Welsh Guards Charity:

Elderly Veteran. A grant was provided for an elderly veteran to purchase an EPV (mobility scooter) to allow him to visit friends and family.

White Goods. 14 WG Veterans were provided grants to purchase white goods (Essential household items), when no other funding options were available.

Elderly Widow of Veteran. A welfare grant was provided to carry out essential home repairs to an elderly Widow's home when no other means of funding was available.

WG Fijian Veteran. A Veteran, who now lives in Fiji, was provided a grant so that his boat engine could be replaced. His boat is required to provide his sole income for his family.

Bonds. Several veterans were provided grants to cover the cost of a bond for a new home.

Op HERRICK Veteran. A younger veteran of Op HERRICK was provided with a grant to purchase tools which will allow to gain employment.

Cost of living support. Veterans have been supported with grants to help with priority debts, items of basic clothing and food.



1. The RVO presenting Adam Hobbs with tickets via the new digital ticketing app. The Welsh Guards charity was delighted to be able to organize special enclosure wheelchair tickets for Adam and his wife, Sam to watch the Wales v New Zealand match at the Principality Stadium.

2. The RVO and Staff of the Foxhunters Care Community, Abergavenny during a fundraising event which raised over £400 for the Welsh Guards Charity.
3. The RVO on a home visit to veteran Welsh Guardsman Shane Jones.
4. Adam Hobbs securing his spot in the special enclosure section at the Principality Stadium.

REGIMENTAL VETERANS OFFICER

After the disruption due to COVID19, the RVO's home visits are now thankfully back to normal. Many Veterans have struggled with their mental health during the pandemic, due to loneliness and isolation and so the RVO's home visits are a welcome morale booster.

Home, local, hospital or care home visits are conducted to discuss any welfare issues or concerns that they may have. Some visits are just for a friendly chat and to update on Regimental events etc. Other visits can be quite complex and require referrals to specialist organisations. The RVO will carry out the referral and keep in touch with the Veteran throughout any therapy or treatment.

The RVO also attends monthly meetings with the NHS Veterans Therapists and major Service Charities to discuss cases. Veterans' issues and concerns are also passed on to the relevant authorities and the Chain of command if required.

The RVO is always available to confidentially discuss any welfare issues or concerns that you may have. Please feel free to contact him at any time. If required, a private home / Local visit can be arranged.

If you or you know someone who requires support or advice from the RVO, please contact him on:

Email: welshguardsrvo@gmail.com

Tel: 07456 985729

Facebook: Welsh Guards Regimental Veterans Officer or Jiffy Myers

Facebook Messenger: Jiffy Myers

WhatsApp: 07411 950784 - Jiffy Myers



Fostering Esprit de Corps

With Covid restrictions limiting activities throughout 2020 and 2021, it was very much hoped, despite the Battalion's heavy operational commitments, that 2022 might see a return to the normal sports, adventurous training and other esprit de corps activities and with that in mind the Trustees allocated the Battalion over £200,000.

Of this £83,000 was expended to support adventurous training, sports and other activities. Those deployed to Jamaica on exercise RED

STRIPE had their experience enhanced with a grant of over £13,000 for adventure training and those who deployed on exercise MAYAN WARRIOR in Belize received a substantial grant also.

Awards, prize giving, adventure training, sports, welfare and events, all aspects of Battalion life have benefitted by grants from the charity and the following photographs display a fraction of the activities that have received such funding:



1. Battalion Squash Team for the Household Division Championships.
2. The Battalion Boxing Team as strong as ever.
3. Battalion Football Team.
4. Battalion Rugby team beating MOD Abbey Wood 62 – 5 in the Quiaich Final.

5. The team runners in the Wales 500 team who ran 500 miles from 21 to 25 May 22, in relay, around the coastline of Wales, fundraising for the Welsh Guards Charity.

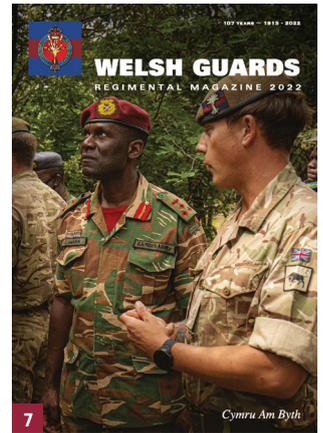
6. Funded by the charity, a member of the Battalion running team undergoing VO2 max testing which acquires a scientifically accurate measure of aerobic capacity.
7. The Welsh Guards Ski Team 2022.
8. IWG Enduro Team competition bike.



How we help - Veterans and Heritage

In 2022 over £139,000 was spent looking after our Veterans and Regimental Heritage. We continue to help fund this category in many areas and the following are just a few examples of the support provided throughout the year:

- Subsidy for the annual Falkland Islands visit for veterans.
- Subsidy provided to the annual Wrexham Falklands reunion each June.
- Regimental Remembrance events in London and Wales, including the annual Field of Remembrance.
- Annual Grant to the Guards Museum
- The annual St David's Day celebrations in Windsor.
- Supporting teams in the annual Household Division Colonel-in-Chiefs Golf competition.
- A large grant to the WG Collection to fund the new display annex and regular monthly grants to help fund the volunteers who work tirelessly to maintain the collection.
- Welsh Guards Memorial bench in Maindy Barracks, Cardiff in memory of all Welsh Guards killed in action.
- A programme of maintenance and repair to the Regiment's Rex Whistler painting collection by the renowned conservator of fine paintings; Valentine Walsh.



1. RQMS Leighton Wilks from Regimental Headquarters visiting Welsh Guards In-Pensioners at the Royal Hospital Chelsea to deliver the traditional Christmas gift - L-R; Ivor Williams (22217188), RQM Leighton Wilks, Richard (Mike) Thomas (23866369) and Cas Butler (22831658)
2. Regimental representation at the annual Remembrance at St Charles de Percy, France.
3. Supporting and subsidising Falklands Veterans returning to the Islands for the first time - Group photograph at the Welsh Guards Memorial at Fitzroy.
4. The Charity subsidises Regimental Remembrance Day each November for those attending, purchases the large Regimental poppy wreath (costing over £225) which is laid at the Guards Memorial, and also funds the smaller poppy wreaths (£25 each) which are laid around memorials in Wales.
5. Portrait of Warrant Officer Class 1 Dean Morgan (10) as the Command Sergeant Major, the first Welsh Guardsman to hold the appointment. The portrait, by Nicholas J Smith, was completed in December 2022 and unveiled in the Sergeant's Mess, 1st Battalion Welsh Guards on St David's Day, 1st March 2023.
6. The Welsh Guards charity was delighted to be able to support the restoration of the plaque at the memorial at Imber Court in the memory of members of the Welsh Guards Training Battalion killed there in June 1944.
7. The annual Regimental Magazine is heavily subsidised by the Charity and is issued free of charge to all serving personnel if they request a copy and is available for others to purchase at the subsidised price.
8. Regimental Memorial Bench Maindy Barracks, Cardiff. The plaque reads: "In memory of all Welsh Guardsmen who have given their lives in the service of their Country - Cymru am Byth".

Cymru am Byth

In fulfilling our Second charitable objective:

"To commemorate and remember those members, or former members, of the Welsh Guards who have lost their lives or suffered injury or put themselves at risk of loss of life or injury, in service to the public".

On the 10th of March 1973, Captain Hugh Sayers was assassinated in Bermuda alongside the Governor, ex Welsh Guardsman, Sir Richard Sharples KCMG OBE MC, to whom he was aide-de-camp (ADC).

On the 10th of March 2023, 50 years to the day, the Welsh Guards Charity was able to organise, support and fund a service of commemoration which was held in the Guards Chapel to mark the anniversary of the assassinations. It was a beautiful and dignified service, attended by family and friends of both the Sharples' and Sayers families in the presence of Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester (as Colonel in Chief of the Royal Bermuda Regiment) and the Governor of Bermuda, Her Excellency Ms Rena Lalgie. Also present were two former Governors: Sir John Vereker KCB KStJ FRSA (Governor 2002 – 2007) and Mr George Fergusson (Governor 2012 – 2016)



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