

Cymru am Byth



Welsh Guards Charity Impact Report 2019-20



Registered Charity Number 1152766



Foreword

**Major General RJÆ Stanford MBE
Regimental Lieutenant Colonel and Chairman of Trustees**

This Charity Impact Report sets out how we have achieved our charitable objectives over the last year. Our Charity work is extensive as this Report demonstrates and it illustrates the many strands of the Charity's work. These include supporting our veterans and families, helping to foster military efficiency and esprit de corps in the Battalion and across the Regiment, remembering our all important and rich heritage, promoting the Regiment in the widest sense and above all looking after those who need our help in the Regimental family.

The support we receive for our Charity never ceases to amaze me and it comes from a huge variety of sources. Some are individual donations and bequests, many often anonymous, others are fund raising activities such as the one Number 2 Company did during their Falklands tour last autumn completing a Port Stanley marathon. There are many others, sadly far too many to list them all here. I would, however, just mention our 'Friends of the Regiment' who continue to raise significant funds for our Charity in spite of never serving in the Regiment. Their generosity in supporting the Charities endeavours is immense. To the great many who have supported our Charity over this last year, may I extend my warmest thanks for all that you have done, and continue to do for us.

The success of our Charity has enabled us to continue to employ Jiffy Myers, our Regimental Veterans Officer. Having started in February 2014, he has done so much to support those of

our Regimental family in need. We are one of very few Regiments and Corps to have such an appointment which is only made possible by the support we receive from so many generous supporters. He works tirelessly for us 24/7; the difference he makes to the lives of many has been enormous. We remain truly grateful for the tremendous, and often very difficult work, he does for us and those in their time of need and distress.

We must also always remember the many Service Charities who we work with on a regular basis and who continue to support us so well. These include the ABF The Soldiers Charity, SSAFA Forces Help, Help for Heroes and The Royal British Legion. We extend our thanks to them for all they do for us.

Although this Impact Report covers our charitable activities between April 2019 to the end of March 2020, inevitably COVID-19 has affected our ability to continue to build our charitable funds and this is likely to continue into this year. We also expect the need for our Charity's support to increase to support those coping with the fallout from COVID-19 and the economic impact. Maintaining the momentum in our fund raising is so important in allowing us to sustain the Charity's good work in the future. When the virus has lifted I hope we will be able to continue to raise funds in the manner we have done in the past to ensure the good work continues. We have been blessed with a superb effort by so many over many years. I am confident we will do so together in the years to come.



As always, I commend our fourth Charity Impact Report to you and thank you again for all your efforts in supporting of our Charity. My thanks to you all.

REGIMENTAL TRUSTEES 2020

Major General RJÆ Stanford MBE
Captain TC Macdonald-Milner
Captain BMH Branston
Captain RS Mason
Captain PWH Craig-Cooper
Captain RAJ Forrest
Captain OG James
Mrs M Bowen
TA Cooper Esq
JAJ Price Esq
SC Rhodes Esq

Cover photo – Subsidised by the Welsh Guards Charity, Members of the Welsh Guards Association during their annual Battlefield Tour



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.**
- ▶ **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.**

The Welsh Guards Charity website is now 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

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

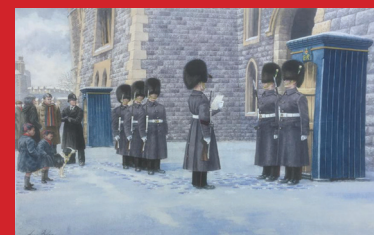
Tel: 07456 985729

Facebook: Welsh Guards Regimental Veterans Officer or Jiffy Myers

Facebook Messenger: Jiffy Myers

WhatsApp: 07411 950784 - Jiffy Myers

2020 Regimental Christmas Card



This quality card from an original painting by Sean Bolan is sold in aid of the Welsh Guards Charity at a cost of £1 each.

Order through the WG PRI at:

www.welshguardscharity.co.uk



Income and Expenditure

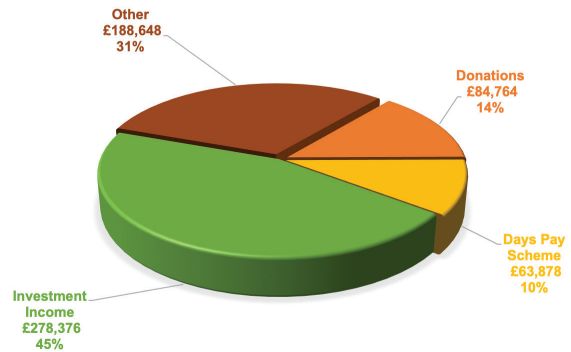
Income

This year income has exceeded expenditure, but only as a result of the Regimental Trustees releasing additional funds to position the Charity in a safe place to weather the impending investment downturn expected in 2020/21.

Once again, our serving personnel continue to provide magnificent support to the charity through the Day's Pay Scheme (DPS) and with the current 99% uptake producing an income of over £63,000 per year, this is the best it has ever been and we thank them all wholeheartedly.

We are forever grateful to all those who make donations and fundraise as without their superb contributions a lot of what we achieve would not be possible – thank you all.

WELSH GUARDS CHARITY INCOME 2019-20
£615,666



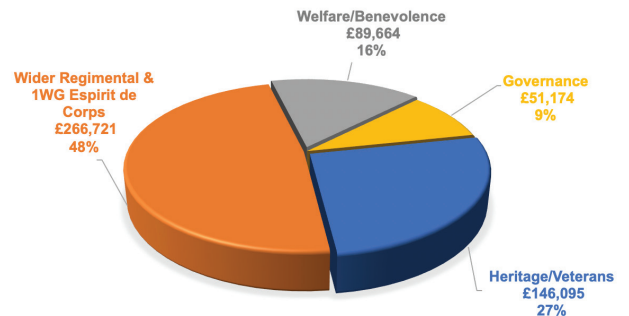
Expenditure

Through the careful management of funds, the Regimental Trustees have been able to fulfil all spending requests and authorise substantial funding and grants in all areas to support our charitable objectives during this period.

With 48% of expenditure quite rightly being on esprit de corps activities, aside from the £140,000 grant to 1WG, this category wraps up all the smaller hidden expenditures such as: the purchase of Leeks for St David's Day (at £1 each), 40 x Poppy Wreaths for Remembrance Day (at £18.50 each), providing WRU rugby tickets (£836) and of course the funding of all Regimental events and representations at commemorative events in Europe.

The pages of this report will give you a glimpse of just what we as a charity are able to provide with the tremendous support with have from serving and veteran Welsh Guardsmen and their families.

WELSH GUARDS CHARITY EXPENDITURE 2019-20
£553,653



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 2019/2020, the Welsh Guards Charity received 68 individual requests for financial support grants. Most of the needs assessments for these requests are carried out independently by SSAFA for our veterans with serving soldiers applying through the Unit Welfare Office. All requests are treated with the strictest of confidence.

Over £22,000 has been provided through individual grants to support Serving Soldiers, Veterans and families in need, when no other means of funding is available with another £67,000 spent on welfare related activities. Some examples of our work are:

Veteran Welsh Guardsman - Adam Hobbs served on Operations in Afghanistan. During his service, Adam suffered with a severe illness and was subsequently medically discharged. After leaving the Army, Adam began suffering with service-related PTSD and to try to deal with it, he went on an extended break in Thailand. During this break, Adam was very seriously injured during a motorcycle accident. He was placed on life support and his condition wasn't improving. Adam's family asked the Welsh Guards to assist. The Welsh Guards Charity, along with H4H, the ABF and RBL provided grants totalling £75,000 to fund an emergency medical evacuation for Adam to return to the UK. 2 years on and Adam still requires full time support which he gets from his partner Sam and family members. The RVO conducts regular visits to his home and spends the afternoon with him. The Welsh Guards Charity has also funded tickets for Adam and his partner to attend a Six Nations rugby match and Buckingham Palace garden party.

Children of Veteran - (Anonymous) The children of a Veteran of the Welsh Guards were temporarily taken in care, due to the effects of a series of tragic circumstances. Symptoms of mental health issues were diagnosed by the allocated Care Workers, who contacted the Welsh Guards Charity for help. A grant of £2,750 was provided to cover the entire cost of professional therapy, not available through statutory funding.

Elderly Widow (Anonymous) - Just before Christmas, an urgent request was received from the widow of a Welsh Guards Veteran. The elderly lady's boiler had been condemned and she had no heating in her home. Local Authorities can take time to provide support so an immediate grant of £500 was provided the same day, to purchase electric heaters and to contribute towards her higher electricity bill. Other Service Charities were then approached to provide grants for a new boiler to be fitted as soon as was possible.

Veteran Welsh Guardsman - Dale Leach served on Operations in Afghanistan. During Op HERRICK 10, in 2009, Dale and his fellow WG team members were very seriously injured when an IED detonated below their Jackal vehicle, whilst on patrol. Dale suffered life altering injuries and was lucky to survive. Since being medically discharged from the Army, Dale has married Laura and moved into his own home. This new home required adaptations, so that Dale can freely move around. Local Authorities provide Disabled Facilities Grants to support alterations, however there is a limit on available funding. The Welsh Guards Charity provided a £6,000 grant and BLESMA provided a £3,000 grant to fund the building of a special porch on the front of Dale's home to assist him transferring from a vehicle into his home.

Serving Soldier - (Anonymous) A serving Soldier asked the Welsh Guards charity for support with his disabled child. The child needed specific support/mobility equipment not available through Local Authorities. The Welsh Guards Charity provided a grant of over £2,300 to cover the entire cost of the items needed.



Adam and his partner Sam, at the Buckingham palace Garden Party



The RVO presenting Adam with his wheelchair tickets for the Wales v Italy match



Fostering Espirit de Corps

In 2019 1st Battalion Welsh Guards received grants of over £140,000 to offset the cost of sports, adventurous training and welfare activities and to help them settle into their new home at Combermere Barracks, Windsor. A further £125,000 was spent on looking after the wider Regiment - be it future Welsh Guardsmen in training at the Infantry Training Centre, parades in Wales, assisting the Regimental Band, producing the annual Regimental Magazine or supporting Welsh Guards teams taking part in Household Division competitions, we can all be justifiably proud that the Welsh Guards Charity is consistently fulfilling its charitable objectives on a daily basis.

Looking after our people is at the core of everything we do and the following few photographs from 1WG will give you just a flavour of what we can do and how we are able support our most valuable asset.



1



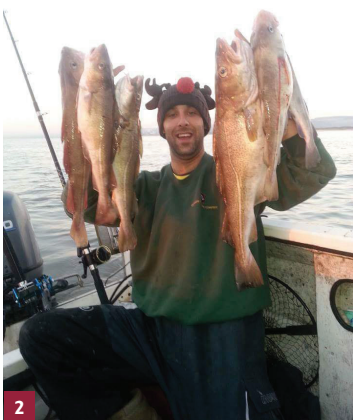
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7

1. Battalion Enduro Team
2. Battalion Fishing Team
3. Battalion Mountain Bike Team

4. Number 1 Platoon expedition to the Dhoifar Mountains, Oman (Exercise Desert Dragon)

5. Battalion Football Team
6. Battalion Skiing camp Alpendorf, Austria
7. Presentation of WRU Rugby Tickets



How we help - Veterans and Heritage

Over £146,000 was spent by the Charity looking after our Veterans and Regimental Heritage, proving once again its reach and the positive effect it can have on both serving and retired Welsh Guardsmen and their families.

We continue to help fund this category in many areas; the annual Wrexham Falklands Reunion, Battlefield Tours, funding

St David's Day and helping with transport for Branches, subsidising visits to the Falkland Islands for veterans and making grants towards; the Guards' Chapel Organ fund, the Guards Parachute Company Memorial Appeal and for our own Welsh Guard In-Pensioners at the Royal Hospital Chelsea to name just a few. The call on our funds is constant and we are blessed with being always able to help in some way.

We will always help celebrate a veteran's 100th birthday or special occasion, have commemorated the 40th anniversary of the death of Guardsman Paul Fryer, helped move the Falklands Cross from Pirbright to Windsor and will always ensure that our heritage is protected and that all Welsh Guardsmen who have gone before us are remembered always.



1. Re-dedication of the Falklands Memorial Cross on moving from the old Guards Depot Chapel to its new location in the Holy Trinity Garrison Church, Windsor

2. Falkland Islands Visit 2019, the Welsh Guards Memorial, Fitzroy

3. Welsh Guards Memorial Arras

4. The 40th Anniversary of the death of Guardsman Paul Fryer (24464284) killed in Crossmaglen on 13 Nov 79

5. John 'Jack' Perks (2735449) and Prisoner of War number 8027 celebrates his 100th Birthday

6. Helping celebrate the award of the Legion d'Honneur to Mr Sid Elsbury (afternote: Sid sadly died of COVID-19 on 7 Apr 20 aged 101)

7. Welsh Guards Association Centenary Lunch at the Angel Hotel Cardiff

Cymru am Byth

A message from our Colonel and Patron of the Welsh Guards Charity,
His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales KG KT GCB OM AK QSO PC ADC



CLARENCE HOUSE

31st March, 2020

To everyone at the Welsh Guards Charity

As we all face an unprecedented period of difficulty, disruption and intense anxiety caused by the current coronavirus crisis, I particularly wanted to write and say how much I am thinking of everyone involved with the Welsh Guards Charity as you struggle to deal with the huge challenges that have arisen in your lives.

As your Patron, I have nothing but the greatest sympathy for the predicament you face and the many difficult decisions and circumstances that have to be managed. Above all, I am certain you will be doing your utmost to maintain the essential elements of the care and service you provide to so many vulnerable people who depend upon you, and of which I am so immensely proud as your Patron. I want you to know, therefore, that I can well imagine the appalling pressures you have suddenly and unexpectedly been put under and that my heart goes out to you and your families during the coming weeks and months of such hideous uncertainty.



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