

Cymru am Byth



Welsh Guards Charity Impact Report 2020-21



Registered Charity Number 1152766



Foreword

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

In spite of the significant challenges and difficulties we have all faced since March last year, our Charity has continued to function well although some areas have inevitably been put on hold. I am very pleased that our support to those in need has continued in spite of adopting different methods due to COVID restrictions.

Remembering our heritage, which we do on our annual trips to Europe, have obviously been postponed or scaled right back. Our support to military efficiency, mostly with our grants to the Battalion in order to allow them to conduct adventurous training and sports, have inevitably been curtailed. We have also not been able to commemorate in our usual way, not least on Remembrance Sunday, however, our Colonel was able to lay our Regimental wreath at the Guards Memorial last November and I hope many of you were able to see the video recording of it.

I know some in the Regimental family will have faced difficult times in the past year or more. Sadly we lost ten of our elderly veterans who died with COVID, two of whom were over a hundred. We offer the Regiment's condolences to their families. We also express our deepest sympathy to the family of Sergeant Gavin Hillier who was tragically killed whilst live firing with the Battalion in Castlemartin on 4th March. He was highly respected and liked across the Regiment and we have lost a stalwart Welsh Guardsman. He will be sorely missed.

We have always seen ourselves as a close family Regiment and I believe our reaction to the COVID situation has demonstrated this. I was so greatly heartened to see, at the Regimental Veterans Officer's invitation,

that a Regimental COVID support cohort was established in the spring of last year with well over two hundred volunteering to assist any member of the Regimental family in need. This group consisted of both our veterans and serving soldiers and whilst there was fortunately not a great call on them, it demonstrated that we still care about all in the Regiment. My thanks to Jiffy Myers and to all who joined the group.

Whilst we have not been able to carry out any fund-raising events this year, we have still received donations and again from a variety of sources be it those in the Regimental family, our Friends of the Regiment or elsewhere. I remain ever grateful to all of them for their support which has been particularly relevant this year. I must also thank other Service Charities such as the ABF The Soldiers Charity, SSAFA Forces Help, the Royal British Legion and Help for Heroes for their continued and valued support. We have a good rapport with all these charities and others, so vitally important.

Our Regimental Veterans Officer, Jiffy Myers, continues to do vital work in support of our veterans and families in need. He has now been our RVO for seven years and during that time has built up a very extensive network of contacts whether it be with the Charity Sector, the NHS, Local Authorities, the Police and a variety of other agencies and organisations which he uses for the benefit of those he supports. I think we all owe him our warmest thanks for all he does for so many and the establishment of his post in the Charity must rate as one of its greatest successes. During COVID he has been on hand to offer help and advice, especially for those who have found the lockdown and isolation a real challenge. Support to those

in need is an area which the Charity has kept going to the best of our ability during the pandemic period.

This will be my last Foreword as the Regiment Lieutenant Colonel as I step down in August. I am delighted we introduced this Impact Report four years ago as it demonstrates all too well the great work of our Charity and how we achieve our charitable objectives. In doing this I must thank the great many in the Regiment, the Drapers Company, our Friends of the Regiment, our Association, our Band, our Cadet Detachments and the many others who have supported the Charity over so many years. I must also thank our Trustees who so generously give their time, support and sage advice to ensure the Charity stays true to our Charitable Objects. The Welsh Guards Charity really has been a success story and I have every confidence it will remain so in the years ahead.

REGIMENTAL TRUSTEES 2021

Major General RJÆ Stanford CB 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 – The Italian Regimental Battlefield Tour party (2018) partly funded by the Welsh Guards Charity, fulfilling our second charitable objective of commemorating and remembering members of the Regiment.



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 *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

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

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

- About
- News & Events
- Association
- 1 WG
- PRI Shop**
- Fundraising & Giving
- Museum
- Contact

Welsh Guards Charity PRI Shop

Please support the Welsh Guards Charity by purchasing your Welsh Guards memorabilia from our on-line shop.

All items for sale are attractively priced, postage is realistically priced and a small percentage of all sales helps towards our charitable expenditure.

The shop can be found at www.welshguardscharity.co.uk



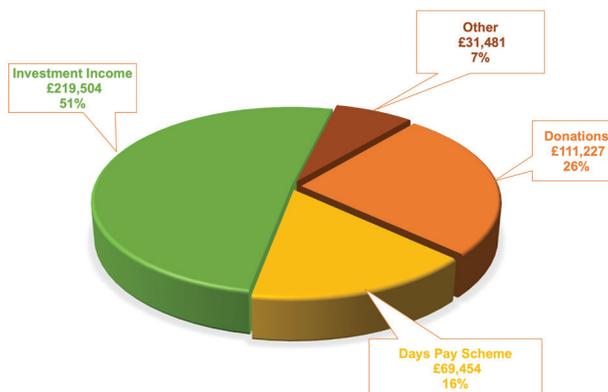


Income and Expenditure

Income

2020 has been a difficult year for all charities with Covid-19 restrictions adversely affecting fundraising activities. The WG Charity is particularly blessed in having a proactive set of Trustees with a superb Financial Investment Committee who have steered the Welsh Guards Charity well and ensured that our main source of income (from investments) has continued to perform well and provide us with sufficient income, when combined with the marvellous contribution from our serving personnel via the Day's Pay Scheme and several large donations, to fulfil all in year spending commitments. With our spending much reduced in 2020-21, our annual income exceeded expenditure by an unprecedented £100,000.

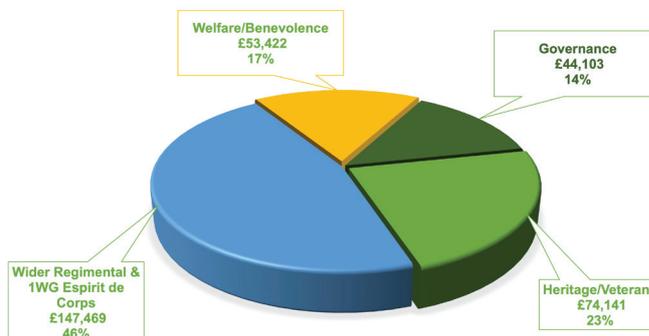
WELSH GUARDS CHARITY INCOME 2020-21
£431,666



Expenditure

Our Trustees had forecast and planned for an expenditure of over £427,000 for 2020-21 but with the Covid-19 restrictions forcing the cancellation of the majority of planned Regimental events, sports, adventurous training and reunions, spending has been much reduced in all quarters. We have continued to support the Battalion with their activities and supported requests for welfare assistance whenever made. The planned repair and maintenance of the Regiment's valuable Rex Whistler collection of paintings has continued and there are several examples of the hidden expenditures our charity fund in support of our charitable objectives (listed at page 3) in the following few pages.

WELSH GUARDS CHARITY EXPENDITURE 2020-21
£319,134



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 2020/2021, the Welsh Guards Charity received 46 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. Due to the pandemic, assessments have been carried out remotely by phone/email etc.

With over £53,000 spent on Welfare and Benevolence in 2020/2021, the Welsh Guards Charity has continued to help when and where it can. With all requests for financial support grants our RVO, Jiffy Myers MBE is also able to seek funding from elsewhere for most cases with the Royal British Legion, Army Benevolent Fund invariably helping when asked to do so.

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.



Veteran - (Anonymous) An elderly Veteran required some adaptations to his property due to disabilities as a result of his Service. The Welsh Guards Charity provided a large grant to cover the entire cost of the adaptations.

Spouse of Veteran - (Anonymous) The Elderly Spouse of a Welsh Guards Veteran required an adapted chair to help assist with her disabilities. The Welsh Guards Charity provided a grant towards the cost of purchasing a specialist chair to improve her quality of life.

Widow of Veteran - (Anonymous) The Widow of a Veteran who passed away relatively young in age and suddenly, requested help to purchase some basic furniture (brown goods) and appliances (white goods). The Welsh Guards Charity provided a grant towards the cost of these items.

Several Veterans – (Anonymous) Several disabled Veterans were provided grants towards the cost of purchasing mobility scooters (EPV) to improve their quality of life.



Some other **examples** of grants provided during this period include **food purchases, deposits for housing, priority debts (rents arrears), furnishings, white goods and assistance with rental costs.**

Serving Soldier - (Anonymous) A serving Soldier required compassionate travel for his family overseas, which did not meet MOD criteria. An exceptional grant was provided to cover his travel costs at a particularly difficult time.

Following this support he wrote: *“I want to take this opportunity to thank and show appreciation to all of you for the exceptional support I received regarding my family welfare”* he went on to say: *“Please extend my thanks and gratitude to everyone who helped in either way as it means a lot to have someone show concern and moreover support when my family was going through tough times”.*

REGIMENTAL VETERANS OFFICER

During this reporting period, the COVID pandemic has made home visits extremely difficult and were only able to occur between lockdowns. Jiffy Myers setup a network of WG Veterans and Serving Soldiers, based around the UK (and in some overseas locations), ready to react to calls for assistance during the initial phase of the pandemic. Over 200 Veterans stepped up to offer their assistance. Thankfully only 5 calls for help were received and dealt with swiftly. It was great to see the WG family network come together during this difficult time. Home visits were replaced by phone calls, messages and regular check ins. Referrals for support have continued and Veterans have been receiving counselling for various mental health related issues.

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 (depending on COVID 19 restrictions).

If you or somebody you know requires support or advice from the RVO, please contact him as shown on page 3.



Fostering Esprit de Corps

Throughout 2020 1st Battalion Welsh Guards has been heavily involved in the national efforts to tackle the Covid-19 pandemic which resulted in much of their planned activity to be cancelled or postponed. Their subsequent preparation for operations in 2021 has further impeded their activities but the Welsh Guards Charity is delighted to be able to support both the Battalion and wider serving Regimental family whenever it can.

From funding the wonderful Regimental Ethos booklet which has been issued to every serving Welsh Guardsman as a reminder of exactly what it means to be a member of the Regiment to providing a large grant to Guards Company at the Infantry Training Centre specifically to fund extra equipment to be used by trainee Guardsmen during the Covid restrictions, the WG Charity has contributed over £51,000 to 1WG to fund sporting, adventurous training and many other Esprit de Corps activities within the Battalion.



1. The Battalion boxing competition 2020.
2. LSgt Roberts with his 3lb spotted-Ray during the charity funded sea fishing trip.
3. New equipment purchased by a grant from the charity for the newly invigorated racket sports club.
4. The ever popular Battalion Enduro continues to attract substantial funding from the charity.
5. 1WG competitors in the Infantry Wakeboarding championships 2020.
6. 1WG Football attracts WG charity funding as and when required.
7. A Covid safe St David's Day was celebrated by members of 1WG in Windsor with the artificial leeks of course funded by the WG Charity.
8. 1WG and wider Regimental Golf continues to be subsidised by the WG Charity, as in this photograph of the Regimental team for the Household Division Colonel-in-Chief cup competition.
9. Equipment purchased by Guards Company at the Infantry Training Centre from a grant by the charity.



How we help - Veterans and Heritage

Over £74,000 was spent by the charity looking after our Veterans and Regimental Heritage, and although significantly less than last year due entirely to the various Covid-19 restrictions, it is not an insignificant amount.

We continue to help fund this category in many areas; the annual Falkland Islands visit for veterans which we subsidize just about scraped in their 2020 visit before the Covid lockdown with travel restrictions forcing the planned 2021 event to be cancelled. We made several larger grants in 2020; the Guards Chapel Organ fund, a Welsh Guards Memorial Plaque for the Falklands Chapel at Pangbourne and the marvellous Welsh Guards slate Memorial stone, which is now in place in Combermere Barracks, Windsor are a few.

We continue to fund a wide variety of heritage and veteran based projects throughout the year (including of course the annual Remembrance poppy wreaths and field of Remembrance plot) and the Regimental Magazine (which costs around £12,00 to produce) is issued free of charge to every serving Welsh Guardsman and is purchased at a subsidised rate by many veterans.



1. Lt Gen Sir Ben Bathurst KCVO CBE representing the Regiment at the Covid secure Liberation of Hechtel commemorations Sept 20.

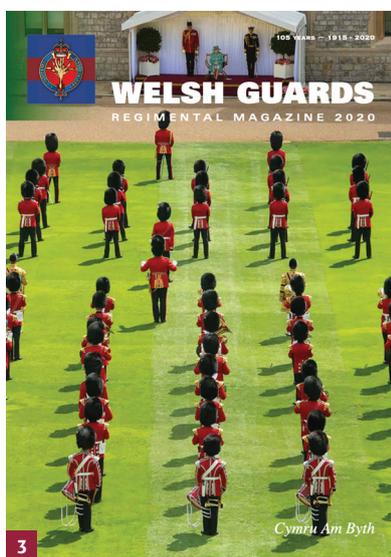
2. WG Falklands Veterans visit to the Islands in Feb 20.

3. The annual Regimental Magazine, funded by the charity and issued free to all serving officers and soldiers.

4. The WG Charity funded Welsh Guards Plot at the annual Field of Remembrance, Westminster.



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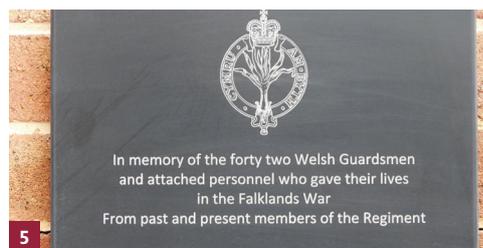


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5. The WG Memorial Plaque at the Falklands Islands Memorial Chapel, Pangbourne.

6. In the early stages of production, the painting of the 2020 Queen's Birthday Tribute at Windsor Castle on 13 Jun 20.

7. The WG Charity funded Welsh Guards hand crafted slate Memorial stone from Blaenau Ffestiniog in lace at the entrance to Combermere Barracks, Windsor.



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6



7



8

8. A demonstration of the restorative work being undertaken by Valentine Walsh on the valuable Regimental Rex Whistler collection to ensure it is maintained for future generations. In this photo which is a portion of the painting "Royal Box at Sandown Park" the red arrow indicates a change of knee position (uncovered through cleaning) and a hole in the canvas.

Cymru am Byth

We are proud that the Welsh Guards have supported the national efforts to control the Coronavirus pandemic and the Welsh Guards Charity has been there to support our magnificent serving soldiers, their families and our veterans when required during these difficult times.

The talented musicians in our Regimental Band have been spread far and wide doing their bit and have been instrumental in ensuring that our In Pensioners at the Royal Hospital are kept safe. Our very own Ivor Williams (LSgt 22217188) is seen below just before receiving his weekly Covid-19 test from Lance Corporal Emma Dann from the Welsh Guards Band.



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