

Cymru am Byth



Welsh Guards Charity Impact Report 2021-22



Registered Charity Number 1152766



Foreword 2021/22

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

Whilst this is our sixth Charity Impact Statement it is my first as Regimental Lieutenant Colonel having taken over from Major General Richard Stanford last August. Along with our Trustees his Chairmanship of the Charity has been superb and its good health owes so much to him and them. It is a great privilege to be appointed Regimental Lieutenant Colonel having only recently commanded the Battalion between January 2014 – June 2016, another great honour coinciding with our Centenary.

Whilst Covid is still with us I am pleased that for the vast majority, life has returned to something like normal. We have sadly lost a number of our senior veterans to it, but I think age has also played a part.

I am pleased to report that despite global turbulence in the markets, inflation and the impact that the war is having in Ukraine, our Charity so far has largely been able to maintain a relatively strong position. It might be of interest that over the last five years we have expended near £2.3 million with the vast bulk of it being spent on Welfare, Heritage, our Veterans and Esprit de Corps activities. This has included substantive grants to the Battalion to allow them to participate and benefit from adventurous training, sport and expeditions as well as generally improving the lives of our Officers, the Sergeants Mess and our Guardsmen. Our income over these past five years has been more or less the same as our expenditure, at around the £2.3 million mark. Nearly half our income comes from our Investments

and the other half from Donations and the Days Paying Scheme. We have so much to thank the members of the Battalion for the exceedingly high take up of the Days Paying Scheme and which is a significant help, especially on welfare. Other contributions of about 16% make up the rest of the income.

For the Financial Year 2021/2022 we see a similar picture. Charity Expenditure has been £457K and income £434K meaning an excess of £23K of expenditure over income. This pattern of income and expenditure is a good model and works well resulting in us being able to achieve our charitable objectives

I am very grateful to the many who have made donations or have fundraised for the Charity this year. They come from a variety of sources, the Regimental Family, our Friends of the Regiment, the Drapers Company and others. There are too many to list in this short Foreword, but all are warmly thanked for the support they give to our Charity. 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 an excellent rapport with these charities and many other smaller ones as well.

Particular thanks must again be given to our Regimental Veterans Officer, Jiffy Myers. He has now been in the appointment for 9 years and he does sterling work in support of our families and veterans. He has and remains a success story and frankly I am not sure how we



could provide the level of support and care needed without him. The very nature of his work means that he is on call 24/7 and his dedication and commitment to it has to be acknowledged. He is a Welsh Guardsman through and through and widely respected for what he does.

In conclusion, I firmly believe our Charity is in good shape and we can face the future with confidence, albeit there may be some bumps in the road on the way. We will endeavour to sustain the Regiment and Charity and in so doing continue to ensure that we remain the strongest of Regimental families. I must thank the great many in the Regiment, the Drapers Company, our Friends of the Regiment, our Band, our Association, our Cadet Detachments and the many others who continue to support the Charity. Our Charity Trustees must also be thanked for giving up so much of their time, for their dedication and their excellent steerage of our Charity and for ensuring we stay true to our charitable objectives. The Welsh Guards Charity remains a force for good and I am confident it will remain so moving forward.

Cover photo – The Peninsular War Battlefield Tour party (2022) subsidized by the Welsh Guards Charity.



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.**

REGIMENTAL TRUSTEES 2022

Colonel 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

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

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

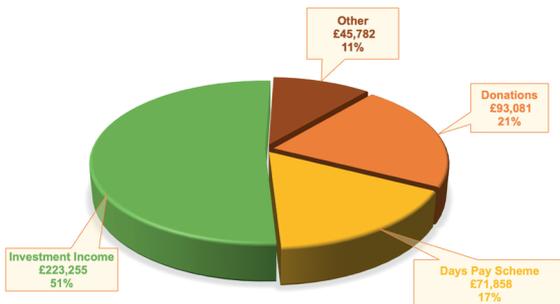


Income and Expenditure

Income

2021 has continued to be a difficult year for all charities with Covid restrictions slowly being removed and life gently getting back to normality. Income into the WG Charity has remained steady throughout with the only one area showing any decline being the "other Income" category which includes personal contributions towards events, with fewer events resulting in less income. Our serving officers and soldiers signing up to the Day's Pay Scheme (DPS) is now consistently at around 99.7% which results in around £71,000 a year or 17% of all income to the charity – the best it has ever been, and we are extremely grateful to our serving personnel. 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. Of course, underpinning our whole charity income and expenditure is our Regimental Investments and the annual income they generate. Superbly managed by our Regimental Trustees and the Financial Investments Sub-Committee they consistently perform well and enable funding in all areas in which our charity works.

WELSH GUARDS CHARITY INCOME 2021-22
£433,975

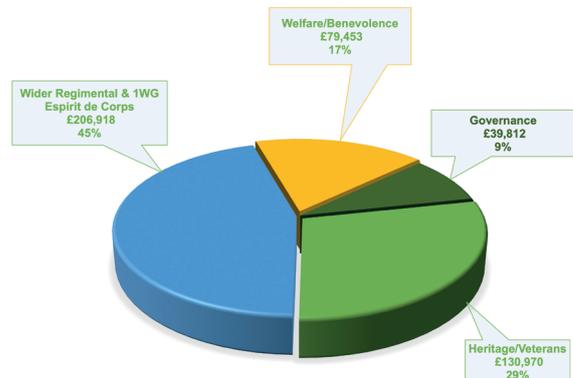


Expenditure

Our Trustees had optimistically forecast expenditure of over £606,000 for 2021-22 in the hope that Covid restrictions would permit regimental events, sports, adventurous training, and reunions to re-start and although things have improved on 2020, they are not yet at the pre-Covid stage. We have supported the battalion whenever requested but they have been particularly busy either deploying on or recovering from various operational deployments and have not been able to partake in the sports and adventurous training that had been planned. Wider regimental activities have continued to be curtailed with Battlefield Tours and regimental representations for Remembrance in Europe not taking place in 2021/22 – it is very much hoped to get these important activities back on track in 2022/23.

That said, the charity has expended over £450,000 and the following few pages give examples of the support the WG Charity has been able to provide in our main three charitable areas in support of our charitable objectives (listed at page 3).

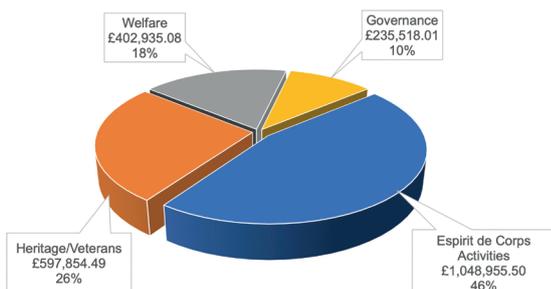
WELSH GUARDS CHARITY EXPENDITURE 2021-22
£457,154



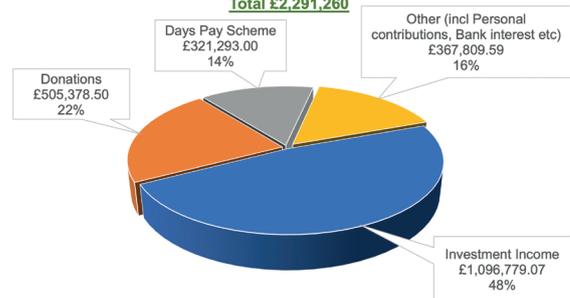
Five Year Income and Expenditure

The following two charts detail the income and expenditure of the WG Charity over the five-year period April 2017 to April 2022 and demonstrates that our Regimental Trustees are consistently supporting all our charitable objectives with just about all income received being expended in support of our people and not being accumulated. That there has been no drawdown of capital is testament to the way in which the Trustees manage and control the charity on behalf of the beneficiaries.

WG Charity Expenditure over 5 years (Apr 2017 - Apr 2022)
Total £2,285,263



WG Charity Income for 5 year period (Apr 2017 - Apr 2022)
Total £2,291,260





How we help - Welfare and Benevolence

During the period 2021/2022, the Welsh Guards Charity received 53 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 £79,000 spent on Welfare and Benevolence in 2021/2022, including over £28,000 in individual grants, the Welsh Guards Charity has continued to achieve its core objective; "To relieve either generally or individually persons who are serving or who have served in the Welsh Guards or the dependents of such persons who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress". With all requests for financial support grants our Regimental Veterans Officer (RVO), Jiffy Myers MBE is also able to seek funding from elsewhere for most cases with the Royal British Legion (RBL) and Army Benevolent Fund (ABF) invariably helping when asked to do so.

As well as large grants in support of the wonderful work done by the Army Benevolent Fund and Alabare Care for Veterans (Cymru), the following are a few examples of how the Welsh Guards Charity has helped on an individual basis (please bear in mind that individual cases must remain confidential and therefore anonymous):

Elderly Veteran. A grant was provided for an elderly Veteran to purchase a riser chair and profile bed to make his life more comfortable.

Elderly Veteran. An elderly Veteran required some adaptations to his property due to disabilities as a result of his Service. The Welsh Guards Charity provided a grant to cover the cost of these adaptations.

White Goods. Several Veterans were provided with grants to purchase white goods, when no other funding options were available.

Spouse of Veteran. The Spouse of a Welsh Guards Veteran required some basic furnishings for her new home. The WG Charity provided a grant along with the RBL and ABF to cover these costs.

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

Welsh Guards Widows. Widows of Welsh Guardsmen killed during their service have been provided grants to cover the cost of attending respite breaks for them and their families.

Disabled Veterans. Several disabled Veterans were proved grants towards the cost of purchasing or repairing mobility scooters (EPV) to improve their quality of life.

Some other examples of grants provided during this period include **deposits for housing, priority debts (rents arrears) and clothing.**



1. The RVO giving Mrs Sam Hobbs (Wife of Adam Hobbs) a motorway driving "lesson".
2. The RVO conducting a home visit to Leonard Davies RVM (23523062) who served in 1WG from 1958 until 1984 and then as a member of The Queen's Body Guard from 1985 to 2011. Len sadly passed away on 31st March aged 81.
3. The RVO conducting a home visit to see Adam Hobbs standing up for the first time in over 5 years.



REGIMENTAL VETERANS OFFICER

During this reporting period, home visits have started again. Veterans and families are visited at home, hospital or in care homes 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 whilst 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 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:



Fostering Esprit de Corps

2021 saw a relaxing of the Covid restrictions which had stifled the majority of sports and adventurous training activities for 1st Battalion Welsh Guards in 2020, but deployments on various operational commitments for the majority of the Battalion has meant little extracurricular activity could take place throughout 2021.

That said, the Regimental Trustees granted the Battalion over £130k of which £68k was spent for the good and benefit of Battalion personnel and their families. Battalion Boxing facilities have been improved with the team looking forward to defending its Household Division boxing

title as this report is being put together. The rugby team is back on track to put in a good performance in 2022 and several of the smaller more niche sports such as enduro, mountain biking, sailing, golf, polo, and fishing have all benefitted from Trustee grants.

Every single member of the Battalion was given a Battalion tracksuit and throughout the year various prizes and awards, funded by the WG Charity, have been presented to all ranks in recognition of their performance in various areas. The following photographs display a fraction of the activities that have received funding:



1. Battalion Rugby Team
2. Battalion Football Team
3. Battalion Boxing Team
4. Mountain Biking
5. Enduro

6. Sailing
7. New Boxing gym graffiti wall
8. HRH planting a hornbeam tree, funded by the WG Charity, to commemorate his visit to the Battalion in May 21

9. Screenshot from Millfield School social media from their visit to Regimental Headquarters when RQMS Parry took the opportunity to present the Welsh Guards flag for them to fly.



How we help - Veterans and Heritage

Despite still feeling the effects of the national COVID restrictions which has resulted in some events and travel being cancelled throughout the 2021/22 reporting period, the Welsh Guards Charity has still spent over £130,000 looking after our Veterans and on maintaining our Regimental Heritage.

We continue to help fund this category in many areas with large grants being made to the Guards Chapel Organ fund, the Guards Museum and

the Welsh Guards collection as well as supporting Welsh Guards teams at the Colonel-in-Chief's Golf competition, subsidising the Regimental St David's Day celebrations, the annual Remembrance poppy wreaths and field of Remembrance plot as well as providing grants within the Welsh Guards Association to subsidise travel costs to enable our veterans to attend events wherever they may be held.



1



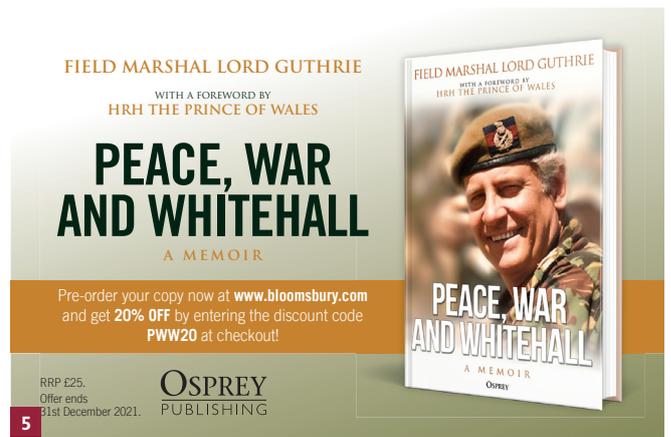
2



3



4



5

1. 97-year-old David Howard (2738537) a 2nd Battalion veteran who saw service in Brussels, Hechtel and Boulogne is visited at his care home in Stourbridge and the WG charity funded a replacement set of war medals in preparation for the award of the Legion d'honneur which the WG Charity is currently processing with the MOD and French Embassy.

2. The WG Charity heavily subsidised the Welsh Guards Association Biennial Lunch in Cardiff in Apr 22, delayed from 2020, it was the first large social event many of our veterans had attended since the start of the COVID lockdown.

3. The Welsh Guards Charity commissioned a regimentally significant portrait of Warrant Officer Class 1 Carl Taylor as the Royal Military Academy Sergeant Major, an appointment only ever previously held by one Welsh Guardsman since the establishment of the Royal Military Academy in 1947, (WO1 H C Phillips MBE MVO was Academy Sergeant Major from Aug 63 to Dec 70). The portrait, by Nicholas J Smith, was completed in December 2021 and unveiled in the Sergeant's Mess, 1st Battalion Welsh Guards on St David's Day, 1st March 2022.

4. Veterans and serving personnel and their families at the Regimental St David's Day celebrations at Combermere Barracks, Windsor.

5. The publication of the memoirs of the most senior Welsh Guardsman ever, Field Marshal Lord Guthrie, was supported by our charity as a significant and historical moment for the Regiment.

6. The Charity continues to support the production of the Regimental Magazine which is available either free of charge or at a heavily subsidised price.



6

Cymru am Byth

In fulfilling our fourth charitable objective:

"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 commissioned an oil on canvas painting measuring 6ft x 4 ft by the renown artist Sean Bolan recording the historically significant event on 13th June 2020 when 1st Battalion Welsh Guards accompanied by the combined Band of the Household Division provided a covid secure, socially distanced Birthday Parade in front of Her Majesty The Queen in the Quadrangle of Windsor Castle.

The painting now hangs in the Officers' Mess 1st Battalion Welsh Guards.



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