

Cymru am Byth



Welsh Guards Charity Impact Report 2016-17



Registered Charity Number 1152766



Foreword

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

We have previously reported on the Welsh Guards Charity through the Regimental magazine and other fora, we have changed the format and will now report through the “Impact Report” format. In its pages, you will see how we run the charity and achieve our charitable objectives. The Impact Report highlights the good work in supporting Welsh Guardsmen, serving or retired, and their families.

Our Regimental Charity has progressed significantly over the years, of particular note is the fundraising that took place for the Welsh Guards Afghanistan Appeal during the period 2009 and 2014. This has enabled us to provide effective support to those who were bereaved and who suffered life changing injuries

from the Operational Tours to Afghanistan the Battalion undertook in 2009 and 2012. This considerable fundraising effort has enabled us to employ a full time Regimental Veterans Officer, since February 2014, who is able to reach out to all our veterans, in which ever operation or conflict they served in.

We must continue to build up our charitable funds in order that our support can endure into the future. We have been incredibly fortunate to have had so many donors and supporters who have been exceptionally generous with their time and money. I am also hugely grateful to the work and support we receive from the other Service Charities who we work closely with, not least ABF the Soldiers



Charity, SSAFA Forces Help, Help for Heroes and the Royal British Legion.

I commend this report to you and I remain incredibly grateful to the continuing efforts so many make in supporting our Charity, thank you.

Regimental Trustees 2016-17

Major General RJÆ Stanford MBE
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Useful Links

1st Battalion Welsh Guards Website
www.army.mod.uk/infantry/regiments/23991.aspx

Welsh Guards Charity
www.welshguardscharity.co.uk

1st Battalion Welsh Guards Facebook
www.facebook.com/1stBattalionWelshGuards

Welsh Guards Just Giving Page
www.justgiving.com/welshguardscharity

Welsh Guards Association
www.welshguardsassociation.com

Welsh Guards Reunited
www.welshguardsreunited.co.uk



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 grew 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 currently under construction. It will shortly be available at www.welshguardscharity.co.uk and will pull together all the various strands of the charity into one easily navigable place, giving examples of the work we do, details on fundraising, news on the Battalion, how to donate and much more besides.

Not all of the grants, donations and assistance distributed by the charity can be covered in this short report, but it is very much hoped that it will at least give a flavour of what the Welsh Guards Charity achieved in 2016-17 and the difference it is having in the lives of so many; serving, veteran and families. With your continued support the charity can go from strength to strength.

Regimental Veterans Officer

Established in 2014, the Regimental Veterans Officer (RVO) is funded entirely by the Welsh Guards Charity to ensure 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:

welshguardsrco@gmail.com
Tel: 07456 985729



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.army.mod.uk/infantry/regiments/29434.aspx



Grants

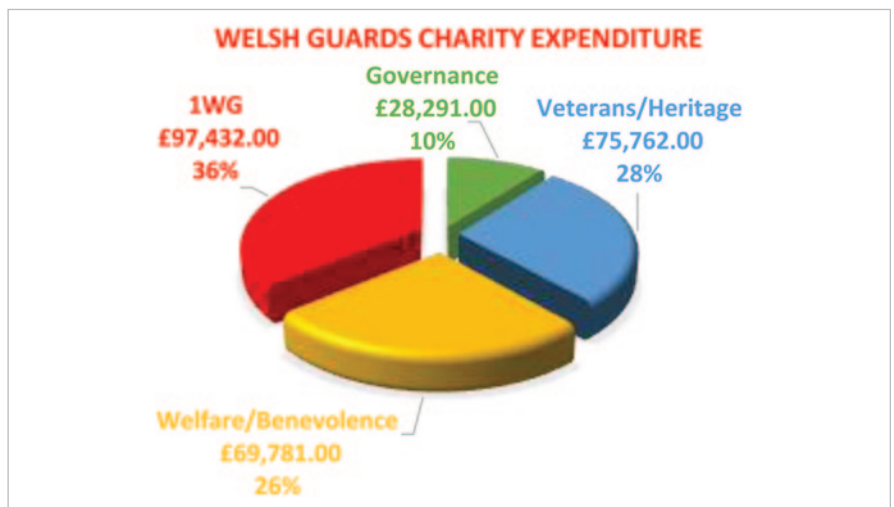
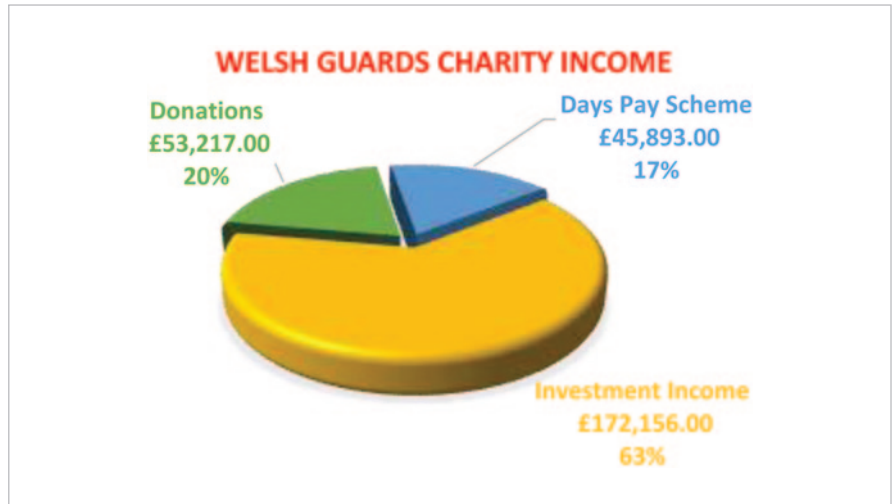
Fundraising.

2016/17 has been a good year for raising income for the charity. With the Welsh Guards Charity Investment Portfolio underpinning all that we are able to achieve and with over three quarters of serving Welsh Guardsmen now signed up to the Regimental One Day's Pay Scheme (ODPS), the income from these two areas is key to our charitable work. PRI Sales, Archive search fees, individual donations and the superb support given by our wonderful fundraisers is essential to enable us to continue to allocate the necessary funding to the areas they are needed most.

Expenditure.

The Regimental Trustees meet twice a year in accordance with the Charity Commission regulations to discuss and allocate funding to the various areas supported by the Welsh Guards charity. We are blessed to have a very proactive and generous set of Trustees who will always help where and when they can, whilst also being mindful of the need to ensure allocation of funds is done in accordance with the charities objectives (see page 3).

We must however not become complacent and will continually look at ways to raise funds, limit running costs and ensure that all future Welsh Guardsmen and their families also benefit from the same support when serving and retired.



Wonderful Fundraising effort for the Welsh Guards charity by the Battalion's wives and teenagers who took part in the Windsor Obstacle Colour Rush.



The Welsh Guards Charity Just Giving Page is proving to be a popular and easy way to donate.



How we help - Welfare and Benevolence

The Welsh Guards Charity supports our soldiers, veterans and families in many ways continually throughout the year normally alongside other organisations such as Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA), Royal British Legion (RBL), Help for Heroes (H4H) and the Army Benevolent Fund (ABF). Grants are paid to these Service Charities assisting WG Veterans and their families. If SSAFA are involved with a welfare case, it is safe to say, that in nearly all instances, funding will have come from the Welsh Guards charity.



A large grant was paid equally with 3 other Service Charities to medically evacuate a young Welsh Guards Veteran stranded in Thailand after a very serious motorcycle accident. No other alternative means of evacuation could be found by his family and his condition was life threatening - photo 9 months later, the RVO with Adam Hobbs.

A grant of over £4,000 was paid to fund the cost of a training course to help re-train a young Welsh Guardsman who was injured in Afghanistan and subsequently medically discharged.

- ▶ An electrically powered vehicle was part funded for an elderly disabled WG Veteran by the Welsh Guards Charity.
- ▶ A grant was paid to cover the costs of Occupational Therapy for an elderly Veteran.
- ▶ An emergency grant, used to help rebuild his family home, was paid to a Fijian Veteran of the Welsh Guards after a devastating storm.
- ▶ An elderly widow of a Welsh Guard Veteran was given a grant to purchase essential items for her move into a care home.
- ▶ A short respite break was paid for the family and children of a Welsh Guards Veteran.
- ▶ Home security equipment was paid for after an elderly Veteran was burgled.
- ▶ Replacement windows were paid for and fitted to a very seriously ill Veteran's bedroom.
- ▶ Garden alterations for a disabled Veteran so that he can have wheelchair access.
- ▶ A cooker was purchased for a Veteran who was moving out of sheltered accommodation into his own property.
- ▶ Along with other service charities, we partially funded a mobility ramp for a disabled Veteran.



LCpl Geraint Hillard, injured in Afghanistan in 2009 with a specialist wheelchair funded by the Welsh Guards Charity

A grant of over £4,000 was paid to fund the cost of a training course to help re-train a young Welsh Guardsman who was injured in Afghanistan and subsequently medically discharged

77 requests for assistance received this year alone through SSAFA and RBL
◆
Over £69,000 paid out to support Welfare and towards helping individuals in need
◆
Over 80 home or hospital visits to Veterans and bereaved families by RVO

A homeless Welsh Guard veteran was located on the streets of London and provided with emergency accommodation. The Welsh Guards Charity provided an emergency grant to fund clothing, food and the first month's rent.

◆
In addition, Clothing and hardship grants for WG veterans are sought after and paid on release from prison.



How we help - Veterans and Heritage

The Welsh Guards Charity spent over £75,000 looking after veterans and our heritage, contributing towards a wide range of projects to ensure that the Welsh Guards heritage is preserved and the memory of those who have gone before remembered. Battlefield Tours, Museums, Memorials, assisting veterans return to the Falkland Islands, poppy wreaths, just a few of the many projects funded by the Welsh Guards charity.



An annual grant is given to the Welsh Guards Collection, Oswestry to help towards the cost of maintaining the collection.



Welsh Guards Charity funded the Welsh Guards paving stone recently laid in Hero's Square at the National Memorial Arboretum.



We continue to provide a grant to those South Atlantic Medal holders wishing to return to the Falkland Islands for the first time and we are most fortunate to have Major Charlie Carty MBE TD arrange these each year.



A grant was made towards a new War Memorial which was unveiled on 4 Nov 16 in Llanelli to honour Service Personnel killed in action since World War II. The names of Eirwyn John Phillips (24503713) and Nicholas David Mark Thomas (24436475), both Welsh Guardsmen killed during the Falklands Campaign are recorded on the memorial.

The new Household Division Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum received funding from the Welsh Guards Charity

The Guards Museum at Wellington Barracks receives an annual grant towards upkeep and maintenance and this year the National Army Museum also received a grant from the Welsh Guards charity



Fostering Espirit de Corps

1st Battalion Welsh Guards received grants in excess of £97,000 from the Welsh Guards Charity to enhance the quality of life and variety for Welsh Guardsmen. We helped fund; Overseas trips, Battlefield Tours, Boxing Club, Enduro Motocross, Football, Polo, Skiing trips, Mountain Biking, Angling (sea & carp), Running Team, Rugby, Choir, Families Welfare, Sailing, Golf, Cycling (Road), St David's Day.



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In April 2017, **Captain Tom Evans** 1st Battalion Welsh Guards, competed in the 32nd Marathon des Sables. He finished in 19 hours, 49 minutes and 33 seconds, coming third overall and becoming the highest UK finisher ever. In doing so, he raised over £8k for the Welsh Guards Charity; money which will go to supporting serving and former Welsh Guardsmen and their families.



Regimental Headquarters Welsh Guards
Wellington Barracks
Birdcage Walk
London SW1E 6HQ

T: 0207 414 3291
E: welshguardsara@gmail.com
W: www.welshguardscharity.co.uk
f www.facebook.com/1stBattalionWelshGuards