



THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH 1921-2021



IMPACT REPORT 2020

PATRON'S MESSAGE

It is hard to believe that it is over a year since the Covid Pandemic started and we are beginning to see the long term implications it will have for all of us. I wish to talk about the exceptional sense of duty that I have witnessed from members of the Veterans Aid team as they struggled each day to care for their clients, throughout the crisis.

It is humbling to be associated with such a dedicated group of individuals: people doing the right things, for the right reasons; people who knew how to adapt when the everything around them was changing; people who responded with composure, not panic, in an utterly professional way.

My years as Patron of this remarkable charity had prepared me for the fact that its staff would perform well under pressure, but it was clear from the outset that just 'performing well' was not going to be enough. They took delivery of care to a new level and it is hard to describe the pride I felt on hearing that Christmas Day 2020 was their 300th day of continuous operations during the pandemic.

"It is humbling to be associated with such a dedicated group of individuals: people doing the right things, for the right reasons; people who knew how to adapt when the everything around them was changing..."

Conducting business as usual during this challenging year was never going to be enough for the Veterans Aid team who threw themselves at the task with energy and commitment. They dug deep for those who needed it most and the extraordinary results they achieved bear testament to their personal efforts. I am proud to be their Patron.



The Dowager Viscountess Rothermere
Patron, Veterans Aid

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Facebook: @VeteransAid

TRUSTEES AND OPERATIONAL STAFF



Patron

The Dowager Viscountess Rothermere

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Brigadier Johnny Rickett CBE FInstD

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Mr Andrew Wallis MBE OL DL

Deputy Chairman

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FBIPP FIOD ACII

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Mr Gilbert Holbourn FCA FCCA DChA

Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen John Hillier
GCB CBE DFC MA

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Honorary Psychiatric Advisor -
Lieutenant Colonel Ian Palmer,
Professor of Military Psychiatry

Honorary Compliance Advisor
Mr Robert Emmet FCA

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Solicitor (England & Wales), FCIPD, LLB (Hons)

Finance & Legal

Legal Advisors - Dentons UKMEA LLP

Auditors - Saffery Champness LLP,
Chartered Accountants

Investment Managers & Stockbrokers
S&T Asset Management LLP

Bankers - Clydesdale Bank, HSBC Bank,
Lloyds TSB Bank

HQ & Operations Centre

CEO - Wing Commander Dr Hugh Milroy
OBE BTh MA PhD DCL (h.c.)

Head of Administration
& Company Secretary - Ms Natalia
Dabrowska BA PgDip

Deputy Administrator
Ms Marianna Prota MA

Head of Financial Services

Mr Richard Greenhough B.Com ACMA

Finance Assistant - Ms Chu Yon Cho BA

Media & Communications Advisor -
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Digital Media Officer - Ms Marija Dizdar
Zovko MBA

Media Assistant - Ms Jenny Moroney BA

Events & Development Officer
Major Delia Holdom

Head of Fundraising

Ms Dorothy Jones Dip Eng Law (Open)
MCIM MCIOF

Fundraising Manager - Ms Delia Blaj BA

Fundraising Assistant - Ms Zingara
Campana Mendes BSc MSc

Ops Team

Head of Outreach - Mr John Boyle Dip SW
(Funded by SSAFA Forces Help Central
London)

Head of Addiction Services
Mr Phil Rogers BA

Operations Support Worker
Ms Debbie Langdon

Operations Support Assistant
Ms Tamika Brandon-Thynne

New Belvedere House

NBH Manager - Ms Pat O'Connor MBE
Deputy Manager - Mr Dennis Murphy

Assistant Managers - Ms Lesley MacDonald,
Mr Garry Roberts, Ms Anna Waylen,

Mr Kaedon White, Mr Ian Hamlet,
Mr Peter Fanning, Mr Denroy Roberts,
Mr Roberto Merola

IT Support Services
Horizon Telecom

Facilities Management
Blackmoor Knight Ltd

HR and Health & Safety Support
Citation Ltd

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MESSAGE

As we see light at the end of the 'pandemic tunnel' it is worth reflecting on our exceptional and unflinching service to the ex-service community throughout the COVID crisis and the issues that we had to deal with.

It was a challenge, but it didn't defeat us; in fact, we thrived. Our annual data is only slightly down on pre-COVID years - which is simply extraordinary. We were able to achieve this because we are small, agile and very focused on effective outcomes. But it wouldn't have happened without the astonishing help we received from so many sources.

The list of those who cared enough to support us financially or provide practical help such as daily delivery of cooked meals to New Belvedere House is lengthy. I can't mention everyone but I can say 'thank you' on behalf of the clients and staff at Veterans Aid: We couldn't have achieved this without you.

The crisis has been long and tough for all, but it is only appropriate that I commend the team at Veterans Aid; ordinary people who achieved extraordinary things for veterans, when the world seemed to be spiralling out of control. Throughout the emergency,

they fought to be the one constant in the lives of veterans who were in the direst of need.

Veterans Aid's staff supported one another unflinchingly and now have a bond that only comes from fighting together, against the worst long-term catastrophe for generations. They didn't 'operate a call centre' - they provided a truly 'human' resource. They became involved in some desperate and tragic moments, offered a caring voice when there was no other, and always looked for innovative ways to help those who found themselves powerless and afraid.

This selfless and noble commitment to others has been humbling to witness. Their willingness to care for those who could not care for themselves was demonstrated daily, regardless of the odds. Hopefully, the worst is behind us now but the nation and the ex-service community can be justifiably proud of their group efforts. I am honoured to have been with them at this time.

Going forward, I am sure that we will see rises in unemployment, debt, evictions, social exclusion and addiction. This will inevitably have an impact within the veteran community, especially upon those employed in economically sensitive sectors such as hospitality.

Our ability to deal with clients holistically with the direct aim of empowering them to live sustainable and fulfilling lives will be more important than ever.

My hope for the future is that the military charity sector will focus more on addressing poverty directly. Post-pandemic policies and procedures must not result in exacerbation of financial problems for poverty stricken and vulnerable veterans. As ever, this Charity is ready and willing to play its part. I hope others feel the same way.

"This selfless and noble commitment to others has been humbling to witness. Their willingness to care for those who could not care for themselves was demonstrated daily, regardless of the odds."




Wing Commander
Dr Hugh Milroy OBE PhD
CEO, Veterans Aid

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

**"It was the best of times,
it was the worst of times!"**

The opening lines of Charles Dickens' novel, *A Tale of Two Cities*, seems a very apt way to describe our experience in 2020, when the worst pandemic in living memory gave rise to the Charity's finest hour.

The global crisis developed rapidly and in a manner that saw some charities reducing or suspending their services. Thankfully Veterans Aid was not among them.

Our roots go back to 1932, but this was our moment. Our performance during the pandemic was inspirational, but it didn't happen by chance. As part of our risk management protocols, a major crisis was considered and planned for and a model developed to ensure we were able to continue operating. When the Chief Executive decided to implement the disaster plan, it worked smoothly and efficiently with all staff and clients being kept safe while our work continued. It was a textbook activation and was exemplary in its execution.

During a period when many organisations struggled to deliver much needed support we actively assisted clients in 24 countries worldwide.

To say the Charity is thriving is an understatement; reputationally and operationally we are in an excellent position. Whereas some charities might struggle to demonstrate 'public benefit', we have an outstanding and demonstrable record; one

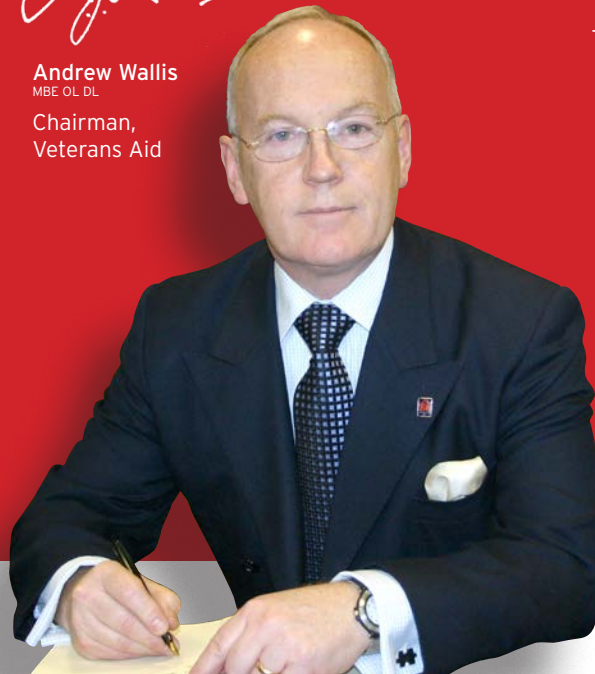
that has been audited externally and validated both nationally and internationally.

Our finances are in a good place and I think it is fair to say that the sustainable income stream, in the form of housing benefit, that we receive from Tower Hamlets for the services we provide, is something that few charities benefit from.

The pandemic came hard on the heels of the major refurbishment of New Belvedere House and the Board is now keen to see a period of consolidation. To our friends and supporters, we offer our sincere thanks as we do to our stalwart and steadfast staff who stepped up when others stepped back. The future is bright.



Andrew Wallis
MBE OLC DL
Chairman,
Veterans Aid



THE MILITARY FAMILY

"Who do you help?" is a question that Veterans Aid staff are often asked. "Does it matter when I served, or what rank I held, or for how long?". The answer is simple: It does not.

During 2020 the Charity responded to appeals from ex-servicemen and women of all ages; individuals who had served in the Royal Navy, the Royal Marines, the Army and the Royal Air Force - in the Regular forces and the Reserves.

Those who reached out were united only by the fact that they had served, for as little as one day, in a branch of HM Armed Forces, and were in crisis. Calls came from veterans all over the world, from the following units:

The Royal Navy, The Royal Marines, Corps of Royal Engineers, The Royal Regiment of Artillery, The Corps of Royal Signals, The Grenadier Guards, The Coldstream Guards, The Scots Guards, The Irish Guards, The Welsh Guards, The Queen's Dragoon Guards, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, The Royal Regiment of Scotland, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, The Mercian Regiment, The Rifles, The Royal Welsh Regiment, The Parachute Regiment, The Royal Anglian Regiment, The Yorkshire Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps, The Royal Military Police, Army Reserves (various), The Royal Air Force and The Royal Air Force Regiment.





A GLOBAL WEB OF SUPPORT - EVEN DURING THE PANDEMIC

1862



CLIENT INTERACTIONS



As the knock-on effects of the pandemic took their toll, there were fears that homelessness and rough sleeping were going to escalate alarmingly. To some extent this was mitigated by the Government's 'Everyone In' initiative which sought to ensure that people sleeping rough and in places where it was difficult to self-isolate were safely accommodated.

As huge swathes of the population were losing their jobs, Veterans Aid actually increased the number of ex-service personnel it helped into work or onto training courses. COVID lockdown restrictions made drop-in calls almost impossible, but through virtual/digital networking channels Veterans Aid logged 1,862 client interactions from around the UK and worldwide.



133

CLIENTS HOMED APPROPRIATELY



102

INTO EDUCATION OR EMPLOYMENT



114

PREVENTED FROM HOMELESSNESS



24

COUNTRIES WHERE CALLS FOR HELP FROM UK VETERANS ORIGINATED





CLIENTS THROUGH
REHAB / DETOX

2020	70
2019	66
2018	51

VA, COVID & MENTAL HEALTH

The COVID pandemic caused operational problems for UK charities on an unprecedented scale; some struggled to cope, others failed. Lt Col Ian Palmer, the Charity's Honorary Psychiatric Advisor & Professor of Military Psychiatry, explains how Veterans Aid rose to the challenge and reflects on the mental health legacy of lockdown.

VA's strength lies in its philosophy. We refuse to accept that individuals are defined by their problems. We believe that everyone has resilience, but some may have misplaced it for a while. Through solution-focused assessment of needs, we help our clients find and reconnect with their strengths and wellbeing.

Veterans Aid is justifiably proud that, like HM Forces, it remained operational throughout the COVID pandemic. Both organisations thrive on adversity and challenge and succeed because they possess institutional resilience, a quality that fosters individual resilience - the bedrock of their continuing successes.

Individual-focused psychology recognises that everyone develops resilient ways of managing and adapting to stressful life-events. The individual veteran's resilience gets him or her to our front door. While some coping strategies prove less helpful over time than others, many can lead to profound personal growth. Mental flexibility and strength built upon the pillars of self-belief, positive

"VA's strength lies in its philosophy. We refuse to accept that individuals are defined by their problems. We believe that everyone has resilience, but some may have misplaced it for a while."

Lt. Col. Ian Palmer
Honorary Psychiatric Advisor, Veterans Aid

self-regard, emotional and mental control, a sense of purpose and a structured social network is our goal.

Veterans Aid buzzes with a sense of purpose and direction. The self-belief nurtured in the charity's staff gives its members confidence in their abilities and judgement, a strength that enables them to continue working through periods of adversity such as the Covid pandemic. This is embedded in a social support network which ties colleagues and clients alike into an atmosphere of commitment and shared enterprise.

Clear communication, strong leadership and personnel structures help individuals to feel safe, in a space that allows them to develop awareness of their inherent strengths and abilities. It enables them to concentrate their attention on their future wellbeing.

Since time immemorial, we have known that some external events can cause emotional and psychological distress. We also know that, in general, when such external events are resolved so, too, are the distresses they generate. Despite this, in the wake of COVID, some pundits are postulating a tsunami of mental disorders that will overwhelm the NHS.

There is a pervasive, and ultimately unhelpful, conflation between mental distress and mental disorders. Much is made of the statistic provided by the mental health charity Mind, that three out

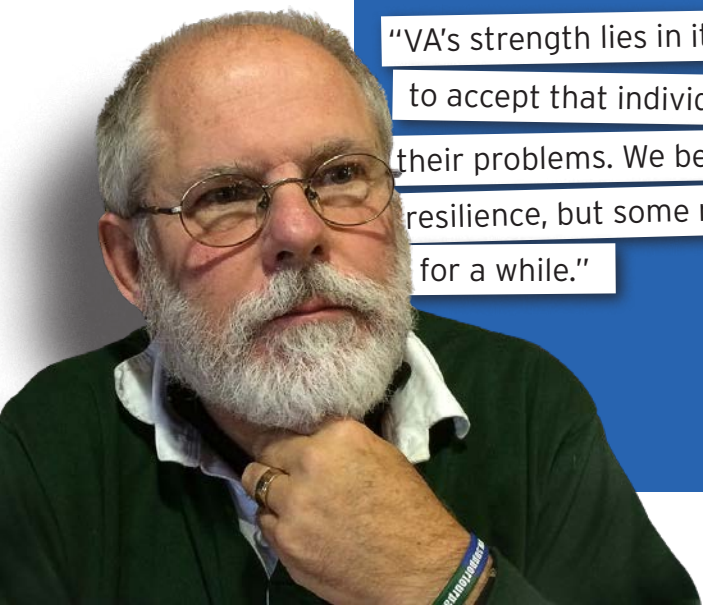
of four of us will have mental health 'issues' at some stage in our life. However, mental 'issues' are not necessarily mental 'disorders' - only about 1 in 100 will have severe and enduring mental disorders.

We have all experienced the frustration of isolation - anxiety and worry for ourselves, our futures and those of our loved ones. It doesn't really help to know that everyone, in every nation, is in the same boat. While it is true that some individuals will develop serious mental disorders, for the majority the presence of symptoms does not *per se* indicate the presence of a mental disorder.

To suggest that there will be an overwhelming legacy of mental disorders is hyperbole, as we have seen in the case of another 'virtual' tsunami - PTSD in veterans. Without doubt, there is much emotional distress as a consequence of COVID, but history tells us that it is likely to abate once the pandemic is under control and life returns to normal.

The resumption of natural social interaction is likely to be a much more effective 'treatment' of distress than a false diagnosis of mental disorder, followed by a course of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy or antidepressants.

But just in case, Veterans Aid staff are trained to identify the development of serious mental disorders and when it is picked up, clients are referred appropriately.





VALUE FOR MONEY & UNINTERRUPTED INNOVATION

Every charity needs money to operate. The larger an organisation grows, the more it costs to run. PR and advertising budgets creep up, building maintenance bills soar and staff numbers increase. Funds are required simply to turn the lights on and the process for deciding what is spent on beneficiaries becomes ever more Byzantine - until the time between appeal and support becomes unconscionably long.

Veterans Aid was founded by people who wanted to break that cycle by delivering practical support at point of need. This philosophy has prevailed throughout the decades and relies for its success on two things; swift access to unrestricted funds and innovative thinking.

VA today is as flexible and creative as it was nearly 90 years ago when it was founded as the Ex-Services Fellowship Centre (EFC). By examining the underlying causes of individuals' problems and addressing them with practical solutions VA deconstructs the obstacles that precipitate veterans into poverty - and keeps them there.



By examining the underlying causes of individuals' problems and addressing them with practical solutions, VA deconstructs the obstacles that precipitate veterans into poverty - and keeps them there.

BESPOKE WELLBEING PROGRAMMES - PAUL MCKENNA

Many of the veterans seeking VA's help have multiple and underlying problems. Peeling away the layers that disguise the real issues can take time and a considerable amount of money. The success of this investment in people - part of the Charity's Welfare to Wellbeing® pathway - came to the attention of celebrity hypnotherapist, wellbeing guru and author Paul McKenna (pictured).

At no cost to VA Paul recorded a series of personalised messages to introduce four of his bespoke self-help programmes. Every resident and member of staff is able access the programmes via a gateway on the VA website. This means that by using phones, tablets, laptop or desktop computers individuals in the Charity's care can listen to the confidence-building programmes privately, at a time and in a place of their choosing.

They deal with anxiety, sleep deprivation, lack of confidence and motivation, re-enforcing and feeding into every aspect of what VA, as a charity for ex-servicemen and women in crisis, aspires to do.

DYSLEXIA PENS

Inability to read can easily translate into isolation. It can limit access to important information and impede progress in

employment. New Belvedere House is now equipped with pen 'readers' - portable pocket-sized scanners that read text aloud with a digital voice. Problem identified - solution supplied!

ALEXA - BE MY EYES!

Impaired vision is often overlooked when trying to work out why veterans are struggling; age, illness and a variety of other conditions can conspire to cause sight problems. In its constant search for solutions VA frequently looks to technology, which is why the solution to one partially sighted former mariner's problems came in the form of an 'Alexa' smart speaker. Using voice commands he can now use her services to play music, listen to audio books, check the news or weather and set alarms.

MOOD-LIFTING GARDENS

The health value of gardens and fresh air is well documented which is why a sensory garden was incorporated into the redevelopment of New Belvedere House. Sunlight lifts the mood and delivers Vitamin D, scents promote calm and simply being outdoors encourages movement and exercise. Private open-air space in Inner London, where vulnerable veterans can feel safe, comes at a premium, but instead of lamenting what it has not got, Veterans Aid optimises what it has.

With help from a generous supporter the area outside NBH's lower floor has been transformed into an attractive social space.

Alexa Smart Speakers





NEW BELVEDERE HOUSE - THANK YOU FOR CARING!

If the public face of Veterans Aid is its HQ & Operations Centre, its heart is New Belvedere House - the residential facility owned and operated by the Charity in East London. When lockdown was announced VA rapidly geared up to undertake the daunting task of caring for a group of vulnerable adults for an indefinite period in the most uncertain of times.

"I will always be grateful for the commitment of VA's outstanding staff and loyal supporters. The thoughtful gifts of food, meals, model kits, grooming accessories and other 'wellbeing' items played an inestimable part in keeping morale high." - CEO Dr Hugh Milroy

The Charity's priority was to provide a safe space for those residents who wished to remain during lockdown while doing its utmost to care for their health and wellbeing.

John, a former resident now living independently in accommodation found for him by Veterans Aid, spent most of lockdown at New Belvedere House:

"I have been on the receiving end of some of the amazing charitable donations sent to the residents here from the local community and friends of VA. Over the past year, during the government lockdown to stop the spread of COVID, patrons (supporters) and members of the local community sprang into action."

"Residents here were safely quarantined in a clean, sterile environment and there were daily deliveries of freshly cooked meals. As a long term resident I experienced first hand the team's remarkable professionalism in handling both the general situation and individual clients' needs; it was second to none. I would like to thank everyone for their efforts in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of myself and every other resident."

"I was lucky to be in a situation where I had people looking out for me. We got food, gifts, and that's all their (Veterans Aid's) work... it was so appreciated."

Resident, New Belvedere House



A DOORWAY TO...



It doesn't look much from the outside - just another black door in a quiet garden square - yet VA's Head Office and Operations Centre is just yards from London's main transport hub in the heart of Westminster, the capital's rough sleeping hotspot.

The team behind the door take calls from UK veterans in crisis all over the world; some arrive unannounced with only the clothes they stand-up in, others ring the bell to keep appointments with the Charity's addictions counsellor, employment advisor, or a member of its operations team. However they make contact - via email, text, phone call, social media or simply by 'dropping in' - veterans in desperate need of support, are swiftly connected to someone able to help them.

No. 27 is the hub of a network that extends worldwide - a powerhouse of expertise where trusted staff are empowered to make rapid decisions about expenditure, travel and life-saving interventions. During the pandemic it was business as usual - whether the call came from Syria or Southwark.

Mobility was restricted during lockdown and many of the services normally available to veterans facing homelessness or other life crises were either unavailable or harder to access. Against this background Veterans Aid continued to deliver.



Left: Painting of Veterans Aid's unassuming entrance in London's Victoria Square, painted by former RAF Flight Sergeant Chris Clawson - now a Yeoman warder ('Beefeater') at the Tower of London.

Right: In the bus shelter overlooked by No 27 a socially distanced staff member engages with a veteran seeking help during lockdown.

FUNDRAISER'S MESSAGE



Veterans Aid is a frontline charity; when it identifies need it acts. This practical responsiveness to adversity continued throughout the pandemic and when vulnerable clients were signposted to us, by organisations temporarily unable to offer support, we were willing and able to help them. This was possible only through the generosity of our loyal supporters.

During national lockdown, when the Government intervened to support homeless people off the streets into temporary accommodation, Veterans Aid played its part - funding hotel accommodation for those in direst need until longer term solutions could be brokered.

We survive to operate because our funding streams are diverse, our staff 100% committed and our supporters able to see the tangible results of our interventions.

Veterans Aid does not depend on seasonal fundraising drives or high-profile events, but beneficence, from donors who are discerning about how they research and direct their philanthropic acts. Quite sensibly, they favour results-based giving, with a view to ensuring that their money actually does some good rather than get diverted towards administration. We are prudent but highly successful and our supporters can take heart from the fact that far from being rendered ineffective by the pandemic, we have emerged from it stronger.

If you would like to learn more about how to support VA please email me on funds1@veterans-aid.net, call 0207 592 7393 to speak or explore our website at www.veterans-aid.net

Dorothy Jones
Dip Eng Law (Open) MCIM MCIOF
Head of Fundraising
Veterans Aid



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Financial Summary for the year ended 30th September 2020

Income £1,851,994 (2019: £1,890,057)			Expenditure £1,888,995 (2019: £1,930,138)		
	2020 £	2019 £		2020 £	2019 £
Donations & Legacies	545,630	637,193	New Belvedere House (NBH)	818,713	867,077
Local Authority payments	753,823	776,977	Operations Centre	932,092	919,359
Charges to NBH residents	64,765	65,999	Fundraising & Events	138,190	143,702
Donations in Kind	55,274	28,958			
Grants	400,834	315,136			
Fundraising & Sundry	9,157	41,233			
Investment Income	22,511	24,561			
	£1,851,994	£1,890,057		£1,888,995	£1,930,138

For the second half of the year, despite the pandemic, Veterans Aid remained fully operational. The pandemic had a direct impact on income as local authority payments and charges to NBH residents were reduced by £24k as the result of temporarily reducing the capacity of NBH to allow for managing the lockdown requirements. Nevertheless, despite these difficult circumstances, we maintained our existing sources of income while developing new income streams so that the overall impact on income for the year was a drop of only 2%.

Net (decrease) increase in funds	(37,001)	(40,081)
Net (loss) gain on investments	(20,695)	41,965
Pension scheme actuarial (loss) gain	(680)	9,230
Total movement in funds	(£58,376)	£11,114

Reserves	Balances at 30th Sept 2020 £	Movement in year £	
Capital Funds			
Hollenden Endowment Reserve	2,512,053	-	Permanent Endowment Reserve
Restricted Funds	5,191,629	(108,159)	New Belvedere House Reserve
	7,703,682	(108,159)	The £108,159 represents depreciation of the freehold buildings.
Revenue Funds			
Restricted Funds	-	(2,703)	Funds donated for specific activities
General Reserve (Unrestricted Funds)	1,093,404	52,486	Represents an estimated seven months average operating costs
	1,093,404	49,783	
Total Funds	£8,797,086	(£58,376)	

Trustees' statement

This financial summary has been prepared to illustrate the main areas of ongoing expenditure by Veterans Aid, the principal sources of its income and the funds available.

The Board of Trustees confirms that this financial summary is taken from the draft accounts for the year and is subject to audit. The summary does not contain all the information necessary to allow a full understanding of the financial affairs of Veterans Aid. Copies of the full accounts, once the audit is complete, will be filed with the Charity Commission and may be obtained from: Veterans Aid, 27 Victoria Square, London, SW1W 0RB.

Signed



Christopher MacKenzie-Beevor, Honorary Treasurer



KEY FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

As ever, our heartfelt gratitude goes to all our supporters. There are now so many that we are unable to list them all individually - and some wish to remain anonymous. However, each one is valued and a random selection appears below. Their overwhelming generosity - this past year more than ever - inspires and touches us. Thanks to them we are able to survive, thrive and continue our life-saving work among ex-servicemen and women in crisis.

Amazon Smile	Maritime Asset Security and Training (MAST) Ltd	The Ian Askew Charitable Trust
Amazon UK	Military Gift Direct	The Inman Charity
BAE Systems	Models for Heroes	The Lady R Foundation
Belstone Services Management Limited	N.A.P Horse Transport	The Leonard Laity Stoa Charitable Trust
Blackmoor Knight Ltd	Oliver Burns LLP	The Lister Hospital
Bloomberg L.P.	PF Charitable Trust	The London Community Foundation
Blythe Sappers	Queen Mother's Clothing Guild	The Meadow Trust
Brigade Bar + Kitchen	Queen's Royal Hussars	The Michael Uren Foundation
Bullecourt Troop, Honourable Artillery Company (HAC)	Royal Navy & Royal Marines Charity	The National Federation of Women's Institute - Hessenford
Cavalry & Guards Club	Royal Tank Regiment Benevolent Fund	The National Lottery Community Fund
Chelsea & Westminster Inner Wheel Club	SAS Regimental Association	The Not Forgotten Association
Compton Housing Association	The Orr Mackintosh Foundation	The Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund
Comrades of The Great War Club - Coulsdon	Slade Green Railway Club	The Royal Anglian Regiment
Co-op Funeralcare	Sport England	The Royal Marines Charity
Cornhill Parish Church	St Columba's Church of Scotland	The Royal Naval Benevolent Trust
Croydon Commitment	St Mary's Parish Church Old Basing and Lychpit	The Royal Signals Charity
Douglas and Gordon Ltd	The Albert Hunt Trust	The Sackler Trust
East End Community Foundation	The Armed Forces Covenant Fund	The Tanner Trust
Greater London Authority	The Barry Family Foundation	The Westminster Foundation
Greencore Group	The City of Westminster Charitable Trust	The Worshipful Company of Bakers
Grendon Underwood, Edgcott and Kingswood Women's Institute	The Coldstream Guards Association, Leicester Branch	Waitrose - Bressenden Place
Groundwork UK	The Country Food Trust	Wates Family Enterprise Trust
Horistic Lodge 2822	The Davies Family	
J.T. Middlebrook Insurance Brokers	The Drapers' Company	
JITG (Joint Intelligence Training Group)	The Hobson Charity Limited	
John Lewis Partnership		
Just Rifles Charitable Trust		

Alexander Talbot Rice



The Duke of Edinburgh
with staff and residents at
New Belvedere House.

The portrait of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh was painted in 2005 by Alexander Talbot Rice. Veterans Aid had already been granted permission to feature it as a cover image as a mark of the esteem in which The Duke was held by the Charity. When the sad news of his death was announced it was decided to use the portrait to honour his memory.

The portrait depicts The Duke wearing the Robes of The Order of The Garter and is considered by many to be one of the best likenesses of him - capturing perfectly his character and sense of humour. A copy of the original, gifted to Veterans Aid by the artist, hangs in the Charity's HQ.

After returning from Afghanistan, where he worked as a war artist, Alexander Talbot Rice spent five years painting the Mariinsky Ballet in St Petersburg. In 2018 this body of work - 'The Mariinsky Collection' - featured in an exhibition at The Cavalry and Guards Club followed by an auction that raised £50,000 for Veterans Aid.

In 2016 The Duke became the first official visitor to the newly transformed Old Rectory, the first phase of the £8.4m refurbishment project that was to transform New Belvedere House into the flagship facility that it is today. Before his retirement from public engagements in May 2017, The Duke supported Veterans Aid in a variety of ways and is remembered with respect and affection by the staff and veterans whom he met.

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