

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CHARITABLE GIVING

A REVIEW OF 2022



As a signatory to the Armed Forces Covenant we have pledged our support of the UK's military, their families and veterans. In 2022 we formalised our Charity Giving Statement of Purpose which acknowledges our commitments.

Our charitable giving and community engagement strategy focuses on four key areas:

Annington funded the Royal Navy Family & People Support Teddy Bear's Picnics held at 18 naval bases last summer

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



We support the children of military personnel through initiatives that create greater access to education, build self-confidence and resilience, and generally recognise the special circumstances associated with being a child of military personnel.

MILITARY FAMILIES



We are proud to champion families of military personnel and to support projects and organisations that are working to best meet their needs. This includes programmes that reinforce and support the family unit and eradicate social isolation.

VETERANS



We help veterans in the most practical and urgent ways, through programmes that address mental health and welfare, employability, and rehabilitation.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS



We provide funding for projects and initiatives that support life on the Married Quarters Estate and bring military communities together.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

We entered into three new partnerships with organisations working with military youngsters. **The Lord Kitchener National Memorial Fund** which provides university scholarships to Service youngsters; **The Service Children's Progression Alliance**, a partnership of organisations focused on improving educational outcomes of Service children and the **King's Active Foundation** to deliver Kings Camps for Army children during the school holidays.

The Annington Challenge celebrated its **10th birthday**.

Our funding enabled SSAFA to **add a fourth week to their hugely popular Short Breaks Programme** – read more on page 9.

Reading Force founder, Dr. Alison Bavestock was honoured at **The Soldiering On Awards** – see page 8.

**ANNUAL
BUDGET
£500K**

MILITARY CHILDREN



ANNINGTON *Challenge*

ANNINGTON CHALLENGE CELEBRATES 10 YEARS!

The Annington Challenge – Annington’s project for military youngsters that it runs in partnership with the Outward Bound Trust – celebrated its tenth birthday in 2022 and once again proved to be the highlight of the summer for a brave and deserving few.

Since 2012, more than 440 military youngsters have tackled the The Annington Challenge. In doing so, they have benefited from an experience proven to improve self-confidence and self-belief, team working skills and resilience.

The 2022 application process began in late 2021 and by the time the closing date arrived in February, the Charity Committee and the team at the Outward Bound had their own challenge in deciding who should be awarded a place. After much discussion of the year’s incredibly strong applications, 62 military youngsters were chosen to join the adventure.

Aged between 10-18, the youngsters spent 5-19 days at one of the Trust’s fantastic centres - Aberdovey in North Wales, Ullswater in Cumbria and Lock Eil in Scotland – where they enjoyed a whole host of outdoor activities, including sailing, abseiling and rock climbing through to wild camping, canoeing and gorge walking. The courses were overseen by the Outward Bound’s team of hugely experienced and qualified outdoor instructors - many of whom who have worked with previous Annington Challenge participants. They encouraged our youngsters as they tackled activities designed to take them to the edge of their comfort zones - and beyond!

Army youngster Izzy Moverley



ANNINGTON
CHALLENGE
CELEBRATES
10 YEARS!

We caught up with Army youngster Izzy Moverley on the last day of her seven-day Annington Challenge at the Outward Bound’s centre in Aberdovey, Wales.

Izzy, 15, is a student at Dauntseys, Wilts and her father is a Bomb Disposal Officer based at Army HQ in Andover. Izzy told us that the Annington Challenge really helped her come out of her shell and instil a sense of self-confidence.

‘I was really nervous on the way to Aberdovey and when I arrived I was on my own like everyone else – no-one knew anyone. But then a girl called Molly just smiled at me – who knew that just by introducing yourself, you’d make a friend!’

‘Meeting loads of new people was great and the experience really

helped me put myself in other people’s shoes. Some people struggled at different times during different activities and I found myself encouraging them and supporting them. At times I really felt like a leader. The activity I enjoyed the most was the gorge walking as I’ve never done that before. The worst bit was the abseiling... we spent the night sleeping on the mountain over a cave and then the next morning abseiled down over it! The whole experience made me feel really good about myself – particularly the day when we summited three mountains in one day!’

Izzy had one piece of advice for any military youngster considering the Annington Challenge for 2023 - ‘do it - you really only do only live once!’

Annington Ambassador, Amy Birch (left) with a group of military youngsters



Amazing Amy

Izzy wasn't the only one who got a huge amount from the experience. Our very own Annington Ambassador, Project Manager Amy Birch, from our Cranfield office volunteered to join a group for a week and found the experience life-affirming.

Amy had her own very personal reasons for volunteering. Fostered at the age of nine, Amy had never been out of her hometown, let alone been taken on holiday. One of the first things her foster parents did for her was arrange for her to go on an adventure holiday and she has never forgotten the impact it had. She wanted the chance to be our ambassador so she could help others get the very most from the experience as she understands only too well the transformational impact it can have.

Amy joined a group in Aberdovey and it proved to be everything she had hoped for and more, as she noted in an email to Ian, Annington's CEO, on her return!

'So after a weekend of catching up on sleep I thought I would just send an email to say THANK YOU for letting me be a part of the Annington Challenge this year.'

'All I can say is that it was possibly the most rewarding experience I have had volunteering for any group. There were a range of children taking part. Some very able with all the possible equipment one would need and others who arrived in just the clothes they were wearing.'

'The team in Aberdovey were fantastic from start to finish. I hadn't really appreciated the work involved to ensure that each group is catered for individually. My group consisted of 13–15-year-olds who were an absolute

joy to be with all week. We had a mixture of activities throughout the week including walking, climbing mountains, rock climbing, abseiling and gorge walking.'

'Having attended a similar course many years ago I know how life changing it can be to some of the young people who are not as fortunate. For that reason, I was incredibly proud to represent Annington this year. Again, thank you for letting me share this experience and I hope we continue this partnership in the future.'

Charlie, Mark and the rest of the Scotty's Little Soldiers team



In 2019, we agreed a three-year funding partnership with Scotty's Little Soldiers, the charity which supports bereaved children of British Service personnel. Our funding enabled Scotty's to establish a much-needed new role – Head of Support – and in doing, the charity dramatically enhanced its ability to help these special youngsters.

In 2021 further improvements were made to the SUPPORT function as the charity shifted its focus towards providing guidance to adults to enable them to support their child through

**name has been changed.*

bereavement as well as providing specialist 1:1 bereavement support to the children directly. Thanks to our continued funding, two new members of staff were recruited to deliver this new approach; one to focus exclusively on support for the parent/carer and the other to focus on supporting the young person.

Mark and Charlie joined Scotty's in May 2022. With his extensive experience of mentoring young people and his work with a child bereavement charity, Mark joined as Bereavement Support Worker dedicated to supporting Scotty's Members. Charlie took up the position as Family Support Worker to provide support and guidance to the parents and carers of Scotty's members and to help them navigate how best to support their child with their bereavement.

Any bereaved Service child aged 8-25 can access the SUPPORT function. The subject matters covered in the sessions with the children and young people range from bereavement itself through to self-harm, self-esteem and suicide of friends to anger management and not having a memory of the deceased parent.

CASE STUDY

Jack's* father died in Afghanistan when Jack was just one year old. Now 15, Jack had never spoken about his father and his sessions with Mark gave him the opportunity to do so in an environment where he knew he wasn't going to upset anyone. Using the bereavement resource 'Grief Wall' as a prompt, Jack was able to talk through the range of emotions he was experiencing. During the sessions with Mark, Jack also wrote a letter to his father which helped him articulate some of things he wanted to say to his father. 'Long time no see... Am I the son you dreamed of? I just want a memory of you ... I've looked after mum for you ... Mum told me how much I'm like you.'

The sessions also provided Jack with the courage to sit with his mother to watch a video of his father – the first time Jack had heard his father's voice. In Jack's own words 'it was just amazing as I sound like him'. He told Mark that without the sessions he would never have had the strength to open up. Mark said it was clear that he had really enjoyed the sessions and knowing Scotty's was there for him until he was 25 had filled him with confidence for the future.

Scotty's Little Soldiers benefitted from staff fundraising when Mark Greenland and Claire Hogben from our Bath office decided to take a leap of faith for the charity! First to go was Claire who took herself off to Old Sarum airfield for a parachute jump which raised £1,110. Mark decided to tackle a bungee jump over Bristol Harbour and raised slightly more, thanks to generous donations from our contractor partners. His efforts raised a total of £2,750.



2022 HIGHLIGHTS

Every one of Scotty's 574 active members received bereavement related resources from the charity during the year.

Mark provided direct 1-2-1 bereavement support to 44 young people across multiple sessions (averaging around 5 sessions per young person) and Charlie provided 1-2-1 support sessions for 66 parents and carers, holding 105 one-to-one sessions during the year.

In addition to direct counselling, Charlie ran a programme of monthly online workshops for parents and carers throughout the year including sessions on Mental Health and Parenting and Remembering a Parent.

When asked if they were likely to recommend Scotty's to a friend in need, 85% of children and young people gave the highest possible score and the remaining respondents gave the second highest score (on a scale of 1-5).

When parents were asked the same question, 93% gave the highest score.

NEW PARTNER



The Kings Active Foundation run Kings Camps, the UK's leading sports and activities holiday camps for children aged 5-17. With over 30 sports and activities designed to get children active, having fun and learning together, the camps provide invaluable Monday-Friday childcare during the school holidays.

From 2018-2020, the Annington Trust, our former grant-giving charity provided funding to the tri-Service base RNAS Yeovilton for places for Army children on the hugely popular Kings Camps that ran during the school holidays. For several years, naval children had enjoyed subsidized places thanks to the RNRMC but until the Trust became involved, Army children were excluded from participating.

Historically the camps had been hugely popular with both children and parents and so in 2022, Annington decided to fund a pilot project during the summer holidays at Tidworth Garrison for Army children. With facilities provided by Wellington Academy, the large secondary school that serves the Base and supported by Tidworth's Army Welfare Service, the pilot weeks ran for two weeks in August with Annington subsidizing places for Army children.

Jane Harsham, Annington's Sustainability Manager caught up with Maximillian Kontic, Tidworth's Kings Camp Site Manager responsible for ensuring everyone had a great time.

'On day one, we asked the youngsters share with the others what job their parent did in the Army; the children really bonded over that and as a result, made friends really quickly. Over half of them had a parent deployed including one eleven-year-old girl who hadn't seen

her father for three months and who she wasn't due to see until Christmas. It was really moving - she carried a photo and a note from him with her all the time.'

'At the end of the first week, one boy's mother returned from Ukraine and surprised him by collecting him on the last day. When he saw her, he was so overcome and ran towards her crying. Everyone else was in tears.'

Due to success of the pilot, the Camps will be returning to Tidworth in 2023 for one week at Easter and two weeks in the summer holidays. In addition, in August we will be subsidizing places for Army youngsters at Wattisham Air Base in Suffolk and another a Aldershot Garrison.

Kings Camp Red Tops have their hands full at Tidworth Garrison!



MILITARY YOUNGSTERS – FOCUS ON EDUCATION

The scale of the population of Armed Forces children and young people is significant, and research identifies that most schools have little to no training on the key challenges facing Service children and that the lack of dedicated resources are a barrier for practitioners being able to deliver effective support.

Almost 80,000 Service children are educated in over 11,000 primary and secondary schools in England alone and whilst around half of all schools have Service children on roll, half of those schools have only one or two.

These schools have little resource or time to dedicate to tailored support for Service children or to training to improve their understanding of their lives and needs. Indeed, academic research identified that 44% of schools provided no training and that most schools did not train staff in the two most significant challenges facing Service children: mobility (63%) and deployment (71%). The Ministry of Defence review, *Living in Our Shoes, 2020* is the most comprehensive investigation into the lives of Armed Forces families and concluded that teaching staff in all schools should ‘undertake training in supporting the needs of Service children’.

With this as the backdrop, in 2022, we made financial awards to two new partners working to support the educational outcomes of military youngsters.



Charity Committee members Nicola and Jane go back to school to meet teachers and pupils in Hampshire

NEW PARTNER



THE SERVICE CHILDREN'S PROGRESSION ALLIANCE (SCiP)

The Service Children's Progression Alliance (SCiP) is a partnership of organisations focused on improving educational outcomes for children from Armed Forces families.

The Alliance's mission is to bring together practitioners, researchers, policymakers, and funders to build a stronger evidence-base, better policy, and enhanced support for Service children's education and progression.

In 2018 the Alliance began developing The Thriving Lives Toolkit, the quality standard for evidence-based support for Service children in schools

throughout the UK. Four years on, The Alliance were keen to run a repeat of a research project aimed at assessing the impact of the Alliance, the Toolkit and to gain a renewed understanding of the priorities of those working with Service children.

Annington agreed to fund the consultation project with a donation of £36,000. The resulting report and recommendations published in November are being used to determine the Alliance's Future Strategy: As a bonus, the Alliance were able to heavily reference the report in a successful bid for £300,000 of funding from the Armed Forces Covenant with the grant being used to extend the Toolkit to include both Early Years and Further Education.

Helen Liddell, Chair of Annington, reflects 'Funding this foundational consultation allowed Annington to play its part in

supporting the community supporting Armed Forces children and young people. We are delighted to see the clear demonstration of the Alliance's impact on these remarkable young people and on the professionals who support them, as well as the value the community places on the SCiP Alliance's role connecting people with each other and with evidence-based resources such as the Thriving Lives Toolkit for schools.'

**£36,000
DONATION**

NEW PARTNER



THE LORD KITCHENER NATIONAL MEMORIAL FUND

In 2022, we entered a new partnership with the Lord Kitchener National Memorial Fund which provides scholarships to military youngsters going on to tertiary education.

On average more than 100 young people apply every year and the selection process is rigorous with

around 50 making it through to the interview stage.

Applicants are judged based on academic and extra-curricular achievement as well as their potential to take positions of leadership in whatever their professional field might be.

Every year the Fund awards between 25-30 scholarships of £1500 each and we donated £12,500 to fund five Annington undergraduate scholarships and one Annington PhD scholarship.

Two of our Charity Committee members, James Hamand and Ed Key, sat in on the interviews and were extremely impressed by the standard of the candidates and the breadth of subjects being considered.

'It was fascinating, and as I say, daunting 'by proxy' at times, but I am an enormous advocate of an interview process like this one for getting beneath the skin of candidates' says James. 'I thought the whole thing worked extremely well; the panel had obviously done a great

deal of preparation and worked well together in such a way as to challenge but not intimidate the candidates, and I have no doubt that those awarded scholarships will be the most deserving.'

'I was also extremely impressed with the calibre of the applicants and wish them all the best of luck. The standout candidate had been an Ambassador for Scotty's Little Soldiers too which given our relationship with the charity, was particularly gratifying.'

**£12,500
DONATION**

The five Annington Scholars are reading a range of subjects including PPE, Counter Terrorism and Cyber Crime and Marine Biology.

All the students were worthy recipients, but one particularly stood out.

Eleanor Miller, a former pupil at Sir Roger Manwoods school in Sandwich Kent became the first person in her family to go to university when she was offered a place to read PPE at Oxford.

Eleanor took the time out from her studies to write to the Charity Committee to explain why the scholarship was so important and her plans for the future plans.

By way of background, Eleanor's mother was in the Army in the early '90s. Having grown up in care, her mother was unable to complete any qualifications in school, so when she was older the army provided an opportunity to learn some additional skills and she worked as a clerk based in Germany. During her time in the army, her mother gained her Class 1 lorry drivers' licence

- a career which she continued after she left the army whilst Eleanor and her brother were growing up.

Eleanor said of her mother that she has 'always been my greatest educational support and, although she has tried to financially support me as much as possible for a single parent, without this scholarship my time at university would have been much more difficult. Without your donation many students, such as myself, would be unable to achieve their best educational abilities. The scholarship has been essential to me affording books and other resources for my course, as well as assisting with living costs (especially when prices are so high at the moment).'

'I chose this course because politics is something that fascinates me, and I would love to one day use my degree to work in the political sector to help others have the same educational opportunities as I have had. Despite no one else in my family having attended university, I chose to apply to Oxford as it is an unparalleled educational institution, and I have the opportunity to hear from world-leading professors.'

'Despite only being a couple days into my second term, I am enjoying it here a lot! The work is challenging but interesting, and there is an array of extra-curricula opportunities here. In my college, I am a member of the orchestra, as well as the girls football team. I have also gotten a place on the university's mentoring programme when I get assigned to different Oxford alumni mentors who work in sectors that interest me, allowing me to increase my networking connections. I have also applied to an exchange programme to spend three weeks in the spring at Sarah Lawrence which is a university only 15 miles from New York City!'

**Many thanks and best wishes,
Eleanor Miller**



MILITARY FAMILIES



Awards Galore for Reading Force's Hattie Gordon and Alison Baverstock



One of our longest standing partners is Reading Force, the tri-service shared reading charity founded by army wife, Dr Alison Baverstock. Reading Force was inspired by her own family's experience of parental separation and how sharing a book helped her children remain connected with their father.

The charity provides free books and scrapbooks to military families and has proven to be hugely effective at helping families feel connected, despite the absence of the serving parent. Once again, our donation of £25,000 was put to effective use and helped the charity gift a total of 3,794 books to military families.

Over one third of those books went to children living in Scotland – almost double the number gifted in the previous year. Most of those signing up to the scheme were new to Reading Force and there was a significant increase in Navy/Royal Marines children taking part, due to the number of new naval families relocating to Scotland. In addition, all Services experienced greater numbers of deployments due to the Ukraine/Russia war which had a direct impact on the charity.

Fiona Maxwell is the charity's Ambassador for Scotland and Northern England and has been in the role for 6 years, thanks to our funding. She lives near Cumbernauld, and is well placed to undertake her role of visiting schools, community groups, welfare settings and support charities to talk about and promote Reading Force. Fiona combines these visits with presentations to military parents, author visits and other reading-related promotions – wherever possible meeting with welfare officers on local military and naval bases.

Fiona works at both a strategic and operational level enabling her to establish some strong working relationships, with the aim of offering Reading Force to all Forces and veterans' children in Scotland. 'Everyone knows Fiona. She is everywhere.' Sarah Magee, Army Welfare Support Community Support Senior Development Worker, formerly at Kinloss.

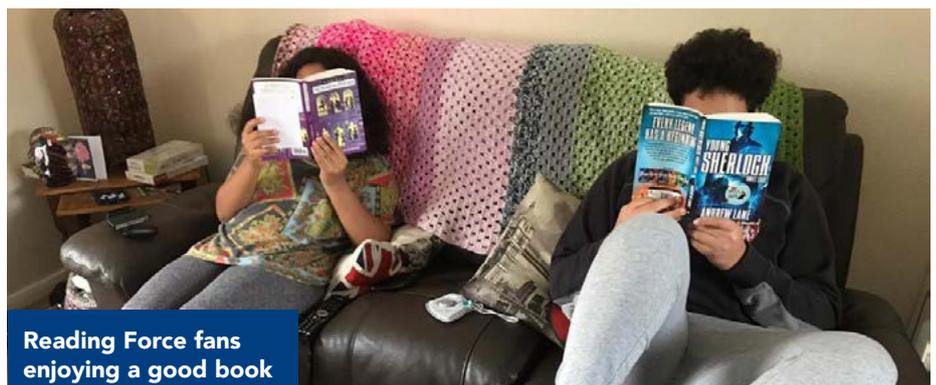
Highlights of the year included a visit to Leuchars Primary school. The school currently has 184 Armed Forces pupils from Nursery to P7 (approximately 70% of the school roll) and as well as delivering scrapbooks, she also provided 24 Early Years bags for those in Nursery. This visit also enabled her to engage with the new Forces Children Scotland Youth Participation Worker for Central Scotland who works with Armed Forces pupils in schools.

RECOGNITION

At the annual Soldiering On Awards in October, Alison was recognised for her work supporting military families, when she received a Patron's Special Recognition Award, for 'expertise in their specialist field and for influence in the Armed Forces community.'

It was the second award for Reading Force last year. In the summer they won an award from The Universities Alliance for work to embed the needs of military children within the training of future teachers.

Alison commented: 'It means such a lot that Annington continually encourage us - for example your kind messages before last night's glittering event, and really appreciated feedback afterwards. Of course, the financial support you offer enables us to continue - and your sponsorship of our Scottish and Northern England Ambassador is particularly valuable. But your ongoing enthusiasm and generosity of spirit matters enormously.'



Reading Force fans enjoying a good book



Life for military families comes with its own set of unique challenges. Throw in the added complication of having a child with a special need or disability and life can become even more difficult. For instance, frequent house moves can make accessing specialist services more challenging, placing an additional burden on families dealing with life in the military.

SSAFA's Short Breaks programme for families with children with disabilities or special needs aims to give these families the opportunity to spend quality time together in a new setting watching each other achieve and gain skills. The programme also enables SSAFA to introduce military families to other pathways of support which they may otherwise be unaware of, such as access to the Forces Additional Needs and Disability forum, Support Groups and welfare/financial assistance.

The breaks are hugely popular and always oversubscribed – in 2022 the charity received 248 applications in just 48 hours but thanks to a £50,000 donation from Annington, SSAFA were able to run a fourth Short Break in August.

The Annington-funded week took place at the Calvert Trust's centre in the Lake District. As the UK's leading provider of holidays for adults and children with disabilities and special needs, the Calvert Trust is uniquely geared to working with this deserving cohort.

Fourteen families consisting of 51 individuals with a range of disabilities and special needs had the opportunity to try a range of outdoor activities they had considered beyond the capability of their children including canoeing, zipwire and bushcraft.

As one parent said 'In Civvie Street there would have been no way Quinn would have done the ropes but he had trust in his instructor James, the group we were in and had the support he needed. I was so amazed, it made me cry with pride!'

Military families on the SSAFA Short Break



James Hamand, Charity Committee member spent the day with the families as they mastered new skills.

'The agenda is packed, and they are all able to try kayaking, cycling, ropes, climbing, zip lining, orienteering.'

'The really impressive part of the whole enterprise was the people – and by that I mean the Calvert instructors, the SSAFA staff and the families. The additional needs varied enormously – there were some children who had no visible/perceptible needs and others who had very obvious additional needs.'

'The first activity I joined was the ropes. All the children and their families put on harnesses and safety gear. The children ranged from 6 – 18 and some took to it immediately and were slinging themselves along, while others were less confident.'

'There was one little girl who had lost an arm, and for whom obviously the course was challenging. She was in tears on her first few goes, but with the encouragement of her family and the instructors, she mastered it and in fact went round several times in the end.'

'The Centre itself is incredible and includes all sorts of adaptations. Some are obvious - sensory room, lifts and hoists around the pool and

changing areas - and others are less apparent and include a dynamic floor in the swimming pool and harnesses suitable for wheelchair users on the zipline. For me, the zipline represented a hundred yards of pure terror down the hill but the children felt differently, and their whoops of joy were deafening!'

'I was there on the final full day of the course, and by that time the instructors had built up a real rapport with the families, and despite having only known each other for a few days, it felt like I was amongst a group who had known each other for years. Apparently, all the children had set up Whatsapp groups and despite being based up and down the country, were already planning the next times they could meet up.'

'We finished the morning by hearing some stories of the experiences had during the week, and one stood out for being bittersweet; a mother was watching her son in the pool (she couldn't take him to public pools in their day-to-day life). She said to one of the staff that it was so nice to see him fitting in and 'belonging' in an environment in which he could be himself and feel comfortable, but at the same time it brought home to her the fact that in their ordinary day to day existence, he would never fit in or feel as if he belonged.'

Over 50 individuals enjoyed a week on the Annington sponsored Short Break



'This is the happiest and saddest week. Happiest because we felt like we belonged and were accepted with no judgement. Sad because we have to return to the real world. If we could access one of these breaks each summer, we would. Thank you SSAFA and Annington.'

SSAFA said: 'The long-term support initially from the Annington Trust and the increased Annington corporate support in 2022 has helped us grow the service more quickly than expected, recruiting a supporting officer, and adding a fourth break into the 2022 calendar. This not only meant we could reach more families but has also allowed us to explore a new form of funding for the service.'

'Annington has allowed SSAFA to create an occasion for serving military families, including children living with a disability or additional needs, to leave behind the difficulties of daily life on base. It has helped to improve their mental and physical well-being by engaging them in new and exciting adventurous pursuits within a safe and supportive environment. Thanks to this, SSAFA is planning on running five short breaks in 2023 to meet the needs of our beneficiaries and offer the life-changing opportunity to as many families as possible.'

'Annington has led the way with the first fully funded short break and after this success, we will hopefully be able to convince other partners to follow suit ensuring the longevity and continued growth of the service to meet the increasing demand.'

FAMILIES DAYS 2022

Birthday celebrations for the 10QOGLR



In 2022, Annington made £5,000 available to military bases up and down the UK in support of Families Days and Homecoming events. In consultation with the RAF Families Federation, the Army Families Federation and the Royal Navy Families Federation, it was decided to give preference to:

- Units who were either due to deploy or would have recently returned from deployment
- Applications from isolated Units

We received over 60 applications and successful recipients included:

HMS Defender, which having recently returned from a 7.5-month deployment as part of the UK's Carrier Strike Group hosted 300 family members at sea as a way of thanking them for their continued support during an extremely challenging period of absence. We donated £500 – and received an invitation to join the event! Holly Miller, Charity Committee member found her sea-legs and represented Annington, chatting to families and serving personnel and hearing first-hand about the challenges of life for military families.

The Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment (10QOGLR) based in Aldershot received £500 to help with their 64th Regimental Birthday in July. In their bid, Major Basantakhoj Shahi told us 'This event will certainly strengthen the cohesion amongst the families of all those serving in the Regiment. This is particularly pertinent this year since the Regiment will be deployed on Op TOSCA in Sep/Oct 22 for a 6 month tour, meaning this event will not only be a celebration, but an essential

networking tool for those families who will have loved ones on tour during the aforementioned period.'

RAF Leeming received £500 towards their Families Day in July. The Base has official Isolated Unit status and with over 2000 personnel and a further 1000 dependents living 'behind the wire' in a rural setting in North Yorkshire, the base was a worthy recipient.

RAF families get together



VETERANS



Waterloo Uncovered's discovery of amputated remains made global headlines

WATERLOO UNCOVERED

Our support of Waterloo Uncovered, the mental health charity that supports veterans through the power of archaeology continued in 2022 with a donation of £50,000.

Thanks to Annington's headline sponsorship, Waterloo Uncovered was able to run a total of seven programmes in 2022 - the largest number of programmes to date. Over 100 veterans, serving personnel and military spouses took part.

Regardless of the programme chosen, participants were supported by the charity's expert wellbeing team who worked with them towards their own set of personal goals – as well as having the chance to immerse themselves within an important part of history, with a like-minded group of people.

After the success of the 2019 excavation, Waterloo Uncovered was forced to take a three-year break from exploring the Waterloo Battlefield due to the

coronavirus pandemic. But in July 2022, the charity was finally able to safely return to Belgium, bringing veterans and serving personnel with them. Returning to the Waterloo Battlefield for the first time in three years was particularly a high point for all involved with many veterans walking away visibly changed by the experience and supported they received.

During the July dig at the Waterloo Battlefield, the charity made global headlines with the rare discovery of amputated human limbs at Mont-Saint-Jean, which served as Wellington's field hospital during the Battle of Waterloo. This poignant and historically significant discovery gave the team more insight into the brutal reality of this bloody battle than ever before, all the while helping modern day veterans and serving personnel recover from their own traumatic experiences of war.

A team from Annington travelled out to Waterloo to meet beneficiaries and Waterloo Uncovered's team of archaeologists and support staff.

Nina Woods, Personal Assistant was part of the group that travelled out to Belgium.

'I felt privileged to visit the battlefield and visit the Waterloo Uncovered Excavation Programme site where I met veterans/serving personnel and some of the Waterloo Uncovered team. The trip was fascinating from start to finish. From Barney White-Spunner sharing his exhaustive knowledge as we toured the battlefield to observing the incredibly rare discovery at Mont-Saint-Jean farm of the intact skeleton of a fallen soldier and his horse. The trip was wonderful and it was a privilege to see first-hand how the veterans were benefitting from the experience.'

LIFEWORKS

In 2022, Annington agreed a donation of £50,000 to Royal British Legion Industries employability and training support programme, Lifeworks.

Aimed at Armed Forces veterans, LifeWorks equips participants with the tools needed to find their desired career outside the military. From employment advice or information on career pathways, to confidence courses and CV writing, Lifeworks aims to provide the skills needed to succeed in the civilian job market. Our funding covered the cost for 50 veterans to complete the course.

Lifeworks delivers life-changing support, specifically addressing skills gaps

and boosting confidence within the veteran community. The Lifeworks team encourage the self-development of the course attendees, whether the desired outcome is full-time employment or assisting them in finding work experience or further training in their desired career pathway.

These goals are achieved by approaching underlying barriers veterans may face such as welfare, mental health, and housing issues. The Lifeworks team take their time to ensure the needs of each individual are fully understood. Since 2011, more than 6,000 veterans have been helped.

Royal Navy veteran Nick was one of 50 veterans supported by Annington's donation. Nick now suffers from arthritis, and issues with his spine, hips and joints. He said that this left him severely lacking in confidence.

However, after undertaking a face-to-face Lifeworks course in 2022, his job-searching efforts have been invigorated.

Nick said 'I walked out of the Lifeworks course smiling. It was a massive confidence boost and I should have done it ages ago.'

Lifeworks aims to provide the skills needed to succeed in the civilian job market



**£50,000
DONATION**

The RBLI Centenary Village Campaign launched in 2018 with the aim of raising £14m to build 100 new homes for veterans at the charity's village in Aylesford, Kent. As the project reached its final phase, we made a further donation of £75,000 to support the development of a brand new two bedroom home specially designated for female veterans and spouses.

RBLI has always supported vulnerable female veterans with children - family homes account for 10% of RBLI's housing. Women do also stay in RBLI's emergency housing – the male-dominated Mountbatten Pavilion - but for very short periods and as part of a couple, sometimes where a couple is being re-patriated, or an older couple if their home became unsafe or unhealthy.

**name has been changed.*

During the Covid pandemic, for the first time, single female veterans and spouses without children were referred, or self-referred to RBLI for emergency accommodation. Driven by a spike in homelessness caused by relationship breakdown, working-age veterans and spouses working in retail, hospitality, and aviation sectors also found themselves looking to the charity for help.

'Annington House' was formally opened in December when Ian Rylatt, CEO and Charity Committee member Nicola Paley travelled down to Kent to meet RBLI CEO Lisa Farmer and the very first occupant, former military spouse Sarah*. Having spent the past four years trying to flee domestic abuse and having lived in different locations and types of accommodation across the UK, including women's shelters and most recently B&B housing, Sarah finally has a place to call home for herself and her child.

During the visit Charity Committee member Nicola Paley spent some time with Sarah and was moved by what she heard.

'I met the first occupant of the Annington House and listened in shock and horror to her story of horrific domestic abuse.'

'After five years of yo-yoing between hostel accommodation, unsuitable housing and sadly back to her violent ex-partner, she eventually got referred to RBLI with her young daughter. She finally moved into her new home in August 2022 and now can start rebuilding her life and give her child a safe and stable home.'

'The support she has received not only from the team at RBLI, but also other residents in the village, means that she feels safe and supported for the first time in her life. The programme is so much more than the bricks and mortar and it is genuinely saving lives.'

Annington House grand opening in December



ANNINGTON IN THE COMMUNITY

All staff are entitled to three days paid volunteering leave and in 2022 the Bath team spent a day working at the Genesis Trust in their furniture warehouse just outside Bath.

The Trust supports disadvantaged and vulnerable people in the Bath area and a significant amount of their income is raised by their furniture business. They typically collect 15-20 pieces a day, 90% of which are sofas and wardrobes. In the first year of trading they raised £100K which went directly to the charity's projects whilst also providing furniture for over 200 vulnerable families and individuals. Due to the pandemic their retail shop closed but they moved it online, both through Ebay and their own online shop.

The Bath team were put to work moving furniture, organising the next day's deliveries, and generally tidying up the seemingly random piles of stock. It was a very rewarding day and the Trust were hugely appreciative of their efforts and to Annington for allowing them the time to help.



Bath team at Genesis Trust

#FORCESPLAYDAY

Since 2021, we have made funds available to support military communities at grass-roots level, and 2022 was no exception.

Royal Navy Family and People Support (RNFPS), keen to build on the success of the first #forcesplayday in 2021, came to us with a request for funding for a UK-wide naval community initiative planned for families living on the patch.

The RNFPS team wanted to run a series of teddy bears picnics for naval children in the summer holidays and we were happy to donate £5,000 to cover the cost of the kits.

The RNFPS teams up and down the UK got to work organising picnics and the sessions featured lots of activities and games, utilising equipment provided by Annington in 2021. From Helensburgh in Scotland to Plymouth in Devon, more than 750 youngsters and their families across 18 naval bases took part. The events were a huge success, thanks to the efforts of RNFPS staff and volunteers.

'Thank you Annington I love my Bear!'

'Absolutely amazing evening – my girls were made up and went to bed with their teddies.'

'Can't thank you all enough, after several weeks of lone parenting and avoiding anything that could cause stress with four children, it was so worth coming along and seeing all the children love their bears and the activities, games and parachute at the end just made it extra special.'

Dishforth Airfield, an isolated RAF/ Army station in North Yorkshire is home to around 650 military personnel and their families. With poor transport links to the nearest town, the work of the **Army Welfare Service** is invaluable, ensuring play, youth and community projects are organised during both term time and in the holiday period. The station has just one AWS community worker, Kat Brown, who runs the sessions with the support of volunteers which given the isolated status of the base, are always well subscribed.

Having been part of the UK-wide #forcesplayday in 2021, Kat applied for funding to cover the cost of outdoor games including an outdoor table football. The equipment was purchased in time for 3 August, #forcesplayday, and saw plenty of use during the remainder of the summer holidays – and beyond.



RNFPS staff

Our refurbishment of former MoD military housing took us all over the UK and gave us the opportunity to support a whole host of community projects and initiatives.

In Bordon, Hampshire where we are in the process of refurbishing a further 96 former military homes, we provided funding for a time capsule for the children of **Bordon Infant School** to bury in the school grounds. Objects placed in the capsule included toys, curriculum summaries, pictures and artwork. We also made a £500 donation to the **Bordon Foodbank and Whitehill & Bordon Community Trust** who run the local youth club. The funds were split across the two organisations to provide emergency food for vulnerable people and to support the Youth Hub in their Christmas celebrations and 2023 team-building activities.

In Henlow we purchased an outdoor playhouse with slide for **Merry Poppets Nursery** and in Plymouth, we donated £350 to Improving Lives Plymouth which they used for their Family Day celebrations. The group aims to foster a community dedicated to improving health and wellbeing. The group's Veterans and Family hub provides regular support for former Service personnel and their families. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the last Family Day event took place three years ago, however, celebrations were able to resume thanks to our donation.



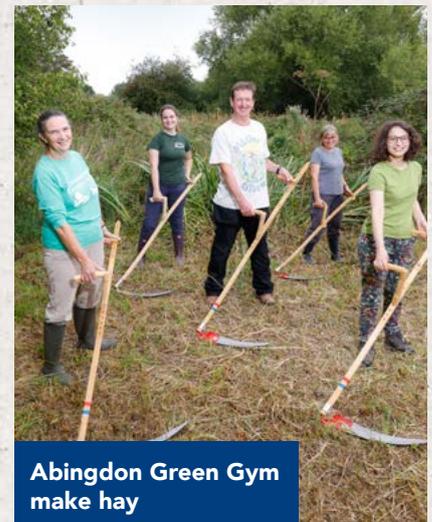
Bordon Infant School's time capsule

In Linton-on-Ouse we donated £250 to the local primary school and nursery which they used to host a celebratory picnic to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Pupils across all years, plus teachers, governors, neighbours were all presented with commemorative Jubilee medals. Davinia Pearson, Headteacher said 'We want to thank Annington for its support with our picnic, as it has provided the school and our guests with lovely memories of a time which will no doubt hold a significant place in history.' The Primary school also received a donation with which they purchased new phonic books ahead of World Book Day.



Jubilee celebrations in Linton-on-Ouse

Abingdon Green Gym received funds for new conservation scythes and in Strensall we provided funds to **ABC Sports Clubs**. The Club runs a coaching service to the local community of Strensall, and during the holiday periods, run camps during October half term, Easter and Summer. The new equipment included mini tennis nets and tennis balls which will be used across the wider coaching team and enable a wide range of children to benefit from the kit.



Abingdon Green Gym make hay

At our development at **The Bluebells** in Wiltshire, the Amesbury division of the **Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Club** received a donation towards the community allotment. The AFVBC encourages veterans and serving Armed Forces Personnel to meet face to face to combat loneliness and create a sense of belonging. The allotment is the charity's latest initiative, enabling its members to socialise while nurturing plants and vegetables.



AFVBC and their community allotment