Every year The Not Forgotten office receives hundreds of letters and emails from veterans which do not just say thank you but tell us how they have benefitted from a Not Forgotten event. This can be attending the summer Garden Party at Buckingham Palace or the Christmas Party at St. James’s Palace, going on one of our holidays or outings or, for those who are largely homebound, attending a concert in a care home or just watching a television we have supplied.

The range of our activities and events is as wide as the age range of our beneficiaries. From a serving soldier in his early twenties to a former Japanese prisoner of war aged 106, but the purpose is always the same – to restore confidence and comradeship and to address the loneliness which so often haunts those who have served and are now suffering from injury, disability or ill health. We have included many quotes in this review which add colour to our story and the power of our work.

During the last year we have again supported over 10,400 veterans. Some of these will have been to a Not Forgotten event before, where it is felt they would still benefit from participating in one of our activities, but many others met The Not Forgotten for the first time. There can be few more special ways of showing veterans of any age and Service that they are not forgotten than by inviting them to one of our activities where they will meet other veterans. These events, and especially the Royal ones, have changed lives which are blighted by injury and disability.

In 2020 The Not Forgotten will celebrate the centenary of our foundation. There will be an even wider range of events to mark this milestone, with the aim of finding those former Service men and women who have suffered injury or who are now disabled and who have fallen through the net of the military charity community. There are too many of them and the theme for our centenary year will be Finding the Forgotten; I hope you will join us in this quest.

None of our work would be possible without the continuing and generous support of our benefactors, our fundraisers and volunteers, our trustees and the team at Grosvenor Gardens. I cannot thank them adequately for all they do and for all the interest they take in those for whom we work.

We are marking our centenary with some changes in how we present the charity. These are changes in image but emphatically not in our work and values. They remain unchanged 100 years after our founder said “…as long as there are those who suffer from their service, so long will The Not Forgotten be needed”.

“The theme for our centenary year will be Finding the Forgotten; I hope you will join us in this quest.”

David Cowley OBE
Chairman
Our Objective
To act generally for the benefit of Service and ex-Service personnel with disabilities or who are wounded, including the organisation of recreational activities, travel, holidays, outings and entertainment.

Our Mission
To deliver high quality and safe recreational and entertainment activities to meet the needs of our beneficiaries, and to provide a caring and personal service which is fully linked with the individual’s recovery pathway and which is underpinned by an ethos where everyone counts and is valued.

Our Vision
To be the trusted partner of choice for providing entertainment and recreation opportunities for both beneficiaries and other Service charities.

To help those who we are not yet reaching.

To meet the high demand for activities and events, which are well supported by volunteers at the same time as maintaining a strong financial base.

Our Aims
To support every eligible beneficiary, irrespective of Service, age, rank, injury or illness.

Continue to support individuals whose needs are ongoing.

To work with each beneficiary to complement their individual recovery pathway.

To work with other Service charities to meet the needs of mutual beneficiaries.

Our Values
Excellence
We seek to achieve excellence in everything we do.

Personal
Our beneficiaries are at the heart of everything we do. We know them and they know us.

Empathy
We listen to, respect and understand our beneficiaries and their needs.

Comradeship
We encourage Service personnel and veterans to support each other and bring different generations, campaigns and Services together.

Teamwork
We work with our beneficiaries and other military charities to meet individual needs.
By kind permission of Her Majesty The Queen, the Garden Party at Buckingham Palace is the high point in our calendar and this year demand and interest in attending was greater than ever recorded. We believe this was due to our Patron, HRH The Princess Royal, attending, the increased awareness of the charity following a concerted effort to improve our media presence and recognition of the significant value our events have on the beneficiaries. This high level of demand led us to increase the invitations to the Garden Party and some 2,500 attended on Thursday 7th June 2018.

The guests represented over 150 military organisations and charities, and 32 different military associated residential homes. 88% of the attendees were beneficiaries and their partners/carers and the vast majority had not attended a Royal event previously. Reaching new individuals, who will most benefit from what we offer, is a key area of focus for the trustees as is collaboration with the other military charities.

The Not Forgotten places considerable effort and importance on complementing the work of others, not duplicating it, and we are hugely privileged to host the Garden Party on behalf of all Service charities and the whole Service charity community.

We would like to thank all those who helped make the Garden Party such a success; particularly the Royal Household staff; the Service helpers; our volunteers; and our main supporters for the event, which included ABF The Soldiers’ Charity, The Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund, The Royal Navy & Royal Marines Charity, and Queen Mary’s Roehampton Trust.

“I don’t get out much and spend 95% of my time at home by myself. Yet, thanks to TNF, I have not been forgotten – it was one of the best days of my life.”

– Adele

From the moment your invitation arrived in March they have been planning and working towards this date. I called in to see Evie on Friday afternoon; taking her age aside; she as bright as a button and chattering nineteen to the dozen of her experiences at the Palace.

– John, Chaperone

Having a few days away together, being looked after so well and attending the Garden Party really was a wonderful escape.

– Alex and Molly

Garden Party
Buckingham Palace
Summer 2018
THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

The party takes place in the Throne, Entrée and Queen Anne Rooms of the Palace, where guests are served a full afternoon tea (complete with mulled wine) whilst entertainment is provided by magicians, balloon artists, sketch artists and, this year, the Countess of Wessex’s String Orchestra. We were also honoured by the presence of HRH Prince Michael of Kent, who met many of our beneficiaries.

In a grand finale, a variety performance of dance and song takes place in the Picture Gallery and sends everyone home full of Christmas cheer. The 2018 show was star-studded with Richard Arnold, Jean Martyn, Margaret Keys, James Fox, Froback dance group, Boney M and Major Dixie Ingram.

The laughter and smiles were infectious and the boost in morale tangible. This event epitomises what we do; we bring veterans of all ages and Services together so they can enjoy the banter and camaraderie of Service life, find a moment to break free from everyday worries and enjoy something uniquely special with those who have a common bond. We are hugely grateful for the privilege of being able to hold the party and would like to thank the Palace staff, the Tri-Service helpers and the entertainers, who all made a major contribution to the afternoon.

Held by kind permission of Her Majesty The Queen, at this year’s Christmas Party in the State Apartments of St. James’s Palace we hosted 305 guests, 45 Service helpers, 63 performers and artistes and over 40 military charities and organisations. We hold the party each year on behalf of the Armed Forces charitable community and the Merchant Navy.

I can’t believe the change in my daughter that this whole outing has brought about... meeting up with other Service people has made her sparkle again.

— Tom, father of an RAF veteran

I can’t tell you enough how good attending the party and being surrounded by brothers and sisters made me feel. I honestly feel I have joined a very caring, compassionate family who understand what it’s like to be alone.

— Robert, Army

It really did put a smile back on our faces after what has been a difficult 18 months. It also made me feel appreciated for the first time in my 14 year career.

— Sonya, Royal Navy

Gyan Pun meets HRH Prince Michael of Kent at the Christmas Party, St. James’s Palace

7

6 Annual Review
Our programme of events continually evolves to suit the varying needs of our beneficiaries and is designed to address the causes of isolation, loneliness and diminished confidence, by offering comradeship and challenge.

Thanks must go to Help for Heroes for funding our trips to Norway, Mount Toubkal, the French Alps and to northern France for the Great War Tour.

With 20 group holidays spanning a range of activities including skiing in the Rocky Mountains, relaxing in the Majorcan sunshine and racing in supercars around the Brands Hatch track, this year we have supported 600 individuals on group trips designed to cater for a range of ages, disabilities and illnesses, and 25 individuals through our provision of holiday grants.

The Not Forgotten has allowed my husband to relax and take part in all of the activities at Bradenham Manor without being dragged down by his demons.

I was emotionally overwhelmed by one person telling me how great it is to see him come out of his shell as they only know him as being very quiet. One other person commented on what a fun character he is. This made me happy and hopeful, as that is my husband that they saw; my husband before his mental breakdown.

The skiing trip was not only life changing but physically and mind changing. I personally achieved much more than I ever thought possible with an injured back, and so that trip has certainly made an impact on my life. I left the slopes feeling much more relaxed and in a happier place.

– Steve, Royal Air Force

There have been moments this week that I have felt completely normal, like before I was diagnosed. I have felt relaxed and positive for the first time in months.

– Iraq Veteran

– Mrs R, Army Wife
OUTINGS & LUNCHES

The programme for the year was full with outings to International rugby matches at Twickenham, tennis at Wimbledon, the Colonel’s Review of Trooping the Colour, Highgrove Gardens, a journey on the Bluebell Railway, and a day’s racing at Ascot, courtesy of Ascot Racecourse, to name but a few. Over the twelve-month period, we entertained 2,331 people at 35 events around the country, giving comfort, cheer and friendship to thousands of people.

The Bluebell Railway, 2018
53 beneficiaries, including three members of Bomber Command aged 95, 96 and 99, were treated to a journey on one of the country’s first preserved heritage lines.

Runnymede, 2018
In June 2018 we took 110 veterans, the oldest of whom was 99 years old, on a scenic boat trip along the Thames, from Runnymede to Windsor Castle and back again.
Stories and jokes were swapped, friendships were made and it was clear that all who attended enjoyed being surrounded by like-minded individuals.”

— Gillian, Armed Forces Key Worker

Concerts and TVs

Concerts in care homes and hospitals have been a part of The Not Forgotten’s programme of events since its formation in 1920. Our founder, Marta Cunningham first realised the need for the TNF’s work when she offered to sing for wounded, sick and injured servicemen in military hospitals following the Great War. We are proud to have continued this tradition by providing 102 concerts to care homes and several other military associations with shows over the past year, some of which were supported by JTI. We are grateful for Mickie Driver’s Variety Collective, and Libby Stuart in Scotland, for their music which never fails to bring joy to their audiences.

For veterans with limited mobility, which may leave them housebound or unable to attend our other events, we provide television and/or television licences. Aside from supplying individuals, we also offer televisions and licences to care homes, hospitals, hostels, housing projects and rehabilitation centres. For those who are digitally isolated we provide Samsung tablets - a programme which helps alleviate the negative effects of digital seclusion and aids integration in society.

“Your events give our residents a reason to make the effort, dress in a way they maybe would not usually do, taking more care and pride with their appearance, and to partake in an event with others who understand and can empathise with them on their past experiences and present ones. It was such a pleasure to see everyone enjoying themselves, more importantly enjoying the social interaction that can be sadly missing in a lot of the veterans lives on a day to day basis. People can often forget the importance of social interaction and how important and beneficial this can be in combating loneliness.”

— Gillian, Armed Forces Key Worker

Northern Ireland

The last 12 months have been very busy and challenging, albeit an equally gratifying time for the charity. Once again, we have hosted a number of local events, including road shows and lunches, and have continued to work closely with Somme Nursing Home to provide their residents with outings to events such as the Annual Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance and the Belfast Tattoo. These events bring a little fun and cheer into the lives of our Armed Forces community, who can often find themselves feeling isolated from their comrades after injury or illness.

The highlight of our calendar this year was undoubtedly our annual Christmas lunch, which saw over 100 veterans and carers – from all Services, campaigns and ages – come together in Belfast for an afternoon of Christmas cheer and good company. Stories and jokes were swapped, friendships were made and it was clear that all who attended enjoyed being surrounded by like-minded individuals.

None of the charity’s work would have been possible without the dedication and encouragement of my fellow office bearers and the continuing support of our excellent band of volunteer members. We also owe a huge gratitude to those who support our work, including our financial backers which include The Millburn Trust, The Leopardstown Park Hospital Trust, The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund, the Merchant Navy Association of Northern Ireland and The Aircrew Association Northern Ireland. As Chairman, I offer my deepest thanks and appreciation to you all.

My thanks also go to The Not Forgotten’s Chief Executive, Brigadier James Stopford and his staff in London for their continued help and support, and also to the Duke of Abercorn, for his wise counsel and support as our President.

John Davies
Chairman
The Not Forgotten Northern Ireland
Adam Johnstone
Adam joined the Royal Marines in 2014 but, following a rugby injury which resulted in the paralysis of his right leg, was medically discharged.

“The Not Forgotten skiing trip came at the perfect time as life has been pretty rubbish since my injury and especially over the past few months. The skiing trip gave me the space, freedom and time to think, but also challenged me physically and mentally by taking me out of my comfort zone - it was awesome to see what I can achieve post injury. It was nice to feel supported and cared for but at the same time I felt independent – a big contrast! – and to be integrated again with the lads was great and I returned home much happier. That week skiing was one of overcoming challenges and achieving more than I ever expected and that’s all thanks to The Not Forgotten.”

Jan Price
Jan served as an Aircraft Engineer in the WRNS and subsequently the Royal Navy for nearly 30 years, leaving in 2012. Since then she has developed a serious sight condition.

“Before meeting The Not Forgotten, I was angry over the loss of my sight. I felt that I was locked in a dark room I couldn’t get out of and suddenly felt scared not knowing what to do. However, on TNF’s trip to Majorca, I met many other veterans and chatting with them allowed me to ‘open the door’ on my anger and move forwards. Although it felt alien, I found myself asking those around me for assistance and it was enlightening.

Since the trip, my family, friends and work colleagues have noticed a marked change for the good in my outlook on life and my acceptance of my sight loss. This change is all down to The Not Forgotten and the support of the veterans I met in Majorca. The trip was not only life changing but also life affirming as it gave me a very precious gift; the gift of space to allow me to come to terms with my sight loss.”

Dale Mallin
Dale served with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders for 16 years and saw active service in Northern Ireland, Germany, Iraq, Bosnia and Kosovo. Dale became withdrawn following his medical discharge but, with coercion from his wife Nadia, attended his first Not Forgotten event in 2018.

“The NF came into my life at a very crucial point. Due to my service, I’d been diagnosed with PTSD in 2004, and some physically degenerative injuries which led to my medical discharge in 2009. By 2012 I wasn’t managing life at all, and despite having a loving family and a stable home, I was at rock bottom. I had some support with my mental health through the years and that really helped keep the black dog away, but The Not Forgotten gave me a purpose, and encouraged me to find myself and confidence to start to enjoy life again. I’ve made many lifelong friends, and had even more laughs. TNF really is like a family, and I’m proud and thankful to be part of it.”

Robert Bennie
Robert served with the RAF during his National Service in the 1950s. Following the recent death of his wife of 65 years, Bob struggled to find happiness and to motivate himself to keep going. Last year, we invited him to attend an outing to Highgrove Gardens and the Garden Party.

“Joining The Not Forgotten has given me a real reason not to feel sorry for myself. Loneliness can lead to dangerous thoughts, but I’ve met many people and have learned that life is worth living.

For the first time in 12 months, I came alive to my surroundings at Highgrove. I remembered a quotation from the Holy Bible, which reads ‘a faithful friend is the medicine of life’, and I realised what The Not Forgotten is doing in their work is to talk to everyone as a friend, regardless of rank or fortune, but most especially as an equal human being. They are giving the medicine of life to people who are suffering from some form of injury.”

“The Not Forgotten gave me a purpose, and encouraged me to find myself and confidence to start to enjoy life again.”
Our total income for the year was £1,145,912, a decrease of £84,000 from the previous year. Our expenditure decreased from £1,259,000 to £1,194,000. Of this outlay 89% related to charitable activity and 11% to governance and fundraising.

Please note that these figures are unaudited.
Thank You to our Donors

More than £50,000
ABF The Soldiers’ Charity
Help for Heroes
LIBOR

£10,001 - £50,000
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Elizabeth Frankland Moore & Star Foundation
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Chairman
Mr David Cowley OBE

Vice-Chairman
Mr Mark Nicholls

Honorary Appointments
Treasurer: Mr Paul Botterill*
Chaplain: Reverend (Col Rtd) Peter Hewlett-Smith OBE
Medical Officer: Dr Kate Goble MBBS MRCGP DipOccMed*
* Also members of the General Committee

General Committee
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Group Captain Jacqueline Gross RRC
Mr Glenn Hurstfield
Mr Stephen Neel
The Lord Newall DL
Colonel James Partridge TD DL
Mr Barry Plummer
Commodore S J Scorer RN FNI FCMI
Mr Matt Tomlinson (WO1 RM Retd) CGC MC
Commodore Peter Tribe RN
Our Fundraisers

The Not Forgotten is always hugely grateful to all those who raise money for us. We mention below those who raised the most for us in 2018–2019, but we are no less appreciative of all those who have done so much to help the charity by their fundraising.
Our History

The Not Forgotten was founded in 1920 by the American soprano Miss Marta Cunningham CBE. Having moved to Europe at the turn of the century, Marta devoted much of her time to charity work during World War I. A year after the Armistice Marta heard that there were perhaps a handful of wounded soldiers under treatment at a nearby Ministry of Pensions hospital. She approached the Matron, asking if she had a few lonely patients who would like to come out for tea. The Matron looked surprised and revealed that she actually had 600 patients languishing in the wards.

Marta soon set about mobilising her group of friends to host these lost young men for afternoon tea and entertainment. During one of these early invitations one soldier was heard to say, “we don’t want no charity, Miss, we are forgotten by everybody and we’d better stop so.” Thus, on 12th August 1920, the “Not Forgotten” Association was formed for the ‘comfort, cheer and entertainment’ of servicemen injured during the Great War. In its first year, the charity entertained some 10,000 men — a figure we still maintain.
Farewells
Mr John Brunel Cohen
OBE DL

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of John Brunel Cohen on 30 January 2019, at the age of 96. John became a trustee of The Not Forgotten in 1965, was Chairman from 1979 to 1993 and, after stepping down as Chair, remained as an active Vice President until the end of his life. John’s family’s involvement with the charity covers our entire history as his father, Major Sir Jack Brunel Cohen KBE, co-founded The Not Forgotten with Miss Marta Cunningham and became the charity’s first Chairman. John’s long involvement with the charity from childhood to Vice President gave TNF a special place in his life and affections. He also introduced many benefactors to the charity, John always said that the veterans he met with ‘The Not Forgotten were ‘some of the finest’.

John was the oldest Royal Marine veteran and valued his close connection to the Corps, having served with the Royal Marines in World War II and landing with them on Juno Beach on D Day. Following his service, he pursued careers first in shipping and then as a Lloyd’s insurance broker. John was appointed an Officer of the British Empire in recognition of his service with The Not Forgotten and was also a Deputy Lieutenant of London. In 2014, John’s wartime service was recognised with the presentation of the Legion D’Honneur at a ceremony at the French Ambassador’s residence.

John’s wife, Simone, died at a young age leaving a daughter and three sons. He subsequently married Christine who took a close interest in The Not Forgotten and who sadly died after over thirty years of marriage in 2007. John leaves twin sons and a close extended family of two nephews, two stepdaughters and three stepsons.

John’s life, his generosity and his involvement with The Not Forgotten over so many years will always form an important part of our charity’s history.

Welcomes
Our New Trustee
Mr Stephen Neel

Stephen has worked extensively in the Middle East and Europe, and set up the French subsidiary for a listed California based technology company which he successfully developed over a number of years. He was the founding partner of Hanover Fox International and has over twenty years’ experience in executive search. Stephen brings extensive experience of the management of human resources and the selection of senior appointments to The Not Forgotten.

The Team

Chief Executive
Brigadier (Retd) James Stopford CBE

Head of Finance and Executive Officer
Al Gonçalves

Head of Events
Rosie Thompson

Assistant to Head of Events
Anne McGinley

Communications Manager
Milly Garnier

Grants Officer
Ian Brand

Office Administrator
Nicola Johncock

Fundraising Coordinator
Michael Burton

Finance and Televisions Assistant
Moises Domingos

Merchandise Coordinator
Lorraine Plummer