

Army Widows Association
Registered Charity Number 1127921
Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 March 2023



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Army Widows Association

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Army Widows Association

Report of the Trustees For The Year Ended 31 March 2023

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 (effective 1 January 2015).

Reference and Administration Details

Charity Name

Army Widows Association

Registered Charity Number

1127921

Principal Address

C/O Bereavement and Aftercare Support
Personal Services Branch
HQ Home Command
IDL 428, Ramillies Building
Marlborough Lines
Andover, Hants
SP11 8HJ

Trustees

Mrs Raqual Harper-Titchener
Miss Rachel Prosser
Mrs Patricia Wall (Tenure ceased October 2022)
Mrs Linda Wilson (Tenure commenced October 2022)
Mrs Rebecca Balmer (Tenure commenced October 2022)
Col (Retd) K T Haugh
Revd Nicola Frail
Mrs Margaret Pedder
Mr David Roberts
Lt Col Joseph Petty

Chairwoman of Board of Trustees

Mrs Raqual Harper-Titchener

General Secretary to Board of Trustees

Mrs Rebecca Balmer

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document and Constitution

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

Trustee Selection Methods

New Trustees are approached and interviewed, with references and CV obtained.

Army Widows Association

Risk Management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

Objectives and Activities

Objectives of the Charity

The Charity's objectives are to provide widows, widowers and their dependent children with relief from the effects of bereavement and loss and the impact on their personal circumstances and wellbeing by providing:

- Comfort support hope and a special understanding;
- Information, guidance and assistance on financial matters and other benefits;
- Professional counselling.

Summary of main activities undertaken for the public benefit

The Army Widows' Association offers comfort, support, friendship and a special understanding to widows and widowers of service men and women. We help them resolve some of the difficulties they may face after the death of their spouses by:

- providing information and practical help with financial matters and other benefits;
- assisting in the provision of professional counselling and life skills;
- addressing issues relating to widows/widowers and their children with Army authorities;
- offering advice and experience to improve the Army's approach to widows/widowers in the future;
- regional and national support groups and social events;
- working closely with other ex-service specialist organisations in support of widows/widowers and their children.

We confirm the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

Summary of main achievements during the year.

The Trustees and Management Committee have remained fully committed to providing continued and effective support to members. There has been the usual, regular contact via mail shots, AWA social media platforms and emails, to engage members and encourage peer support. The Christmas Card and Anniversary card (sent to each member, on the anniversary of the death) both continue to be well received.

This year we have also focused on embedding the changes in our Trustee and Management Committee Structure, including filling vacancies and re-establishing our in-person events programme in the aftermath of the pandemic.

Raquel Harper-Titchener, Chair of the Board of Trustees, and Rachel Prosser, Chair of the Management Committee have been fully immersed in their new roles and have begun to fill vacancies and plan future activities for the Association.

The Association was successful in filling the Events Officer role on the Management Committee, which will be shared between three members of the association, and the Board successfully appointed a new Secretary to the Board of Trustees.

The recruitment for our Treasurer role was difficult, but a member of the Association came forward and was successfully appointed by the Board, enabling a handover period to our new Treasurer Linda Wilson.

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This year, we were grateful to be able to hold our three main annual events as well as some extras.

Our AGM for 2022 was held on 13-15 May in Crewe. This was a successful event where we engaged our members in delivery of the Association objectives for the year ahead and received useful feedback on the support and respite activities that members wanted to see delivered. We also ran a session during the AGM meeting signposting other available support and charities. This was not only a time to provide an opportunity for quiet reflection and continued practical support, such as finance guidance and life skills, but it was a celebration of friendships made and provided the opportunity for members to forge new ones, whilst supporting those attending for the first time. These relationships are proving to be a great comfort and aid members in gaining confidence in rebuilding their lives. In many cases, the soft counselling, gained through the regular chats/gatherings, meets required needs, just as well as professional counselling does.

Some of our members and their families attended the Time to Reflect event at the National Memorial Arboretum, where the main purpose of the event was to introduce members of the Defence Bereaved Families Group charities to the NMA and its purpose in providing different spaces for everyone and to give them a time to reflect together.

Through our continued links and collegiate working with other relevant bodies some of our members were delighted to attend activities associated with the Falklands 40th Anniversary and the Queen's Jubilee.

Online gatherings are still held, especially when we feel our members might need a boost. They have been timed to coincide with the Falklands 40th Anniversary and we held a gathering to mark the incredibly sad passing of Her Majesty the Queen, which affected many of our members, due to her dedicated support for the bereaved military community.

Our Association Act of Remembrance Service at the National Memorial Arboretum on 24-25 September and the National Service of Remembrance in London in November were both well attended by our members, who were pleased to be able to come together for what is an important time of the year for us all.

This last year we have been successful in securing a few grants to help us with the day to day costs, events, to develop our capability to support members mental health and well-being and to support activities which will help to reconnect our members with lost military communities, provide greater opportunities for local and regional connections amongst members.

The Association continue to write to newly bereaved widows/ers and are still involved in the crucial training of the VOs.

Although we are not a campaigning group, we do support other groups with any issues concerning our members and have been involved with the review of the children's pension system and the ongoing campaign for the reinstatement of the War Widows' Pension.

This year we have seen Members seek financial assistance, to enable access to counselling support, for themselves and their dependents.

We continue to maintain a close link with the military and other relevant support agencies/charities/groups, to keep abreast of developments and how best to support our members.

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Financial Review

Statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Our policy is to have sufficient unrestricted reserves to cover 12 months activities and administration costs. Total expenditure in the year amounted to £28,250 and we have cash funds of £144,737, the trustees consider the level of cash funds appropriate.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rebecca Balmer", is written over a horizontal line.

Mrs Rebecca Balmer

General Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Army Widows Association

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Army Widows Association

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Army Widows Association for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Keith May ACMA CGMA
Chartered Institute of Management Accountants
Aura Business Centre
Heath Road
Skegness
Lincolnshire
PE25 3SJ

Date: 15/01/2024

Army Widows Association

Receipts and Payments

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	2022 £
RECEIPTS				
Voluntary Income				
Donations	1,248	-	1,248	3,907
Contribution to trips from members	6,366	-	6,366	8,800
Grants	26,800	26,167	52,967	30,250
Membership	120	-	120	150
	<u>34,534</u>	<u>26,167</u>	<u>60,701</u>	<u>43,107</u>
Activities for generating funds				
Fundraising events	250	-	250	1,779
Investment Income	-	-	-	-
	<u>250</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>1,779</u>
Total Receipts	<u>34,784</u>	<u>26,167</u>	<u>60,951</u>	<u>44,886</u>

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	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	2022 £
PAYMENTS				
Costs of generating voluntary income				
Committee Expenses	1,306	-	1,306	2,154
Gifts	220	-	220	204
Memberships	-	-	-	415
Advertising	-	-	-	-
Fundraising	216	-	216	216
	<u>1,742</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,742</u>	<u>2,989</u>
Charitable activities				
Events	15,015	6,368	21,383	26,483
Less Refund	-	-	-	-
Counselling	2,925	-	2,925	1,025
Newsletters	-	-	-	-
VO Training	-	-	-	-
AWA Helpline	228	-	228	110
Website costs	-	-	-	312
Members event calendars	-	-	-	1,508
Management Committee Meeting	589	-	589	1,103
Board of Trustees Meeting	132	-	132	181
Anniversary cards for members	408	-	408	607
Party at the palace allowance	-	-	-	-
	<u>19,297</u>	<u>6,368</u>	<u>25,665</u>	<u>31,329</u>
Support costs				
Accountancy	-	-	-	500
Insurance	577	-	577	567
Telephone	-	-	-	85
Postage and Stationery	97	-	97	1,721
Printing	-	-	-	1,126
Computer cost	103	-	103	207
IT Equipment	-	-	-	45
Sundries	166	-	166	398
	<u>943</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>943</u>	<u>4,649</u>
Total Payments	<u>21,982</u>	<u>6,368</u>	<u>28,350</u>	<u>38,966</u>
Net receipts/(payments)	12,802	19,799	32,601	5,920
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	<u>12,802</u>	<u>19,799</u>	<u>32,601</u>	<u>5,920</u>
Reconciliation of funds:				
Cash funds last year end	99,576	12,560	112,136	
Cash funds this year end	<u>112,378</u>	<u>32,359</u>	<u>144,737</u>	

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Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 March 2023

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	2022 £
Cash Funds				
Cash at bank and in hand	112,378	32,359	144,737	106,216
Total Cash Funds	112,378	32,359	144,737	106,216

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 9 January 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:



Mrs Rebecca Balmer

General Secretary to the Board of Trustees

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Analysis of Restricted Funds as at 31 March 2023

	Balance B/F	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance C/F
	£	£	£	£	£
The Veterans Foundation	12,560	-	(4,376)	-	8,184
Army Central Fund	-	15,000	(681)	-	14,319
Armed Forces Covenant	-	11,167	(1,311)	-	9,856
	12,560	26,167	(6,368)	-	32,359

Purpose of Restricted Funds:

The Veterans Foundation	Funds received to cover the costs of the NMA and Edinburgh Tattoo events.
Army Central Fund	Funds received to cover the costs of mental health training.
Armed Forces Covenant	Funds received to cover the costs of the Regional Resilience Activities.