



Woody's Lodge

WLMB Chair's 2021 - 2022 Annual Report

As Woody's emerges from COVID lockdowns, the Charity is now being called upon to support and serve increasing numbers of Armed Forces senior veterans and families as well as Armed Forces leavers. The year sees the need for our welfare and social support increase by 200% and this continues to increase. Over 10,000 people of all ages now seek our 12 urban based Drop-in-Centres and three key farm based rural hubs to meet and socialise. In addition, another 2,000 veterans have required our support to access financial and health benefits, our Welfare Support Team has gained £750,000 in disability payments, War Pensions as well as access to Personal Independent Payments and Universal Credits for behalf of our veterans.

Our referral links have become a reality and are utilised as a vital and efficient means by which we bring the many we support into direct contact with a diverse number of agencies, including the National Health Service, Mental Health Trusts, Her Majesty's Prison Services and Emergency Services, as well as Area Health Authorities, Local Authorities, Department of Work and Pensions, Defence Transition and Welfare Services, plus many Armed Forces Agencies, including Royal Navy and Royal Marine Associations, BLESMA, Veterans Legal Link, Change Step, Alabare, Wales Veterans Partnership, Royal British Legion, Help For Heroes. It is often said "that if Woody's cannot directly help, Woody's will link you up to someone who can".

Woody's continues its working relationships with academic bodies, including Queens University Belfast, Kings College London, University of South Wales, Aberystwyth University and Aston University, in order to facilitate research into the health, social and welfare needs of those leaving the Armed Forces Community. Research data outcomes and understanding, leading to positive changes within Governmental Policy for long term support of our Armed Forces. Notably close links with Bettws Cadwallader University Health Board, pilot work has enabled Woody's to be considered part of a Social Prescription Model, linking us to General Practitioner networks and hospital services in Northeast of Wales.

We strive to develop stronger links and recognition within Wales Government as well as Westminster, and National UK Armed Forces representational bodies such as COBSEO, The Armed Forces Covenant, Reserve Forces and Cadets Association and ASDIC.

During COVID, staff and volunteers continued further development of infrastructure on our Green Hubs, with planning and mapping of our woodland families' site at Amelia Trust Farm, refurbishment of our Swallow Cottage Training Centre now approaches third and final fix, plus the ground works for family camping and veterans' allotments at Penlan Farm, and care of and sponsored by Kingspan the planning permissions have been granted for a



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bespoke veterans' welfare social centre at Ty Gwalia Farm. Plans are becoming a reality, including partnership with Cardiff City Council when in Spring 2022 our first veteran working group participated in the Flat Holm Island Project in the Bristol Channel.

All this would not have been possible without the support and generosity of key individuals, such as Chris and Pam Murphy, Richard Mottershead, plus companies Kingspan, Pinnacle Solutions Group, Masons are Moving, Oncre, Military Preparation College, Mallovs, Vale Hotels, Fast Technology as well as the Wales Ambulance NHS Trust. Lead by our Vice-Chair Clive Hamilton, our planned 2022 Paris Bike Ride and associated Gala Dinner and related events is a first for the Charity and will significantly develop our levels of unrestricted income. We are indebted to the continued support of The Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust, Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity and Veterans Foundation. Not forgetting a close working relationship with Command and Staff at RN HMS Cambria, Cardiff Bay, their generosity in time and facilities has been significant in supporting the Royal Navy and Royal Marine Family across Wales.

Finally, I should like to express my personal thanks from our Board and all those at Woody's to Carole Alexander, as co-founder and Board Member, has retired as Board Secretary. Without whom Woody's would not be the Charity it is today. On a happy note, Carole has accepted the role as the Charity's first Patron.

With Honour, Humility, Humour and Hard Work, I thank the many who have strived and helped to make Woody's Lodge, a recognised, leading Armed Forces and Emergency Services support charity in Wales today. And in doing so, fundamental to our remit, this Charity since its inception in 2017 has saved 27 lives.

Thank You All

Dr David Trotman
Chair of the WLMB

Woody's Lodge

Chief Executive Officer's 2021-2022 Annual Report

Since the lifting of restrictions imposed on communities due to the COVID-19 pandemic, mental health in the general population has deteriorated, but none more than in our Armed Forces Community. Now we find ourselves entering an uncertain period where the rise in the cost of living is being dictated by the current conflict in the Ukraine and this is causing further anxiety for those already dealing with service-related mental health conditions, such as PTSD.

As a charity, Woody's Lodge, has been working hard since it was first formed, to support our Armed Forces Veterans, Reservists, Emergency Service Personnel, and their families, but we now find there is a marked increase in demand for our services. I am immensely proud of the support the Charity's teams across Wales provide and to date Woody's has saved the lives of 27 veterans that we know of. We have also helped relieve the pressure on Statutory Bodies by aiding those applying for benefits and pensions, while signposting to the most appropriate agency to provide expert advice on finances, housing, employment, etc. or for physical and mental health treatment.

The three main Woody's hubs in Wales, Amelia Trust Farm in the South, Penlan Farm in the West, and Eirias Park in the North, were quiet in late 2021 and early 2022, with just a handful of veterans visiting each one. The pandemic left people feeling cautious about mixing in groups, but we are now experiencing an increase in visits from veterans and their families as they have more confidence to be out in the community. Our 'Memory Mondays' for those suffering dementia and their partner/spouse, have become very popular, as have the Thursday Social 'brew and a butty' days.

Our 'Green' hubs at Amelia Trust Farm, Penlan Farm, and now at Ty Gwalia near Denbigh, are providing mindful outdoor activities designed to not only improve on mental and physical health, but also to allow veterans to re-engage with their families. Working with partner agencies such as Alabare with their 'Boots on the Ground' project, BLESMA, WintergreenUK, Help for Heroes, Myddelton College Cadet Force, Regional Police Forces, etc. we have developed areas for projects such as gardening, metal detecting, beekeeping, arts and crafts, photography, and several other activities. As our Chair, Dr David Trotman, states in his report, this would not be possible without the support and generosity of key individuals and several companies, such as Kingspan, who have kindly donated and will build our first purpose-built hub/cabin at Ty Gwalia in North Wales. This will not only help to further develop outdoor activities, but it will give us the opportunity to improve links between local and Armed Forces communities.

Woody's achievements in support of the Armed Forces community have recently been recognised when we received Gold in the Veterans' Awards for



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'Health and Well-Being', while one of our trustees, Kath Fisher, received Gold for the Community Award. Our Operations Managers, Steve Owen and Mark Hodgkinson picked up Silver and Bronze respectively, Steve for 'Role Model' and Mark for 'Inspiration of the Year'. Moments like this make all the hard work so worthwhile and in further recognition of our work, Woody's have received the Gold Award in the Armed Forces Covenant Employer Recognition Scheme.

The future for Woody's Lodge looks bright and with all the support we receive from local authorities, grant funding bodies, our partner charities, and agencies, along with the general community, I am confident we can build on and strengthen the work our teams carry out daily in support of our Armed Forces Community.

Personally, I would like to thank all the staff and volunteers at Woody's Lodge for their dedication and hard work in making Woody's a name that is recognised and trusted in the Veterans' and Emergency Services' world.

I would also like to thank our Board of Trustees for their support and expertise in assisting me to direct operations to deliver the high standard of support provided by the charity. In particular, our co-founder and previous Board Member, Carole Alexander. She has worked tirelessly to maintain the charity's administration since its inception and although she has now accepted the role of Patron, she will be greatly missed from the Board.

It has been said that Woody's Lodge is 'small enough to cope, but big enough to care', which is true, all those connected with the charity care very much for our veterans and their families and we all believe we can make a difference to those in need of help. I am so proud to be a part of a charity that puts its veterans first and it warms my heart to still hear from many, 'Woody's saved my life'.

Graham Jones
CEO



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Final Accounts for Woodys Lodge -finalised 15.11.22

No (if any)

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
01/04/2021

To

Period end date
31/03/2022

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Transport	-	-	-	-	-
Salaries/HMRC/Pensions	-	-	-	-	-
Marketing and Merchandising	5,655	-	-	5,655	-
Events and Activities	-	-	-	-	-
Donations	63,238	-	-	63,238	42,023
Grants	33,030	241,000	-	274,030	308,750
Admin/IT/Training	-	-	-	-	361
Rent and Utilities	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	101,923	241,000	-	342,923	351,134
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	101,923	241,000	-	342,923	351,134
A3 Payments					
Marketing and Merchandising	-	18,591	-	18,591	10,003
Events and Activities	24,696	25,642	-	50,337	5,988
Donations	1,749	-	-	1,749	-
Administraion	178	24,410	-	24,587	11,623
Travel	29	24,369	-	24,398	8,801
Salaries/HMRC/Pensions	3,720	195,279	-	198,999	124,206
Motor Expenses/Transport	-	7,085	-	7,085	4,730
Rent and Utilities	1,241	16,240	-	17,481	20,313
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	31,613	311,615	-	343,228	185,664
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	31,613	311,615	-	343,228	185,664
Net of receipts/(payments)	70,311	- 70,615	-	- 304	165,470
A5 Transfers between funds	- 2,028	-	-	- 2,028	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	32,179	181,426	-	213,605	48,135
Cash funds this year end	100,462	110,811	-	211,273	213,605

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds		100,462	110,811	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	100,462	110,811	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

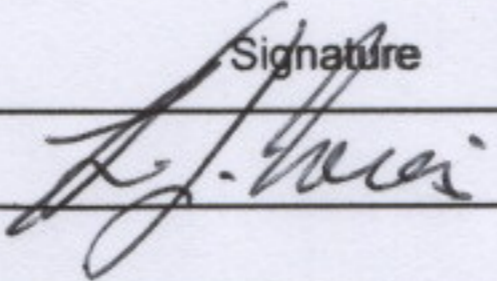
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Howard Davies	23.11.22



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Woodys Lodge

On accounts for the year
ended

31.03.22

Charity no
(if any)

1173752

Set out on pages

Attached

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date:

23/11/2022

Name:

Rebecca McElliott FMAAT.

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body

AAT

(if any):

Address:

21 The Boulevard
Canton
CA 91301

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

None