

Felix Fund News – Spring 2017

Supporting bomb disposal and search personnel and their families from all British Army Regiments
Royal Navy Clearance Divers, Royal Air Force and the UK Counter Terrorism Command

Iraq / Afghanistan Memorial



On the 9th March 2017 HM the Queen unveiled a new memorial to military and civilian personnel who died in the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Situated in Victoria Gardens near MoD Main Building the memorial is an eye-catching addition to the area and a fitting tribute to all who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Counter Terror Expo 2017



Felix Fund is very pleased to have been asked by the organisers of the Counter Terror Expo to be their partnering charity.

The event which will be held at Olympia on the 3-4 May 2017, is the UK's leading national security exposition and is a showcase for world class professionals from Government and the private sector.

If you are interested in exhibiting, then Felix Fund supporters can benefit from an exclusive package in the Counter IED Zone by contacting Sophie McKimm at Clarion Events on 020 7384 7894.

Exclusive Exhibitor Package for Felix Fund Supporters



As the Official Charity of SCTX, Felix Fund supporters can benefit from a special package in the Counter IED Zone

Your exclusive package includes:

- Become part of the Counter-IED Zone
- Exhibition Stand 3m x 2m = 6m²
- Free demo within the EOD Demonstrator
- 1x invite to the VIP hosted buyer lunch
- Bespoke personalised invite for supplier visitors
- Email banner
- Mention on social media



Total Package: £2,750 +VAT

Afternoon Tea in Bournville

Well done to Georgina Smith and Anne Linley for raising a fantastic £1,250 for Felix Fund from their afternoon tea event recently.

These events take a lot of work to organise but the result speaks for itself.

All proceeds will go towards helping those in need from the bomb disposal community.

Thank you to everyone who supported and made it such a successful afternoon.

Rumour has it there will be another one later in the year!



Exercise Dragon Snowstorm

Late January saw a group from The Defence Animal Welfare Centre, (who are responsible for the military working dogs who can detect IEDs, weapons and ammunition) travel to France for Exercise Dragon Snowstorm.

This demanding trip was aimed at getting all personnel to qualify for their Ski Foundation 1. With a mixture of skill level and experience the group spent the following week getting to grips with ski-ing again.

Everyone made good progress until the fifth day when worsening weather and heavy

snowfall closed the slopes early. It did enable the team to focus on their safety knowledge and emergency procedures.

Everyone from the unit passed the training and benefited from the down time away from work that it offered.

Given the day to day stresses of a military life trips like this can help with the mental and physical well-being of those serving. It also helps towards unit cohesion.



Helping a Veteran

Felix Fund recently joined forces with a branch of SSAFA to help prevent an EOD veteran from being evicted.

Suffering from PTSD and no longer able to work the bills had piled up, leading to eviction notices on the home he had purchased when leaving the army.

Felix Fund was just one military charity that stepped in to help this veteran in his time of need.

This is just one example of the help Felix Fund can offer. Do you know someone who needs our help? If so, contact melanie@felixfund.org.uk.

101 (City of London) Engineer

Regiment Raise £50,000

101 (City of London) Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) raised a staggering £50,000 at a charity boxing event and recently presented the money to the two charities. Felix Fund – The Bomb Disposal Charity and Autism Research Trust both received £25,000 at a special presentation at Carver Barracks.

The 6th of July 2016 saw the second 'Sappers versus Gunners' charity boxing event where 400 guests were entertained with nine bouts of boxing alongside a four-course meal and auction. The event which was held at Stamford Bridge celebrated the strength and courage of the Army and brought together military dignitaries and special guests from the sporting world.

The regiment, which is based at Carver Barracks, Essex was thrilled with the support and generosity from the guests on the evening and was delighted to meet with representatives from the two chosen charities this month. The Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Dickie Hawkins said: "We are so pleased to have held such a successful boxing event for the second time. In 2015 we raised over £41,000 for charity and to have exceeded that at the 2016 event is fantastic. The two charities are so deserving and knowing there will be many beneficiaries from what was a wonderful evening, makes it all worthwhile."

101 (City of London) Engineer Regiment, which specialises in Explosive Ordnance Disposal, has close links with the Felix Fund. Soldiers and families from the regiment directly benefit from the Felix Fund's services and in 2017 the Commanding Officer of the regiment will become a member of the Felix

Fund board of trustees to cement that relationship.

Jools Holland who is a patron of the Autism Research Trust and also Honorary Colonel of the regiment attended the event. He joined Lieutenant Colonel Hawkins at a special lunch to present the donation to both charities and said: 'Not only was the Boxing Event a fantastic night, but the amount raised by the team is quite outstanding.'



Debden Cycle Pedalling for Felix Fund



For a numbers of years Brian Lindsell and family have organised the 3 Counties Debden Cycle ride in their local area.

This year not only have they selected Felix Fund as the benefiting charity but they are going one better with a European trip.

The 3 Counties ride will start and finish at Carver Barracks, Wimbish on Sunday 3rd September and all are welcome to take part.

Prior to this Brian and his daughter will be taking on a 450-mile ride through England, France, Belgium and Holland for one week in July.

To support them please visit

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/debdencycle>

Or for more information about taking part contact Brian on debdencycle@live.co.uk

Royal Navy Skelton Bobsleigh Team Sliding for Charity



The Royal Navy Skelton Bobsleigh team held their annual championships in Lillehammer, Norway recently.

The team along with members of their guest teams, from the Army and RAF took a collection for Felix Fund, which totalled £135.

A big thank you to all, and especially to Ed, for organising this.

Not Just One Marathon!

Capt James Wadsworth (Waddie) is taking on the epic Marathon des Sables next month to raise money for Felix Fund.

The Marathon des Sables is a multi-day 'ultra-marathon' or 'ultra-run' in six days over a course of between 150 and 156 (254km) miles. Which by the way is the equivalent of running from London to Dover deciding not to go to France after all and running back again in 120-degree heat, with a backpack on and voices in your head talking about cold beer!

As an example of what lies beyond the starting line, the longest single stage in 2012 was 51 miles (81.5km).

Is he crazy? Maybe!! But we wish him lots of luck. This is one fundraiser who is totally dedicated to the cause.

Please support him at

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Tourdestroops>



Tour des Troops



Twenty members from 11 EOD Regt RLC are taking on a truly epic challenge that has never been attempted before.

Together they aim to cycle 1,500 miles (2,414km) all in the name of the Felix Fund, from 11 – 26 June 2017.

The amazing team comprises athletes who are cycling the entire 15-day route - and some guest appearances for certain stages of the trip. The ambitious Odyssey commences in Scotland, heading through the UK, into France and culminating in North West Germany.

Riders include Clive Smith, an ex-Sapper who will be using a hand-bike. Clive lost both legs in an IED explosion in Afghanistan. Last year, with support from Felix Fund he travelled to Australia for pioneering surgery to enable him to walk with prosthetics.

The tour will pass through all Troops where security clearance has been given (unfortunately Northern Ireland isn't therefore possible). Aiming to complete 100 miles a day the team will cycle: Edinburgh, Catterick, Chester, Nottingham, Ashchurch, Tidworth, Aldershot, Northolt, Colchester, Shorncliffe and will culminate in Bielefeld Germany.

This challenge would not have been possible without the support provided by Kirintec, who are underwriting all costs. It is also rumoured that one of their Directors may be cycling a leg or two?!



Help them peddle for pounds by donating at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Tourdestroops>

Following the send-off from Edinburgh on the 11th June you will be able to follow their progress through the Felix Fund Facebook page and Twitter feed.

Time to Remember



In each quarterly newsletter we commemorate and sustain the memories of the sacrifices made by EOD personnel who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

This time we remember those who died during January, February and March:

- SSgt Christopher R Cracknell who died on 15 March 1972 in Northern Ireland
- Sgt Anthony Butcher who died on 15 March 1972 in Northern Ireland
- Maj Bernard C Calladene who died on 30 March 1972 in Northern Ireland
- SSgt Allan N Brammah who died on 18 February 1974 in Northern Ireland
- SSgt James G Crawshaw who died on 22 January 1975 in Great Britain
- Sgt Martin E Walsh who died on 9 January 1977 in Northern Ireland
- SSgt Christopher D Muir who died on 31 March 2003 in Iraq
- Capt Daniel Read who died on 11 January 2010 in Afghanistan
- WO2 David Markland who died on 8 February 2010 in Afghanistan
- Spr Guy Mellors who died on 15 February 2010 in Afghanistan

Gone but never forgotten.