



# Annual Report 2020



# The British Charitable Fund asbl

## Annual General Meeting

### 20 May 2021

PATRON

H.M. Philippe King of the Belgians

PRESIDENT

H.E. Martin Shearman

H.B.M. Ambassador to Belgium

COMMITTEE OF PATRONAGE

His Grace the Duke of Wellington

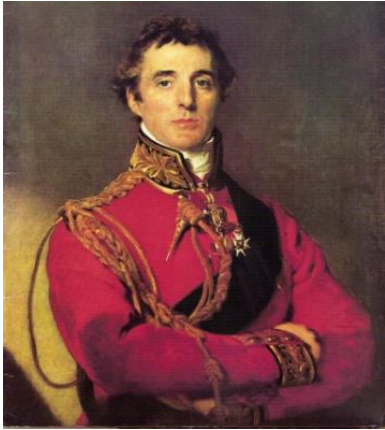
Madame Jacques Solvay (\*)

Mrs Barbara Blackwell MBE

(\*) Founder Member of the ASBL, 1970



## BRITISH CHARITABLE FUND



The BCF was created by the Duke of Wellington in 1815 following the Battle of Waterloo to take care of wounded soldiers and their families. Thus, for 200 years, the BCF has been providing help. The persons seeking help have changed as have their circumstances but there will always be people who, for a whole variety of reasons, require emergency financial help and those who have longer term needs for assistance, advice and contact.

The Fund remains in operation to assist persons of British nationality or persons who are married to or divorced from a British citizen. The BCF also helps widows/widowers of British nationals regardless of nationality. Assistance may also be extended to the children of a British national. However, in all cases, the person assisted must be resident in Belgium.



The patron of the BCF is Philippe, King of the Belgians, and its President is the British Ambassador to Belgium. However, the day-to-day work is run by a small Executive comprising the Chairman, the Treasurer and the Secretary which, together with a Committee of “visitors”, meets on a bi-monthly basis to review cases and decide on actions. All are volunteers and running expenses are at the absolute minimum.

The BCF helps persons of all ages, from centenarians to teenagers. Generally, the older persons are those the BCF assists over a long-term and the younger persons are generally the urgent short-term cases.

The majority of cases are referred to the BCF by the Fund’s regional contacts in Antwerp, Charleroi, Ghent and Ypres, by the network of sister organisations in Belgium such as the Community Help Service, the Royal British Legion, RAFA, Holy Trinity Brussels, the Church of Scotland and by the British Embassy.

# **2021 Annual General Meeting**

## **AGENDA**

**Thursday, 20 May 2021 at 5.00 pm**

**By video conference with**

**The British Ambassador**

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Approval of the minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting
3. Report by the Chairman of the Fund
4. Report by the Treasurer of the Fund:
  - Presentation of the accounts for 2020
  - Budget outlook for 2021
5. Report of the Publicity Ad Hoc Group
6. Election of Officers
7. President's address
8. Any other business

**BRITISH CHARITABLE FUND asbl**  
**ACCOUNTS for the years ended**  
**DECEMBER 31**

<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>	<b>2020</b> €	<b>2019</b> €
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Investments @ Bank De Groof Petercam (at cost)	498,031.53	459,925.53
Cash at Banks	106,129.40	19,968.84
Loans	3,552.40	4,606.48
	<b>607,713.33</b>	<b>484,500.85</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Reserves	<b>607,713.33</b>	<b>484,500.85</b>

**NOTES to the accounts**

1. The accounts are prepared on a cash basis.
2. Investments are stated at cost & income from investments are recorded when received.
3. The market value of the Fund's investments at December 31 2020 was 539,922€ (2019 - 484,209€).
4. Any difference between market value and book value will be reflected in the accounts when the investments are realised unless it is believed their value has been permanently impaired. Currently this is not the case.

**BRITISH CHARITABLE FUND asbl  
ACCOUNTS for the years ended  
DECEMBER 31**

**STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND  
EXPENDITURE**

**REVENUE**

	2020 €	2019 €
Donations	19,185.61	13,665.00
Legacy received	125,149.48	-
Investment income	2,054.39	2,199.97
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>146,389.48</b>	<b>15,864.97</b>

**EXPENDITURE**

**Amounts paid to beneficiaries**

Regular aid	12,900.00	12,900.00
Ad Hoc Aid	6,210.97	4,821.40
<b>Total amounts paid to beneficiaries</b>	<b>19,110.97</b>	<b>17,721.40</b>

**Operational expenses**

Tax on legacy	-	3,516.08
Printing, postage & publicity	1,535.81	2,215.32
Annual ASBL tax & filing costs	1,875.73	262.33
Professional indemnity insurance	184.43	-
Rent BCWCB	0.00	45.00
Subscription BBCA	30.00	30.00
Meeting expenses	15.00	613.14
Bank charges	20.98	194.51
Write-off Southam loan	404.08	-
<b>Total operational expenses</b>	<b>4,066.03</b>	<b>6,876.38</b>

**TOTAL EXPENDITURE**

**Profit on sale of investments**

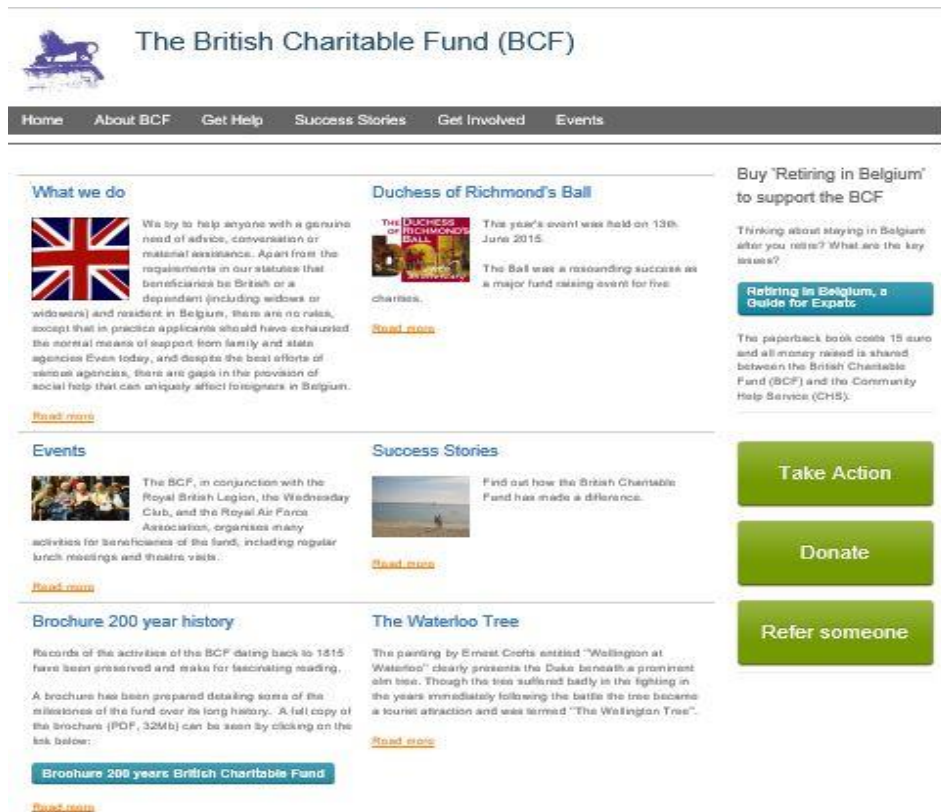
**SURPLUS/-DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR**

<b>23,177.00</b>	<b>24,597.78</b>
-	269.13
<b>123,212.48</b>	<b>-8,463.68</b>

**THE BCF PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN AND WEBSITE [www.bcfund.be](http://www.bcfund.be)**

The Fund is actively pursuing a publicity campaign to increase the awareness of the British community in Belgium of its existence and of its activities. It is also essential for the maintenance of an adequate donor income stream.


Below is a reproduction of the front page of the Fund’s website. This is a key part of the efforts being made to increase awareness of the Fund. Additionally, a Flyer is currently being distributed via clubs, schools, churches and associations used by the British community to ensure that sufficient members of the British community are aware of the Fund in order for potential beneficiaries to be put in contact with the Fund.



**The British Charitable Fund (BCF)**


Home About BCF Get Help Success Stories Get Involved Events

**What we do**

 We try to help anyone with a genuine need of advice, conversation or material assistance. Apart from the requirements in our statutes that beneficiaries be British or a dependant (including widows or widowers) and resident in Belgium, there are no rules, except that in practice applicants should have exhausted the normal means of support from family and state agencies (Even today, and despite the best efforts of various agencies, there are gaps in the provision of social help that can uniquely affect foreigners in Belgium).

[Read more](#)

**Events**

 The BCF, in conjunction with the Royal British Legion, the Wednesday Club, and the Royal Air Force Association, organises many activities for beneficiaries of the fund, including regular lunch meetings and theatre visits.

[Read more](#)


**Brochure 200 year history**

Records of the activities of the BCF dating back to 1815 have been preserved and make for fascinating reading. A brochure has been prepared detailing some of the milestones of the fund over its long history. A full copy of the brochure (PDF, 32Mb) can be seen by clicking on the link below:

[Brochure 200 years British Charitable Fund](#)

[Read more](#)


**Duchess of Richmond's Ball**

 The year's event was held on 13th June 2015.

The Ball was a resounding success as a major fund raising event for five charities.

[Read more](#)

**Success Stories**

 Find out how the British Charitable Fund has made a difference.

[Read more](#)

**The Waterloo Tree**

The painting by Ernest Coefs entitled "Wellington at Waterloo" clearly presents the Duke beneath a prominent oak tree. Though the tree suffered badly in the fighting in the years immediately following the battle the tree became a tourist attraction and was termed "The Wellington Tree".

[Read more](#)

**Buy "Retiring in Belgium" to support the BCF**

Thinking about staying in Belgium after you retire? What are the key issues?

[Retiring in Belgium, a Guide for Expats](#)

The paperback book costs 15 euro and all money raised is shared between the British Charitable Fund (BCF) and the Community Help Service (CHS).

[Take Action](#)

[Donate](#)

[Refer someone](#)

Follow us on Facebook – [BCF British Charitable Fund](#)

## **BOARD AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2020**

Julie Huckle  
Martin Blackwell  
Jonathan Falck

Chairman  
Hon. Treasurer  
Hon. Secretary

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2020**

Mr. Ron Aston  
Mr. David Humphreys  
Mrs Sara Leventhall  
Mr Colin Puplett

Mrs Susan Hudson  
Mrs. Louise Lang  
Mr. Malcolm Pimm  
Reverend John Wilkinson

## **COMMITTEE CONTACT**

The Committee meets 3 or 4 times a year. Communications should be addressed to:

Jonathan Falck

Hon. Secretary

The British Charitable Fund

Avenue du Yorkshire 24, bte 22

1200 Woluwe-St-Lambert

tel. 0468 15 24 63

E-mail: [bcfbelgium@gmail.com](mailto:bcfbelgium@gmail.com)

## **OUR CONSULTANTS**

Lawyer:

: Maître M. Staple

## **REGIONAL CONTACTS**

Antwerp

: Mrs. M.A. Marinus

Charleroi

: Vacancy

Ghent & Ypres

: Vacancy



## YOUR DONATIONS

Donations to the BCF are recognised by the Belgian Ministry of Finance and donations of 40 Euro and above are tax deductible.

To make a donation to the Fund, you can use one of the following methods.

**Make a Bank Transfer to: "The British Charitable Fund asbl"**

**c/o rue au Bois, 509**

**1150 Brussels**

Bank Account No. **310-1890084-28**

**IBAN BE37 3101 8900 8428 - BIC BBRUBEBB**

ING Belgium sa

With the Message "**Donation**" and your address & email (optional)

**Or make a Standing Order**, yearly or monthly, to:

Beneficiary = "**British Charitable Fund asbl**"

Account to be credited = "**BE37 3101 8900 8428**"

Formula = "**Fixed**"

Message = "**Donation**" and your address & email (optional)

Frequency = "**monthly/annually**"

Starting from = "**1st of -----**"

**Or go on-line at: [www.bcfund.be](http://www.bcfund.be)** where further information and forms are available.

**Or contact**

Martin Blackwell, Hon Treasurer

The British Charitable Fund

Tel. 0475 251711

E-mail: [martin.blackwell@proximus.be](mailto:martin.blackwell@proximus.be)

The British Charitable Fund is a member of



IBAN : BE37 3101 8900 8428



[www.bcfund.be](http://www.bcfund.be)