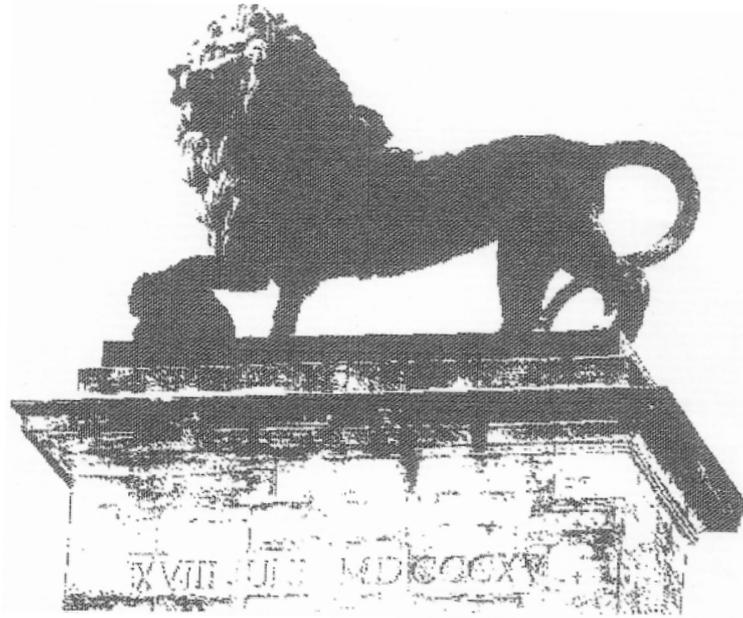


The British Charitable Fund

ASBL

Annual Report for 2013



PATRON

H.M. Philippe King of the Belgians

PRESIDENT

H.E. Jonathan. Brenton
H.B.M. Ambassador to Belgium

VICE - PRESIDENT

Mrs Katrina Johnson
Deputy Head of Mission
The British Embassy

COMMITTEE OF PATRONAGE

His Grace the Duke of Wellington KG, LVO, OBE, MC, DL (*)
Madame Jacques Solvay (*)
Mrs Barbara Blackwell MBE

(*) Founder Members of the ASBL, 1970

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



H.E. Jonathan Brenton British Ambassador to Belgium BCF President

This will be the last opportunity for me to report on the activities of the Fund as President as I shall be leaving the Brussels Embassy later this year. I wish to thank the Fund, and its donors, for all the assistance given to the British residents in Belgium.

My position as President has provided me with the opportunity to observe the variety of demands that have been made on the Fund over the last three years. It has shown me what significant benefits can be provided to those in need by a caring group of people that listen to the problems and provide advice based on their long experience of living in Belgium.

Due to the generosity of the donors, the Fund has also been able to provide moral and financial support where needed.

I wish to stress that the work of the Fund is of great value to the English-speaking community and of direct assistance to the Embassy.

Jonathan Brenton British Ambassador to Belgium

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2013



I am pleased to report on another successful year for the British Charitable Fund in 2013.

For the members who actively participate in the work of the Fund, being successful is being able to reach-out and help those members of the British Community and their dependants who are in need. The majority of our assistance involves giving practical and moral support. This year we have helped in a number of new cases where beneficiaries needed advice after significant changes in their circumstances, such as sudden bereavement and its consequences. Bereavement, in itself, can be devastating but for some it is dramatically compounded by the mass of administrative, legal and financial actions to be taken especially when left alone.

There continues, of course, to be a number of beneficiaries whom we help financially, some with short-term problems as well as those to whom we make regular allowances to enable them to make ends meet. Our outgoings to this latter category increased this year, although two of our longest-term beneficiaries died during the year.

On the financial front, our Treasurer will explain the results for last year in more detail. In general terms, we always hope that our regular donors and the investment income will cover the annual outgoings but, for some years, this has not been the case. Fortunately, we have been supported by a number of “one-off” events – a very large donation in 2012, a significant legacy in 2011, and this year by a profit on the sale of a long-standing investment. But, in the last three years, we are particularly grateful for the contribution that is made by the Duchess of Richmond’s Ball, from which we received Euro 5.500 in 2013, as well as continuing contributions of both money and logistical support from the Brussels British Community Association, the Antwerp British Community Association and the Embassy that enable us to meet our continuing commitments. It is also encouraging to note that the number of donors to the Fund increased this year. We hope that this is the start of an increase that will reverse the trend over many years. We are very grateful to our loyal group of donors as they provide an essential element of our income.

The organisations that support the British and the wider English-speaking community in Belgium continue to cooperate closely. As an example, the Royal British Legion, The Wednesday Club and ourselves organise regular lunches that we believe are a great help to participants in countering the debilitating effects of social isolation. The fact that we share a number of volunteers enables us also to identify cases of need and to act quickly. We have mutually beneficial contacts with a number of organisations and churches such as the Community Help Service, the Holy Trinity Pro Cathedral, the Church of Scotland and the All Saints Episcopal Church and the Antwerp British Community Association as well as regional representatives. However, if there is somebody who resides in Belgium, who you consider is in need and who is British or directly related to a British national please let us know, Contact details are given at the end of the report.

We look forward to the success of the Duchess of Richmond's Ball for 2014 and even more so to the 2015 bi-centenary event of the Battle of Waterloo which gave rise to the Duke of Wellington's creation of the British Charitable Fund in Belgium! Finally, I should like to thank the members of our Committee who give very generously of their time and money to help those in need and to facilitate the day-to-day management of the Fund.

David Humphreys
Chairman

LINKS WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

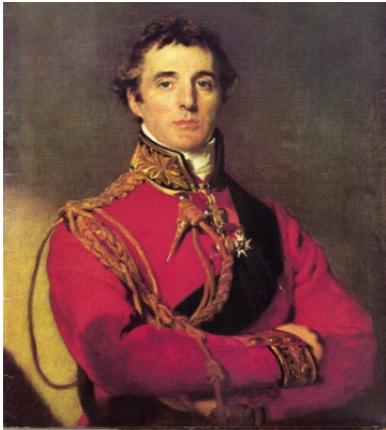
The Fund thanks the British and Commonwealth Women's Club of Brussels for permitting the use of their Club House for the Fund's bi-monthly committee meetings and to all the organisations the Fund liaises with, some of which are referred to by their logos given below.



THE WEDNESDAY CLUB

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 nearly 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, the Holy Trinity Brussels, the Church of Scotland and by the British Embassy.

STATEMENTS OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEARS ENDED 31 DECEMBER

	2013 €	2012 €
Revenue		
Donations	15,500.44	24,250.12
Investment income (net of withholding tax)	4,540.86	4,502.27
Wine tasting evening	-	356.00
Sales of retirement book	601.50	2,106.61
Total revenue	<u>20,642.80</u>	<u>31,215.00</u>
 Expenditure		
Amount paid to beneficiaries		
Regular allowances	12,140.00	8,690.00
Special allowances	1,088.77	9,222.62
Retirement lunches	239.60	194.00
Operational expenses		
Annual A.S.B.L. tax	630.00	606.53
Bank charges	506.66	313.94
Official publication costs	121.97	-
Printing and postage	532.78	606.55
Rent of registered office	15.00	-
Travelling expenses	-	37.05
Website	31.00	74.23
Miscellaneous	30.00	173.00
Total expenditure	<u>15,335.78</u>	<u>19,917.92</u>
 Profit on sale of investments	 42,794.48	 -
Surplus of revenue over expenditure	<u>48,101.50</u>	<u>11,297.08</u>

SPECIAL MENTIONS



Joint Social Events: The ageing population places demands on many areas of society and the charities that serve the English-speaking expat community in Brussels have very successfully established a programme of lunches in order to combat social isolation which, so often, arises from reduced mobility and the death of spouses and close friends.

The first of these lunches was held in 2012 and are jointly organised by the BCF, the Brussels Branch of the Royal British Legion, The Wednesday Club and the Royal Air Force Association. The Spring Lunch and Harvest Lunch have proven to be a very popular method of bringing together large numbers of the senior members of the English speaking community. In order to overcome mobility difficulties, the lunches require the involvement of a large number of volunteers to transport the senior members and to whom the organisers are extremely grateful.

A further lunch has been planned for Spring 2014.

Duchess of Richmond's Ball:

The Fund received a substantial donation as a result of the very successful revival of the Duchess of Richmond's Ball which was organised by the BBKA, The British Chamber of Commerce in co-operation with the British Embassy and a number of sponsor companies. The Ball was held at the Palais d'Egmont in June 2013 and a further Ball is planned for 28 June 2014 again at the Palais d'Egmont.

Donations: A special thank you to The Antwerp British Community Association and the Brussels British Community Association and All Saints Church for their generous donations.

THE BCF WEBSITE

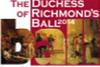
www.bcfund.be

The Fund is acutely aware of the need to inform the British community in Belgium about its activities as it is essential for the maintenance of an adequate donor income stream and 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. However, there is always the necessity to ensure that, in any publicity issued, the Fund maintains a strict regard for the anonymity of those it helps.

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.

Home About BCF Get Help Success Stories Get Involved Events

Duchess of Richmond's Ball



Next year's event will be held on June 28th 2014.

The Ball is held as a major fund raising event.

It is held on the nearest convenient date to the 15th June, when, in 1815, the original Duchess of Richmond's Ball was held in Brussels on the evening preceding the Battle of Waterloo for the officers of the Duke of Wellington's army and distinguished guests.

[Read more](#)

Celebration lunches



The Queen's Diamond Jubilee was celebrated in style by four Brussels-based English speaking organisations. The pictures show the happy faces at the Jubilee Lunch which was the first of a series planned to bring together senior members of The Royal British Legion, The British Charitable Fund, The Wednesday Club and the Royal Air Forces Association.

[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).

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](#)

Success Stories



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

[Read more](#)

Upcoming events

[Duchess of Richmond's Ball](#)
Saturday, 20.06.2014

[Take Action](#) [Donate](#) [Refer someone](#)



The response to the website, though modest, indicates clearly that the Fund is widening the spread of information regarding what it does and who it helps. Thus, the website is developing into a much needed communication tool to promote the Fund to potential donors and to increase awareness of the events organised by the Fund or in which it is engaged.

The development possibilities with websites are enormous but the implementation of many of the developments comes at a cost. The budget for the website is strictly limited. However it is hoped that the Fund's website covers the essentials to achieve its objectives as mentioned above. Should you feel that you could make a contribution to the effectiveness of the website we will be very pleased to hear from you.

BOARD AND EXECUTIVE MEMBERS 2013

David Humphreys
Malcolm Pimm
Colin Puplett

Chairman
Hon. Treasurer
Hon. Secretary

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2013

Mrs. N Cooper
Mrs. J McKoen
Mrs. J Sayers
Mr. R Aston

Mr. E Coates
Mrs. L Lang
Rev. A Gardner
Mrs K Hawkins

COMMITTEE CONTACT

The Committee meets bi-monthly. Communications to the Committee should be addressed to:

The Hon. Secretary
The British Charitable Fund
rue de la Limite 131
1970 Wezembeek-Oppem
tel. 02/767 4726
E-mail: bcf.info@telenet.be

OUR CONSULTANTS

Lawyers: : Maîtres M Staple, C Price

REGIONAL CONTACTS

Antwerp : Mrs. M.A Marinus
Charleroi : Mrs. M. Masui
Ghent : Mrs. M. Lootens
Ypres : Mrs. M. Sutherland

LIST OF DONORS 2013

TOTAL 2013

€15,500.44

Mr R Aston	Mr & Mrs M Keating-Hill
Mrs A Barleycorn	Mrs R Lederer
Mrs S Batten	Mme C Lejeune
Mrs B Blackwell MBE	Mr & Mrs A Lysak
Mr M Blackwell	Mr & Mrs E Mark
Mr & Mrs A Caston	Mr J Morrey
Mrs E Chiles	Mr P Nolan
Mrs V Cooper	Mr M A Pimm
Mr & Mrs S Cummings-White	Mr & Mrs S Pitman
Mr & Mrs R De Greef-Cooke	Miss K M Pritchard
Mr F De Waele	Mr & Mrs C Puplett
Mrs T Delplace	Mr M Ramsay
Mr & Mrs S Dowsett	Mr A Reid
Mr M Dunhill	Mr W Roberts
Mme J Durieux	Ms A B Robins
Mr N Fern	Ms P Robins
Mr & Mrs A Gamble	Mr & Mrs D Sayers
Mr & Mrs G Goldie	Mr A Sutton
Dr R B Guy	Mrs E Taylor
Mme S Haan	The Venerable & Mrs D van Leeuwen
Mrs J Hare	Dr T Verbeet
Mr & Mrs L A Harris MBE	His Grace the Duke of Wellington KG., LVO., OBE., MC., DL.
Mr D Humphreys	Mr P Willis
Mr & Mrs K Inglis-Hull	Mr & Mrs DJ Wood
All Saints Church	
Antwerp British Community Association	Brussels British Community Association

YOUR DONATIONS

Donations to the BCF are recognised by the Belgian Ministry of Finance and donations of 40 Euro and above are tax deductible. For the majority of expats this means, at incremental tax and social security rates, that a 40 Euro donation in practice costs around 20 Euro.

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 Avenue Orban, 60
1150 Brussels

Bank Account No. **310-1890084-28**
IBAN BE37 3101 8900 8428 - BIC BBRUBEBB
ING Belgium sa

With the Message “**Donation**”

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**”
Frequency = “**monthly/annually**”
Starting from = “**1st of -----**”

Or go on-line at: www.bcfund.be where further information and forms are available.

Or contact

The Hon Treasurer
The British Charitable Fund
Avenue Orban 60
1150 Brussels
Tel. 02/762 0242
E-mail: malcolm.pimm@skynet.be

The British Charitable Fund is a member of

