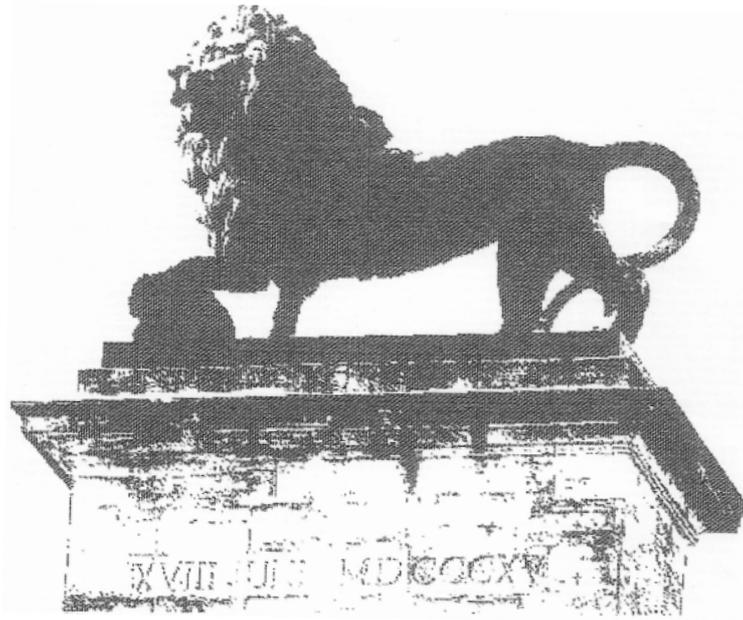


# The British Charitable Fund

## ASBL

### *Annual Report for 2014*



#### PATRON

H.M. Philippe King of the Belgians

#### PRESIDENT

H.E. Alison Rose  
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  
Madame Jacques Solvay (\*)  
Mrs Barbara Blackwell MBE

(\*) Founder Members of the ASBL, 1970

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



**H.E. Alison Rose**  
**British Ambassador to Belgium**  
**BCF President**

Waterloo. The name alone evokes so much. Arguably one of the turning points of European history, the Battle was and is the inspiration for great art, literature, poetry and music. The phrase "to meet one's Waterloo" entered the English language to signify a great test with a final and decisive outcome. But there was a high cost to the Battle of Waterloo. Around 55,000 were killed, wounded, or missing in action from both sides. The sheer density of the injured - around 2,291 people per mile of front - compares with 234 per mile on the first day of the Battle of the Somme in 1916.

So it is no surprise that the Duke of Wellington found it necessary to found the British Charitable Fund immediately after Waterloo, making 2015 the bicentenary of the BCF as well as of the Battle. While the Fund originally provided for dependants of soldiers killed in the battle – families and camp followers left stranded in Belgium - it has continued to help Britons and their dependants in an astonishingly wide series of circumstances.

As the new British Ambassador to Belgium, I am proud to take over the position of President. I wish to thank the Fund, and its donors, for all the assistance given to British residents in Belgium. And in particular I pay tribute to the caring group of people that listen and provide advice based on their long experience of living in Belgium, as well as moral and financial support. I wish the Fund a very successful bicentennial year.

**Alison Rose**  
**2**

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2014**



I am honoured to be reporting to you in our bi-centennial year for the British Charitable Fund.

The year 2014 was successful for the Fund in that we were able to help a number of new beneficiaries both with financial assistance and with the moral support and advice that they required. As ever, the level of help required is constant but unpredictable in extent.

Sadly, we have lost two of our beneficiaries during last year and early this year.

From a financial viewpoint, our treasurer will explain the accounts in detail during the course of the meeting. In summary, we received an extremely generous legacy which accounts for the increase in the donations in 2014. Together with the substantial income generated by the Duchess of Richmond's Ball and a steady, though shrinking, donor base we have a surplus of revenue over expenditure.

Our ideal situation would be to have such reserves as would take care of beneficiaries' needs without undue dependence on one-off events. During 2015 we are linking in to the many commemorative events for the Battle of Waterloo and are very grateful to the Embassy, Waterloo 200 and to the Duke of Wellington's representative in Belgium, Le Comte de Meeûs, for their kind help as well - as always - to the organisers of the Duchess of Richmond's Ball which will be an extra-special event in 2015!

In the near future we are hoping to expand our assistance to the British community by investigating community-wide activities, as well as the personal help we give. As our members will know we already hold joint lunches and co-operate closely with the Wednesday Club, the Antwerp British Community Association, the Royal British Legion and the English-speaking churches. The Brussels British Community Association has expressed interest in further helping to co-ordinate and expand charity activities and we welcome this opportunity to broaden our work.

In the end our work is carried out by selfless volunteers, quietly and anonymously, and I should like to thank them personally for their immense time and effort.

**David Humphreys  
Chairman**

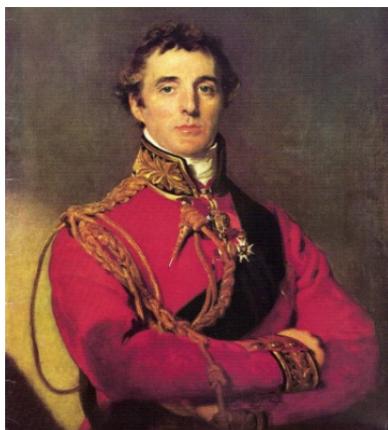
## LINKS WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

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.



## 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.

## STATEMENTS OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEARS ENDED 31 DECEMBER

	2014 €	2013 €
<b>Revenue</b>		
Donations	21,770.23	15,500.44
Investment income (net of withholding tax)	1,935.30	4,540.86
Sales of retirement book	226.50	601.50
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b><u>23,932.03</u></b>	<b><u>20,642.80</u></b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Amounts paid to beneficiaries		
Regular allowances	10,150.00	12,140.00
Special allowances	767.10	1,088.77
Retirement lunches	232.24	239.60
Operational expenses		
Annual A.S.B.L. tax	711.21	630.00
Bank charges	607.82	506.66
Official publication costs	0.97	121.97
Printing and postage	227.63	532.78
Rent of registered office	45.00	15.00
Travelling expenses	31.00	-
Website	44.16	31.00
Miscellaneous	30.00	30.00
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b><u>12,847.13</u></b>	<b><u>15,335.78</u></b>
<b>Profit on sale of investments</b>	1,831.98	42,794.48
<b>Surplus of revenue over expenditure</b>	<b><u>12,916.88</u></b>	<b><u>48,101.50</u></b>

## 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 and visits to the theatre 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 15 April 2015.

### **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 BBICA, 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 2014 and a special bi-centenary Ball is planned for 13 June 2015 again at the Palais d'Egmont.

### **Donations:**

A special thank you to The British Community Association of Brussels, Holy Trinity Church, The English Comedy Club and All Saints Church Waterloo for their generous donations.

# THE BCF WEBSITE

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

The screenshot shows the front page of the BCF website. At the top is a dark navigation bar with links: Home, About BCF, Get Help, Success Stories, Get Involved, and Events. Below this is a main content area with several sections:

- What we do:** Features a Union Jack image and text explaining the fund's mission to help those in need in Belgium. A "Read more" link is provided.
- Duchess of Richmond's Ball:** Announces the 2015 event on June 13th. It includes a small image of the ball and a "Read more" link.
- Retiring in Belgium, a Guide for Expats:** Promotes a book available for purchase to support the BCF. It includes a blue button with the title and a "Read more" link.
- Events:** Lists activities for beneficiaries, such as lunch meetings and theatre visits, organized in conjunction with other organizations. A "Read more" link is provided.
- Success Stories:** Features a photo of a person on a beach and text describing how the fund has made a difference. A "Read more" link is provided.
- Upcoming events:** Lists the "Duchess of Richmond's Ball" on Saturday, 13.06.2015, with a "Read more" link.

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 2014**

David Humphreys  
Malcolm Pimm  
Colin Puplett

Chairman  
Hon. Treasurer  
Hon. Secretary

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2014**

Mrs. K Hawkins  
Mrs. J McKoen  
Mrs. J Sayers  
Mr. R Aston

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

## **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](mailto: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 2014

**TOTAL 2014**

**€21,770.23**

Mrs A Barleycorn	Mr & Mrs R Lewis
Mrs S Batten	Mr & Mrs A Lysak
Mrs B Blackwell MBE	Mr & Mrs E Mark
Mr & Mrs A Caston	Mr J Morrey
Mrs E Chiles	Mrs J McKoen
Mr E Coates	Mr P Nolan
Mrs V Cooper	Mr M A Pimm
Mr & Mrs S Cummings-White	Miss K M Pritchard
Mr & Mrs R De Greef-Cooke	Mr & Mrs C Puplett
Comte de Meeûs d'Argenteuil	Mr M Ramsay
Mr F De Waele	Mr A Reid
Mrs T Delplace	Ms A B Robins
Mme J Durieux	Ms P Robins
Mr N Fern	Mr & Mrs D Sayers
Mr & Mrs G Goldie	Mrs E Taylor
Mme S Haan	Mr D Travers
Mrs J Hare	The Venerable & Mrs D van Leeuwen
Mr & Mrs L A Harris MBE	Dr T Verbeet
Mrs K Hawkins	His Grace the Duke of Wellington KG., LVO., OBE., MC., DL.
Mr D Humphreys	Mr P Willis
Mr & Mrs M Keating-Hill	Mr & Mrs Wolfe-Large
Mrs L Lang	Mr & Mrs DJ Wood
Mrs R Lederer	
Mme C Lejeune	
All Saints Church	The English Comedy Club
Holy Trinity Church	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](http://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@gmail.com](mailto:malcolm.pimm@gmail.com)

The British Charitable Fund is a member of

