



Contact us through our website to volunteer to help on an occasional basis!

## How can you help?

# Annual Review 2016

Make a Bank Transfer:  
The British Charitable Fund asbl,  
c/o rue au Bois, 509,  
1150 Brussels

Bank Account No.  
310-1890084-2  
IBAN BE37 3101 8900  
8428 - BIC BBRUBEBB

With the Message  
"Donation" and your  
address.

Or make a Standing  
Order, yearly or monthly:

Beneficiary = "British  
Charitable Fund asbl"  
BE37 3101 8900 8428"

Formula = "Fixed"  
Message = "Donation"  
Frequency "monthly/  
annually"  
Starting from =  
"1st of -----"

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

Pay on-line at:  
dono.be  
Under British Charitable  
Fund pay by credit or  
debit card

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### DONORS 2016

Mrs Ann Barleycorn  
Ms Sally Batten  
Mrs Barbara Blackwell MBE  
Mr Martin Blackwell  
Mr & Mrs Anthony Caston  
Mme Eileen Chiles  
Mr Paul Claes  
Mrs Véronique Cooper  
Mr & Mrs Stuart Cummings-White  
Mr & Mrs Robert De Greef-Cooke  
Mr Firmin De Waele  
Mrs Therese Delplace  
Mr & Mrs Stuart Dowsett  
Mme Jeanne Durieux  
Mr Nicholas Fern  
Mr & Mrs Arthur Gamble  
Mr Jan Glazemakers  
Mr & Mrs Geoffrey Goldie  
Mme. Susannah Haan  
Mrs Kay Hawkins  
Mr David Humphreys  
Mr & Mrs David Wood

Brussels British Community Association  
The English Comedy Club

Our grateful thanks for a substantial donation in May 2016  
where the donor prefers to remain anonymous.

### €10.240.18

Mr & Mrs Michael Keating-Hill  
Mrs Rose-Marie Lederer  
Mme. Charles Lejeune  
Mr & Mrs Richard Lewis  
Miss Kerry Lydon  
Mr & Mrs Andrew Lysak  
Mr & Mrs Eric Mark  
Mrs Jennifer McKoen  
Mr John Morrey  
Mr Peter Nolan  
Mr Malcolm Pimm  
Miss Mary Pritchard  
Mr & Mrs Colin Puplett  
Mr Michael Ramsay  
Ms Patricia Jane Robins  
Ms Ann Barbera Robins  
Mrs Elisabeth Taylor  
The Venerable & Mrs Dirk van Leeuwen  
Dr Thierry Verbeet  
Mr Colin White  
Mr Peter Willis

*A legacy of the  
Battle of Waterloo,  
established by the  
Duke of Wellington,  
The British  
Charitable Fund  
continues to help  
Britons and their  
dependents  
throughout Belgium*

*Even in 2017 there are  
members of our  
community who need  
support where  
all other agencies  
have failed*

*We liaise constantly  
with the staff at the  
Consulate and the  
Embassy, who have  
referred to us a  
number of cases  
where their powers to  
intervene are limited.*

### A word from the Chairman - David Humphreys

The BCF has been supporting the British community since its founding at the Battle of Waterloo. The calendar year 2016 has demonstrated that there is a continuing need for our services.

In our 201st year of operations we are pleased to present a new look to our annual reporting. We are looking at the way we operate to ensure that we reach those who need us most. And, in the coming year we shall implement several fresh initiatives to meet this goal.

We will distribute this Annual Welfare Review as widely as possible, and trust it will give an insight into our activities to those who aspire to helping others and to persons themselves in need.

The BCF helps not only financially but also provides practical and moral assistance. In 2016, we helped British victims of the terrorist attack in Brussels, extended further financial help on a long-term basis to new beneficiaries and provided emergency funds where needed.

We have, as in most recent years, paid out more than we received from regular donors, whose number is unfortunately dwindling. Over the last ten years' legacies and the higher income generated during the Waterloo 200th anniversary celebrations have helped to maintain funds. However, in 2017 we expect again to pay out more and will invest heavily in a publicity campaign. Our work is completely anonymous and discreet. This makes advertising difficult, but examples in these pages will illustrate what we do.

We would appreciate your taking the time to read this information.

Your support is appreciated and we ask that you continue to support us in any way you can.

### David

PATRON: H.M. Philippe King of the Belgians  
PRESIDENT: Her Excellency Alison Rose, H.B.M. Ambassador to Belgium  
VICE-PRESIDENT: Mr Alan Campbell, Deputy Head of Mission, The British Embassy  
COMMITTEE: Ron Aston, Edward Coates, Rev. Andrew Gardner, David Humphreys, Louise Lang, Jennifer McKoen, Malcolm Pimm, Colin Puplett, Janet Sayers  
COMMITTEE OF PATRONAGE: His Grace the Duke of Wellington, Madame Jacques Solvay, Mrs Barbara Blackwell MBE

## Message from our President - HMA Alison Rose

*Joanna had come to Belgium with her British husband and had a daughter. Her husband physically abused her and she eventually obtained a divorce. He then failed to provide for their daughter, was sentenced to prison and disappeared. BCF has provided financial help and enabled Joanna to return to the UK.*

*Claire and Albert found themselves heavily in debt following the collapse of the pound (which reduced the value of their pensions from the UK), and many medical bills not covered by the Mutuelle, following severe illness. The BCF stepped in quickly with financial help.*

*Alfred has severe bipolar disorder which means he cannot work. He gets limited support from Belgian social security, but this is hardly adequate and continual money problems aggravate his condition. The BCF helps with a monthly allowance which enables him to face more easily the challenges his illness imposes on him.*

Some examples of those whom BCF has helped in 2016, which illustrate the wide variety of problems which can arise.

2016 has been a challenging year for many reasons but particularly following the terrible attacks on 22 March. I am very grateful for all the support the BCF and its hard-working committee members have provided to members of the British community in need during this year. The BCF has shown itself capable of responding quickly to new needs for assistance whilst continuing its ongoing care for its existing clients. This year I want to add a particular word of thanks to Colin Puplett who has been Secretary of the Fund for 15 years. He has announced that 2017 will be his last year as Secretary of the Fund. I am enormously grateful for all he has and will continue to do in the future.

**Alison Rose**  
President



We have received a number of calls for help directly from our website - and responded in a matter of hours

### What we do

The image of the British expatriate in Belgium is often of great comfort – good job, pension, good life-style, nice house etc. A lot of Brits in Belgium do live like this but life can be very harsh and a crisis can come up when it is least expected to take this away. Ill-health, a death in the family, loss of a job, divorce, family violence, etc. can destroy lives, placing vulnerable individuals in situations of great difficulty.

Social services in Belgium, as elsewhere, are under financial pressure and often the support available is far from adequate, or may even be zero, depending on the legal status of the individual. This is where The British Charitable Fund steps in. We provide the support, tailored to the individual, in the form of financial help, helping with legal and tax issues, sorting out paperwork with the Belgian administration, or just a regular chat over a cup of tea. This year, exceptionally, we have also given help to those affected by the terrorist attacks in Brussels. And then there is the looming problem of Brexit...

We have learned that even the most mundane help can often give people in the direst situations the courage to turn their lives around. Sometimes, they just need people to talk to.

The people we help are of all ages and come from all walks of life. No two stories are exactly the same and some will require only short-term support whilst others will require help for the rest of their lives.

**For help or advice at any time call:**  
0475 69 37 61  
02 660 94 89  
0475 28 21 48

### We are not alone!

*In helping the British and English-speaking communities we are part of a network of charities - see opposite - covering military, mental health and help for the elderly, with whom we liaise closely to share resources. All of these come under an umbrella organisation, the Brussels British Community Association.*

## How we are organised

People come to us in times of personal crisis. Their needs are assessed very quickly (often in a matter of hours) and immediate support given. Each beneficiary is allocated to one contact person in the committee, and of course identities are kept absolutely confidential.

We are always looking for new volunteers and if you feel you would like to help, we would be pleased to hear from you. Contact details are given below.

### Finding BCF

Great importance is attached to spreading awareness of BCF within the wider Belgian community. We feel that many people who may need help may be living isolated lives, and their chance of finding us is remote. We initiated a publicity campaign in 2016 with just this in view, and this new Annual Welfare Review which you are reading is part of this effort. Our publicity material is displayed at prominent locations frequented by Brits, and an advertising campaign is planned for 2017. This will include advertising on public transport in Brussels in the hope of reaching needy British people and their dependents who may not otherwise be aware of our existence. Please spread the word!

We have also extended our use of media during the year by extending and updating our website [www.bcfund.be](http://www.bcfund.be) and are now on Facebook and [dono.be](http://dono.be). Through all of these means potential beneficiaries can reach us quickly and discreetly.

### Our finances

We are a recognised charity and operate as an ASBL under Belgian law. This double status means all donations over €40 are fully tax-deductible.

We are also investigating the practicality of registering in the UK, although the vast majority of our income is generated in Belgium.

Our accounts are published annually and can be seen on our website. We welcome any enquiries.

During 2016 our expenditure exceeded our income by € 13.214 and we distributed € 21.854. Our total funds at the end of the year were € 439.308.

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

