



BSAP TRUST

Providing Benevolence to the Members of the United Kingdom Branch

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

An eventful year for the Trust.

Grants disbursed amounted to £22,219.49, an increase from 2022. The grants included two Founder's Bursary Awards of which more later.

Donations showed a slight increase.

The apparent increase in income was due to the recovery and increase in value of the Trust investment portfolio.

I am pleased to be able to report that following the Trustees proposal made at last year's AGM agreement has been reached that £5 of each member's annual subscription be credited to the Trust. This restores the historic principle that, having charged the Trust with providing benevolence to UK Branch members, the prime object of the Association, the Association provides support to the Trust.

The restoration of this principle means that all members who are eligible for Trust assistance will have contributed to the Trust.

The amount that will be raised should be in the region of £2500 pa, and it will be seen that if the current level of grants is to be maintained further fund raising efforts must continue, more on that later.

Additional funds can also be raised by reclaiming Gift Aid from HMRC on the donations. We ask members who are eligible UK taxpayers complete a Gift Aid Declaration and forward to Tony Granger. Declarations can be downloaded from the Trust website, www.bsaptrust.org.

The Founder's Bursary Awards

These have proved a success with not only 2023's allocation being subscribed but also 2024's allocation. The awards have so far assisted recipients to undertake courses in Counselling, Sports Massage Therapy, Degree course in Forensic Science and Degree course in English and Drama.

In addition to improving the lives and careers of the recipients it is hoped that the awards will help preserve the memory and History of the BSAP as a force for good down the generations.

Other Grants Made

These include purchases of mobility scooters, wheelchair hoists, medical bills, moving transport costs and cost of living grants - which are still available.

The Widows Christmas Card and vouchers exercise was also once again successfully carried out and judging from the responses received by the Trustees, was very much appreciated.

Trustees: Alan Toms, Anthony Granger, Anthony Murphy, Edward Archdale
Patron of the Trust: Field Marshal The Lord Walker of Aldringham GCB CMG CBE DL

Registered Charity 297183

11 Melbourne Rise, Bicton Heath, Shrewsbury, SY3 5DA.

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Fund Raising

Fund raising activities must continue in order to continue to make the grants and awards to members. Our membership ages, the cost of living continues to increase and applications for assistance can therefore only be expected to increase.

The Trustees are very grateful to the small number of members who contribute regularly to the Trust in addition to paying their annual subscriptions. Regular donations can be made by completing the 'Donate' box on the trust website.

We continue to seek further ways to increase income the latest being the '**1890 Club**'. Participants are allocated or can choose a number presently between 1 and 100 and on payment of £5 per month are entered into a draw for cash prizes. This is proving popular. For further details again visit the trust website or contact Tony Granger.

A number of M & S vouchers and other prizes totalling £100 were donated to the Christmas Raffle drawn at the Christmas event held at the Victory Services Club. A portion of the proceeds of the raffle was donated to the Trust. The Trustees are hoping to continue with joint fund-raising exercises.

The Trustees have met regularly throughout the year and have had two meetings with the 'Liaison Committee' set up by the Committee Chairman. There was an enthusiastic response from the Liaison Committee members to the Trust proposals for them to put to the committee. One of the proposals being the joint fund raising proposal mentioned above. We await the Committee's response.

We welcomed Edward Archdale as a Trustee of the Trust and look forward to his contribution.

My thanks go to my fellow Trustees and those who have assisted the Trust. Our Treasurer Helen Tate has, despite broken limbs, continued to provide an excellent accounting service. There have been some doubts over the accuracy of the new database, we understand from Helen that, hopefully, these doubts have been resolved.

Pauline Seaward who completed the Widows Christmas exercise in her usual efficient fashion and we are grateful to her for the work she puts into this.

To our auditor, President Peter, thanks once again for casting his eye over the accounts.

Our thanks also to our Patron for his continued support, particularly for his input to the Founders Bursary Awards scheme.

Alan Toms

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