

Newsletter

November 2013



Evelyn Strouts Committee Member

Evelyn was born and brought up in India; her first contact with the Army was at the Inter-School sports days held at Wellington College in the Nilgiri Hills, Ooty. Deported to Norfolk for her final years of schooling, she started life as a Wren Writer (G) in the NATO typing pool down "the Hole" at Northwood in 1972. Promoted to Third Officer in 1973, she met her future submariner husband at RNC Greenwich. Subsequent roles were as Public Relations Officer to Commodore Clyde, PA to Captain Submarine Sea Training, Staff Officer to Flag Officer Submarines and finally as Public Relations Officer WRNS and QARRNS in MOD.

On leaving the WRNS, she subsequently spent twenty-six years with the John Lewis Partnership in a variety of roles, including a staff-elected member of the main Board, leaving as Head of Brand and Branch Advertising and Marketing.

Following a life-changing trip around the world in 2008, she joined the Officers' Association in 2009 as a Career Consultant moving to Head of Benevolence in 2011, her current appointment.

Favourite sports include loafing by the pool in Florida when she can escape to the sun, and going to the theatre.



Dear Fellow Members of Lady Grover's Fund,

I am delighted to be writing my seventh annual newsletter as your Chairman. After last year's centenary of Lady Grover's Fund and the excitement of The Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics, we have spent this year consolidating our improved business practices and we have begun to look to Social Networking to attract new members.

Major General Adrian Lyons CBE
Chairman and Trustee

New Grants and Subscriptions

In last year's Newsletter I wrote of the Committee's decision to increase benefits and to raise the annual subscription to £40 to help pay for the increase. Raising the level of benefits was a recognition that healthcare costs were rising well ahead of inflation rates. The new subscription and benefit levels came into force on 1 January 2013, so we have been closely monitoring the effect that the benefit rise would have on our expenditure on grants. But more of that after a look at 2012's figures.

2012 Claim Statistics

The statistics of claims for 2012 are as follows, with 2011 figures for comparison:

	2012		2011	
	No of Grants	Total Paid	No of Grants	Total Paid
Hospital Accommodation	16	£29,251	16	£29,127
Home Nursing	9	£5,945	7	£4,460
Convalescence	3	£1,598	4	£3,960
Home Help	74	£43,267	76	£43,890
Ex Gratia			1	£1,500
Totals	102	£80,061	104	£82,938

As you see, there is very little difference between 2011 and 2012 in terms of the overall numbers and expenditure on claims. Although the month to month spend on grants differed widely during the course of those two years, the yearly totals only showed a 2% difference.

However, as I reported last year, the make-up of the grants awarded has changed over the last 3 years. Claims for Home Nursing, Hospital Accommodation and Convalescence have taken a larger share of the grants, while Home Help, though still very popular, has a lesser share. The graph overleaf shows this trend quite clearly.



Stephen Anderton Committee Member

Stephen Anderton is a former Air Commodore in the Royal Air Force. His final appointment was Commandant General RAF Regiment where he headed the RAF's Force Protection organisation. He is also a former principal adviser on international affairs to the UK's Chief of the Air Staff.

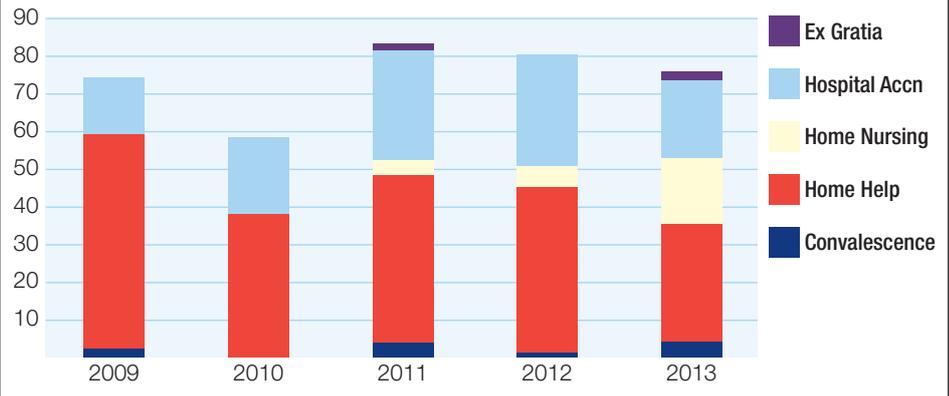
He holds a master's degree in Corporate Management from Cranfield University and is a graduate of the Royal Air Force Advanced Staff College and the Defence Strategic Leadership Programme.

On retiring from the RAF he became a director at ArmorGroup International plc, a global risk management and security company. He is now an independent consultant to the security sector working with major companies in the UK, East Africa and the USA. He is a member of the Strategy Committee of British Expertise, whose role is promoting international business and he is a member of the Security Innovation and Technology Consortium (SITC). He is the Chairman of a property management company based in his local town of Guildford, Surrey. He is a Liveryman and Court Assistant to the Worshipful Company of Security Professionals and Chairman of their Finance and General Purposes Committee.

He has served on the Management Committee of the Lady Grover's Fund since December 2008 and is now their Deputy Chairman.

He has been married to Judith for almost 40 years and has three grown up children: an RAF officer, an investment banker and a graphics designer. In addition to international travel his main interests are walking and social golf.

Analysis of Grants by Type 2009-2013



The Committee believes that this trend reflects the fact that hospitals, both private and NHS, are tending to discharge patients earlier than previously, and thus more nursing help is required in the post-operative recovery phase, either in a nursing home or with home nursing.

2013 Claims to date

Despite the overall rise in available benefits which came into force in January of this year, 2013's total grant figures to date are very similar to those at the end of November 2012. Up to the end of November this year we had paid out £75,700 in grants as against £75,561 in 2012. The tendency this year has been fewer Home Help claims, more Home Nursing claims and a greater spend on Convalescence. The spend on Hospital Accommodation has gone down too. This continues to support our feeling that Home Nursing and to a lesser extent Convalescence, are becoming more popular. The Secretary gives The Committee a monthly read-out of expenditure on grants so that we are always up to date with grant trends. As I mentioned earlier, there are interesting swings in expenditure from month to month, but the pattern becomes more discernible as the year continues. The Committee remain content with the amount and size of claims we are receiving and satisfied that we continue to have enough in our funds to pay them.

Income and Expenditure

We had an excess of expenditure over income in 2012 of £5,409 as compared with an excess of income last year of £8,003. This excess is somewhat mitigated by the fact that we had to account for five quarters of investment charges and rent in 2012 and only three quarters in 2011. We remain dependant on our income from investment. The Fund's accounts are available in electronic or paper form from the Secretary should you wish to see them.

Investments

The market value of our investments at the end of 2012 was £1,572,089 as against £1,388,389 at the end of 2011. Income from investment was maintained at 2011 levels, with an income of £48,091 in 2012 and £48,088 in 2011. We are grateful to Ivo Clifton and Will McIntosh-Whyte of Rathbones who have maintained a safe level of risk in our investments while increasing their value and giving us a sustainable income. Not an easy task in the tricky economic climate of the last two years.

Committee Membership

I am sad to have to tell you that we have very recently lost a staunch supporter of the Fund in Commander Tim Boycott, who died peacefully at home on 8 December. He was a much-loved Committee Member and a Trustee of the Fund for many years and was always very generous with his wisdom and his time. A full obituary for Tim is on page 4. We shall all miss his cheery presence on the Committee.

Since last year, Major General John Sutherell has retired from our Committee. He has been a staunch supporter of Lady Grover's Fund over many years, and as General Secretary of the Officers' Association he actively promoted the close ties which have linked us with the OA since 1912. John retired from the OA at the end of June and at the same time from his positions as Committee Member and Vice-Chairman of our Fund. The Committee and I very much appreciate all that John has done to assist us over the years as an active, wise and helpful counsellor on the Committee, as Vice Chairman and in his role as General Secretary of the OA.

John's successor at the OA is Lee Holloway, a retired naval officer and businessman. Lee put himself up for election to the Committee of the Fund at our October meeting and was elected. He has pledged to continue to foster the tight links between the OA and Lady Grover's Fund.

Membership

Membership stood at 3210 at the end of 2012, an increase of 56 members over 2011. We are beginning to get younger, serving officers as members, but there is obviously scope for many more to take advantage of our Fund. We have done some advertising in Forces magazines this year, but results are patchy. We have this year started a Facebook page and we are on Twitter. This has not yet produced any startling results for recruiting, but we do think that social networking is a valuable way to get in touch with the distaff side of officers' lives and hope that way to engage the attention of those who will benefit directly from the Fund.

For those of you who are on Facebook and Twitter, I do urge you to Like us and Follow us on social media and to do your bit for recruiting for us. For those of you who are not network ninjas, the old methods of word of mouth and recommendation still work, so please continue to spread the word for us.

Mental Illness

Lady Grover's Fund has up to now excluded claims arising from mental illness. After due consideration and after consulting a very full and helpful brief prepared by Jo Kingston-Shrubb, our medical member of the Committee, we decided this year to change the rules to include mental illness as a legitimate claim on the Fund. The Committee felt that the stigma attached to mental illness in the days when the Fund was raised in 1911 was very much out of date now. Mental illness is considered far more as a treatable illness these days and we felt the time had come for us to recognise that thinking. A rise in the level of medical proof required on which to judge any claim now includes a consultant's letter where relevant; the Committee is content that this will give them sufficient collateral on which to judge mental illness claims too.

2014

As we approach the end of another successful year for Lady Grover's Fund, I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Adrian Lyons

Rear Admiral John GOWER OBE MNI Committee Member



John Gower joined the Royal Navy from school in 1978 and after an in-service degree at Salford University he served in five ships and five submarines in his seagoing career from 1982 to 1997. The last five years at sea were spent as CO of two submarines: he took command of HMS Unicorn on 7 July 1992 and

commissioned her into the Fleet in 1993. Promoted Commander in June 1994, he remained with Unicorn until she paid off in October 1994, after a successful six-month operational deployment to the Arabian Gulf and Indian Ocean.

In February 1995, he took command of HMS Trafalgar in refit, remaining until July 1997, leading Trafalgar through successful sea trials and Work-up and completing two challenging long deployments. The first was under the Arctic ice and to the east coast of the US for torpedo firings, and the second on Ocean Wave '97, before conducting operations off Korea and in the South China Sea during the Hong Kong handover to China. He left Trafalgar in Australia, most of the way through her second global circumnavigation under his command.

Regrettably, he then had to leave the sea behind and joined MoD in December 1997 in the Directorate of Naval Operations, with principal responsibilities for SSN operations, including the operational aspects of the introduction of Tomahawk and its first UK use in Kosovo. Awarded the OBE in June 1998, he was promoted to Captain on joining the Naval Staff as Assistant Director responsible for the Nuclear Deterrent in November 1999.

He joined the British Embassy in Washington in June 2002 as Assistant Naval Attaché. In 2005 he joined the JSCSC as Director A Division on the ACSC. He completed one year in post, leaving early on promotion to Commodore to become Director Equipment Capability, UnderWater Effect, in August 2006. After just over two years of responsibility for, amongst others, the ASTUTE, NIMROD, Merlin Helicopter upgrade and Sonar 2087 programmes, he led the Directorate of Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Policy, responsible for MoD policy in countering the threats posed by CBRN WMD, including UK nuclear targeting.

He escaped MoD and re-joined JSCSC in July 2011 for a brief four months as Director ACSC before promotion to Rear Admiral and a return to London as ACDS Nuclear & Chemical, Biological in November 2011. This job has a broad portfolio covering Nuclear, CBRN, Arms Control, Counter-Proliferation & Missile Defence policy. The last 15 years of his career have been characterised by very close involvement in the UK/US general submarine, nuclear policy and operations and CBRN relationships, and perhaps far too much time in Whitehall. In the last five years, the equivalent relationships with France have increasingly become important. He is likely to remain in his current post until early 2015 when he leaves the RN.



**Colonel Mike Vickery OBE
Secretary**

New Subscriptions

The change to new subscriptions went well. Thank you to all those of you who changed their Standing Orders in time for this year's subscription rise, and to those of you who elected to change to Direct Debit. Direct Debit remains our preferred method of collecting subscriptions; if you wish to change to DD, please download a form from our website on the Membership

Application page, send it to me and I will activate it to pay on 1 January annually. Please remember to cancel your Standing order, though, otherwise you will be overpaying. I will, of course, post you a form if you need one and are not on the internet.

Facebook and Twitter

You have already read that we are represented on both these social media. If you are on either of these yourself, please take the time to look us up and endorse us – it's a very good way of getting the word out about us.

Email Addresses

If you have given us your email address you will be receiving this newsletter by email. If you have email and have received the letter in the post, I'd be grateful if you would send us an email and thus give us your address so that we can correspond quickly and at no expense. If you don't have email, don't worry – we shall continue using post for some years to come!

2014 AGM

We have decided to move our AGM from June to April so that it falls nearer to the end of the previous year. 2014's AGM will be held at Mountbarrow House, 6-20 Elizabeth Street, London SW1W 9RB on Tuesday 8 April starting at 2pm. Members are welcome; please let me know if you intend to come. A copy of our accounts is available from me if you should wish to see them.

Finally, I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Commander Tim Boycott OBE RN



Tim was both a naval officer of great dignity and high professionalism as well as being a most agreeable and well-informed companion. He joined Lady Grover shortly after he left the Royal Navy in 1996 and became one of the Society's three trustees in 2008. He contributed a great deal to the Society and, in particular, his sound understanding of investments was a

useful foil when dealing with our advisors, who although generally excellent need to be kept on their toes on occasion.

Tim had a 35 year career with the Royal Navy. He joined BRNC, Dartmouth from Wellington College in 1961 and after two years at sea in the West Indies and the Far East went to Peterhouse, Cambridge where he read Mechanical Sciences. He served on a variety of ships, including HMS Ardent that he left six months before the Falklands War where she was sunk in action. His last ship was HMS Andromeda. He held several shore appointments including Underwater Trials, Naval Information Systems, Naval PR and was on the staff of the Joint Service Defence College, Greenwich. His final three years were spent as part of the Far East team of the Defence Export Services Organisation.

After the Royal Navy he was the much respected Secretary of The Flyfishers' Club, London, retiring in 2010. I know from personal report that his encyclopaedic knowledge of fly-fishing in all its aspects was much admired by the membership and, as always with everything Tim did, his expertise was communicated in the most understated yet authoritative way.

Tim had a zest for life. He was always ready to discuss his latest project whether it was a new opera or ballet performance, he seemed to have access to some of the best tickets going. He was beginning to concentrate more on his piano playing and he also fitted in skiing, tennis and very occasionally golf.

About a year ago it became clear he had cancer and Tim faced its ravages with characteristic self-deprecating humour and quiet dignity. He is a considerable loss to the Society and all those who knew him will know he will be a hard act to follow as trustee. Our thoughts are with Sally, his wife, at this time.



Nursing, hospital and home help
for Officers' families – for life

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