



**GREENWICH  
HOSPITAL**

SUPPORTING THE ROYAL NAVY SINCE 1694

A silhouette of a man holding a child against a sunset background. The man is on the right, looking towards the child on the left. The child is wearing a white knit hat with a pom-pom. The background is a warm, golden sunset over a body of water, with a ship's mast visible on the left.

# Here for good

IMPACT REPORT 2023

# Who we are

Greenwich Hospital is the single largest funder of individual, educational and welfare support to serving and former Royal Navy and Royal Marines personnel and their families.

Their well-being is central to everything we do. We work to make a real and lasting difference in their lives during military service, during transition to civilian life and when they or their family need help and support.

### Our unique heritage

Greenwich Hospital has supported serving and former Royal Navy and Royal Marines personnel and their families for over 325 years.

Founded by the Crown in 1694 to support wounded, injured and elderly Royal Navy sailors and their families, we continue this work as the oldest provider of charity to the Royal Navy Family.

While the Old Royal Naval College ceased to house Greenwich Pensioners in 1869, the need for support is as vital today as ever.

### Our purpose

Using income from our investments and commercial property portfolio, we make grants, award educational bursaries and fund charitable activity in areas ranging from education, housing and health to well-being, employability and crisis support.

### In partnership

We work in partnership with the Royal Navy, charities and other relevant organisations to meet the current and future needs of our beneficiaries. We aim to make a real and lasting difference to the lives of those in our community who need it most.

Total  
charitable  
spend



£5.92m

SEPT 2022 – AUG 2023



# What we do

We make a real and lasting difference to the lives of our beneficiaries. We provide grants to a wide range of organisations and individuals as well as ships and units. Our grants are awarded to help everyone in the Royal Navy Family, from the oldest to the youngest. Veterans aged over 60, for example, can apply for sheltered housing for themselves and their partners. Educational bursaries are also offered to both serving personnel and the children of current and former serving personnel.

## Total number of grants & bursaries given

 289

SEPT 2022 – AUG 2023



### 1 Acute need

We award grants to charities working with and supporting the Royal Navy Family, from the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity (RNRMC) and the Royal Naval Benevolent Trust (RNBT) to those funding individual projects or events. In every case, our aim remains the same: to improve the health and well-being of those in our community and to empower them to reach their full potential.



### 2 Education

Through the Royal Navy's Learning and Development Organisation (LDO), we provide educational bursaries to serving personnel.

Many children of serving and former serving personnel receive educational bursaries, allowing them to study at some of the UK's leading universities. In addition, we offer bursaries to the Royal Hospital School (RHS) in Suffolk to eligible children.



### 3 Welfare support

Welfare and training grants are awarded to various individuals within our community, whether serving personnel, former service personnel, or families. Life can be challenging, and when it gets too much, we work with charities to support individuals in ways that empower them to move on positively.

Royal Navy ships and Royal Navy and Royal Marine units are eligible for funding for specific welfare, educational and recreational projects. By giving serving personnel access to opportunities that might be otherwise unavailable, we hope to enhance their personal and professional development.

Through our sheltered housing schemes working with the Church of England Soldiers', Sailors' & Airmens' Clubs (CESSAC), we have provided homes for countless former Royal Navy personnel aged 60 and over since our first scheme opened in 1988 and continue to do so.

“Greenwich Hospital’s assistance has been invaluable. Without them, completing my studies would have been impossible. I can’t thank them enough.”

Nancy Draunibaka

LAW DEGREE STUDENT AT THE OPEN UNIVERSITY

Completing her law degree while serving as a dental nurse in the Royal Navy. See page 15



# Why we are needed

Serving in the Royal Navy is more than just a job; it is a way of life for those who serve and their families, too. Whilst hugely rewarding, there are real challenges associated with longer periods away from home.

### Who we support

The current climate for serving personnel and their families is shaped by the geo-political context. Requiring a global response, the UK is putting renewed emphasis on forward deployments to minimise external threats to our national security and trade. This new deployment pattern places increased demands on those serving and their families.

The impact of service on personnel and families often extends beyond the transition to civilian life and can exacerbate the everyday challenges of growing old. Whilst there is always need, recent inflationary pressures and the impact on personal finances and the public purse, continue to contribute to increased need among serving and former personnel and their families.

Greenwich Hospital funds charitable work to ensure that support is available to help address these challenges.

### Recognising future needs

The next decade will see the delivery of at least four new classes of ship, whilst there will be ongoing change within the Royal Navy as it seeks to represent UK society better and encourage retention. It is an exciting period with Greenwich Hospital’s revised Giving Strategy ensuring that Royal Navy personnel remain the focus of its charitable activity.

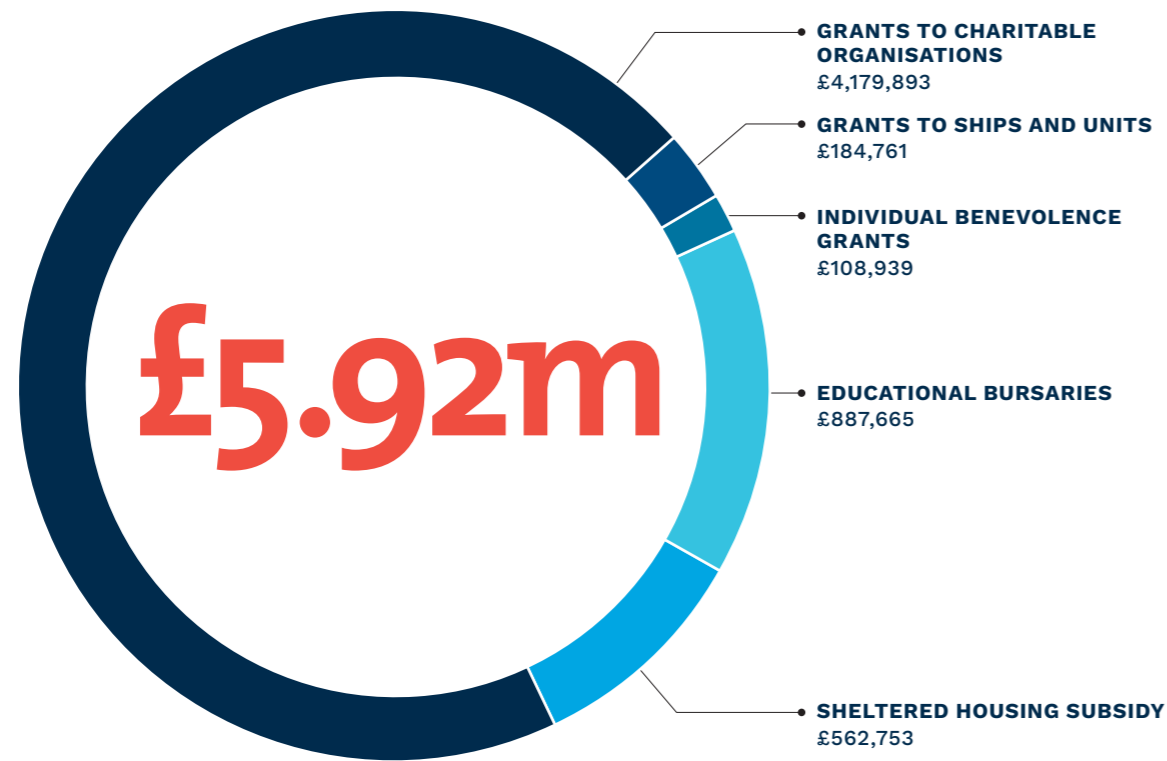
Using existing research and commissioning new where needed to understand current and future needs, our critical strands for funding are acute need, welfare support and education.

Our support will encompass more preventative and welfare-enhancing delivery to include funding for challenges such as addiction, domestic abuse, mental health and financial management.

We recognise the value and importance of families and are working on a series of developmental life chance programmes for all Royal Navy children to enhance social mobility and compensate for the challenges of service life.



# Our grants 2022-23



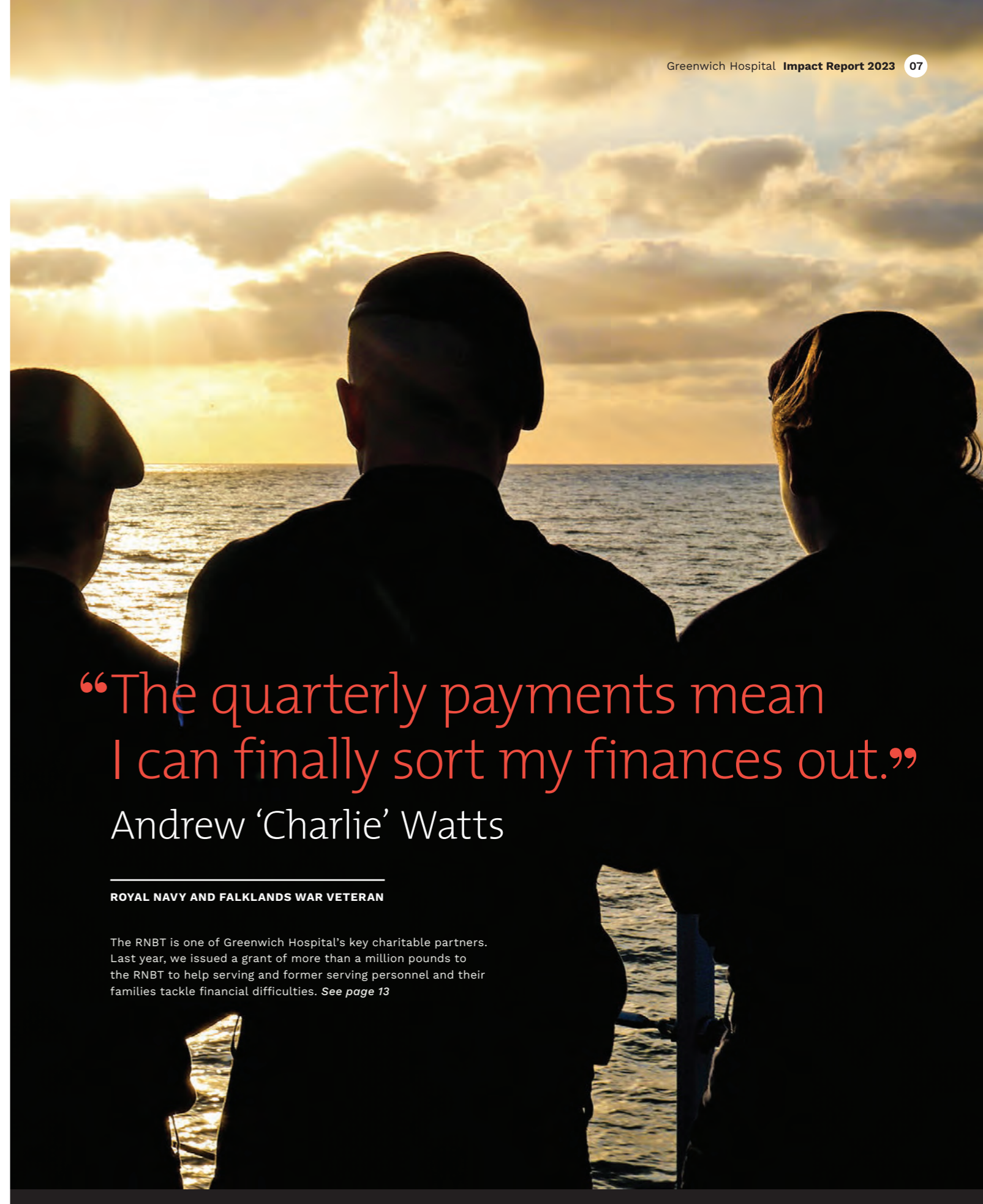
### Major grants to charitable organisations

<b>Royal Navy &amp; Royal Marines Charity (RNRMC)</b>	£1,650,000
<b>Royal Naval Benevolent Trust (RNBT)</b> Jellicoe Regular Charitable Payments to former and serving personnel	£1,106,049
<b>RMA The Royal Marines Charity</b> A grant towards the cost of the rebuild of RMA's main office building in Lympstone	£330,000
<b>Special Boat Service Association (SBSA)</b> Proactive and preventative welfare delivery	£250,000
<b>Seafarers' Advice and Information Line (SAIL)</b> Part of Greenwich Citizens Advice Bureaux Ltd	£156,870

### Number of grants

<b>Charitable organisations</b>	34
<b>Ships and units</b>	52
<b>Individuals</b>	114
<b>Educational</b>	89
Universities	21
LDO	27
RHS	24
Training to support transition	17

Note: the figures published in this impact report are unaudited at the time of publication



“The quarterly payments mean I can finally sort my finances out.”

Andrew ‘Charlie’ Watts

#### ROYAL NAVY AND FALKLANDS WAR VETERAN

The RNBT is one of Greenwich Hospital's key charitable partners. Last year, we issued a grant of more than a million pounds to the RNBT to help serving and former serving personnel and their families tackle financial difficulties. See page 13

# Our legacy

Since Greenwich Hospital was founded in 1694, our goal has remained unchanged; to support serving and former serving Royal Navy and Royal Marines personnel and their families.

**1694** William III and Mary II sign letters patent and establishing a Crown body for the benefit of naval seamen and their families. Queen Mary gives former Royal Palace site at Greenwich and a £2,000 endowment. Greenwich Hospital is founded

**1696** Work begins on building the Hospital at Greenwich

**1752** There are 1,400 pensioners resident at the Hospital

**1751** Building work is completed at the Hospital

**1735** George II gives the Derwentwater Estate to Greenwich Hospital

**1712** Pensioners' sons are admitted to the Reverend Thomas Weston's Academy – the beginnings of the Royal Hospital School

**1702** The first pensioners are admitted to the Hospital

**1805** Nelson's body lays in state at the Hospital after the Battle of Trafalgar

**1821** The Greenwich Hospital School amalgamates in Greenwich with the Royal Naval Asylum, Paddington

**1823** The Painted Hall becomes the first national gallery of naval art

**1865** Responsibility for Greenwich Hospital is passed from its commissioners to the Admiralty

**1869** Greenwich Hospital closes at Greenwich to in-pensioners, continuing support via payment of pensions

**1964** Responsibility for Greenwich Hospital is transferred from the Admiralty to the Ministry of Defence

**1934-36** Greenwich Hospital lends its naval art collection to the National Maritime Museum (formerly Royal Hospital School buildings)

**1928-33** Royal Hospital School is rebuilt on 200 acres at Holbrook

**1919** Gifford Sherman Reade gives his fortune and his estate in Holbrook, Suffolk, to Greenwich Hospital as a site for the Royal Hospital School

**1892** The Greenwich Hospital School is renamed the Royal Hospital School (RHS)

**1989** Greenwich Hospital opens its first sheltered Housing scheme in Portsmouth. Similar schemes follow in Plymouth in 1993 and Greenwich in 2001

**1990** Royal Hospital School becomes co-educational and opens to children of all backgrounds

**2007** Greenwich Hospital helps to found the RNRMC as an independent sister naval charity

**2019-20** Greenwich Hospital celebrates 325 years of providing service for serving and retired Royal Navy and Royal Marines personnel and their families

See how we made a difference in 2023



At the end of my second year as Chair of Greenwich Hospital's Advisory Board, I am pleased to report this year's award of £5.92 million in grants, bursaries, and subsidies to serving and former Royal Navy personnel and their families.

Greenwich Hospital has a broad remit and has delivered support across a wide range of different charitable activities, working individually and with partner charities and organisations across the sector.

The stories in this report bring our activities to life, highlighting not only the critical funding role that Greenwich Hospital has to play but also its convening power in bringing organisations together to discuss the collective good with a clear focus on the needs of our beneficiaries.

I am also delighted to have welcomed Deirdre Mills as our new Director of Greenwich Hospital. Her background, experience and insight mean that she is very well-placed to lead the organisation through the challenges and opportunities which lie ahead of us. Part of this work is the development of a new charity strategy, backed by strong, sustainable resources and based on real evidence of need. This will ensure Greenwich Hospital not only reaches but maximises the impact to our beneficiaries and that our people, former serving personnel and their families receive the encouragement and assistance they deserve.

**VICE ADMIRAL MARTIN CONNELL CBE**  
SECOND SEA LORD  
Chair  
Greenwich Hospital Advisory Board



Since joining Greenwich Hospital this year, I have been struck by the very warm welcome from across the Royal Navy and Royal Marines family and from our charity partners. It is good to be part of something so special.

Having served in our Armed Forces, I know from experience that Royal Navy and Royal Marines personnel and their families matter. Supporting them is integral to the work of Greenwich Hospital and so we have undertaken a review of all of our activities to ensure we can provide the best assistance possible. Our new priorities focus on support to those in acute need, the broadening of educational support to include academic, vocational, and extra-curricular activity and welfare support for ships and units, families and children. All of this will be underpinned by granular research so that we can set the right funding priorities and provide targeted and sustained support to those in need.

In addition to our grant-making activities, we are proud to provide a number of sheltered and supported housing schemes and fund work in a variety of community settings.

Greenwich Hospital's heritage and asset base is impressive. Founded in 1694, the ethos that drives our work remains unchanged, but the need to deliver a broader and more sustained impact is pressing. As a result, we will be working hard to ensure our assets provide additional resources over future years and to ensure that we work collaboratively within the sector to optimise our support.

**DEIRDRE MILLS**  
Director  
Greenwich Hospital



## A new home for RMA The Royal Marines Charity

**Funding a state-of-the-art facility for staff and families**

### The grant details

Greenwich Hospital awarded a grant of £330,000 to the RMA in November 2022 to rebuild RMA's main office building in Lympstone. The RMA exists to help the entire Royal Marines family. They offer support on health and well-being to employment and education.

After the RMA's original HQ was condemned as unsafe, Greenwich Hospital, along with others, stepped in to fund a new building that would allow the charity to continue its vital work in surroundings that are fit for purpose. COO Si Wright explains the difference this has made.

“ Our old headquarters was basically a timber-framed hut that'd been rushed up during World War II. We moved in four years ago but by last year it was falling apart and was condemned. We ended up working out of several makeshift offices, including one in a canoe shed on the base!

There was a lot of emotion attached to the old building but it was too far gone to refurbish, so it was torn down and replaced. At 336 sq metres, the new building is twice its size but has wooden cladding on the outside as a nod to its predecessor.

The rebuild cost around £1.5 million and was funded by a variety of donors. The generous sum Greenwich Hospital gave us meant that the rebuild could happen quickly. The whole project was done in six weeks and was completed on July 13th, 2023.

The building has offices for our 21 staff, a conference room with an audio-visual suite, a quiet room and a kitchen. There's even a covered verandah out back for meetings and socialising. Our teams work with serving and former personnel as well

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We help with a whole raft of issues from mental health problems to skills workshops ”



as their families. We deal with 120 cases a month, helping with a whole raft of issues from mental health problems to skills workshops.

We've gone from a decrepit hut to a state-of-the-art facility that's become the envy of the base. It gives us a solid foundation to continue our work and sends out a message to everyone in the Corps that their welfare is taken seriously. ”



### Welfare support

We funded Remembering our Roots – a programme supporting the mental, emotional and physical well-being of RN/RM personnel and their families.

## Support for children and families

**Changing young people's lives**

### The grant details

The Naval Children's Charity (NCC) has supported the sons and daughters of active and former Naval Service personnel since 1831. Originally founded as an orphanage provider, the charity has historic links with Greenwich Hospital dating back almost 200 years. As its operational costs are covered by investments, the NCC used the £472,500 grant it received from Greenwich Hospital to help its beneficiaries. The charity aims to ensure that children and young people experience better health, well-being and security, as well as improved life chances and educational opportunities.

The Naval Children's Charity helps both current and former personnel across all branches of the Royal Navy, including the Royal Marines, as well as their reserves. To be eligible, a parent or a guardian of a child or young person up to the age of 25 has to have served within one of those branches. Clare Scherer MBE, CEO, shares David and Louise's story.

“ Last year, we helped 5,740 children and young people and 1,522 families of both veterans and serving members here in the UK and across the Commonwealth.

People usually ask for help with something simple. They may need help buying a fridge, for example. We help them with that but we also use the contact to start a conversation about why they might be struggling in the first place. From there, we take a look at their financial situation and, if it's needed, offer additional packages of support as well as advice to help them longer term.

That was certainly the case with David, who has served in the Royal Navy since 1999, and his wife Louise. The couple live

“

It's typical of the work we do, and it highlights the importance of the funding we get from Greenwich Hospital ”

in Hampshire and have four young children including a five-year-old who, due to disability, needs to attend regular consultations at Great Ormond Street Hospital.

With four children to look after and a lack of employment opportunities during school hours, Louise found it impossible to keep working and so the family had become reliant on David's salary to survive. When the cost-of-living crisis struck, like many other families, they suddenly found themselves struggling to cope.

Initially, they approached us for help funding visits up to Great Ormond Street as well as any childcare costs that arose from those trips. Naturally, we agreed, giving them £125 a month for six months to meet those needs. However, as we delved deeper, we realised just how hard they were finding things. At the end of the six months, we reviewed their situation and increased their grant to £300 per month. We also gave them a one-off payment of £600 to help them through Christmas.

It may not be a fortune in the grand scheme of things, but it helps remove stress from the home while providing peace of mind for the whole family.

I'd say it's pretty typical of the work we do and it highlights the importance of the funding we get from Greenwich Hospital. Their continued support means we can help every parent we work with to ensure their children don't suffer or go without. ”



# Support for vulnerable RN service leavers

## RNRMC transition support

### The grant details

Greenwich Hospital awarded a grant of £250,000 to support the Royal Navy and Royal Marine Charity's transition service. The Transition Support Service was a 2-year pilot project that went live in November 2021 and sought to address the difficulty many serving personnel have expressed in finding the right organisation to support them especially through transition from service to civilian life. The service supports RN leavers who are discharged at short notice, helping them transition back into civilian life.

Petty Officer Sam Beech\* was medically discharged from the Royal Navy after suffering from depression, anxiety, leg pain and hearing loss. He was on medication, suffering from low self-esteem, and also struggling with a claim he was making through the Armed Forces Compensation Fund Scheme (AFCS) for his loss of hearing. It was at that point he approached RNRMC.

“ My RNRMC Transition Support Guide (TSG) visited me and I told him what I'd been through in the Navy and how all the paperwork for my claim was getting on top of me. I needed to deal with it urgently as my tribunal case was looming. ”

A holistic assessment was made, and Sam's TSG created a plan of action for him, helped organise his paperwork and accompanied him to his tribunal to provide emotional support. He also referred Sam to the NHS Op Courage scheme for psychotherapy.

“ My TSG has been excellent throughout; he didn't just help with my court paperwork, he was there for me in other ways too, taking time out to listen to me talk about my everyday struggles and how miserable I was at work. ”

The TSG encouraged and motivated Sam to apply for jobs with better prospects and a higher salary, not only offering him emotional support but coaching him prior to interviews too. Sam was also referred to a week-long yoga retreat funded by RNRMC to help boost his confidence and cope with stress. The help paid off. Sam had soon bagged himself a better-paid, more satisfying job.

The RNRMC worked with Sam for three months. As well as emotional support and coaching, Sam was also linked up with various professionals and services that could offer him specialist support in the long term.

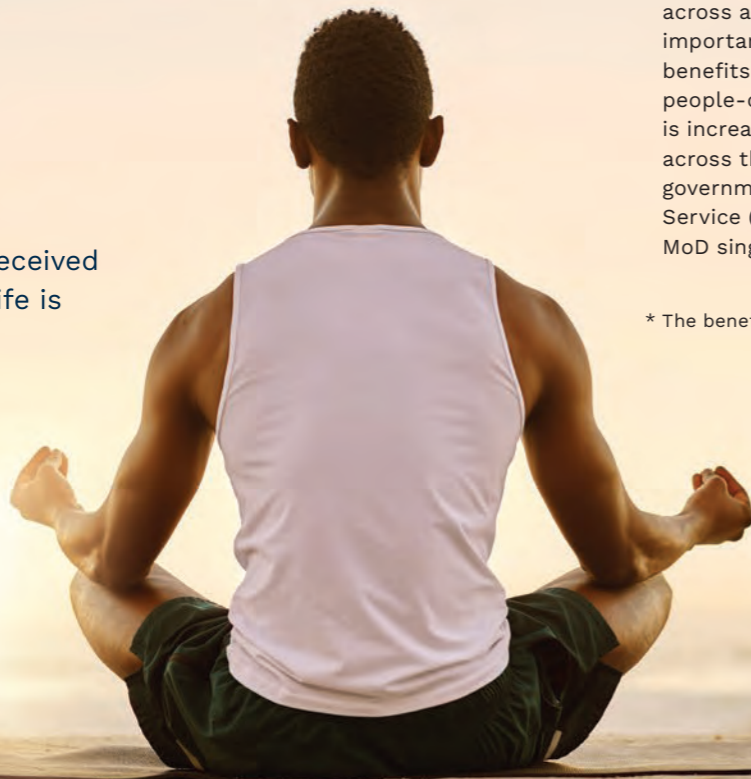
“ Thanks to the help I received from the RNRMC my life is finally on track. I will never forget what they and my TSG have done for me. ”

The pilot has been a great success, providing support to 162 service leavers and 147 other service users across a wide range of issues. Equally importantly, the pilot highlighted the benefits of early-intervention and a people-centred approach – which is increasingly seen as the norm across the charity sector and within government. The Defence Transition Service (DTS) will become part of a MoD single case working team in 2024.

\* The beneficiary's name has been changed.

“

Thanks to the help I received from the RNRMC my life is finally on track ”



# Being there for those who are struggling

## Regular payments for those in need

### The grant details

Greenwich Hospital awarded a grant of £1,106,049 to the Royal Naval Benevolent Trust (RNBT) to fund regular payments to former serving personnel in financial hardship. The RNBT gives wide-ranging financial help, in cases of need, to serving and former Royal Naval ratings and Royal Marines' other ranks including reservists. They also help their partners, children and people connected with them.

Andrew 'Charlie' Watts was 16 when he joined the Royal Navy in 1971. He served for 24 years and is a Falklands War veteran. Today he lives in Greenwich Hospital sheltered accommodation in Portsmouth.



Charlie with the Mayor of Kingston upon Hull at his Freedom of the City ceremony

“ I left the Navy in 1995 and worked as a driver. Unfortunately, an accident 20 years ago left me with some mobility issues, and in 2014 I went into semi-retirement. Although I had my Navy pension, it only just about covered my rent, and with no other regular income, I used credit cards to get by. Big mistake!

By 2022, I'd maxed out two cards and was living frugally to pay them off. So, when my old shipmates suggested a reunion for the 40th anniversary of the Falklands up in Hull, I had to tell them that I couldn't afford to go. That's when one of them suggested contacting the RNBT.

An RNBT case worker went through what I needed, and I was given £550 to cover the expense of the three-day trip, including my travel, my hotel bill and the hire of a mobility scooter while I was in Hull. When I saw the money in my bank account I was almost in tears.

We'd had a few reunions over the years but we wanted to do what we called The Big One in Hull because that's where the ships we were on during the Falklands were from. I'd been on a ship called *HMS Cordella*, which was part of the 11th Mines Countermeasures Squadron. Our job was to conduct covert operations to resupply special forces, and clear minefields, particularly at Port Stanley.

About 20 of us made the reunion, about twice the number we'd had before, and it was great to see so many old faces. In 1982, I'd been seconded to *HMS Cordella* for the war so I didn't know the crew when



A younger Charlie with Aunty Jean

I joined the ship. But those men welcomed me with open arms back then and we remain as close as family to this day.

The RNBT is also helping me get my finances sorted. They give me a quarterly payment of £500 for everyday living costs and with their help I was able to find a place in a retirement home and they helped pay my moving costs. Not only that, but when us Falkland veterans were invited to Hull to receive the Freedom of the City from the Mayor, the charity financed that trip for me too. Thanks to the RNBT's generosity, that's one special day I'll never forget. I really can't thank them enough. ”



### Acute need

Other initiatives we supported in this reporting year included:

- Op Nova - run by the Forces Employment Charity to support veterans in contact with the justice system
- Dementia Voice PL12 - supporting people with dementia based in Plymouth
- Royal British Legion Admiral Nurse Service - working to provide specialist dementia support across the armed forces.



# Joint funding with the RNRMC

## Veterans Outreach Support

### The grant details

This year, Greenwich Hospital – working with the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity (RNRMC) – awarded Veterans Outreach Support (VOS) a grant of £81,000. The money has been crucial in providing life-changing welfare and support to veterans and their families throughout the Portsmouth, Isle of Wight, Gosport and Solent areas.



Memories flooded back. I could hear the gunfire”



Veterans Outreach Support began life in Portsmouth 15 years ago. VOS has grown into an award-winning charity supporting over 2,000 former service personnel. It provides a joined-up care service that considers health, wellbeing and welfare. It offers veterans advice, therapy and support to tackle a range of physical and psychological barriers.

Richard (Rick) Dickinson, 62, is just one of many veterans who live locally and have benefitted from VOS services.

“I joined the Navy in 1978 as a marine engineer and served 28 years. In 1982, when I was 21, I was onboard *HMS Hermes* during the Falklands War. As a result, I developed a number of mental health issues. I suffered from flashbacks and a disrupted sleep pattern. I also developed hypervigilance. I became distrustful of people around me, became dependent on alcohol and alienated my family.

I sought help several times while I was still serving in the Navy, but never seemed to get the right diagnosis.

By early 2022, with the 40th anniversary of the war looming, I was losing the plot and so signed up with the NHS Op Courage programme which is designed to help people who have served in the armed forces.

The consultations tended to be done online, though, which I really struggled to cope with. Eventually, I managed to get a face-to-face meeting with a psychologist within the programme. Because of the lengths of the waiting lists, however, it was recommended that I transfer to VOS for help. When I went in to see them, I was at a very low point and just broke down.”

Sharon Wemyss, Clinical Manager at VOS, explains what happened next.

“After referral, Rick was invited to a series of Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioural Therapy sessions. The plan was to provide him with a combination of interventions, coping strategies, mindfulness, grounding techniques, stabilisation skills and exposure therapy to help him manage the mental health issues he was experiencing due to his PTSD.”

Rick recalls the treatment,

“I had 18 sessions – through them we unpicked the emotions I was experiencing and I was given the tools to cope.

The breakthrough for me came when I received immersive therapy at the Standing With Giants exhibition at Fort Nelson in Portsmouth. Created to mark the 40th anniversary of the Falklands, it was an incredible experience. I got so lost in my memories that I could hear the gunfire. Thankfully, my therapist was there to help me with some grounding practices. I then read the plaques at the exhibition relating to people’s memories of the war before watching two videos inside the armoury that showed the Royal Navy arriving home afterwards with some of the crew revealing their feelings. I even met a couple of veterans from *HMS Hermes*. All of it helped me to realise that I wasn’t alone in what I’d been feeling all these years. It was a real epiphany for me.”



# Building better futures for Navy personnel

## Providing opportunities for education

### The grant details

Greenwich Hospital has long worked with the Royal Navy’s Learning and Development Organisation (LDO) to help further the education of serving naval personnel. Greenwich Hospital offers new bursaries to help cover the cost of tuition for nine degree courses and three access courses every year. The bursaries are worth £2,000 a year each. The maximum amount a single applicant can receive is £12,000. In any given year, Greenwich Hospital supports around 33 Ratings in this way, typically men and women serving at the ranks of Leading Hands and Able Rates.

Nanise ‘Nancy’ Draunibaka has served in the Royal Navy for almost 20 years. In that time, she has used the opportunities presented to her for self-improvement.

“I’ve always loved learning, but in 2003, when I was in my first year of uni back in Fiji, I dropped out. I was only 19 but told my mum, “I’m going to join the Royal Navy and see the world!” She thought I was nuts but a year later I’d moved to the UK and was serving in the Logistics branch.

I spent the next seven years at sea, which was a rewarding experience but

also challenging because of the long periods spent away. In 2011, wanting to remain in the Navy but work ashore, I retrained as a dental nurse, with the Navy supporting my tuition fees. After passing my exams, the Navy employed me as a nurse in Plymouth, which is still my base today.

A couple of years later, I became a mum, and although my life was demanding and busy, I wanted to achieve more. Applying to pursue a law degree at the Open University, I used my Enhanced Learning Credits (ELCs) and a bursary from Greenwich Hospital to pay the course fees while continuing to work.

Starting my law studies, I initially questioned my decision but soon developed a passion for the subject. The Greenwich Hospital bursary helped me and I passed my first two years without a problem, but then, in my final year, my relationship broke down. Juggling full-time work, studying for a degree, and raising my daughter alone proved overwhelming, resulting in the failure of my final year.

Knowing Greenwich Hospital did not fund re-sits, and desperate to complete my degree but with a child to feed, there was no way I could afford the fees to retake my final year. That’s when Greenwich Hospital came to my rescue. They signposted me to other RN charities for help. Thanks to them,



Greenwich Hospital has been a lifesaver for me”

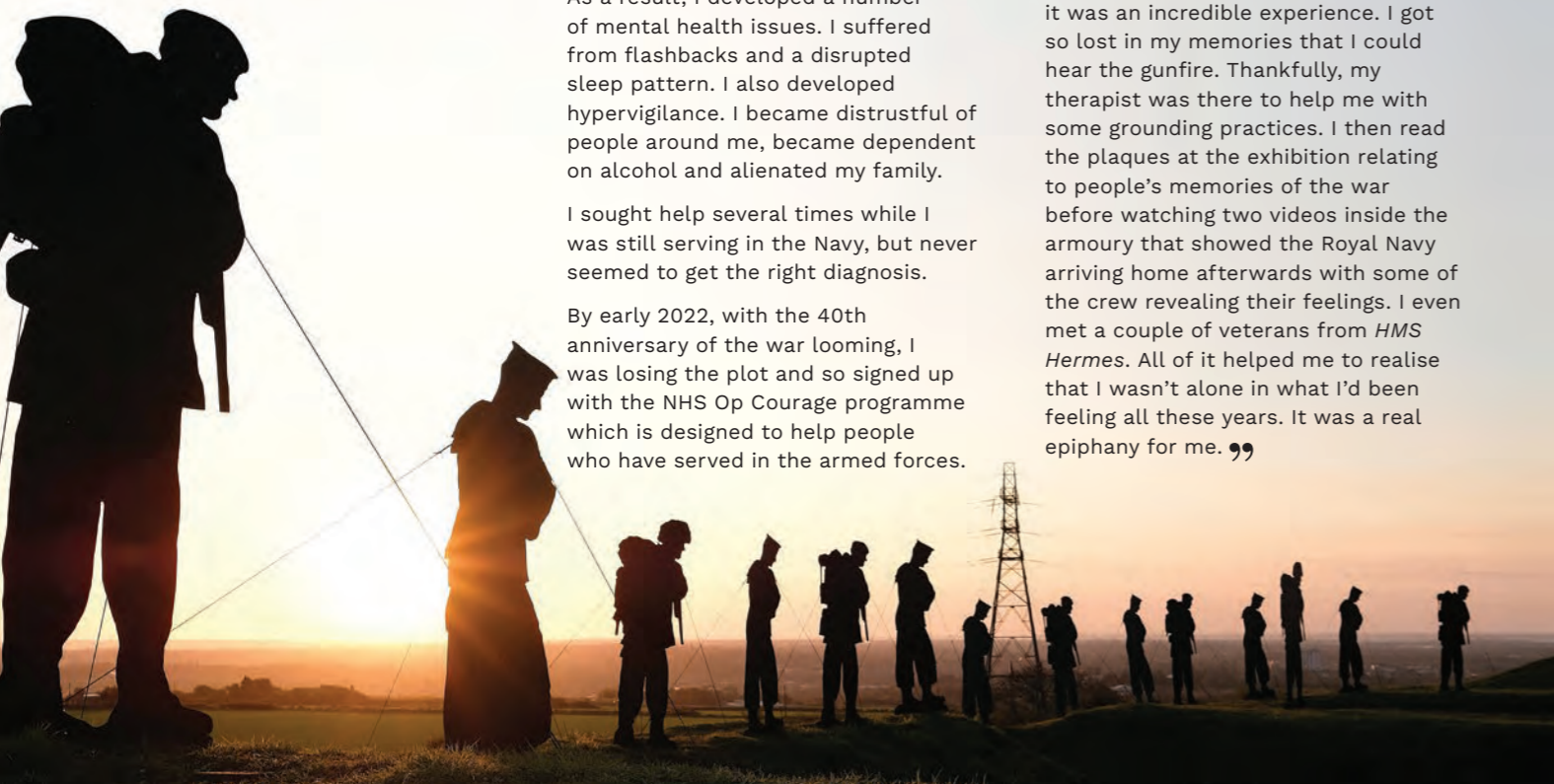
I’m now retaking my final year. My aim is to work as a military solicitor and contribute to the community that has given me so much.

Greenwich Hospital’s assistance has been invaluable. Without them, completing my studies would have been impossible. I can’t thank them enough. Greenwich Hospital and the wonderful people who work there have been a lifesaver for me.”



### Educational bursaries

- 21 bursaries to children of serving or former serving personnel to study at university, including the universities of Greenwich, Newcastle, Portsmouth and Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance
- 27 bursaries to serving personnel towards the cost of a degree or an access course through the Royal Navy’s Learning and Development Organisation (LDO)
- 24 bursaries to pupils at Royal Hospital School
- 17 bursaries for training to support transition.





## Supporting the next generation

**How Greenwich Hospital helps young people get a great start in life**

James Cook\* is currently studying at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance. Based in the Old Royal Naval College at Greenwich, Trinity Laban is one of Greenwich Hospital's educational partners and is the UK's only conservatoire of music and contemporary dance. The son of a former Able Seaman who served in the Royal Navy as a radio operator, James qualifies for a bursary that helps him pay for the costs of his Bachelor of Music degree.

“Like most students, I struggle to afford the basics, so the bursary has been a lifeline. It allows me to pay for things like my rent, food, utility bills and travel costs. In that respect, it's removed a great deal of stress and anxiety from my life by allowing me a degree of financial stability.

Without having to constantly worry about how I'm going to afford to pay for the things I need just to get by, I've been able to concentrate more fully on my studies. The funds have also helped me pay for essential textbooks, online learning resources and to attend special academic events, all of which have helped my grades no end. Without the bursary, I would have missed out on probably all of those things.

As well as enhancing my educational

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The Greenwich Hospital bursary has turned my ambition into a reality”

experience, the bursary has also helped improve me as a musician. I play jazz guitar as part of my studies and the funds have also helped me pay for lessons and the upkeep of my instruments, as well as cover any costs involved whenever I perform or enter a competition.

Pursuing a career in music has always been my dream and the Greenwich Hospital bursary is helping me turn that ambition into a reality. Its benefit has been immeasurable, and I'm sure my time at Trinity Laban will stay with me for life. ”

\* The beneficiary's name has been changed.

### The funding details

Greenwich Hospital partners with a number of UK Universities to provide bursaries to the children of serving and former Royal Navy personnel who meet its eligibility criteria. The bursaries ease the financial strain of studying as well as the cost of living and typically cover costs for up to four years of study.

## Quality homes for veterans

**Greenwich Hospital's sheltered housing schemes**

### The funding details

Greenwich Hospital's legacy of providing a home for veteran sailors continues to this day. As a Crown body, it operates three sheltered housing schemes:

- Trafalgar Quarters in Greenwich, London
- Greenwich Place in Saltash, Cornwall
- Greenwich Court in Southsea, Hampshire

91 flats offer independent living to naval veterans aged 60 and over, as well as their spouses, partners, widows and widowers. Greenwich Hospital works with the Church of England Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmans' Clubs (CESSAC), an accredited provider of sheltered housing, to manage these schemes.

Top: Mrs Cadman, Greenwich Court building  
Bottom: Far right, Mrs Cadman in the WRENS



### Welfare support

We let properties to two charities – Seafarers Hospital Society and Alabare Christian Care & Support – at a peppercorn rent. Greenwich House, in Hampshire, is one of the Alabare's Homes for Veterans.



Mrs Cadman, 99, moved into her flat not long after Greenwich Court first opened almost thirty years ago.

“I volunteered for the WRENS (the Women's Royal Navy Service) in March 1945, six weeks before the Second World War ended in Europe. My family later joked that me joining up was what convinced the Germans to surrender! I was in the WRENS for three years and met my husband while serving. He was a petty officer in the Royal Navy who worked as a physical training instructor.

When he passed away, I took a job as a live-in housekeeper. Then when I was getting close to retirement age, I applied for a job as a live-in warden here at Greenwich Court in the heart of Portsmouth. That was in June 1989 and I've been here ever since.

It's a lovely place to live especially because they arrange so many nice things for us. What sort of things? Well, because of my age, I find it difficult to attend my church. So a couple of times a month, the church comes to me. We also have a hairdresser in once a week which I love. I call it my pamper day. I really look forward to having my hair washed and set.

It's a great set-up here because you can have your privacy if you want it, but we also have a communal lounge so you can socialise, too. We have bingo in there and bacon butty mornings, cheese and wine evenings and what we call 'knit and natter' sessions, too.

There's always a Christmas Party paid for by Greenwich Hospital, which is always a lively evening! And on Christmas Day, those of us who don't have family to spend it with are treated to a huge Christmas dinner cooked for us by volunteers which I always thoroughly enjoy.

What's the best thing about living at Greenwich Court? I would say that it's a place where I feel safe because I'm surrounded by so many friends and people who care. It's not just somewhere to live, it's my home.”





## Making sure everybody's voice is heard

### How our funding is supporting inclusion

#### The grant details

Greenwich Hospital awarded a grant to Navy Command Headquarters of £8,600 to support its Royal Navy Inclusion Conference which was attended by a range of personnel. Its focus was to examine how best to drive forward inclusion within the Royal Navy, with the aim of improving behaviours and organisational culture for the benefit of all Royal Navy personnel.

Lieutenant Commander Victoria Rees-Hughes was tasked with helping to organise and run the Royal Navy Inclusion Conference held at HMS Collingwood in Fareham, Hampshire in May 2023. The conference was attended by 340-plus people and included keynote speakers from within the Royal Navy (RN).

“The RN's first-ever Inclusivity Conference was attended by a mixture of ranks, rates and bands from across all service branches. We also had members of the civil service there, as well as industry partners and academics.

The funding from Greenwich Hospital provided refreshments throughout the day. This was really important. Dining at HMS Collingwood is typically done in a series of messes which run to their own timetable and cater to different ranks. The money allowed us to supply refreshments in an area open to everybody throughout the day. This was very much in the spirit of the event as it removed barriers, encouraging different ranks, individuals, groups and networks to engage with each other more openly. The grant also helped free up our

budget to pay for the technology to allow people to attend events virtually.

The day was both a celebration of the RN's unique diversity and an opportunity to discuss how improved inclusivity can create better opportunities for all. One way we did this was with the help of keynote speakers such as Atif Choudhury, CEO of the social enterprise Diversity and Ability. He spoke about how costly poor mental health is to us as a nation and how promoting inclusivity can be used to tackle it.

Panel discussions were also integral. One, chaired by Captain Paul Ottewell, provided unique perspectives from RN personnel and industry partners. These prompted thought-provoking questions from the audience and insightful responses from our panellists Laura

Nielsen from tech company Thales and Petty Officer Kevin Joseph. The need to break down barriers was repeatedly identified as a way for forward-thinking organisations like the RN to both flourish and innovate.

We also had presentations from educational provider M2M2 about how inclusion can increase team performance, while stands in the foyer representing various RN networks, gave attendees the chance to learn about additional support.

Ultimately, the conference helped us focus on how inclusivity can improve operational effectiveness. It provided the opportunity to make the invisible visible, reflect on lived experience, and devise strategies for building an all-embracing sense of belonging that'll enable us all to bring our

best selves to work. It was a great success. So much so, we're already making plans for a second inclusivity conference next year. ”



#### Welfare support

Other initiatives we supported in this reporting year included:

- Royal Naval Air Station Yeovilton – contributed funding to provide Families Days and a Wings Parade
- Royal Navy Family and People Support – counselling services for serving personnel.



Top: Holbrook Estate  
 Middle: Greenwich Market in the Greenwich Estate  
 Bottom: Northern Estates

# How we fund our grants

Greenwich Hospital's income comes from our property portfolio and financial investments. The property portfolio, much of it under our stewardship since the early days of the Hospital, provides an income stream from rents. Together with the income received from financial investments and, where justified, capital sales, it contributes to the support we are able to provide to our beneficiaries.

### Our property portfolio

The estates in the property portfolio are the Greenwich Estate, including Greenwich Market, which is managed by Knight Frank LLP; the Northern Estates (comprising property in Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, and the Scottish Borders), managed by Savills; the Holbrook Estate in Suffolk; and land in Essex owned by the Travers Foundation, a part of the Hospital Group, managed by Strutt & Parker.

### Our investments

Greenwich Hospital has a direct financial investment in the Pollen Estate in London and holds quoted investments which are managed by Newton Investment Management.

# Who we support

Here are some of the organisations we supported in the year 2022–23.



In addition, Greenwich Hospital supported charities working with its beneficiaries in the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Family through its block grant to the RNRMC, including Dame Agnes Weston, Combat Stress and SSAFA, amongst others.



**GREENWICH  
HOSPITAL**

SUPPORTING THE ROYAL NAVY SINCE 1694

# Ask us if we can help

We are here to help serving and former serving Royal Navy and Royal Marines personnel and their families. Contact us to find out how you or your organisation might benefit.

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