

SSAFA Forces Help

find out more at www.ssafa.org.uk

December 2008

SUPPORTERS' NEWSLETTER



Read how SSAFA helped Lauren achieve her dreams

Thanks to you SSAFA helped to put a smile on at least 150 faces each and every day this year. Over 50,000 people were helped; from the young Serviceman facing a future in a wheelchair to the elderly widow who hadn't had any friends or family come and visit for months. With your support, we hope to continue to provide our unique brand of care and acts of friendship for many years to come.

Thank you so much for helping us to reach all those who have no one else to turn to for help in times of real need.

Andrew Cunniff

SSAFA FORCES
Help

The Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association – Forces Help

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Major General Andrew Cumming CBE

Message from the Controller

Dear friends,

It has been a very busy year at SSAFA Forces Help and I would like to thank you for helping us to see it through.

We opened SSAFA Norton House in February enabling the families of injured servicemen and women to have a 'home from home' near Headley Court Rehabilitation Centre. The home provides a supportive environment where together they can begin to come to terms with serious and life-changing injuries and start to look to the future.

In July we reached our £5m fundraising target. This has helped us to pay for our second 'home from home' near Selly Oak Hospital in Birmingham. The home, also called SSAFA Norton House, will open to Service families at the beginning of the New Year. The hospital is the first port of call in the UK for seriously injured Service personnel.

In September we established two support groups for the families of those who have been killed or

seriously wounded. The groups provide an opportunity for people who are having similar experiences to get together and support each other through what can be very difficult times. Bringing people together in this way stops them becoming isolated and can ease their burden by allowing them to talk and exchange ideas.

SSAFA works tirelessly to meet the current needs of our servicemen and women and the changing needs of those who have previously served their country. With your support, we will continue to provide urgently needed practical support on a day-to-day basis.

Again, thank you for supporting our work, and especially the men and women and their families who make huge sacrifices to serve our country. I hope we can count on your support for years to come, and together we can help our Service community face whatever challenges life brings their way.

I wish you a very happy New Year.

➤ more info

- To request our **free In Memoriam Donation Collection Envelopes**, or for more information including how to set up a unique online tribute page, please contact Stacey Edgar on 0207 463 9257 or email stacey.e@ssafa.org.uk
- To **join the 2009 Parachute Jump** or for the **2009 London Marathon** and other Team SSAFA events, please contact Karen Powell on 020 7463 9222 or email karen.p@ssafa.org.uk
- **Make a gift for a brighter future.** To find out more on how you can remember SSAFA Forces Help in your Will, or to request an information pack on how to do this – including a Codicil Form which will allow you to amend an existing Will, please call Stacey Edgar on 020 7463 9257 or email stacey.e@ssafa.org.uk
- To find out more information about your local **SSAFA Forces Help Branch** please visit www.ssafa.org.uk



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The gift of a brighter future...

The scale of current military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan mean Service families have to cope with an increasingly diverse range of problems. Leaving a gift in your Will to SSAFA Forces Help will enable us to deliver our unique care for generations to come.

With your help, we can ensure that current and former members of our Armed Forces and their families receive the support they so richly deserve, whenever and wherever they need it.

Leaving a gift to SSAFA Forces Help in your Will, no matter how large or small, is a special way of making a very big difference to the lives of those who have given so much. Your gift can be an enduring gesture of kindness – the benefits of which will be felt for many years to come by those whose lives are changed forever.

When making plans for the future, after you have provided for those you hold dear we would be honoured if you chose to support SSAFA Forces Help in your Will.

For more information please contact Stacey Edgar on 020 7463 9257 or email stacey.e@ssafa.org.uk

How your gift can make a difference

- £500** could enable one SSAFA caseworker to visit and assist 15 ex-Servicemen and women who need our help.
- £2,500** could provide crucial shelter at one of our Stepping Stone Homes for a mother and her children who will be homeless, or about to be evicted and have nowhere to go.
- £7,000** could help give a child a “forever family.” SSAFA’s Adoption Agency helps match children with prospective parents serving in our Armed Forces.
- £10,000** could offer independence and security to disabled ex-Service personnel by paying for them to live in one of SSAFA’s specially adapted bungalows for three years.

Elaine Duggan has pledged to support SSAFA Forces Help with a gift in her Will.

“SSAFA will inherit everything I own.

I am leaving everything to SSAFA Forces Help because they let my husband and I live in No 3 St Vincents Cottages for the last five years of my husband’s life. Richard was severely disabled following an injury whilst he was a Rifleman in the Royal Green Jackets. He died just over two years ago at the young age of 45. After his death, SSAFA Forces Help made available one of their newly refurbished apartments for single ex-Service people or their dependents.

If it hadn’t been for SSAFA Forces Help, Richard’s last five years would have been in a flat with a lift that was often out of order – rendering him almost a prisoner. Richard absolutely loved living at No 3, and so did I. I equally am so pleased to have been given the tenancy of another SSAFA property. I feel safe, secure and am still in the same environment as when Richard was alive – so my friends remain the same.”



Elaine Duggan

Helping Lauren achieve her dreams



**Lauren
McLeish**

At 13-years-old, Lauren McLeish has already had much to cope with in her young life. Her father Lance Corporal Christopher Stuart McLeish, who was in the Royal Engineers, was killed in Bosnia in 1996. Her mother Gillian remarried but died when her daughter was just five and Lauren went to live with her maternal grandmother Theresa Young.

That was eight years ago and Theresa, now Lauren's legal guardian, admits it has often been difficult to make ends meet but says she wouldn't be without her bright, bubbly granddaughter.

"If I didn't have her I would not have coped," she said. "She keeps me going. When she first came to stay I just got on with things."

But gradually Theresa found it harder to cope and in 2005 she decided to ask for help. "We didn't even have carpet in Lauren's bedroom," she said. "I spoke to a lady from the MOD and she asked would I mind if she asked SSAFA to help. At that particular time I was in dire straits. But she got in touch with George and he has been on

Lauren's case ever since!"

George Plenderleith of SSAFA's South Tyneside Division raised money for Lauren's bedroom and a computer for her schoolwork.

Despite everything, Lauren has excelled in her education and when her headmistress recommended that she attend a private school, George was able to help again, obtaining funding for school fees to the age of 18 from the Kitchener Scholarship Fund, administered by the Royal Engineers Institute, and the Royal British Legion Women's Section.

Last October Lauren was invited to Brompton Barracks, Chatham, when The Queen, Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Engineers, visited the troops. She has also laid a wreath on behalf of the Army at the National Memorial Arboretum.

Theresa said: "We are just really grateful for everything SSAFA has done for Lauren. I think she deserves it because of all she has had in her life and without their help we would not have got anywhere.

"I had never asked for help before but you get to the stage where you have to and I did it for Lauren."

SSAFA helped save my life

SSAFA has been helping families of Service personnel for over 125 years. One of SSAFA's beneficiaries recently wrote to us and told of the difference SSAFA had made to her family.

"In May 1948, that is before the NHS came into being, I was operated on at the London Hospital, as it was then known, to repair a hole in my heart. I was what is called 'a blue baby'. At that time the operation was in its infancy and the outcome was very uncertain. However, the consultant who confirmed what our G.P. suspected informed my parents that without the operation, the prognosis was grim. With luck, I might survive until I was fifteen, but long before that I would be in a wheelchair. Thankfully, my parents felt that I deserved the chance and obviously, it was a success.

"I have now discovered that part of the cost of the operation was covered by your organisation, my father having served with the Royal Engineers in World War II."

Mrs B.

Wings, Wheels & Steam Day a roaring success

SSAFA supporter Valentine Lindsay held a Wings, Wheels & Steam Day on September 11 in aid of the 'Homes from Home' appeal. The event, which was a roaring success, raised £50,000.

Folly Farm near Hungerford saw a whole flight of exotic aircraft landing on the makeshift runway (one of the farm's fields normally full of placid sheep!) as dozens of exotic classic cars drove in and parked adjacent to the pretty farmhouse.

As invited guests took coffee in the various motor houses and admired a large collection of military vehicles including two radical looking SAS scout cars just back from the Gulf and numerous ornate and hissing traction engines. The threatening rain soon cleared and all sorts of exciting military and stunt aircraft began flying in.

These included an Apache attack helicopter, a Chinook and a fly-past by an incredibly evocative sounding Tornado bomber in full speed swept-back wing mode. An incredible display by a Lynx helicopter captivated everyone's attention as it did 360-degree rolls and barrel rolls.

The Chief of the British Army, General Sir Richard Dannatt then helicoptered in from Berlin and enjoyed Vic Norman's wing walking display. Two women were strapped to the top wing of his Boeing Stearman bi-planes where they were subjected to 4G loop-the-loops, switchbacks, dives, climbs, U turns and so on. For their last manoeuvre, the girls unstrapped and sat on the wings, holding on



with one hand, before dropping into the cockpit.

Then a beautiful silver Spitfire, the very plane that shot down a Messerschmitt ME 109 over the Normandy beaches in WW2, flew in low, trimming the treetops with a heart rendering display of grace and deadly elegance.

The fearsome looking, hi-tech Apache helicopter then flew in formation with a number of other Army Air Corps choppers, followed by the huge but surprisingly wieldy Chinook. A Pitt Special then did a fast and furious aerobatic display, followed by a gigantic Hercules transport plane. A highlight of the afternoon was the crashing arrival of 1950s Sabre F86 Jet that saw action in the Korean War. Flown by a retired Air Marshall, the elegant jet amazed the gathered crowd with its speed and manoeuvrability as it

speared up into the heavens, lit by the late afternoon summer sunshine.

Afterward, veteran racing drivers, collectors, dealers and general classic car enthusiasts went back to their assorted Bentleys, Jaguar, Ferraris, Porsches, and Astons having experienced one of the most memorable days out.

Octane sponsored this uniquely British, eccentric day at Folly Farm where some of the Army's most evocative hardware was on close up display, along with the finest classic cars and incredible steam engines. Most importantly, a good deal of money was raised for SSAFA Forces Help.

"We are very grateful to all those who helped to make this event possible."

Article by Robert Coucher, Octane

An insight into the Territorial Army welfare support

Winston Churchill referred to them as being "twice a citizen" - squeezing two jobs, two lives into the space where the rest of us barely manage one. SSAFA Forces Help recently looked at the role of welfare in the TA during a six month deployment to Afghanistan.

Capt D J GREGORY, the Regimental Operations Support Officer (ROSO) for 151 (London) Transport Regiment, explains how the regiment took care of the soldier's and their families throughout what was a long and potentially dangerous deployment.

"The Army thinks of itself as an extended family and we are very aware of the extra needs of those families who are not part of the regular military community. We start the welfare before deployment by providing advice on practical issues like finance and making a Will, things that are important for anyone but can easily be forgotten. The emotional roller coaster of being apart can be hard on both sides of a partnership. It is vital not leave issues unresolved. We reassure people that they will still be able to contact their loved ones while they are apart and that the Regiment will be here to support them.

"When deployed, people quickly get stuck into the job. It can be those left behind who find the separation most difficult. This goes as much for the soldiers who form the rear party as for partners.

"During deployment we keep in contact with the families. We hold briefing days, send e-mail updates and call partners regularly to make sure that everything is OK. When we come across a situation where there is a problem we quickly take action. Often the problems we find are practical. We had one person whose boiler broke down and was left sitting in the cold. We had a chap round there the next day to sort it out. We make sure that we foster a bond between families and the Regiment and arrange outings to shows and social events. Some personnel are now on their second or third tour so we are very experienced in what families need.

"We also do a lot to prepare for the return from deployment. The anticipation and expectations when a loved one comes home are enormous and sometimes the reality does not match the romantic dream. We make sure that everyone knows there is someone they can talk to." 151 (London) Transport Regiment were welcomed home with a parade at City Hall in March this year after a successful tour.

SSAFA is there to support family members of those who may live a long way from the regiment and those who have left the Service. The Territorial Army, Regular Reserves and the Reserves of the Royal Marines, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force are also eligible for our help. We recognise the unique situation of Reservists, whether Volunteer or Regular - one moment following a civilian career and then serving alongside the Regular Forces. This can create any manner of difficulties.



FACTS AND FIGURES

- The Territorial Force, as it was originally known, was formed on April 1, 1908 and had an overall strength of approximately 269,000.
- The entire TA force was mobilised as part of the Suez Crisis during 1956/57.
- The invasion of Iraq in 2003 mobilised 9,500 Reservists most of them from the TA.
- Over 25% of the UK's Armed Forces are currently provided by the volunteer reserve forces (VRF). Some 50,000 men and women provide the reserves of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines, the Territorial Army, and the Royal Auxiliary Air Force.

Roll of Honour – March to December 2008

We are extremely grateful to the many people who have decided to raise money for SSAFA Forces Help in tribute to their loved ones.

For In Memoriam donations received we would like to thank the families, friends and colleagues of the following individuals:

Eli Samuel Abbott
Mrs Margaret Mary Adie
Anthony Albinson
Mr Clifford Allen
Captain William Henry Allen
Mr Eric Samuel Ashley
Mr Albert Attack
James William Barber
Mrs Daphne Barbour
Mr William Dennis Barwell
Mr William Beveridge
Mrs Alison Glynne Broadhurst
Major Leslie Edward Brindley
Dr Guy Buckley
Bettina Mary Carroll
George Edward Chapman
Miss Jean Chapman
Major A R E Clarke
Mr Edwin Clayton
Mr Bob Cooper
Edward Henry Charles Cooper
Joan Cowburn
Sgt Robert I Cumming
Mrs Shuna Darwin
Davina Darcy de Knayth
Mr Lance Dickinson
Rosemary Ann Dickson
Viscountess Dillon
Ernest Elliott
Mr Eric Desmond Fallon
Wing Cdr C L Farrell
Patricia Fisher
Phyllis French
Mrs E Frey
Mr James Ernest Fry
Mr William Furness
Mr Thomas Walter Gillman
Sq Ldr Alexander Gordon MBE
Evelyn Joyce Grayling
Sir Philip John Caledon Grey Egerton
George Keith Griffiths
Mr Donald Robert Frank Griffiths
Mr I C Gurney
Frances Haile

James Hall
Mrs Eileen Hall
Audrey Harnett
Joy Harper
Mr William Harrison
Victor Heath
Joan Hendry
Captain Michael Henry DL RN
Mr Maurice Hentall
Mr John Hindhaugh Moore
Mr Derek Edward Hobby
Lt Col Keith Holtby
Mrs Bertha Helen Horne
Major & Mrs Arthur Irwin
Mrs Wendy Jelley
Mr Vernon Ford Jones
Emanuel Kagon
Reginald James Kew
Mrs Molly Key
Miss Emily Verna Kingdom
S R Lambert
Mr Charles Lawton
Mr Leavens
Mr Joan Lee
Gareth Lees
Gladys Linnell
Mrs Barbara Longhurst
Janet Marshall
Master Rupert Frederick Marson
Robert Martin
Mr Donald Edward May
Mr John McKrell
Lionel Patrick Modell
Mrs P Morgan
Hazel Morgan
Captain Raymond Norman CBE RN
Frances Oddy-Norman
Mr Richard William Palmer
Major Gen Parrant
Richard Passmore
Mrs Marjorie Joan Perry
Joan Perry
Mr Christopher Pittam
Mr Brian Pledger
Mr Donald Arthur Pocock
Mr Godfrey Pool
Mr Dick Power
Mr Peter David Price
Mr Harold Frank Purkis
Mr Kenneth Raynor Dunn
Sheila Mary Reger
Major James Riley TD
Kenneth Rimmer
Mrs Doris Robbins
Mr R Rowbottom

Peter William Ryan
Albert Salmon
Sergeant C C Sell
Major Seton-Brown
Mr Robert William Wallace Smith
Ms Helen Margaret Smith
Mr Wilfred Spiller
Mrs Amy Katherine Stansfield
Mary Barbara Steel
Mr William Stephens
Mr John David Samuel Patrick Stewart
Joan Stockwell
Ruth Stone RRC
Mr Robert Michael Taylor
Mike Taylor
Mrs Joan Dinah Naomi Taylor
Ms Kathleen Mary Teare
Major Sidney George Thomas
Miss Mona Evelyn Thomas
Major Hugo Trim
Mrs Doris Trimming
Commander RJ Tunstall MBE
Mr Stan Walker
Major Percy Arthur Wall
Nesta Wallbutton
Alfred Walmsley
Mr Richard Ward DFC
Mr Handel Webb
Mrs Eileen Esme Whitehorn
Mr Donald Roy Williams
Mr Frederick Williams
Mr James Sylvester Williamson
The Venerable Hewitt Wilson
Lt Col John Wood
Mr Kenneth Woodward-Fisher
Mr David William Worvell
John L Wright
Kathleen Vera Wright
Stuart Wright
Ms Edith Mary Wyllie
Mr Gordon Yates

SSAFA Forces Help is indebted to those people who have remembered the Association in their Will. Their generosity will enable us to help generations of serving and ex-Servicemen, women and their families.

Ms Valerie Anderson
Mr Denis Branton Blyth
Anne Wallace Burra

Mr Douglas Holbrook Chandler
Enid Monica Clarke
June A Coburn
Mr Francis Henry Cole
Anne Maria Collins
Mr John Steward Cook
Mr James Richard Easton Dobson OBE
Mrs Lily Douds
Mr Pier Melville Durman
Mr John Charles England
Gwenda Edith Fisher
Mrs Florence Audrey Fraley
Celia Gay
Mr Colin John Gilbert
Mr Horace P Grant
Gordon Harris
Heather May Hendin
Mr Peter Douglas Burnett Hill
Betty Holden
Annie Hughes
Mrs Joyce Kathleen Ing
Miss Una Jepson
Beryl Jones
Mr Thomas Douglas Kerr
Col Sir Geoffrey Walter Fownes Luttrell
Mr Harry John Fullard Mackrell
Mary Owen Madgwick
Daphne Diana Maley
Mrs Eileen Pomeroy Marsden
Mr Arthur Nettleship Marshall
Mrs Marjorie Eileen Mason
Mr Richard Osborn Clegg Mellor
Professor Albert Edward William "Loma" Miles
Mrs Lillian Millett
Mr Bernard Morris
Mrs Eunice Freda Phillips
Mrs Nora Irene Phillips
Patricia Vera Powell Reid
Audrey Joan Richardson
Mrs Dorothy Elliott Richmond-Smith
Mrs Janette Thelma Lois Russell
Ms Edna May Stanley
Mr James Stones
Mr Lawrence James Thompson
Madge Thorneycroft
Victoria Ann Vernon
Mr Frederick Robert Walter
Mr Herbert Bernard Ray Warne
Mrs Adrienne Mary Denys Whiteway
Cecil Wimberley
Mrs Evelyn Wood

Support to deployed Armed Forces personnel

In partnership with the Ministry of Defence we have set up a new SSAFA Operational Welfare Fund dedicated to providing support to the front line. Although the MOD provides a comprehensive Deployment Welfare Package which includes; a free mail service, 30 minutes of telephone calls a week and Internet access, there are still areas where life can be improved. The priority for spending from this fund will be set by in theatre commanders in order to meet areas of greatest need. For more information please contact us.

Give your mouse a heart



Everyclick lets you search the web and raise money for your favourite charity for free. Every search you make through this engine will raise a penny for SSAFA. To help turn the pennies to hundreds of pounds, please register as a fundraiser for SSAFA by visiting www.everyclick.com/ssafaforceshelp then set this search engine as your home page.

Festival of Running

Would you like to join SSAFA's 10k run challenge?

After the success of the 2008 race - with over 1,000 people running in the garrison town of Aldershot, we are organising a series of runs in 2009 in Cyprus, BATUS-Canada, Brunei and Aldershot. If you fancy a challenge by taking part in our Festival of Running in Aldershot on 17 May 2009, and would like to raise funds to support the work of SSAFA, please contact Karen Powell on 020 7463 9222 or email karen.p@ssafa.org.uk.



The Big Brew Ups Worldwide



We would like to extend our thanks to everyone who sent a donation or organised a Big Brew Up event this year in aid of SSAFA. Four hundred and thirty seven people registered to host a Big

Brew Up, and so far, we have raised more than £100,000 from donations and events.

There were Big Brew Ups as far afield as



Iraq and Afghanistan. This year saw the first 'virtual' Big Brew Up. We applaud the innovation and commitment by all our supporters. Thank you very much for supporting our annual Big Brew Up.



Defence Industry Dinner

On 12th November SSAFA Forces Help hosted the annual Defence Industry Dinner in the RAF Museum in Hendon. Amongst the guests was Chief of the Defence Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Jock Stirrup and The Rt Hon John Hutton MP, Secretary of State for Defence, who gave the keynote speech. The event helped to raise more than £95,000 for SSAFA.