

Champion for Armed Forces and Veterans

Report on Expenditure from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019

To assist the Leader and appropriate Cabinet Members to work with the organisations that support ex-servicemen and women to work even more closely together and to ensure that veterans and their families get the support they deserve

This report covers the period of the commemorations marking 100 years since the end of the Great War so it is fitting that some of the available funding has been awarded to groups who ran remembrance events and sourced appropriate memorials. I am delighted to support a wide range of groups which in turn support everyone from older veterans to young children in order to both commemorate and educate. I have had personal contact with all groups awarded and in many cases supported them in other ways as well as financial. There are some amazing groups, charities and individuals who support the armed forces community here in Lancashire and I am proud that the champions grant fund continues to support the outstanding work carried out.

Lancaster Military Heritage Group – Morecambe Armed Forces Day (£1,500)

The Lancaster Military Heritage Group sought financial support in order to help celebrate Armed Forces Day in Morecambe. The event was a local celebration of our armed services reflecting the national events. The sum awarded supported the day which included a parade, Drumhead service, displays and a flyby by a Dakota aircraft. Young people were represented by all three services' cadet groups putting on displays including an inflatable boat from the Sea Cadets. The visitors to the day were able to thank Veterans for their service and appreciate the work of the Armed Services locally and discover the work of the next generation of service men and women through the Cadet Displays. Service and veterans charities raised significant funds for a number of charities.

Thornton Action Group – Memorial Benches (£1,295)

The Thornton Action Group requested financial support for the installation of commemorative benches at Thornton War Memorial. The first of these was in honour of Joseph Blackburn, a Thornton market gardener who was wrongly called up in 1917 and then killed in action before the error could be rectified. The other bench was to honour all the armed services, army, navy and air force, which is fitting in this centenary year. The War Memorial is a respected and much valued feature in Thornton and this project will be much appreciated, and welcomed by the local community and especially by the families and friends of war veterans and those who gave their lives serving the country.

The Queen's Lancashire Regiment Veteran's Charity – Veterans Memorial Event (£1,000)

This application was submitted for the benefit of the public and to advance education by the provision and maintenance of a Queen's Lancashire Regiment veterans' memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum. It will provide a living memory of

those who served and it will also retain a rich heritage and advance educational support to the community as a whole.

Dig In North West CIC – Security Metal Window and Shutters (£1,500)

Dig In North West have received a donation of a large outbuilding to be used as an extended workshop. This building is used to run therapeutic sessions for military veterans, and those still serving in our armed forces, in topics such as woodwork, metal work, and stone carving. The charity applied for financial assistance in order to help secure the building, by installing some metal door and window shutters. In the past, the team have had to secure the doors and windows by screwing up wooden boards each night. In the short term, the benefits of simply installing shutters is that the workshop becomes more secure. It now enables the charity to put all of the machinery in place and run a wide range of sessions, with the comfort of knowing their belongings are safe. The activities that happen within the workshop have a lasting and significant benefit for team members. It enables those who feel isolated because of the range of challenges that they face to come together, engage in activity that not only develops new, usable skills for them, but are also an effective distraction from uninvited thoughts and memories. The atmosphere within the workshop is one of camaraderie and genuine peer support.

Recognition awards, plaque, trophy and glass (£163)

It is vital to acknowledge and reward some of the outstanding work being carried out in Lancashire within the Armed Forces Community. With this in mind we have sourced awards and presentations which are presented at the appropriate times and highlight the commitment of groups and individuals.

Poulton Partnership – Refreshments at the unveiling of the poppy installation (£200)

The people of Poulton knitted poppies for fixing to an installation in St Chad's Church Yard, Poulton-le-Fylde as a memorial to those who fought and died in the First World War. The knitters have given many hours of time, and donations of wool have come from all quarters. A local firm has given materials to make the installation. The notional value of donations is estimated as £300. This application funded the official unveiling of the installation on the 1st November in front of an audience including old soldiers, Wyre Lady Mayor, Poulton Councillors and interested members of the public. Refreshments for those attending in our local Community Hall were estimated at £200. This celebration provided a focus of remembrance for the people of Poulton, and showed deep appreciation for those who fought so bravely to ensure our freedom.

Preston Sea Cadets – Refurbishment of wooden building (£1,000)

The Sea Cadets in Preston have been serving the community of Preston for nearly 100 years offering young people and adults throughout the community comradeship and adventure. This funding will go towards the necessary up keep and maintenance of the present building while the demolition of the original wooden building takes place. The emphasis will be on class rooms and training facilities. Since the old wooden building was closed, capacity to accommodate cadet activities and equipment has been dramatically diminished with space becoming a premium. The benefit of the works will allow the unit to make best use of the facilities they currently have to ensure the young people and adult volunteer staff have a safe and pleasant environment to enhance the learning experience.

Refreshments for the Launch of the Lancashire Armed Forces Hub (£647)

LCC, UCLAN, the NHS and Army HQ in Preston joined forces to create an Armed Forces Hub which would help fulfil the aims of the Covenant and benefit the whole Armed Forces Community in Lancashire. This application was to support the Hub's launch and hosted many veterans and representatives from the armed services and charities.

Cleveleys Parish Church – Band for the special WW1 Service (£150)

This financial support was to pay the Thornton-Cleveleys Band who performed during a WW1 memorial service. The service was just one of the things which was put in place at St Andrew's. They also put up various displays to help people to reflect on the sacrifice of the first World War, by so many. In the week which led up to the 11th, three schools visited the church, 8 classes of primary children in total, to explore the displays and put up their own display of wreaths. The Uniformed Organisations, 2nd Cleveleys St Andrew's Scouting and Girl Guiding also made the poppies from plastic bottles to be placed in the grounds. Following the 11th November there was a week of Open Church for people to come and quietly reflect, helped by the displays. 100 St John's Gospels were given away (all had been donated), and 100 'Silence' booklets, again, donated. It is hoped that the whole project will HONOUR the lives of all those who were devastated by WW1, at home and abroad, and give all those who attended the service or come to walk around the church, something to reflect upon in terms of how much luckier we are to live today, and yet, how necessary are our choices for good and peace.

PCC of Broughton – Road traffic management for the Remembrance Service (£360)

On Sunday 11th November the Parish of St John Baptist, Broughton, held their annual Remembrance Day service in the Parish Church. After the service, a community procession of 500+ people took place from the Parish Church to the Broughton War Memorial on the Garstang Road, where there was a short dedication and wreath laying service. This involved parishioners, members of the local Police Force and Fire Brigade, local councillors, residents and former members of the armed forces. The local Scouts, Cubs, Guides, Rangers, Brownies also took part in the service and procession. This application paid for traffic management and in turn enabled all people, who live in and around the surrounding areas of Broughton to pay their respects and remember all members of the Forces who have given their lives in Wars, since the beginning of the 20th century.

Garstang Royal British Legion – WW1 silhouette (£200)

Garstang RBL raised funds and required further financial aid from the champions fund to source a "there but not there" silhouette which was displayed in the Art Centre Gardens in Garstang. This was a fitting tribute to all who suffered in the local area during the Great War and all subsequent conflicts.

Poulton-le-Fylde Methodist Church – Art and craft materials for Remembrance Sunday (£100)

During October half term (22nd – 26th October 2018) a group of church and community folks had a space in St. Chad's churchyard, enabling younger members of the community to engage with Remembrance Sunday. They engaged in appropriate crafts and activities, hoping to bring the act of remembrance to young people in relevant and interesting ways. Crafts involved decorating rocks as part of the 'Poulton Rocks' initiative and some of the creations were presented by the town

Clergy at the Civic Remembrance Parade on Sunday 11th November 2018. Engaging younger members of the community (and their families) in what Remembrance Sunday means in 2018 as part of the 100 year commemorations was extremely important. There was Community interaction from different groups: churches, local parents, Air Cadets, schools, etc.

Friends of Cleveleys Christmas Tree – remembrance lights switch on (£100)

This application was to cover expenses associated with the switch on of the remembrance lights on the Cleveleys Christmas tree. The funding went towards the provision of refreshments for the participants of the switch on which were provided after the ceremony at Cleveleys Community Church, including a remembrance cake which was cut and shared at the after-ceremony event. A souvenir was provided for each child participating in the event. This formed part of the WW1 100 year commemorations and gave young people the opportunity to participate.

DWS Lifeskills CIC – Management outreach program (£2,000)

This is a family health & lifestyle management outreach program. It promotes personal fitness & gives opportunities to engage in different sporting activities to benefit physical wellbeing, mental health & social interaction and encourage participants to engage in community activities. This project signposts veterans to relevant partner agencies to help with any personal health, debt, housing, addiction & mental health issues. In partnership with local GP surgeries, it engages with as many veterans as possible, initially inviting them to a coffee morning & then to partake in a program of health & wellbeing. This is an outstanding project which is benefitting veterans on a daily basis.

Armed Forces Group Preston – Big lunch event on Ashton Park (£500)

2019 saw the fifth large scale Big Lunch which was held on Ashton Park Preston. The event was fronted by AFG Preston in order to give back to the local community under the terms of the Armed Forces Covenant. The event supported the Green Flag status on the park, increased public awareness of AFG, Dig In and Brick NW, whilst allowing each charity to raise necessary funds, it also increased service usage and recruited new volunteers. This event brought the Armed Forces Community together with a great number of local groups and individuals and raised awareness of veterans issues.

Veterans in Communities – Pull up banners (£250)

The group has been formed since 2013; the outreach information service is a joint venture with VIC and Pendle Armed Forces Group on behalf of the group. Over the last few years there has been weekly outreach across Pendle, various information stands and an art exhibition. These banners will be used for the next two years at any information and outreach event. The PAFG is very different from the other Armed Forces Covenant groups because it is a partnership, the East Lancs CCG are secretaries and Pendle Council is the chair. The Banners show the partnerships involved in the group and makes signposting more effective. We will engage with more veterans who are in need of support, and will ensure they get seen earlier than they might've been. All the information will be in one place so will make it easier for veterans to get information.

***County Councillor Alf Clempson
Champion for Armed Forces and Veterans***

Schedule of Expenditure for 2018/19

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County Councillor Alf Clempson – Champion for Armed Forces Veterans	
Applicant	Amount of Grant
Lancaster Military Heritage Group – Morecambe Armed Forces Day	£1,500
Thornton Action Group – Memorial bench	£1,295
The Queen's Lancashire Regiment Veteran's Charity – Veterans memorial event	£1,000
Dig In North West CIC – Security metal window and shutters	£1,500
Recognition awards, plaque, trophy and glass	£163
Poulton Partnership – for refreshments at the unveiling of the poppy installation	£200
Preston Sea Cadets – Refurbishment of wooden building	£1,000
Refreshments for the Launch of the Lancashire Armed Forces Hub	£647
Cleveleys Parish Church – Band for the special WW1 Service	£150
PCC of Broughton – Road traffic management for the Remembrance Service	£360
Garstang Royal British Legion – WW1 silhouette	£200
Poulton-le-Fylde Methodist Church – Art and craft materials for Remembrance Sunday	£100
Friends of Cleveleys Christmas Tree – remembrance lights switch on	£100
DWS Lifeskills CIC – Management outreach program	£2,000
Armed Forces Group Preston – Big lunch event on Ashton Park	£500
Veterans in Communities – Pull up banners	£250
TOTAL SPENT	£10,965