HIGH GROUND

LIFE BEYOND THE MILITARY – OUTDOORS

AUTUMN 2020

WELCOME TO OUR AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our Autumn newsletter. I've just re-read my comment in the Summer edition about planning events which now sounds ridiculously optimistic…..

But to borrow from Dwight D Eisenhower, Plans are nothing; planning is everything so enjoy our update as we keep bashing on, and please do share your Newsletter with anyone you think might be interested – we need all the allies we can muster!

Anna BC
Founder and Executive Director

Rural Week, Covid style.

FRIENDS OF HIGHGROUND

FHG is the voluntary arm of HighGround which supports and promotes the work of the Charity with fundraising and community awareness initiatives, both locally and nationally.

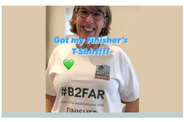
Many grateful thanks to the Deputy Governor of the Tower of London for all her wonderful support and encouragement before and during our Walk on 16th August and to Historic Royal Palaces for their permission to start at the Tower.

We managed to avoid forecast lightning and rain, and thanks to Malcolm's military planning and the Worshipful Company of Security Professionals' wonderful marshalls, all our Walkers had a great day and are already looking towards next year.

Deputy Governor briefing the Marshalls before the Walk.

Mayor Rhule meets some Walkers.

Sue our wonderful Trustee who chairs the Friends couldn't be with us on the day so she walked from home to earn her Finishers T shirt. We have 14 left in case you know anyone who can walk from home to earn theirs? If you'd like more information on how it's done, please click here.



Sue wearing her Finisher's T-shirt with pride!

BECOME A FRIEND OF HIGHGROUND

STANFORD HALL

Horticultural Therapy at DMRC continues and Andy and Jane are busier than ever as they work with patients both at Stanford Hall and virtually via the new Gardening from Home section on our website where Jane is providing resources for the Occupational Therapists.

Andy's work with other military Units who are looking to develop outdoor therapeutic environments now has a name, Op Frith which is an old English word meaning peace, safety and protection.

The first Frith Garden will be at RAF Brize Norton and designs are already well advanced.

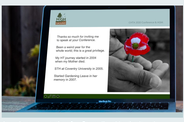
Outside Stanford Hall Sue Stuart-Smith's new book The Well-Gardened Mind is receiving well deserved acclaim, and we are very proud that she chose to feature our work at Headley Court in it.

You can see the article about military rehab in October's Kitchen Garden magazine here.

Anna was delighted to be invited to speak at the Canadian Horticultural Therapy Association's annual conference which this year was online rather than in Vancouver. This was a great opportunity to promote the sharing of measurement and evaluation methods within the Five Eyes community for our unique client group, and good progress was made.

Getting ready for the arrival of chickens at Stanford Hall.

The Well Gardened Mind.



Anna's presentation for Canadian Horticultural Therapy Association conference.

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FRIENDS OF THE TENTH

The Sunset Ceremony to commemorate the 76th anniversary of the Battle of Arnhem was blessed with perfect weather, and the new Friends of the Tenth roses are looking well in their new home.

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RURAL WEEKS

Our Virtual Rural Weeks programme concluded in August and we extend a huge thanks to everyone who stepped up to present a virtual session about their area of the land-based sector. The feedback from those who attended has been very positive, and we will learn lessons and seek to include some virtual learning in our offering going forwards.

BUT – our big Rural Weeks news is that finally, on Sunday 13th September, we were able to start our first Rural Week of 2020 at Bicton!!!!

To ensure social distancing in the minibus we agreed with Bicton to a maximum of 8 participants, and were delighted that 4 serving personnel and 4 veterans from all over the country were able to join us. Massive thanks to all our speakers and hosts and to the RAF Benevolent Fund, Greenwich Hospital, The Royal Marines Charity and the Veterans' Foundation for their generous funding which enabled us to deliver Life beyond the military – Outdoors.

It felt so good to be back at Bicton again and plans for our first Rural Experience Week funded by the Armed Forces Covenant Trust under their Positive Pathways programme in late October are well under way.

Visit to Exeter Racecourse during September Rural Week with Daniel Cooper. Clerk of the Course.

A morning on the diggers during Rural Week.

We were delighted that Tim Lever who joins us as Rural Employment Manager in January 2021 came to visit us at Bicton last week, and our planned expansion of the Rural Weeks programme to Askham Bryan College in 2021 following Tim's arrival is moving forwards.

Tim Lever who joins us in January 2021 with Levi.

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HORSEFERRY ROAD

Our Trustees have taken the decision that in these uncertain times when working from home has changed the world of work and fundraising for all charities is a huge challenge, it was no longer possible to justify paying for the corner office at London Scottish House (LSH). We are delighted that HighGround will remain part of the LSH community and look forward to many more years together in London. Our contact details remain unchanged.

Our Development Board continues to provides precious support and we are so grateful to Robert Honan for coming to Bicton last week (all the way from Buckinghamshire!) to present the Estate Management session and to Simon West of The Gun Trade Association for his generous offer of support at Bisley – truly HighGround in action..

GETTING TO KNOW TEAM HIGHGROUND

Here's where we introduce you to a member of Team HighGround by asking them 10 quick fire questions. Our Chairman Ian Elliott is in the hot seat this quarter!

Ian Elliott, HighGround's Chairman.

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FUNDRAISING

Like all charities during this pandemic our face to face fundraising has all but ceased, and Louisa has been doing a great job to keep our online support platforms including Amazon Smile and Easy Fundraising going as we all navigate our way through these weird months, whilst never forgetting why we are all Friends of HighGround.

Anna continues to work with grant-making trusts and foundations, and we Will bring you news of our new Friends of HG Regional Champions eventually but for now, Stay Safe and please share our Good News.

READ OUR GOOD NEWS HERE

GET IN TOUCH

DONATE NOW

GDPR AND OUR STANDARDS

GDPR came into effect on 25th May 2018. We had an extremely busy run up to this date, but our small team were able to pull out all the stops and get things in place in time. As a charity we take GDPR and the security of your information very seriously. To this end, we have ensured that all of our data processors comply rigorously to keep everything secure. You can read about our Standards here.

Thank you for reading and please do share this email with anybody you think may be interested in supporting HighGround or who may be in need of our support.

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