



WELCOME TO OUR WINTER NEWSLETTER

The Winter Solstice is nearly over as I sit at my desk in Northumberland to write my final Newsletter before handing on to Jamie and Heather, but first I hope you will indulge me as I look back to the first Newsletter I wrote in Spring 2014 to welcome Carol our new Horticultural Therapist at Headley Court.

Since then, literally hundreds of injured serving personnel have received sessions of Horticultural Therapy, we have moved to DMRC Stanford Hall and I am very proud that the Army Benevolent Fund who generously funded the pilot at Headley Court, are still supporting our Horticultural Therapy service.

When I wrote the 1st Newsletter Rural Weeks were still a concept, and we had just welcomed our 1st Volunteers to Horseferry Road to help with social media, book keeping and IT. In March this year we marked our 10th Birthday with a lunch in London to thank these wonderful people without whose commitment and support during those early years we would never have reached the end of our first decade – I didn't even dare to dream of it back then...!

As HighGround begins our second decade I am really proud that so many Friends of HighGround are reading this, thank-you all for your support. We are nothing without our Friends.

Anna BC
Founder and Head of Income Generation.



10th Birthday Lunch RAF Club March, 2023.

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.

We are hugely grateful to the Carr-Ellison Family Trust, Scott Eredine Trust, Veterans' Foundation and the Army Benevolent Fund for their generous grants to support the services we deliver, to the ladies of Horsted Keynes Tuesday Club for raising money from their famous Marmalade Sale and to our brilliant Friend Chris Eberhardie who has now completed her 1,000 Mile Challenge and in doing so, has raised over £6,000 for HighGround. We salute you all.

In October by kind permission of the Colonel of the Regiment Major General Swift, we had a reception in the Fusiliers Museum at the Tower of London to introduce our Chairman's Vision for HighGround and welcome Jamie Crisp our new CEO.



Fusiliers Museum reception.



Jamie, Anna and Chairman with Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt.

We showed our guests the [new film](#) made by Thread Studio and although the Rt Hon Johnny Mercer Minister for Veterans Affairs couldn't join us, he sent us a message of support. You can view it [here](#).

Special thanks to [BFRS](#) for supporting the event and to all our funders and stakeholders who came to show their support.

BECOME A FRIEND OF HIGHGROUND



Jamie Crisp, CEO.

MEET THE TEAM

Each quarter we introduce you to a member of Team HighGround and this time it's Jamie's turn!

[READ MORE](#)

STANFORD HALL

Steve our new Therapeutic Gardens Manager started on 1st October, and we were delighted to welcome Gp Captain Myhill the new Commanding Officer to the Greenhouse for her first visit when the sun managed to shine. Big thanks to everyone who helped to finish the Village Green area which is now fully accessible with its smart new non-slip resin surface. It was a delight to welcome General Sir Nick Pope Chairman of Cobseo to Stanford Hall, and you can read Jane's monthly journal and see 12 months in pictures [here](#).



Gp Capt Myhill new Commanding Officer first visit to the Greenhouse with Jamie, Steve, Jane, Anna and Deborah.



Village Green at DMRC Stanford Hall completed. October, 2023

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RURAL WEEKS

In addition to another specially commissioned Rural Week for Royal Marines Young Recruits and our 42nd and 43rd Rural Weeks at Bicton, in October we also delivered our first Pilot Rural Week at Askham Bryan College near York.

This is a huge milestone for HighGround as we seek to increase our capacity and would not have been possible without a very generous donation from the Ennismore Trust.



Laura Black Askham Bryan VP with HighGround Pathfinders and Anna BC during 1st Rural Week on 15th Nov 2023.



Royal Marines Young Recruits Rural Week with Ben Curry and Zoe Darnbrough The RM Charity.



Royal Marines Young Recruits Rural Week at Bicton, October, 2023.

You can read reports of all these Rural Weeks [here](#) and we mustn't forget our final Virtual Rural Week of 2023 in November where another 18 service leavers were given an introduction to the land-based sector. We offer our profound thanks to all our hosts, speakers and presenters this year who have shared their knowledge and contacts so generously. You are literally changing lives.

Our relationship with British Forces Resettlement Service continues and Anna and Richard Wade were joined by RSK Group, BSW Timber and BALI at Catterick Garrison for the last careers fair of 2023.



BFRS Catterick 22 Nov BSW Jim and David.



BFRS Catterick 22 Nov, 2023 Richard Wade with Anna BC.

[READ MORE](#)

THE POPPY FACTORY

Simon our Chairman and his Board of Trustees have been busy our new Operations Manager Heather Crawford joined Team HighGround in December. You can read about her [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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Our mailing address is:
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