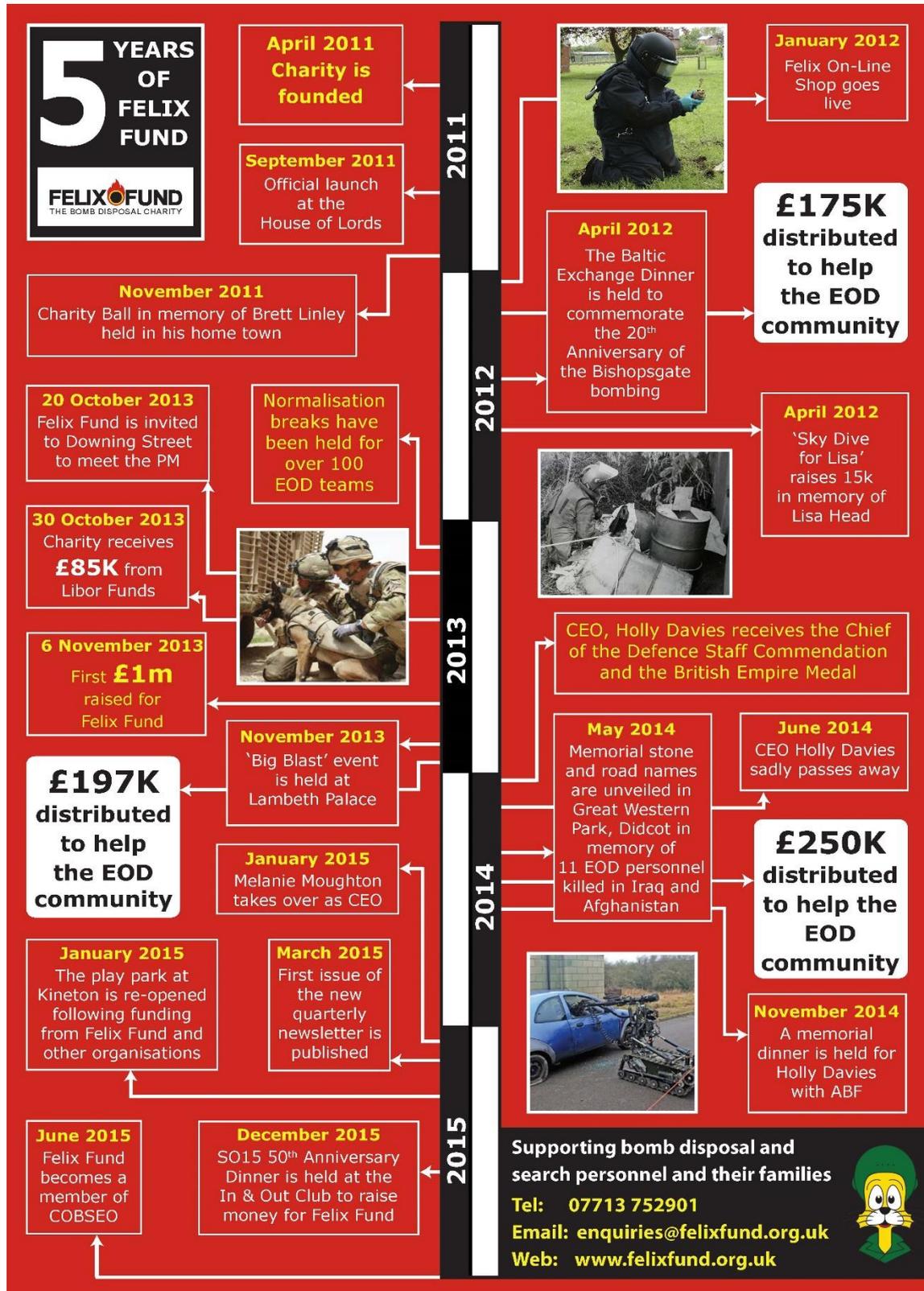


Felix Fund News – Spring 2016

Supporting bomb disposal and search personnel and their families from all British Army Regiments
Royal Navy Clearance Divers, Royal Air Force and the UK Counter Terrorism Command

5 Years of Felix Fund

Felix Fund was established in 2011 and has been working non-stop ever since to help the bomb disposal and search community.



Escape from Alcatraz



This is a swim that many people still believe is impossible to complete but, a team of 5 swimmers from 11 Regt RLC will be escaping from Alcatraz to raise money for Felix Fund.

The 1.5-mile open water swim will be taking place sometime between the 20th and 27th June 2016 as it is weather dependent.

If you haven't yet, please support this amazing adventure go to: www.justgiving.com/escapefromalcatrazwim/

Community Centre for Marlborough Barracks

Felix Fund was approached to provide funding towards the refurbishment of a Community Centre at Temple Herdewyke.

The original facility was tired, cold and not very welcoming. The refurbishment has given the centre a new lease of life; providing young families with a place to meet; for baby clinics to be held and a safe and comfortable place for toddlers to play while parents relax.



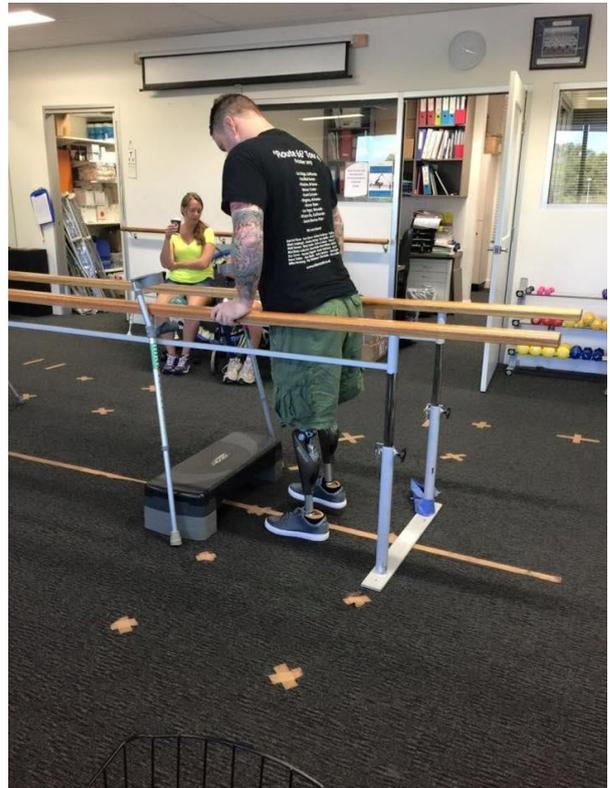
Let's Get Legs

Ex-Sapper Clive Smith was injured in Afghanistan in 2010; losing both legs in an IED explosion.

Having been trapped in a wheelchair the only way forward for Clive was an Osseointegration operation in Australia, which would enable him to walk on prosthetics.

Felix Fund was thrilled to be able to help towards travel costs for Clive to be able to receive this pioneering surgery.

We are pleased to report the operation was a success and Clive is now back on his feet.



Exercise Dragon Hurricane

Report from LCpl Gant, 821 EOD & Search Sqn.

Who has ever seen the light of day at 5 o'clock on a Saturday morning? Those of us departing on EX Dragon Hurricane did, that was the time we had to parade at the SQMS department ready to depart on the longest journey in the world by minibus to La Rosiere in the French Alps.

Organised by Lt 'Matty' Harris, for 821 EOD & Search Sqn and the Training Wing, it was the first time any of us had been skiing. None the less, it was something we were all excited about, just not the journey!

After a short delay at the channel tunnel and what felt like an eternity on the road, we eventually arrived at our hotel, right in the centre of the resort.

The next morning, we were straight into it, those of us who had never been skiing before were completing the ski foundation 1 (SF1), and we were split into 2 groups. The remainder were completing the ski foundation 2 (SF2).

The first couple of days were mostly about us learning how to turn and building confidence on skis. This is where I began to pick up a reputation as 'Eddie the Eagle' as I was struggling to turn right and I seemed to always pick up speed, but was fortunately able to stop.

After a few of days most of us were confident enough to be hitting the basic blue runs and working our way up to red. As the week progressed, we eventually worked our way up to the longer blue and red runs, developing our skills both on and off piste, something at which Spr 'Jordan' Wilkes excelled in. He's got the safety helmet to prove it!

The trip enabled us to bond as a team whilst trying new experiences.



Once again we have 18 places in this year's London 10K on 10th July 2016.

The British 10K London Run has been staged through the heart of the capital for the past 16 years. Starting on Piccadilly outside The Guards & Calvary Club, runners will pass the new WW2 Bomber Command Memorial which was unveiled by HM Queen Elizabeth 11 in June 2012 with Wellington Arch at Hyde Park Corner as backdrop.

Runners will pass The Ritz, St. James's Palace, Trafalgar Square, the magnificent St. Paul's Cathedral, the unique London Eye, the Houses of Parliament, the historic Westminster Abbey before finishing on Whitehall at the junction of Royal Horse Guards and Banqueting House after passing Downing Street and The Cenotaph.

The entry fee is £40 per runner which covers your fee for the run and a small amount towards a picnic in St James Park afterwards.

If you would like to run and raise money for Felix Fund, please contact Melanie on melanie@felixfund.org.uk

Counter Terror Expo 2016



Felix Fund and the EOD Warrior Foundation are thrilled to be the official charity partners for the 2016 Counter Terror Expo at Olympia.

As an added bonus the Counter Terror Expo team has generously offered a 10% discount for Felix Fund supporters to register to attend. The discount code to receive 10% off the World Counter Terror Congress is FLXW10AR16.

The link below will take you to the SCTX Conference registration page. Register to attend via the main conference registration link and add the discount code when selecting tickets and click “apply code”

<http://www.counterterrorexpo.com/feliexEODconference/>

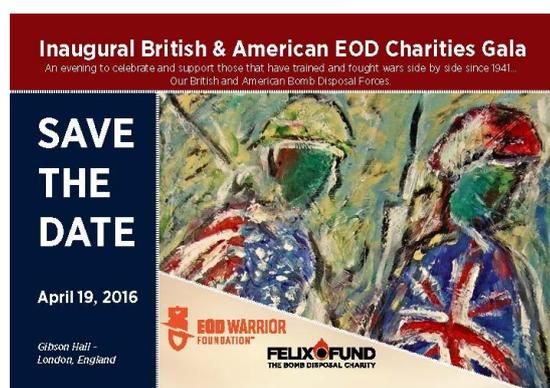
The Exhibition is free to attend – and you can register via this link

<https://clarion.circdata-solutions.co.uk/.../.../publish/SCTX16/>

Last Chance for Tickets!

Tickets are still available for the Inaugural EOD Charities Dinner on 19th April 2016 at Gibson Hall, London.

If you haven't got yours yet, please contact Melanie on 07713 752901 or email melanie@felixfund.org.uk



Exercise Frozen Felix



24 personnel from 11 EOD Regt embarked on the annual skiing expedition to Tignes, France in January. With 17 unqualified personnel it aimed to give the majority of participants their Ski Foundation Level 1.

Starting in the early hours the (very) long journey was already six hours old when the 3 vehicle convoy rumbled through the channel tunnel; having picked up a number of other members of the Regt on the way.

Following an initial kit issue, the comedy “ski off” ensued with various levels of skiing claimed and some not attained. Three groups were formed each with an instructor. The novice group then began their first slides on snow on the nursery slopes with varying degrees of success. The two other groups headed off into the extremely large area of Espace Killy to hone their skills.

A significant improvement was seen over the week including all of the complete novices being able to make it down the majority of slopes on the mountain. Slips, trips and falls accounted for a couple of minor injuries. The intermediate group mastered the whole area from starting the week only on blue runs and the advanced managed to significantly improve their technique whilst managing to challenge their instructor.

A final meal allowed the opportunity for awards to be given to the most improved from each group and the best fall. This completed a welcome week of not only hard

training but also team cohesion and relaxation away from a busy work schedule.

The contribution that the Felix Fund made brought down the cost significantly to the individual making it accessible even to the most junior members of the Sqn. The benefit of exercises like this cannot be measured and it is only with the Fund's continued support we are able to offer it at a level which is affordable for all.

Battle Proms Discount



Battle Proms Picnic Concerts would like to offer Felix Fund supporters a 10% discount for standard Adult and Child tickets to their concerts – summer celebrations with music, Spitfire, cannons, cavalry and fireworks!

Considered by many to be the UK's premier picnic concert series, the Battle Proms take place at 5 stately venues around the UK each summer, including World Heritage Site Blenheim Palace and Highclere Castle, setting of hit ITV drama Downton Abbey.

Adult tickets cost just £34 until the end of the month, but by quoting FelixProms16 when booking online you can get yours for just £30.60, and child tickets, normally £18, will cost just £16.20!

For all concert dates and locations go to www.battleproms.com

321 Sqn Welfare Facilities' Given a Face Lift

Report by Cpl Parker (RE)

Last Summer Felix Fund kindly made a donation to 321 EOD and Search Sqn to support the redevelopment of the Squadron Welfare facility. The Welfare Facility is central to all Squadron social activity, serving as a meeting room, rest room and recreational space. It plays host to weekly Squadron Coffee mornings; allowing soldiers and their families the opportunity to socialise.

I was tasked with leading the renovation and over a 2-month period managed the transformation, overseeing the procurement of materials and the completion of all trade related work. All the works were conducted by military tradesmen from within the Squadron. The facility was given a full face lift, decorated throughout and finished to the highest of standards. New furniture for seating inside and out was bought and a brick BBQ was built to host functions in the summer months. The facility is used by all members of the Squadron and their families and is a great place for us to gather and socialise. It plays a key role in maintaining morale and the refurbishment has undoubtedly played a large part in improving the Welfare facilities for those posted in NI.

On behalf of the Squadron I would like to take this opportunity to thank Felix Fund for their support and all the work they do on our behalf, it really does benefit soldiers and their families.

Before:



After:



Time to Remember



In each quarterly newsletter we commemorate and sustain the memories of the sacrifices made by EOD personnel who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

This time we remember those who died during January, February and March:

- SSgt Christopher R Cracknell who died on 15 March 1972 in Northern Ireland
- Sgt Anthony Butcher who died on 15 March 1972 in Northern Ireland
- Maj Bernard C Calladene who died on 30 March 1972 in Northern Ireland
- SSgt Allan N Brammah who died on 18 February 1974 in Northern Ireland
- SSgt James G Crawshaw who died on 22 January 1975 in Great Britain
- Sgt Martin E Walsh who died on 9 January 1977 in Northern Ireland
- SSgt Christopher D Muir who died on 31 March 2003 in Iraq
- Capt Daniel Read who died on 11 January 2010 in Afghanistan
- WO2 David Markland who died on 8 February 2010 in Afghanistan
- Spr Guy Mellors who died on 15 February 2010 in Afghanistan

Gone but never forgotten.