

# FELIX FUND

THE BOMB DISPOSAL CHARITY

## FELIX FUND IMPACT REPORT 2019/2020



THE BOMB DISPOSAL CHARITY FOR THE  
ENTIRE EOD & SEARCH COMMUNITY

Since 2011

Registered Charity No. 1142494

# A Message from the Chairman

This past year has been another busy one for Felix Fund. Key to our strategy is to maintain and, where necessary, strengthen the bonds already established across the Defence EOD and search community. To that end, the board of trustees is happy to announce that it has been joined by two new representatives from the Royal Navy Clearance Diver community. Commander Al Nekrews QGM, Commanding Officer of the Royal Navy Fleet Diving Squadron and Mr David Hunkin OBE (former Royal Navy Clearance Diver) are central to nurturing our support to serving Clearance Divers and to those who have subsequently joined civilian life.

Our 'Dashboard' Mental Health Resilience program continues to go from strength to strength. Felix Fund currently runs 10 courses per year, enabling in excess of 100 individuals to benefit from instruction and guidance that provides tools and techniques to allow students to recognise signs of stress and other mental health related issues. The aim is for individuals to equip themselves with the ability to tackle potential negative signposts in the early stages ('prevention' rather than 'cure'). The program has been opened to veterans as well as serving personnel, bringing a new and positive dynamic to the training that has already helped many people. It is now standard practice to have a mixture of veterans and serving personnel on each course from across the EOD and Search diaspora. We are constantly asked about the possibility of establishing similar courses for dependents and this is certainly an area we will continue to investigate in the coming year.

The onset of Coronavirus has also identified a need to be innovative; to expand the scope of delivery of Dashboard beyond the residential. To ensure Felix Fund remains able to help, a video based course of instruction has been developed which aims to mitigate the restrictions caused by 'lockdown' but also has great potential post-COVID as a medium for reaching those who cannot readily attend residential courses (such as those on operational tours).

Felix Fund is constantly evolving, and 2019 is no exception. An ever-increasing tempo set against a challenging fundraising climate requires an ability to actively respond, deliver outputs and maintain hard one credibility. Accordingly, we were pleased to be joined by Hayley Paintin this year as our new Fundraising Assistant. She, along with our CEO, Melanie Moughton, has been working tirelessly to progress Felix Fund's level of assistance to the EOD and Search community, for which it is called upon to provide annually. Focused fundraising initiatives and widening the charity's reach through new avenues of communication are but two areas they have been working on.

The fundraising support Felix Fund continues to receive from the EOD and Search community (as well as those from elsewhere) is critical. It enables the charity to deliver on its objectives and to generate more help to those who need it each year. Throughout, Felix Fund will respond to charitable need in a customarily surgical and timely fashion, as it has done since inception.

2021 will see Felix Fund reach a milestone; it's 10th Anniversary. This is a fantastic achievement by any standard and is in no small part due to the solid involvement of the community at large in raising funds. Covid-19 notwithstanding, the team is planning a number of events and activities to mark the celebrations and we sincerely hope many of you will be able to join us.

Thank you as always for your continued support as we head into another busy and productive year for Felix Fund.



Col Karl Frankland  
Chairman Felix Fund

# Who we Are

Felix Fund the bomb disposal charity exists to provide help to any military from across all three services and SO15 (Metropolitan Police Counter Terror Unit) personnel who have conducted or assisted with Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) and Search duties.

The charity provides welfare support and financial assistance to serving personnel, veterans and their dependents.

Founded in 2011 Felix Fund operates across the UK.

## Our Work

### Mindfulness & Awareness

Felix Fund has been running its Dashboard programme since 2016 with excellent results. This course which delivers preventative stress training based on mindfulness provides serving military and veterans with the tools and techniques to recognise warning signs of stress and to be able to develop their ability to relax, clear their minds and focus on positive aspects of their life. This will then feedback into a more productive and positive work and home environment.

*"My life has honestly changed. I have no built-up anger and can communicate with my wife without arguments. I am far more considerate of others. It has made such a difference."*

*"This is the only course I have ever attended where I paid full attention throughout. No heavy eyelids in the afternoon for the only time in my life! Thank you for this, it has made the world of difference to me and my family."*

### Financial Support

The other aspect of Felix Fund's work is financial assistance to serving personnel, veterans and their dependents, when they find themselves in times of need. This help is wide ranging from hydrotherapy treatment for a former soldier suffering from PTSD and sleep deprivation, a specially adapted buggy for the disabled son of a serving soldier to enable him to start school and go out with his family, and sporting equipment for two former Sappers to allow them to train for and compete in the Invictus Games.

We have also helped with home adaptations for veterans, such as replacement windows, the installation of stairlifts and specialist furniture to ensure they are able to remain in their own homes.



# How we have Helped

Once again, the focus for Felix Fund has been the increasing issues of poor mental health amongst serving personnel and veterans. Our preventative stress training based on mindfulness has continued to evolve and again we ran several courses, very successfully for serving military and those no longer serving.

In 2019-20, 8 'Dashboard' courses were run with ten+ delegates on each course. Attendance ranged across the rank structure and as word has spread interest was gained across the wider EOD and Search community including the Royal Navy and SO15.

We opened the courses to veterans, having intended to run a veteran's only course, however, this did not happen, and we ran a mixed course which worked far better.

Ten courses are currently planned for 2020 which will run across the calendar year enabling a further 100 individuals to benefit.

Alongside the mindfulness programme Felix Fund has continued to provide financial assistance to serving military, veterans and their family members, when facing hardship.

Recent examples of help during this financial year has included:

Funding towards the purchase of a new SmartDrive wheelchair for a former Royal Engineer. After leaving the Army, he had a motorbike accident in 2017 which left him paraplegic. In order to give him a far better quality of life he needed a motorised adaption to his wheelchair. Clearly not a cheap undertaking so his family, with help from Felix Fund and other good causes were able to raise the £5,300 needed. With this motorised adaption, he has now found freedom and can travel some distance in his wheelchair, without struggle.

Covering the costs for specialist counselling for a former soldier with PTSD and anger management issues.

Purchasing a riser recliner chair for a former soldier to aid his comfort at home as he recovers from surgery.

Assistance for a soldier to fly home unexpectedly to attend his father's funeral after he had died very suddenly.

Help towards travel costs and parking fees for a young soldier's family visiting their young daughter who was in hospital for long periods.

Felix Fund prides itself on how quickly we can react to request for help and have even been able to turn a grant request around within 24 hours. For a small charity we have made a significant difference to the community we serve.

# FELIX FUND

THE BOMB DISPOSAL CHARITY

## Our Year in Numbers

**3,893**

Facebook likes



**1,744**

Twitter followers



**916**

Instagram followers



**10,985**

Visits to our website



Number of Dashboard courses



**3,000**

**£25,184**

Given out in grants to individuals



Copies of the newsletter sent out

**100**



Number of Dashboard attendees



# Our Journey

**APRIL 2011**

**CHARITY  
WAS  
FOUNDED**



**SEPTEMBER 2011**

**OFFICIAL LAUNCH AT  
THE HOUSE OF LORDS**

**JANUARY 2012**

**FELIX ONLINE SHOP  
GOES LIVE**

**APRIL 2012**

**THE BALTIC EXCHANGE  
DINNER IS HELD TO  
COMMEMORATE THE  
20TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE BISHOPSGATE  
BOMBING**

**2012**

**£175K IS DISTRIBUTED  
TO HELP THE EOD &  
SEARCH COMMUNITY**

**OCTOBER 2013**

**FELIX FUND IS INVITED  
TO DOWNING STREET  
TO MEET THE PRIME  
MINISTER**

**OCTOBER 2013**

**£85K IS RECEIVED  
FROM LIBOR FUNDS**

**NOVEMBER 2013**

**£1M HAS BEEN RAISED  
TO SUPPORT THE  
WORK OF FELIX FUND**

**2013**

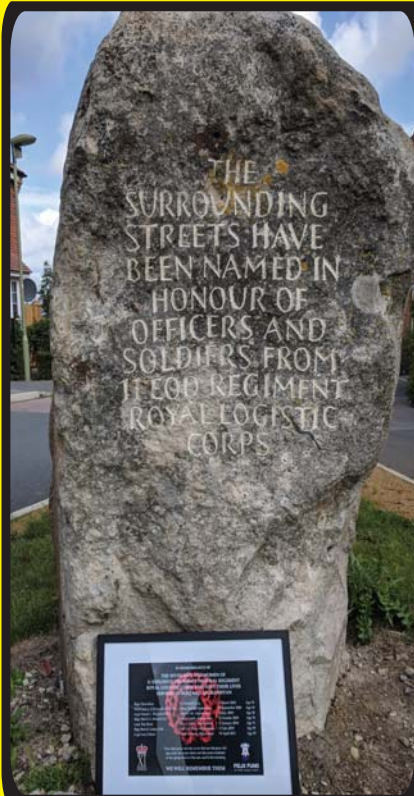
**£197K DISTRIBUTED  
THIS YEAR TO HELP  
THE EOD & SEARCH  
COMMUNITY**

**2014**

**£250K DISTRIBUTED  
THIS YEAR TO HELP  
THE EOD & SEARCH  
COMMUNITY**

**MAY 2014**

MEMORIAL STONE AND ROAD NAMES ARE UNVEILED AT GREAT WESTERN PARK, DIDCOT IN MEMORY OF 11 EOD&S REGT RLC PERSONNEL KILLED IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN



**JUNE 2015**

FELIX FUND BECOMES A MEMBER OF COBSEO

**SEPTEMBER 2015**

1ST FELIX FESTIVAL IS HELD



**DECEMBER 2015**

SO15 50TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER IS HELD AT THE IN & OUT CLUB, LONDON

**APRIL 2016**

INAUGURAL BRITISH AND AMERICAN EOD CHARITIES GALA DINNER IS HELD AT GIBSON HALL, LONDON

**JUNE 2016**

A NEW EOD MEMORIAL IS UNVEILED AT THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM



**JUNE 2016**

MARK LANCASTER (THEN MP AND MINISTER FOR ARMED FORCES) BECOMES PATRON OF FELIX FUND



**OCTOBER 2016**

FELIX FUND AND 11 EOD&S REGT RLC HELP THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION LAUNCH THE POPPY APPEAL FOR OXFORDSHIRE

**JUNE 2017**

FIRST TOUR DE TROOPS CYCLE RIDE TAKES PLACE COVERING 1,500 MILES VIA MANY OF THE SQUADRONS IN 11 EOD & S REGT RLC



**JULY 2017**

**INJURED SOLDIERS  
FUND MERGES WITH  
FELIX FUND**

**SEPTEMBER 2017**

**2ND FELIX FESTIVAL  
IS HELD**

**OCTOBER 2017**

**FELIX FUND BECOMES  
A PARTNER OF THE  
VETERANS GATEWAY**

**JUNE 2018**

**£1M HAS BEEN GIVEN  
OUT IN HELP SINCE  
2011**

**SEPTEMBER 2018**

**SECOND BRITISH AND  
AMERICAN EOD  
CHARITIES GALA  
DINNER IS HELD NEAR  
WASHINGTON DC**

**SEPTEMBER 2018**

**THE HOLLY DAVIES  
MEMORIAL FUND IS  
ANNOUNCED TO  
HELP THE CHILDREN  
OF THOSE KILLED IN  
ACTION**

**DECEMBER 2018**

**FELIX FUND IS  
NOMINATED FOR A  
MILLIE AWARD**

**FEBRUARY 2019**

**FELIX FUND'S NEW  
PROMOTIONAL VIDEOS  
ARE LAUNCHED**

**SEPTEMBER 2019**

**3RD FELIX FESTIVAL  
IS HELD**



**OCTOBER 2019**

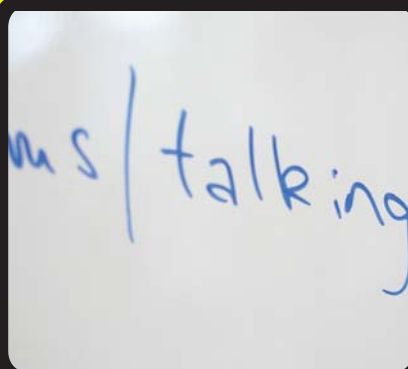
**A GROUP OF FIVE  
SWIMMERS TAKE PART  
IN A RELAY SWIM  
ACROSS THE CHANNEL**

**2019**

**OVER 500 PEOPLE  
HAVE NOW ATTENDED  
THE FELIX FUND  
DASHBOARD  
COURSES**

**DECEMBER 2019**

**The Felix 5ive set off  
across the Atlantic in  
the Talisker Whisky  
Atlantic Challenge 2019**





# Our Strategic Plan

In 2019/20 Felix Fund's objectives were:

TO INCREASE AWARENESS  
OF THE WORK OF THE  
CHARITY WITHIN THE  
WIDER EOD AND SEARCH  
COMMUNITIES

TO INCREASE SUPPORT  
FROM THE GENERAL  
PUBLIC NATIONALLY

TO CONTINUE TO EXPAND  
OUR DASHBOARD  
PROGRAMME

TO MAINTAIN AND  
INCREASE SUPPORT FROM  
ACROSS ALL INCOME  
STREAMS

TO EXPAND THE NUMBER  
OF INDIVIDUALS WE HELP  
ANNUALLY

TO DEVELOP A  
COMMUNICATIONS  
STRATEGY

We achieved these objectives through:

PROVIDING TRUSTEES AND  
STAFF WITH APPROPRIATE  
FUNDRAISING TRAINING

ALL TRUSTEES AGREE TO  
SUPPORT MAJOR EVENTS

TRUSTEES TO IDENTIFY  
POTENTIAL SUPPORTERS  
THROUGH THEIR  
PERSONAL AND  
PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS

RECRUITMENT OF A  
FUNDRAISING ASSISTANT



GROWTH AND  
DEVELOPMENT OF THE  
WEBSITE AND SOCIAL  
MEDIA ACTIVITY AS WELL  
AS WIDER DISTRIBUTION  
OF THE E-NEWSLETTER

## Thank You

Felix Fund can only continue to help this unique group of men and women through regular support and donations from you all.

Your support is invaluable – thank you