

FELIX FUND NEWS – SUMMER 2017

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.

MARATHON DES SABLES

A fantastic effort by Capt James Wadsworth “Waddie” in smashing the Marathon des Sables recently.

He finished in the top quarter out of over 1500 competitors and raised £2,836 for Felix Fund.



TOUR DE TROOPS

Help them peddle for £'s by donating at
<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Tourdestroops>

FELIX FESTIVAL II

Following the success of the Felix Festival back in 2015 it is making a comeback for 2017, with all proceeds once again going to Felix Fund.

Live bands and a DJ set, on-site bar and catering and free parking and camping. This will be a great night out.

Saturday 16 September
Brickledons Farm
Clappers Farm Road
Silchester RG7 2LG



Tickets are £25 each and can be ordered at
www.felixfestival.co.uk

TOUR DE TROOPS

Twenty members from 11 EOD Regt RLC are taking on a truly epic challenge that has never been attempted before. Together they aim to cycle 1,500 miles (2,414km) from 11 to 26 June 2017, all in the name of the Felix Fund.

The amazing team comprises athletes who are cycling the entire 15-day route –and, for certain stages of the trip, some guest appearances. The ambitious European odyssey, which aims to complete 100 miles a day, starts in Edinburgh, Scotland and travels through the UK, stopping at Catterick, Chester, Nottingham, Ashchurch, Tidworth, Aldershot, Northolt, Colchester, Shorncliffe, before heading over to France and culminating in Bielefeld in north-west Germany.

Riders include Clive Smith, an ex-Sapper who will be using a hand-bike. Clive lost both legs in an IED explosion in Afghanistan. Last year, with support from Felix Fund he travelled to Australia for pioneering surgery to enable him to walk with prosthetics.

The tour will pass through all Troops where security clearance has been given (unfortunately Northern Ireland is therefore not possible).



This challenge would not have been possible without the support provided by Kirintec, who are underwriting all costs. It is also rumoured that one of their directors may be cycling a leg or two!

EXERCISE TRICKSTERS DRIFT



Ex Trickster Drift 17 was an Adventure Training Exercise run by 25 MI (Exp) Coy to Pas de la Casa, Andorra earlier this year. The company is multi-cap badge made up of AGC (RMP), Intelligence Corps and RLC ATs and each of these cap badges were represented on the exercise.

Report below by LCpl Swetnam RLC (AT)

This was my first-time skiing so to say I was nervous would have been an understatement, but this quickly passed because of the instructor we had. He took his time in making sure everyone grasped and understood the basics of skiing. This helped me out massively as I was struggling.

Most of the basic skills were practiced on the beginner's slope which was good considering some of the crashes a few of us had. One of the hardest things for me to learn was the parallel turns but the snow plough stop helped on many occasions.

Things got interesting when we moved on to the blue slopes, trying to stay in one spot was proving quite hard for some people, ending up with some spectacular falls and crashes into other members of the group.

One thing I noticed was that, it was a lot easier to ski when there was fresh snow on the slopes. A massive 3 feet fell on the second to last night, so we got to experience and enjoy it on the last day. This made our free day of skiing much more enjoyable and the best way to celebrate passing and achieving our SF1 certificate.

Most of my group advanced onto some of the more challenging blue slopes and even some attempted red slopes. But for myself I stayed on the easier blue slopes just to gain more confidence in my skiing ability.

I would highly recommend this to anyone, if you have not already done so, give skiing a go. Even if you are unable to pick things up quickly and struggle, with perseverance you will have a great laugh and experience.

I must thank the Felix Fund, who kindly provided us with funding towards our Adventure Training exercise.



Felix gets a day out with the Bristol Banshees

BRISTOL BANSHEES

The Bristol Banshees Bike Club organised a fantastic charity day in aid of Felix Fund at the end of April.

With craft stalls, a beer tent, refreshments and live music it was a great day and raised £800 for the charity.

A big thank you to Jayne, Kim and everyone else involved in putting this event together and to those from 721 EOD Sqn who gave up their Saturday to come along.

EXERCISE FELIX FLOUNDER



On a cold and damp Monday morning, a group left for Birmingham Airport to travel to Cyprus. The first morning, we set off to the sub-aqua branch where we took over our stores. Jack, Colin and Ben had received the theory lectures required for diving prior to deployment and now had to put it into practice. Before long all had successfully put kit together and were on the way to the water for their first dive into the Mediterranean. After a short first familiarisation dive it was straight into Ocean Diver lessons. All three took to diving like a “fish to water” and within no time were successfully passing the mandatory safety skills. By the Thursday they were ready to start exploring some of the local shore dives whilst finishing off their Ocean diver qualification. A short trip over to Cow’s Cave for a dive to 15m allowed them to fully qualify. Following this they were lead through a cave system at Tunnels & Caves dive site. By Saturday they were ready for boat diving; which then allowed us to explore further afield. We dived on the ship wreck Zenobia, which lies in Larnaca Bay. The Zenobia is on its side with the highest point being at 20m, allowing our new qualified divers to explore the top part. The rest of the ship drops down to 40m, which provides ample opportunity for the instructors to have some excellent dives. By the end of the trip Colin and Ben has completed the next diver grade and returned home as qualified Sports Divers. Any excellent trip all round allowing soldiers to learn new skills and be tested in a different environment.



A FOND FAREWELL AND A WARM WELCOME

It is with sadness that we say farewell to Tony Kelly, who has stepped down as trustee of Felix Fund. Tony was one of the founders of the charity and has been a massive support over the years.

Work and life commitments in the USA have prevented him from being as involved as he would like in recent times. Hopefully, he will become our ambassador across the water. A big thank you Tony for all you have done.

On another note we must welcome Lucinda Fitchett who has joined the charity as Fundraising Assistant. She will be working two days a week; Monday and Tuesday so please contact her on lucinda@felixfund.org.uk regarding any shop orders, administrative requests etc.

DEMS IRON MAN CHALLENGE

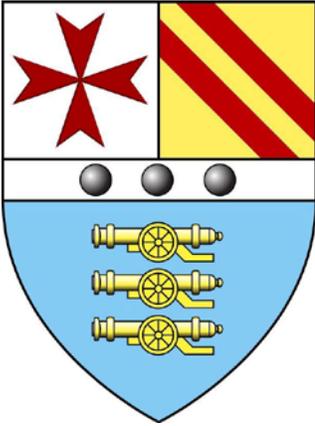


The people of Bicester had a different view on Sheep Street recently. The DEMS Trg Regt Iron Man team were in town to raise funds for Felix Fund. Seven members of the twelve-strong team took turns to work through the Army A1 fitness app raising nearly £500.

They continue fundraising and should you wish to support them visit:
<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/teamdems>.

FELIX FUND AND THE INJURED SOLDIERS FUND

We are very pleased to announce that the RE Injured Soldiers Fund has now formally merged with Felix Fund. This forges even closer links with the RE bomb disposal community and allows us to have representation from 101 (City of London) Engineer Regiment EOD and 33 Engineer Regiment EOD on the board of trustees.



KINETON 75

Kineton Station is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year and to mark the occasion they are holding a series of events.

In the run up to a grand open day at Marlborough Barracks, troops and staff are undertaking a 75 mile walk over a number of weeks. The walk has been broken down into a series of legs stopping at key points.

Saturday 22nd July will be the big open day. All proceeds from this day and anything collected on the walk are coming to Felix Fund. For more information see their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/KinetonStation/>

ART EXHIBITION & AUCTION

A unique exhibition of military related artwork raising funds for bomb disposal heroes.

Felix Fund is holding its first art exhibition and auction at the Cornerstone, Didcot.

All artwork has been produced by serving military or those with links to the bomb disposal community and will go on display from 5th Sept until the 8th October 2017.

An auction of everything on display will be taking place on 3 October 2017 with all proceeds going to Felix Fund.

Do you have any suitable artwork you would like to donate? Please contact Melanie Moughton at melanie@felixfund.org.uk.

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 April, May and June:

- Capt Barry S Gritten who die
- WO2 Michael O'Neill who died on 31 May 1981 in Northern Ireland
- Spr Jordan Rossi who died on 23 May 2009 in Afghanistan
- Cpl Jamie Kirkpatrick who died on 27 June 2010 in Afghanistan
- Capt Lisa Head who died on 19 April 2011 in Afghanistan

Gone but never forgotten.