

MEMBERS'

NEWS LETTER



LADY
GROVER'S
FUND

SPRING/SUMMER 2023

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Welcome to your spring LGF newsletter and I'm pleased to share updates on the progress that's been made since we last spoke in November.

I must first start with the sad news that Colonel Mike Vickery OBE, who was our Secretary and Chief Executive until 2020, died suddenly aged 75 in December last year. I know many of you will have known Mike, both from his Service in the Army, but also from his time as our Chief Executive. Lee Holloway and I represented Lady Grover's Fund at his funeral in Tidworth and were very moved to hear his family mention the Fund, and how his support to you was consistent with the compassion Mike showed in everything he did. His widow Susie remains a member of the Fund. You can read a fitting tribute to Mike on our website: ladygrover.org.uk/tribute-to-colonel-michael-vickery-obe.

In the rest of the newsletter, you'll find out about the work that we're doing to further improve our communications and, most importantly to attract new members. Underpinning these initiatives is our relationship with the Officers' Association, who provide our support. I am pleased that we now have an agreement in place, formalising our longstanding relationship and allowing us to budget more accurately for important activity such as marketing and the much-needed improvements to our IT systems. On your behalf, I would like to thank the OA team for their support and enthusiasm, but particularly the Grants and Welfare team who deal with your queries and grant applications.

I would like to thank all of those who responded to our ideas to recruit new members, in my last newsletter. I have engaged with our Patron, Bridget Getley, the great granddaughter of Lady Grover, who in a very charming way, set us the demanding target to increase membership from the current 2400 to 4000! We will be voting on the shortlisted ideas at the AGM, the most significant of which, is allowing members (under 65 yrs.) to become beneficiaries themselves. Currently, serving and former Officers can join the Fund to ensure that their family and dependants have access to financial support in the case of unexpected illness and injuries. If the vote is passed, we will be able to extend this support and welcome current and future members to take out that cover for themselves, as individuals, as well as their family, if they have one. We hope that this change will help to meet the growing demand and attract new members who don't necessarily have dependants or a family to support.

Finally, don't miss the news about the partnerships that we're setting up to provide more benefits to you, our members, as well as other initiatives for growing our membership base. As always, please continue to send through your thoughts and suggestions. We read all the emails we receive and love to hear from all our members old and new. Email me at chairman.ladygrover@gmail.com.



Jon Brittain
Chairman,
Lady Grover's Fund

CEO FOREWORD

A very warm hello to all our LGF members – new, old and prospective. As we enter the early summer months, almost a year has passed since I took on my new role at LGF and it feels like we're gaining pace and momentum in this exciting new chapter for our Friendly Society - owned by you, our members. You'll see from everything covered in this newsletter, that we've had a very busy and productive few months, focusing on you as members, on attracting new members and developing new partnerships to benefit us all. We are working on communicating better and plans are underway to enhance the service that LGF offers to you. I would like to highlight one aspect of membership which I realise is a sensitive one: when a spouse has sadly lost their partner who was a member, they are eligible to become a member themselves. Our team is here to help and will be in touch on these occasions, and when ready, can help walk you through the process to membership.

With the NHS and care system currently so stretched with aftercare provisions, the LGF is here to support you quickly when you need it most. As always, I look forward to hearing your thoughts and comments – I read every email that comes through to me – and it's so useful to find out about your experience of being a member of the Fund, as well as ideas and feedback of how we can improve



Representing LGF at the DAFFYs High Tea event at the Armed Forces Chaplaincy Centre, Shrivenham. (L-R) Kirsty Turnbull, LGF Operations Manager, Lee Holloway, LGF CEO, and Karen Smith, LGF Volunteer at the Defence Academy.

our offering. This is your society and we want to make it the best that it can be on behalf of all our members. Please do continue to spread the word of the Fund to friends and family. Word of mouth is still our number one tool for attracting and recruiting new members.

We hope you enjoy reading all the latest news from LGF and look forward to hearing from you: ceo@ladygrover.org.uk.



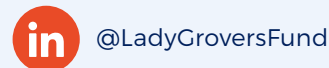
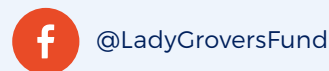
AGM NOTICE: WEDNESDAY 07 JUNE, 2PM

The AGM will be held at 1400 on Wednesday 7 June 2022. Following good attendance at meetings, the AGM will continue to be online using Zoom. Members wishing to attend are asked to contact secretary@ladygrover.org.uk. We will then forward meeting papers and joining instructions. The Committee is keen to appoint new members onto the committee and would be delighted to hear from interested members. Please get in touch with the Chairman, Jon Brittain at chairman.ladygrover@gmail.com.

Following positive feedback from our last newsletter on opening grants to our members who are 65 and under, with additional aged-related subscription payment, we are proposing this change with effect from 1 January 2024. We also propose to align the membership age limit for widows and divorcees to 65 and under.

LET'S GET SOCIAL

We've had a very busy few months on social media, setting up a brand new account on Instagram and You Tube, getting existing pages on Facebook and LinkedIn back up and running and replacing our old, inaccessible Twitter account with a new page. We're posting regular updates and news about the Fund and other interesting and relevant topics. So, if you haven't already, please do follow us on any or all of the channels on the right and help us to grow our follower base and spread the word about our unique and very special Friendly Society. Don't forget to include the Lady Grover handle in any posts or reviews about the Fund, as well as our hashtag **#LadyGroverFund** and we'll be sure to repost them.



NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH TRINITY INSURANCE



We're excited to announce a new partnership with Trinity Insurance, the specialist insurer to military personnel and their families and the wider armed forces community, including serving, reservists and veterans.

As a member of LGF, you'll be able to access discounted rates on specialist Life Insurance products, Travel Insurance, and free optical and dental cover when switching your private medical insurance to Trinity. We're creating a brand new members' area on the LGF website 'Your LGF', which will allow you to login and see all the details of these offers and how to apply. Keep an eye on LGF socials where we'll be announcing the new members' area once it's set live in the next few weeks. Watch this space for more partnership announcements coming soon - we're in talks with a number of organisations and in the process of setting up exclusive discounts and rates for you to benefit from as a member of LGF. Details will also be announced on social media, in forthcoming Members' newsletters and added to the Members' section of the website.

Find out more about the Trinity partnership and how you can benefit here: ladygrover.org.uk/trinity-the-insurance-partner-of-the-lady-grover-fund



FEATURE IN THE FORCE'S PENSION SOCIETY'S PENNANT MAGAZINE

Look out for May's edition of the Pennant Magazine, which includes a fascinating article about the life of Lady Grover, the story of her establishing the Fund in 1911 and how it's evolved into the Friendly Society that we know today.

You can find out more and read the article here: ladygrover.org.uk/pennant-magazine-lgf-article-spring-2023

THANK-YOUS FROM OUR MEMBERS

We wanted to share some of the wonderful thank you notes that we receive from LGF members who've benefitted from the help that the Fund provides in times of need. You can read some of these thank-yous on the website and look out for details of how you can review the Fund and share your experiences through the new review site that we'll be introducing in the coming weeks.

Find out more here: [ladygrover.org.uk/how-we-have-helped](https://www.ladygrover.org.uk/how-we-have-helped)

A huge thank you to the LGF team for dealing with our claim so quickly and with no fuss whatsoever. It really is a pleasure being a part of the LGF family.

Mr & Mrs J

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Established in 1911, the LGF has a rich tapestry of history stretching over a hundred and twelve years and counting! We want to uncover and share some of the fascinating stories from the past that have made LGF what it is today. So, we have created a new home on the website where we'll be adding stories and images from the archives and highlighting them on social media and through the newsletter. The first is a fascinating British Medical Journal article from 1913, just two years after the Fund was established. It outlines how the Fund has helped Officers' families since its inception and how it is continuing to improve its offering to meet the need of its members.

Find out more here: [ladygrover.org.uk/british-medical-journal-1913](https://www.ladygrover.org.uk/british-medical-journal-1913)



SIGNIFICANT RISE IN HEALTH INSURANCE UPTAKE

The latest British Social Attitudes survey (BSA) shows public satisfaction with the NHS is at an all-time low. Key factors contributing to dissatisfaction amongst the UK public are the waiting times for GP and hospital appointments, a lack of staff and a perception that the government does not spend enough on the NHS. Other factors include concerns over the quality of care being received, some services or treatments not being available and the attitudes and behaviour of staff. The result is the percentage of UK adults paying for private health insurance, which has been around 12% since 2019, has almost doubled to 22% (to December 2022). A further 16% of UK adults are considering taking out cover over the next 12 months with 80% planning to do so because of concerns around the impact of NHS waiting lists on access to treatment, especially diagnostic treatment. We are proud that LGF is helping in some way to alleviate the pressures and bridging the gap between the NHS and private health care treatments by providing financial grants towards the cost of home care, private hospital accommodation and support during periods of convalescence. If you know any serving, former or retired officers who may be interested in joining the Fund, please help to spread the word of the benefits, which couldn't be more necessary at such a challenging time for our health care system.

Lady Grover's Fund

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