

PATRON'S MESSAGE

This has been another wonderful and rewarding year as Patron of Veterans Aid. I have greatly enjoyed getting to know many more of the incredible staff at both the Victoria HQ and New Belvedere House and I have the deepest respect for them all.

This past year we organised a performance of Benjamin Britten's War Requiem to commemorate the Centenary of the outbreak of the First World War on Remembrance Sunday, 9th November 2014, at the Royal Albert Hall. The War Requiem is one of the finest choral and orchestral works of the 20th Century and interweaves the poetry of Wilfred Owen, with the words of the traditional Latin Requiem Mass, to create a deeply moving and powerful work. We were honoured to have Bryn Terfel as one of the soloists performing, along with the Royal Choral Society and London Philharmonic Orchestra. The concert was a huge success and we were thrilled to have received 5-star reviews in the national press.

Most importantly it raised the profile of Veterans Aid and all proceeds from the concert went to the charity.

But we could not have done it on our own. I would especially like to thank Major General David McDowall, Lieutenant Governor of the Royal Hospital Chelsea, Colonel Simon Bate, Adjutant and the Trustees, who so kindly allowed us to host a magnificent dinner - prepared by The Royal Gurkha Rifles - in their beautiful State Apartments. The evening was given to thank our generous sponsors and it also raised further support for the concert.

Finally, the year has not been without sadness. The passing of Ian Douglas, Royal Signals and Veterans Aid, was a profound loss at NBH. I was deeply moved at his funeral, where we said goodbye to Ian with such dignity and love. The care that he received from everyone at NBH, but especially Pat O'Conner, was exceptional and I feel so privileged to be Patron of a veterans charity that is not only a leader in its field, but one whose warmth, dedication and commitment to the people it serves is so unique.

My heartfelt thanks to you all for your continued support, which is so very much appreciated.



The Dowager Viscountess Rothermere
Patron, Veterans Aid



THE LADY  FOUNDATION