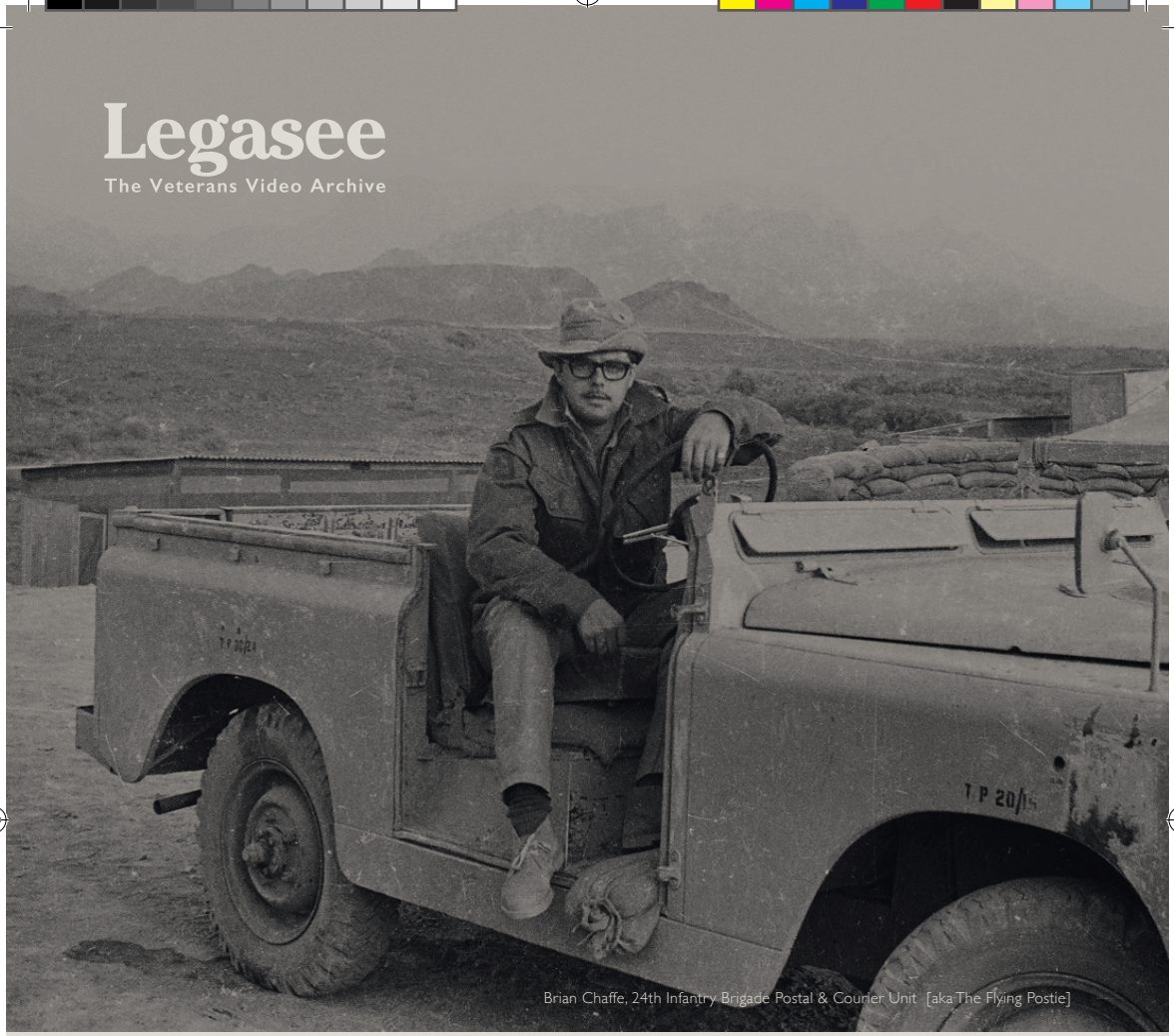
Legasee

The Veterans Video Archive



Brian Chaffe, 24th Infantry Brigade Postal & Courier Unit [aka The Flying Postie]

LEGASEE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT

2025-2026

Registered charity number:
1145354 (ENG & WAL)
SC047748 (SCT)

www.legasee.org.uk

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LEGACY /'lɛgəsi/

NOUN

1.

The long-lasting impact of particular events, actions, etc. that took place in the past, or of a person's life.

2.

An amount of money or property left to someone in a will.

Oxford Languages Dictionary

It costs money to preserve and maintain the Legasee archive — let alone to film and add new veteran interviews.

If you value the work we do, please consider leaving just 1% of your estate to Legasee when you update your will. Your gift will help ensure that future generations can learn from the experiences and sacrifices of the British Armed Forces.

Legacy gifts are generally exempt from inheritance tax, making them a tax-efficient way to support our work.

To find out more about remembering Legasee in your will, please call **+44 (0)20 3051 8218**.

Thank you.

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OUR MISSION

Legasee Educational Trust works with British veterans to preserve their stories and deepen public understanding of military life, conflict, and service.

We film in-depth interviews with veterans, capturing their personal reflections and lived experiences. These recordings are made freely available for future generations and form the foundation of educational and community projects that engage and inform.

We are committed to using our resources responsibly, working professionally and respectfully with every veteran we meet, and ensuring transparency in everything we do.

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FROM THE CHAIR
OF TRUSTEES

Made possible with Heritage Fund



2025/26 has been another important year for Legasee. Looking back over the past twelve months, I am struck not only by what we have achieved, but by how far the charity has come. We have continued to preserve the stories of British military veterans while laying the foundations for what I believe will become the next chapter in Legasee's development.

The successful completion of our National Lottery Heritage Fund-supported Journey to the Frontline: Trailblazing Women of the British Army project demonstrated the value of combining oral history with education. The permanent accession of the collection into the Adjutant General's Corps Museum, the educational resources developed for schools and the lasting partnerships formed throughout the project have reinforced our belief that these stories have an important role to play beyond the archive itself.

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Perhaps most importantly, this has been a year in which collaboration has become central to everything we do. We have worked more closely than ever with museums, schools, veterans' organisations, volunteers and educational partners, recognising that by combining our expertise and resources we can achieve far greater impact than any one organisation could alone.

Building on that success, we were delighted to receive support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund for our next major undertaking, The Aden Emergency: Shedding a Light on a Forgotten War. This ambitious two-year project will preserve the experiences of veterans whose service has too often been overlooked, ensuring that an important chapter of Britain's post-war military history is recorded before those memories are lost.

This year has also seen significant progress towards a new educational initiative that has the potential to transform how young people engage with history. Thanks to funding from the John Andrews Charitable Trust, we have begun developing Local Heroes—an innovative programme that will enable schools and community organisations to create their own oral history archives while developing confidence, communication skills and stronger connections with the communities around them.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of our volunteers, supporters and partners. Their enthusiasm, expertise and generosity continue to strengthen every aspect of the charity's work. On behalf of the Trustees, I would also like to thank the veterans who have placed their trust in Legasee by sharing their memories. Their willingness to tell their stories remains the heart of everything we do.

> "I am struck not only by what we have achieved, but by how far the charity has come.

As we look ahead, our focus remains clear: to preserve remarkable stories, inspire future generations and build a sustainable organisation that ensures these voices continue to educate, challenge and inspire for many years to come.



Darren Richards
Chair

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WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE



GIVE A VOICE TO BRITAIN'S FORGOTTEN VETERANS

Launch our National Lottery Heritage Fund project, The Aden Emergency: Shedding a Light on a Forgotten War, preserving the stories of those who served in one of Britain's least understood post-war conflicts.

INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION

Develop the Local Heroes website and educational resources, helping young people record and preserve the stories of inspirational people in their own communities.

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GROW OUR SUPPORT

Strengthen fundraising and partnerships to broaden our reach and help secure the charity's future.

BUILD A STRONGER LEGASEE

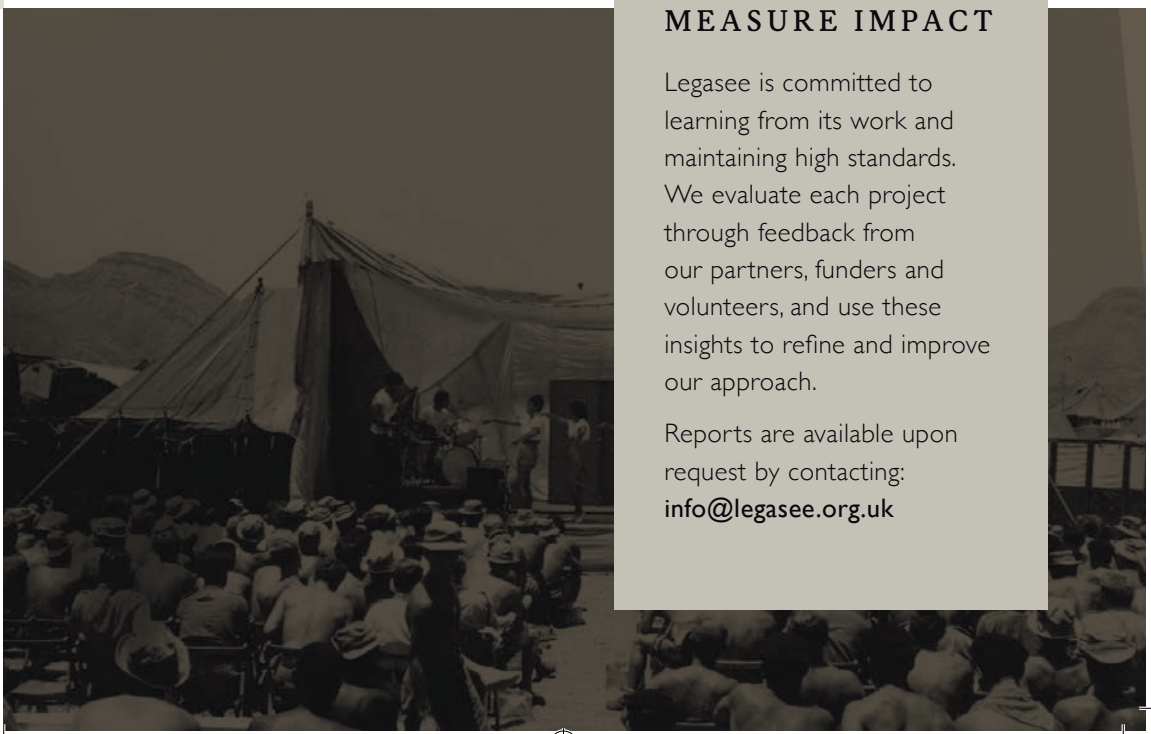
Continue investing in our governance, volunteers and digital infrastructure to ensure the charity remains resilient and sustainable.



HOW WE MEASURE IMPACT

Legasee is committed to learning from its work and maintaining high standards. We evaluate each project through feedback from our partners, funders and volunteers, and use these insights to refine and improve our approach.

Reports are available upon request by contacting: **info@legasee.org.uk**



JOURNEY TO THE FRONTLINE

TRAILBLAZING WOMEN OF THE BRITISH ARMY

BRINGING AN EXTRAORDINARY PROJECT TO A CLOSE



The National Lottery Heritage Fund-funded Journey to the Frontline project concluded in August 2025, marking the successful completion of one of Legasee's most ambitious oral history programmes.

Over eighteen months we recorded the life stories of 30 former members of the Women's Royal Army Corps, preserving more than 75 hours of testimony spanning four decades of military service. Their experiences are now freely available through the Legasee archive, ensuring these important stories are preserved for future generations.

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The project grew into far more than an oral history programme. Working alongside volunteers, museums, schools and veterans' organisations, we produced exhibitions, educational resources, podcasts and digital content that reached thousands of people while helping to raise awareness of the vital contribution women have made to the British Army.

> “ Stories get lost and become memories of memories. It is a privilege to share my experiences and hope it helps people to understand those years in the WRAC.
>
> WRAC Veteran

One of the final milestones was the formal handover of the complete interview collection to the Adjutant General's Corps Museum in Winchester. The recordings now form part of the Museum's permanent research collection, ensuring they will continue to support exhibitions, education and research for many years to come.

The project also made a contribution to academic research through volunteer Joan Turner, whose paper, based on themes emerging from the interviews, was submitted to the British Journal of Military History.

Most importantly, the project has left a lasting legacy. The partnerships, educational approaches and volunteer expertise developed during Journey to the Frontline have directly influenced both Local Heroes and our new National Lottery Heritage Fund project exploring the Aden Emergency.

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PROJECT BY NUMBERS

30
Veterans interviewed

3,500+
Volunteer hours

75+
Hours of testimony

4
Exhibition venues

100+
Volunteers involved

1
Journal article submitted

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> “ The interviews will be used in permanent and temporary exhibitions and be an active source of research for Museum staff and volunteers.
>
> Bianca Taubert
> *Curator, Adjutant General's Corps Museum*







LEGACY

This project has left far more than a collection of interviews. It has created resources, partnerships and knowledge that will continue to benefit veterans, museums, researchers and young people for many years to come.

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SHEDDING A LIGHT ON A FORGOTTEN WAR

THE ADEN EMERGENCY

GIVING A VOICE TO BRITAIN'S FORGOTTEN VETERANS



In late 2025, Legasee was awarded funding by The National Lottery Heritage Fund for one of the most ambitious projects in the charity's history.

The Aden Emergency: Shedding a Light on a Forgotten War will preserve the memories of those who served during Britain's final military campaign in South Arabia between 1963 and 1967—a conflict that has received little public recognition despite its significance in Britain's post-war history.

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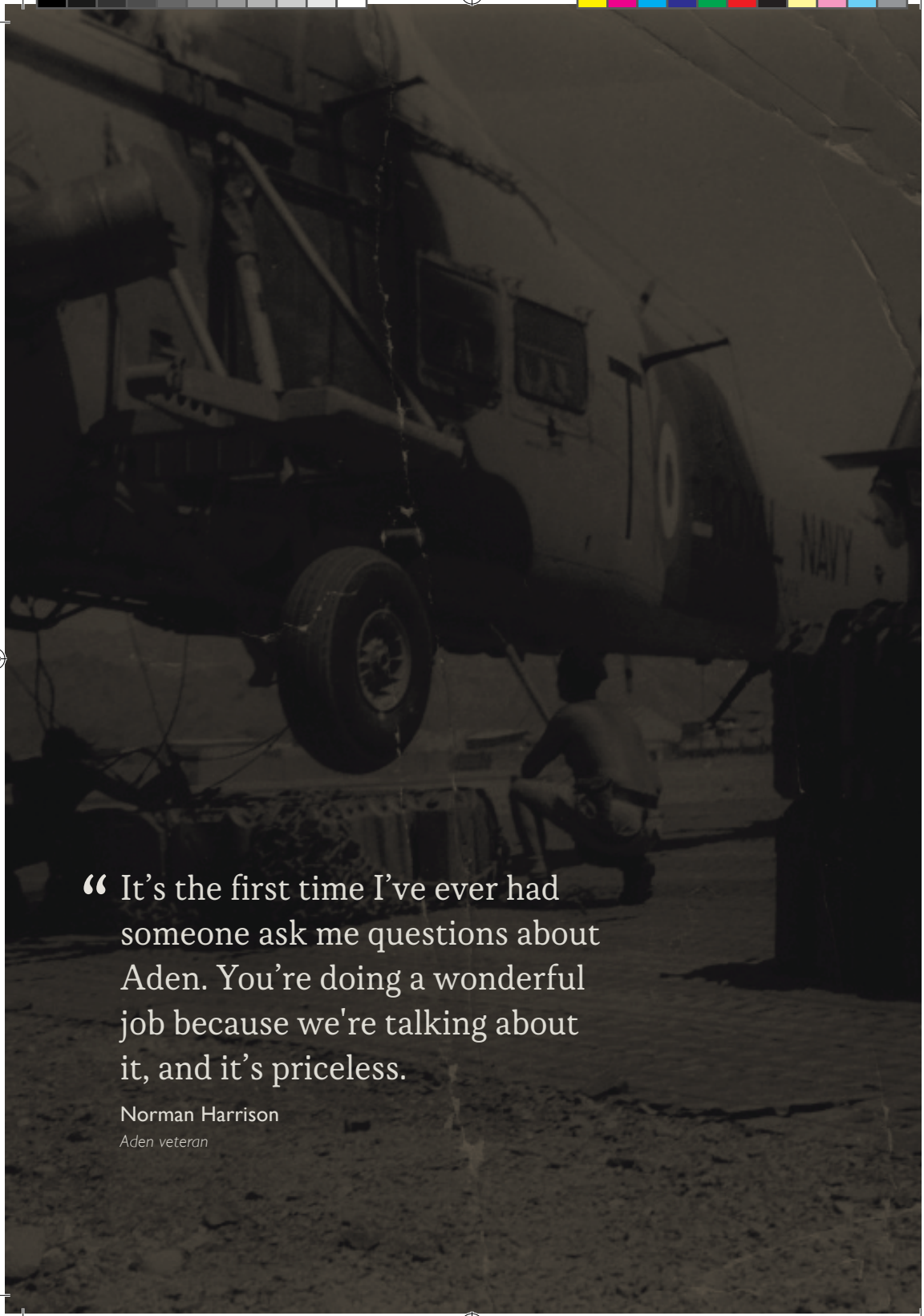


As the generation who served continues to diminish, there is an increasing urgency to record these first-hand accounts before they are lost forever. Working in partnership with the Aden Veterans Association, Imperial War Museums, Blackpool Council, Blackpool & The Fylde College and a growing network of schools and community organisations, Legasee will record up to 40 filmed oral history interviews representing all three services, together with the experiences of civilians whose lives were shaped by the conflict.

The project builds on the experience gained through our award-winning WRAC programme, combining oral history with education, volunteering and community engagement.

Alongside the interviews themselves, the project will create podcasts, educational resources, exhibitions, public events and a permanent digital archive that will ensure these stories remain accessible long into the future.

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“ It’s the first time I’ve ever had someone ask me questions about Aden. You’re doing a wonderful job because we're talking about it, and it’s priceless.

Norman Harrison
Aden veteran

Although filming is only just beginning, considerable work has already taken place behind the scenes. Partnerships have been established, volunteers recruited, veterans identified and project planning completed, providing strong foundations for the next two years. Like every Legasee project, the focus is not simply on military operations, but on people.

Each interview captures the humour, friendships, challenges and deeply personal experiences that rarely appear in official histories, ensuring that future generations can better understand both the conflict and those who lived through it.





LEGACY

- The UK's largest oral history archive of the Aden Emergency.
- Educational resources for schools and colleges.
- A permanent digital archive freely accessible to researchers and the public.
- Exhibitions, podcasts and community events sharing these forgotten stories.
- New opportunities for volunteers and young people to engage with military history.

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LOCAL HEROES

HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE PRESERVE THE STORIES THAT MATTER

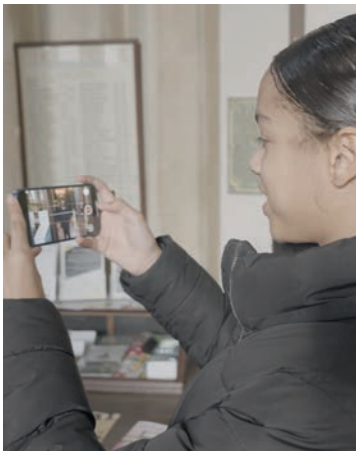


For more than a decade, Legasee has shown young people the power of listening.

Whenever students interview a veteran, something remarkable happens. They learn to ask thoughtful questions, listen with empathy, communicate with confidence and discover that history is not simply something found in textbooks—it lives within the people around them. Those experiences inspired a simple but important question. Why should these opportunities be limited to military history? From that question, Local Heroes was born.

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Local Heroes is an ambitious new educational programme that enables young people to identify, interview and preserve the stories of inspirational people within their own communities. These might be veterans, carers, volunteers, teachers, emergency service personnel, charity workers or neighbours whose lives have quietly made a difference to others.

> “ History is not only made by famous people; the little people count too.
>
> WRAC Veteran

In doing so, students are not simply learning about history—they are learning how to communicate, collaborate, research, think critically and take responsibility for preserving their own community's heritage.

MORE THAN AN INTERVIEW

Local Heroes combines oral history with practical filmmaking, digital literacy, teamwork and communication.

Participants learn how to research an interview, prepare thoughtful questions, use professional filming equipment, work ethically with contributors and publish their work within a secure online archive.

Every participating school or organisation builds its own growing collection of interviews, creating a permanent archive that can continue to develop for generations.

Rather than producing a one-off project, Local Heroes creates a lasting resource owned by the community itself.

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BY THE NUMBERS

30

Years of Legasee experience informing the programme

725+

Veterans interviewed by Legasee

Developed

Pilot programme

Funded

Dedicated website

In development

Digital archive platform

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BUILDING THE PLATFORM

During the year we were delighted to receive support from the John Andrews Charitable Trust, enabling work to begin on the dedicated Local Heroes website.

The platform will provide schools and community organisations with training materials, lesson plans, safeguarding guidance and a secure digital archive through which interviews can be preserved and shared.

Although still in development, Local Heroes has already generated considerable interest because of its flexibility. While initially designed for secondary schools, the programme has the potential to support primary schools, cadet forces, youth organisations, community groups and charities, adapting to the needs of each audience while retaining the same core purpose.

> “ Everyone has a story worth preserving. Every community has heroes worth remembering.



OUR AMBITION

Local Heroes aims to become far more than an educational project.

Our ambition is to help thousands of young people develop confidence, curiosity and communication skills while preserving the stories of people whose lives might otherwise go unrecorded.

If successful, Local Heroes will create a growing network of community-owned archives across the UK—each one celebrating local people, strengthening intergenerational understanding and ensuring that remarkable stories are never lost.

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PARTNERSHIP WORKING

WORKING TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE MORE



The challenges facing the heritage sector continue to grow. As the generation who experienced the Second World War and Britain's post-war conflicts becomes smaller, the urgency to record, preserve and share their stories has never been greater.

At the same time, expectations of charities have changed. Preserving heritage is no longer enough. Today's projects must engage communities, inspire young people, support education, create volunteering opportunities and leave a lasting legacy.

For Legasee, partnership working has become central to achieving those ambitions.

Over the past year we have worked more collaboratively than ever before, bringing together museums, schools, charities, educational organisations, volunteers and veterans to ensure that every project creates benefits well beyond the archive itself.

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The completion of our **Journey to the Frontline** project was made possible through close collaboration with the **Adjutant General's Corps Museum**, the **WRAC Association**, **Wildern School**, volunteers across the UK and, of course, the remarkable women who shared their stories.

As we embark on The **Aden Emergency: Shedding a Light on a Forgotten War**, we are building an even broader partnership including the **Imperial War Museums**, the **Aden Veterans Association**, **Blackpool Council**, **Blackpool & The Fylde College**, schools and community organisations across the North West.

Our educational ambitions have also been strengthened through partnerships with **Twenty4Seven Education**, whose support is helping us develop **Local Heroes**, alongside teachers, educational advisers and volunteers who continue to shape the programme as it evolves.

These collaborations do much more than share expertise and resources. They ensure that the stories entrusted to Legasee reach wider audiences, inspire future generations and remain accessible long after individual projects have ended.

We are enormously grateful to every organisation and individual who continues to support our work.

OUR PARTNERS

- Adjutant General's Corps Museum
- Aden Veterans Association
- Belgae Trust
- Blackpool & The Fylde College
- Blackpool Council
- Community Cadet Forces
- Creative Asset
- Gerry Holdsworth Trust
- Harris Academy Bermondsey
- Hill Print Limited
- Holy Sepulchre Church, Holborn
- Imperial War Museums
- The National Archives
- Oral History Society
- The Prominence Collective
- Secret WW2 Learning Network
- Twenty4Seven Education
- Wildern School
- Women's Royal Army Corps Association

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GOVERNANCE AND DECISION MAKING

Good governance is about more than ensuring compliance. It is about creating the structures, values and culture that enable the charity to fulfil its mission effectively, responsibly and sustainably.

During the year, the Trustees continued to strengthen Legasee's governance by reviewing policies, supporting organisational development and ensuring that the charity is well placed to manage increasingly ambitious projects and partnerships.

An important part of this work has been the development of a new **Volunteer Handbook**, providing greater clarity, consistency and support for the growing number of volunteers who contribute their time and expertise across the charity. Alongside this, Legasee has refreshed its organisational values, creating a clear framework that guides how we work with veterans, volunteers, partners and each other. The new values—**Listening First**, **Evidence and Experience**, **Generations Together**, **Access for All**, **Stewardship** and **Respect**, **Equity and Inclusion**, and **Enduring Legacy**—reflect both our purpose and the way we aspire to work every day.

The Trustees would like to record their sincere thanks to **Angela Roythorne**, whose expertise and commitment have been instrumental in developing both the Volunteer Handbook and this refreshed values framework. Her work has helped ensure that as Legasee continues to grow, it does so while remaining true to the principles that underpin everything we do.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

The financial year ending 31 March 2026 has been one of continued progress for Legasee, with the charity maintaining a stable financial position while preparing for a significant period of growth.

During the year we completed our National Lottery Heritage Fund-supported Journey to the Frontline project and secured funding for the next major phase of our work. In particular, we were delighted to receive support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund for our Aden Emergency: Shedding a Light on a Forgotten War project and funding from the John Andrews Charitable Trust to begin developing the Local Heroes educational platform.

As a small charity, careful financial management remains essential. The Trustees continue to monitor income and expenditure closely, ensuring that funds are applied efficiently and in accordance with the charitable objectives of the Trust. Particular attention is given to maintaining appropriate reserves while investing in projects that strengthen the charity's long-term impact and sustainability.

Total income for the year was **£91,130.98**, with expenditure of **£65,718.53**, resulting in a surplus of **£25,412.45**. At the year-end, unrestricted reserves stood at **£3,081.64**, providing a solid foundation as we embark on several ambitious projects during the coming year.

The Trustees remain committed to diversifying the charity's income through grant funding, donations, fundraising activities and strategic partnerships. This approach will help ensure that Legasee can continue preserving the stories of British military veterans while expanding its educational work for future generations.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank our funders, donors, volunteers and supporters for their continued confidence in Legasee. Their generosity enables the charity to preserve stories that might otherwise be lost and to make them freely available for the benefit of researchers, educators and the wider public.

James Butler
Treasurer

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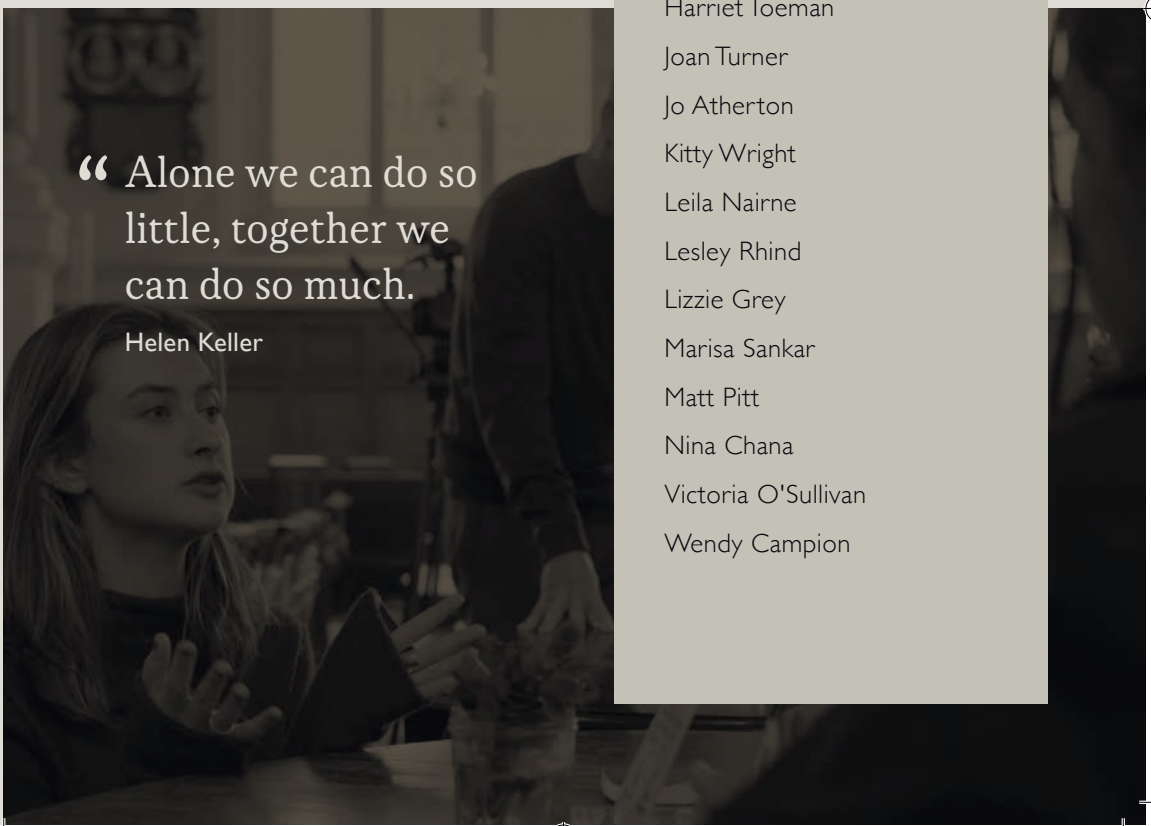
LEGASEE VOLUNTEERS

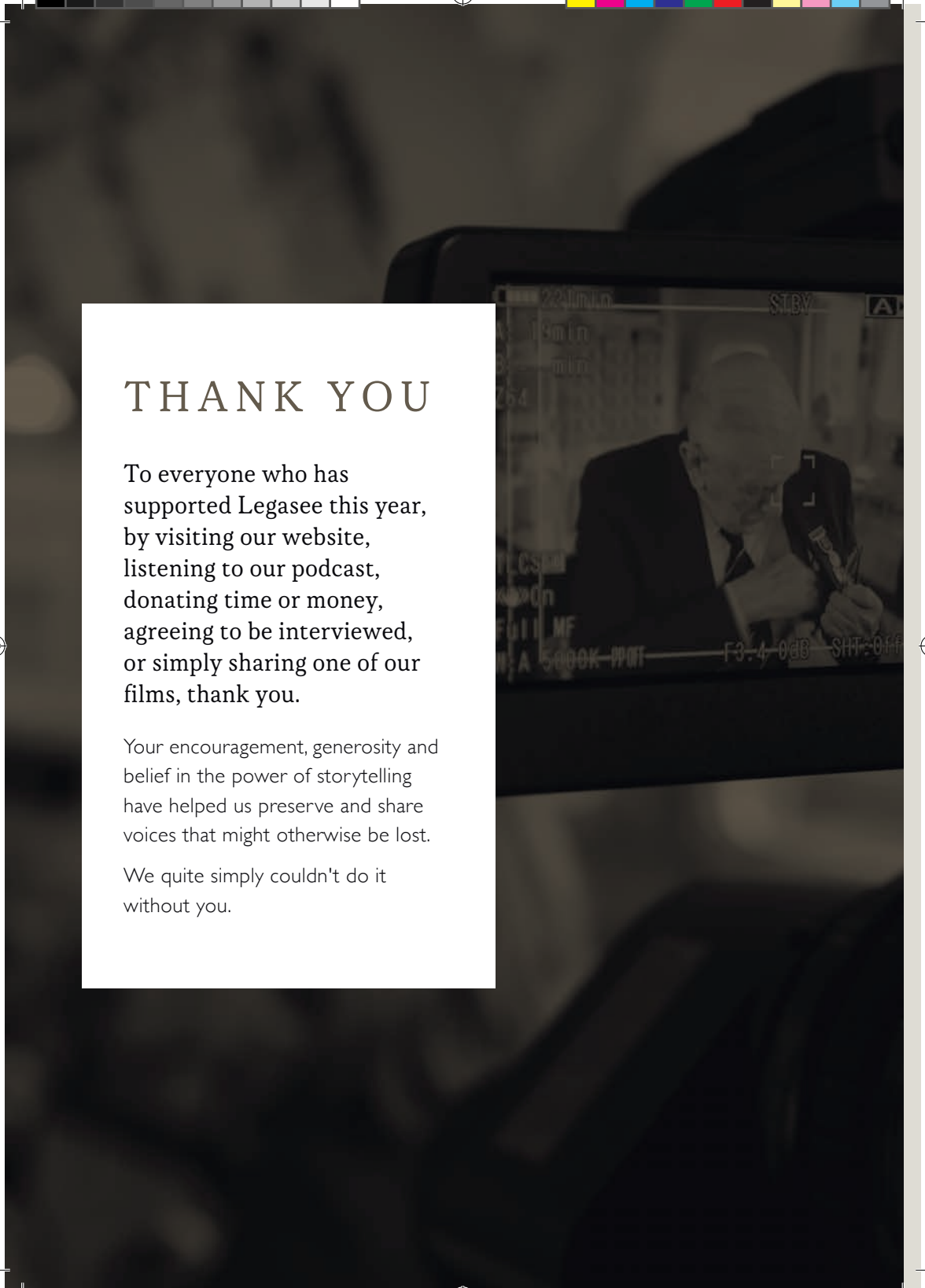
2025-2026

Our volunteers are at the heart of Legasee, bringing their skills, experience and enthusiasm to every part of our work. Quite simply, we couldn't do what we do without them.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Alexandra Booth
Angela Roythorne
Anita Hewiston
Carolyn Foster
Darren Chin
David Mishan
Evie Painter
Fiona Marshall
Gemma Jones
Gillian Cousins
Ginny Chequer
Harriet Toeman
Joan Turner
Jo Atherton
Kitty Wright
Leila Nairne
Lesley Rhind
Lizzie Grey
Marisa Sankar
Matt Pitt
Nina Chana
Victoria O'Sullivan
Wendy Campion





THANK YOU

To everyone who has supported Legasee this year, by visiting our website, listening to our podcast, donating time or money, agreeing to be interviewed, or simply sharing one of our films, thank you.

Your encouragement, generosity and belief in the power of storytelling have helped us preserve and share voices that might otherwise be lost.

We quite simply couldn't do it without you.

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CAN YOU HELP?

Every interview we record preserves a voice that might otherwise be lost forever.

Whether we are documenting Britain's forgotten conflicts, helping young people become confident storytellers through Local Heroes, or ensuring that veterans' experiences remain freely accessible to researchers, schools and future generations, none of this is possible without the support of people who believe these stories matter.

If you share that belief, we would be grateful for your support.

Every donation, whatever its size, helps us preserve Britain's military heritage and inspire future generations through the power of oral history.

Together, we can ensure these remarkable stories are never forgotten.

As a single donation (enclosed) of: £.....

A regular monthly gift of: £.....

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

Postcode .....

Tel .....

Email .....

Signed .....

Date .....

☐ I am a UK taxpayer and DECLARE that I want Legasee Educational Trust to treat all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise as Gift Aid donations.

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LEGASEE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

13 Mornington Road
London
E4 7DT

Registered charity number:
1145354 (ENG & WAL)
SC047748 (SCT)

+44 (0)20 3051 8218
info@legasee.org.uk
LegaseeEducationalTrust
@Legasee_Veterans
legasee-educational-trust

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Legasee
The Veterans Video Archive

Made possible with Heritage Fund

Local Heroes

Member of WAR AND CONFLICT Subject Specialist Network