

REPORT ON VISIT TO PHOENIX HOUSE, CATTERICK



Ian, Hugh and Mike

On Tuesday 17th September, Mike Grayson – Concert Secretary, Hugh Prewett – Public Relations Officer and myself, Ian Pasley – Secretary were invited to represent the Choir at the official opening of Phoenix House Personal Recovery Centre at Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire. This was in response to the money we had raised at the Help for Heroes Concert held in November 2012.

Some three hundred guests from the three military services, Help for Heroes, voluntary and charitable organisations etc. were assembled. There were a number of speeches and Mo Usman – Centre Manager and Bryn Parry OBE, Co-Founder of Help for Heroes together with his wife Emma, explained how the money we had helped to raise had funded the building and equipped of the new Centre.

The Centre was then officially opened by retired Brigadier John Painter and ex trooper Gareth “Gazz” Golightly. The Brigadier had been severely wounded during the Second World War but had survived and recovered and on retiring from active service had become a teacher and deputy Head Master at a local school. Gareth’s career as a vehicle specialist in the Logistics Corp ended less than a year after he had joined when he lost a leg following a hit and run accident when returning to his barracks in Wiltshire in 2002.

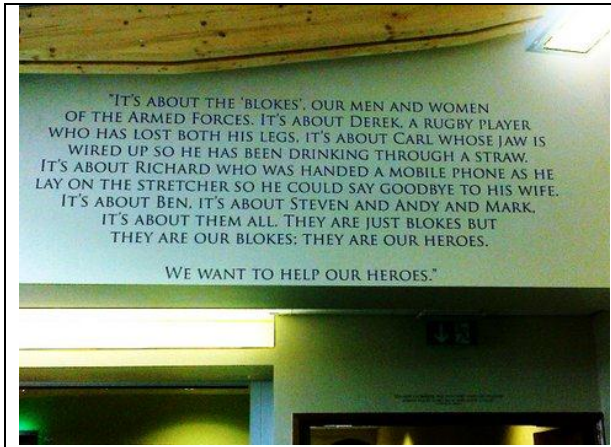


Centre Opening

Following the opening ceremony we were allowed to freely tour the facility and to speak to the recovering service personnel and other guests. It is a superb facility and there is credit due to Mo and his team for what they have achieved.

As we were in Choir uniform, we attracted a fair amount of interest from both the military personnel and other guests as to who we were and what we had done to help with fund raising. Numerous people asked if we had any intention of bringing the Choir up to Catterick to perform in concert at the Centre. We considered this to be an excellent idea as it would also enable all the Choir members the opportunity to see the facility which their hard work had supported.

More Pictures from the facility are shown below:-



Statement of Purpose



Inside the Rehabilitation Centre Gymnasium



Ian chatting to one of the Gym instructors



Outside shot of the facility