

VETERANS AID WELCOMES NEW PATRON

On 13 March 2013 The Dowager Viscountess Rothermere accepted an invitation to become Veterans Aid's first Patron. This appointment formalises a relationship that has grown stronger by degrees since it was initiated in 2012 and has been welcomed with delight by all who have participated in its development.

Every once in a while a benefactor comes along who makes a life-changing difference to an organisation. Last year Veterans Aid was lucky enough to be discovered by just such a person, in the form of Lady Rothermere.

Many people donate money to VA, and every penny enables us to do something, for someone. A few people perform inspirational and challenging feats of endurance to raise funds, and their efforts are particularly valued.

Occasionally our charity is 'discovered' by VIPs and New Belvedere House has hosted visitors from The Royal Household, the Houses of Parliament, various Livery Companies, the Royal Hospital, banks, clubs, commercial organisations and universities. All leave with a warm feeling about what they have seen and words of praise for Pat O'Connor and her team.

What is less common is for them to come back...

- · to come back bringing gifts
- · to come back with a home cooked meal
- · to come back with Christmas presents
- · to come back and support our art exhibition
- · to come back with a 'party' invitation

Lady Rothermere has done all these things, her Foundation and wonderful 'Team Lady R' have helped raise money to support our work, but most importantly they have 'touched' us – staff, Veterans, residents and 'graduates'.

Thank you from us all!