

Facts and stats from the past 80 years

1940: From its inaugural meeting in October 1940, up to the end of that year, the London Fire Service Benevolent Fund (which would later become our national Charity) provided direct and rapid assistance to 298 people, with grants totalling £977.80.

1951: We had 1,400 on our 'orphans list' and we introduced free summer holidays for them. We paid all travel expenses and gave each child 10 Shillings pocket money. In the summer of 1951 alone, we ran 450 holiday schemes.

1943: With the start of the Fire Service National Benevolent Fund, we provide a range of 'death grants and allowances' for our beneficiaries, including:

- A standard death benefit of £15
- A payment of £4 in respect of each dependant orphan, together with an orphan's weekly allowance of 20p where the father's death was the result of a wartime action
- Injury or sickness benefits, set at £2 per week for a maximum period of 75 weeks
- One-off hardship grants of £10

1961: We introduced a regular grant for widows of 10 Shillings a week. We also rolled out our first education grants to orphaned children.

1980: Our fundraising income topped £1m for the first time.

2001: 80 people took part in the FSNBF international trek to China and the Great Wall, raising £104,000

1944-45: Five motorised wheelchairs were presented to injured firefighters.

2005: We started to work with the Children's Burns Trust, offering support to burn survivors.

1945: With 1,364 orphans on our register, we announced an increase of 10p to each child's allowance, bringing it to 30p a week.

2008: We launched our Beneficiary Support Service, a nationwide initiative to help people away from our three centres. Now known as our Welfare service, we have helped thousands of people in their homes and communities in the years since.

1950: We introduced a pilot scheme offering a TB cure at a sanatorium in Switzerland for beneficiaries. Over two years, 20 people were helped there – all funded by us.

2022/23: Over 10,000 beneficiaries supported overall