

# ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

President  
Brig. P. A. Dally CBE DL

Chairman  
R. Major Esq.

Vice Chairman  
M. J. Taylor Esq.

Treasurer  
Mr R. Major Esq.



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*BEDFORD  
BRANCH*

*NEWSLETTER*

*JUNE 2019*



**PAST EVENTS**

**BEDFORD BRANCH SUBSCRIPTION**

**£5.00 renewable as from 1ST JANUARY 2019**

Thank you to those who included with your Draw counterfoil, This leaves just a few of you left to pay Please make all cheques payable to –

**‘Royal Signals Association Bedford Branch’**

NOT ME thank you

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**NEXT MONTHLY MEETING**

**28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2019**

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**BEDFORD BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**26<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2019**

**2000 hours**

The end of year annual reports were given from the Chairman, Secretary and the Treasurer, the election for your new committee for the forthcoming year. There being no other nominations to replace the current Branch Officers, all agreed to remain in office for the forthcoming year 2019.20.

Contributions agreed by those present = our usual £50 to RSBF plus in memory of pasted members, wives or associated members another £25, the a contribution to the retirement of the general Secretary £25 –a total of £100 form branch funds

Members present discussed future events for the 2019 program, but with very few members that can attend it was agreed to stick with those listed below until other ideas come forth

If you would like to send in any items for the monthly agenda and suggestions, please make sure they reach me by the last Tuesday of the month

We look forward to seeing you at future meetings, a buffet at the close of meeting, for which we donate £1.50 each time

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**74<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**OF THE**

**ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION**

**Held - SATURDAY 16<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2019**

The 74<sup>rd</sup> RSA AGM was held in the Carisbrooke Hall of the Victory Services Club, 63/79 Seymour Street, London W2 2HF on Sat 16th March 2019

This is a short **Summary** – **Not** the minutes=

The meeting was opened with a minute of silence with attendees giving names of members wishing to be remembered with prayers led by the Hon. Chaplin the Re. Peter Clemmet

**Chairman’s report** = The Association was in a good position going forward to cater for all groupings to foster comradeship and friendship. He then outlined the changes that would be taking place in RHQ. He introduced Maj. Gen. David McDowell who will be the next Chairman RSA. He then bid a farewell to Col. (Retd) Terry Canham as general secretary, no successor had yet been appointed. The chairman then announced that Caroline Addison was attending her last AGM as A. O. and introduced Amy Thorpe and Lt. Col. Stevie Lockwood who would be ‘Job’ sharing the role of A.O. & membership Sec. also our Honorary Chaplin Rev. Peter Clemmet would be standing down

**General Secretary** = Report included in an annex to the minutes, and asked for questions, none forthcoming. In his FINANCIAL REPORT, he said that the change in share value was caused by global uncertainty and said the financial advisors remain confident that the fund was resilient to cope with this and that the benevolence aspect remained as usual. Any questions he would be pleased to answer.

**Benevolence Grants** = Thanks given for the support given to RSBF by Corps members by way of the 'Days Pay Scheme' and those who have given generous donations, enabling vital benevolence to be given to the Corps 'Family', spending between £3k & £4k annually. There are currently in the UK approximately 2.5M veterans and by 2028 could fall to 1.6M reflecting on the change of serving in the Armed Forces generally.

The Chairman added that he hoped the local branches would be imaginative when deciding how to use the £200 grant to specifically celebrate the Corps

**Admin Officer Report** = Caroline's report in annex C, She thanked all the branches who had hosted her and her husband over the past years and the assistance received since 2012

**Central Committee Appointments** – No Change this time

**RSA Awards** – A total of **EIGHT** Awards this time = 7 - 50 Year Badges -1 West London, 1 Newcastle, 1 Glasgow, 3 Birmingham and 1 Honour membership to Liverpool all were agreed and passed by the CCM

**IN CONCLUSION** – Presentations made = The Chairman presented the 'Master of Signals' award to Rev. Peter Clemmet for his dedication to the Corps and finally on behalf of RSA members a 'Silver JIMMY' statuette to Col Terry Canham in appreciation over his tenure as General Secretary = Photos can be on RSA web pages

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### **BEDFORD BRANCH ANNUAL DINNER**

Bedford and County Golf Club

Green Lane Clapham

Bedford MK41 6ET

**SATURDAY 30<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2019**

This year we had 40 sit down to dinner. Our meal was again provided by the 'In- House' caterers (Chef from 'The Bell Pub' in Odell) was good again with reasonable menu choice of three courses approved earlier by members, a silver service meal, with coffee including cheese & biscuits, at the same cost in 2018, some observation & complaints have been sent to the Club for future improvements, discussed at our April meeting with members approving a return in 2020

This year our Corps RSM Dave Corcoran and his lady wife Miranda joined us as our guest for the evening RSM gave an account our duties and activities and enjoyed the evening with us, he sent a nice letter of thanks, especially for his Guinness.

I was disappointed in that all menus are chosen beforehand put onto place cards, yet Louella did not get the main ordered = Beef? When queried with the chef he had a Cod Mornay left over? Along the way someone had changed their mind and took a Beef? may this rest on your conscious! I did complain to Chef as to if an accident arose there was no spare? A suitable main was prepared and hope this does not stop Louella & Dennis attending future dinners

Provisional being booked 2020 =

**28<sup>th</sup> March 2020 or 4<sup>th</sup> April 2020 @ Bedford County Golf Club (by popular demand)**

## **FUTUER EVENTS**

**DATES FOR 2019**

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### **WHIPSNAD E TREE CATHEDRAL SERVICE SUNDAY 9<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2019**

The Remembrance Service held at the Tree Cathedral in the village of Whipsnade, almost opposite the zoo, the trees and shrubs are laid out similar to St Albans Cathedral, with a band and children from local schools taking part.- 3.00 pm

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### **BLANDFORD REUNION**

**14<sup>th</sup> January 2019 = 14<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

We usually travel on the Friday morning, for the evenings get together in Sergeants on Friday evening. Amended programme for 2019, to rehearse elements of 2020. Two all Ranks functions will be held in WOs and Sgts. Mess on Friday and Saturday evenings at a cost of £5 p.p. for supper each night. The A.O. informed that accommodation will be available and slightly different from previous years due to staffing. The event has changed to the Blandford Garrison Commander and RHQ will respond to his direction. I have submitted all names given to me any one who is now interested to contact HQ direct

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### **St Neots Armed Forces Day Gala Weekend**

**Eaton Ford — 22–23 June 2019**

**12:00 am to 4:00 pm**

Held in a picturesque setting by the River Ouse in St Neots this is a family day out where we get the opportunity to show our support for all that the armed forces do. Demonstrations, military displays, flypast, climbing wall, live stage entertainment, food and drink, stalls, horse displays, funfair, classic and vintage cars, evening concert to name but a few.

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### **FLAG RAISING DAY**

**For the Start of Armed Forces Week**

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2019**

**Bedford Borough Hall at 1100hrs**

Standards attend including our Bedford Branch Standard, followed by refreshments with the Mayor.

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### **ARMED FORCES PARADE**

**SUNDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2019**

A parade, organized by the Bedford Royal British Legion, from De Parys Avenue with military personnel, with dignitaries taking the salute at the John Howard statue, Market Square and then onwards to new Riverside Square

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### **POPPIES IN THE PARK (TBC)**

21<sup>st</sup> July 2019

Russell Park

Bedford

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### **NEWMARKET RBL RACE DAY**

**10<sup>th</sup> August 2019**

**Look on web pages for reduced tickets**

**OP BANNER 50**  
**14<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2019**  
**Commemorative 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
**of UK Armed Forces**  
**In Northern Ireland**

To be held at N.M.A. To mark the anniversary – the longest continuous operation in British military history. To attend individuals must have been awarded the GSM (NI) and is by ticket only – form from RSA HQ or web site

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**NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM**  
**ALREWAS STAFFORDSHIRE**  
**SATURDAY 7<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019**

Date and Details to follow when known, for the Annual Royal Signals Memorial Service held at the Corps Memorial in the presence of the R.S.A. H.Q. staff. The aims of the event are to: Bless the Corps site. Families of recent bereavements are invited to attend and lay wreath's and take part in the service, a mini bus has been dated

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**PROJECT NOEL VIII (10)**  
**FRIDAY 29<sup>th</sup> November 2019 to MONDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019**  
A weekend of events for the Regular, Reserve & Retired members of the Royal Signals held at the Britannia Adelphi Hotel Liverpool. Details to follow

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**OBITUARIES**

**Jim (Snr.) Wakefield** – Branch Life Member – one of our longest serving members, originally from Luton then lived at Burton Latimer, attended many of our branch draws with his late wife Daphne. Funeral while I was on holiday but I did arrange for a Corps drape from H.Q. to give him the honour he deserved, our branch Chairman Bob Major and Committee member Taff Gorringe attended - Jim was a very 'colourful' person always had smile and a joke and will be missed greatly

**Tom Neyland** – Former Brach Treasurer – did a good job for us, with his late wife Barbara attended functions and outings, very sad when he lost his Daughter then Barbara and later his Son, he was moved into a care home by his grandson, I attended the funeral and again had a Corps drape from H.Q.

**Owen Parker** – Former Branch Member – Owen did attend occasionally at functions and meetings over the years, a Civic Masonic service was held first at Bedford Crematorium, then his children holding another friends service a week later at St Marks Church Brickhill, I attended both with Mike Luke carried our Standard at the children's service

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**DATA PROTECTION**  
**New March 2018**

A big thank you to all who have returned their form of agreement to hold personal data. Under the new Government Data Protection Regulations (D.T.R.) which came into force in May 2018, we need your personal consent to retain and use your e-mail address and other details for this Association only. If you do not sign we will not be able to communicate with you by email. Please sign the form and return to the Honorary Secretary A.S.P.

**MERCHANDISE**  
**BRANCH TIES**

I still have a few of these, navy blue with Corps colour strip and Bedford Eagle above –  
unique to Bedford Branch at £8.50 each

**LOGO POLO & SWEAT SHIRTS**

Still available and I do not need any number they can be purchased singly, the logo is on the left breast as seen on the front cover page of this newsletter, being sold for £11.50 each, this covers the cost of initial logo design -- the colours are = bottle green - sunflower yellow – navy - heather – grey - red - deep navy- black- purple - emerald - burgundy - sky - white - orange and royal blue -- the sizes are = small 35-37 - med 38-40 - large 41-43 - xl 44 -46 - 2xl 47-49 - 3xl 50-52 Lettering can be adjusted accordingly to colour of background -- SWEAT SHIRTS also now available

**ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION**  
**CAR STICKER**

Still available ‘Car Sicker at £2.50 each – I have them at each meeting, please ask

**ANNIVERSARY**

**As a matter of interest – come this September our “reformed” Bedford Branch will celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, when the inaugural meeting was held in the old Drill Hall, Ashburnham Road, something to look forward to**

**IMPORTANT REMAING FOR DIARY DATES 2019**

**BEDFORD BRANCH SUBSCRIPTION £5.00 renewable as from 1ST JANUARY 2019**

**Blandford Reunion**  
**Note Change --**

~~21<sup>st</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2019~~  
**14<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

Flag Raising Day for the Start of Armed Forces Week 24<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Armed Forces Parade Details to Follow 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019

National Memorial Arboretum Alrewas Staffordshire 7<sup>th</sup> September 2019

**Bedford Branch 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019?**

Project Noel VIII (10) Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2019 to Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019

**WEB PAGE**

This Current Newsletter will be published soon after you receive a copy onto

[Visit us at http://royalsignals.org](http://royalsignals.org)  
See all our photos under ‘Branches’ ‘Bedford’ site

If you would like to receive your News Letter via E-Mail – please send me you’re correct  
E-mail to [t.e.holyoake@sky.com](mailto:t.e.holyoake@sky.com)

Obviously I will send all Draw Tickets and such like via Royal Mail

**BEDFORD BRANCH**  
**ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION**  
**Branch Meeting's always Last Tuesday of each Month**  
 With the exception of JULY and DECEMBER @ 2000 hours  
 North End Social Club  
 60 Roff Avenue  
 Bedford MK41 7TW  
**Telephone number if required = 01234 21035**

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**ROYAL CORPS of SIGNALS FORTHCOMING DIARY of EVENTS**

<del>21-23 June 2019</del> 14 -15 -16 <sup>th</sup> June 2019	Corps Weekend	Blandford Camp
29 June 2019	Armed Forces Day	National
25 August 2019	11th Gathering of the Clans	Rovers Quoit Sport & Social Club. Easington Road, Hartlepool TS24 8JZ
7 September 2019	NMA Memorial Service	National Memorial Arboretum Alrewas
16 October 2019	RSA Central Committee Meeting	TBC
7 November 2019	The Opening of the Field of Remembrance	Westminster Abbey London
10 November 2019	Cenotaph Parade	Whitehall London
29th November – 2nd December 2019	Project Noel X - <a href="#">see this site for details</a>	Liverpool
13 March 2020	RSA Central Committee Meeting	VSC London
14 March 2020	RSA AGM	VSC London
27 June 2020	Centenary Review	Blandford Camp
5 September 2020	NMA Memorial Service	National Memorial Arboretum Alrewas
5 November 2020	The Opening of the Field of Remembrance	Westminster Abbey London
8 November 2020	Cenotaph Parade	Whitehall London

**LORD KITCHENER MEMORIAL HOLIDAY CENTRE LOWESTOFT**

Very recommendable, on the sea view front south of the harbour and bus stops nearby. Good rates for Retired, Regular and Reservist for men and women who have served in the armed forces including the non- service widows and widowers of ex-service men and women service. Open April/October = 01502 573564 -  
[enquiries@kitchenerslowetoft.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@kitchenerslowetoft.co.uk)