



Royal Signals Association Annual General Meeting

Saturday 14th March 2026
Victory Services Club, London /
Virtual



AGENDA

THE 81st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING **ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION**

VICTORY SERVICE CLUB, LONDON / VIRTUAL

14 MARCH 2026 @1000HRS

ITEM 1 – INTRODUCTION

Annex

1. Minute's Silence to Remember Fallen Comrades.
2. Chair's Opening Remarks.

ITEM 2 – 80TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

3. To approve the minutes of the 80th RSA AGM held on 15 March 2025.
4. Actions Arising.

A

ITEM 3 – HEADQUARTERS REPORTS

5. General Secretary's Report.
6. General Secretary's Financial Update
7. Operation Manager's Report.
8. Corps Update.

B

C

D

ITEM 4 – MATTERS ARISING

9. Awards

Ops Mgr

E

ITEM 5 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10. Any Other Business.
11. Date of the next Annual General Meeting as **Sat 13 Mar 27.**



HEADQUARTERS ROYAL SIGNALS
Blandford Camp, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 8RH

Telephone: (01258) 482130
Military Network: (4371) 2130
Type Call: 0300 1632 365
E-Mail: Tracey.muers101@mod.gov.uk



Reference: HQ R SIGNALS RSA AGM

See Distribution:

Date: 20th March 2025

**RECORD OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS OF THE 80th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)
OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION, LONDON, 15 MAR 25.**

Present:	Col (Retd) D A Craft	Corps Sec / Gen Sec
	Col N C Bruce ADC	Corps Col
	Col E J Bruce	Dep Corps Col
	Lt Col (Retd) SM Lockwood	Asst Corps Sec / Asst Gen Sec
	WO1 (RSM) A Jarman - Virtual	Corps SM
	Mr W White	Area 1 N
	Mr K Bates	Area 1 S
	Mr M Nevill	Area 2 S / NI
	Mr T Holyoake	Area 3
	Mr G Marsh	Area 4
	Mr P Osment	Area 5
	Mr R Jephcote	Area Scotland
	Mr B Doughty	Area Wales
	Ms S Harler	RSA AA
	WO2 H Morris	Corps Welfare WO
	WO2 M Brand	1 Sig Regt
	2Lt C Adams	3DSR
	Sig A Pawson	3DSR
	Association Branch Representatives	Various
	Mrs T Muers	Ops Mgr / Mtg Sec
Apologies:	Mr I Thompson	Int Area 2 N

Discussions / *Decisions* / *Actions*

Item 1: Introduction

1. The Gen Sec shared sad news regarding the absence of Maj Gen McDowall, RSA Chair, due to a serious illness. Gen McDowall had been diagnosed with an aggressive brain tumour and was undergoing treatment. The Gen Sec stated that the association remained hopeful for a positive outcome. He confirmed that General McDowall would be unable to continue as Chair, and that a successor would be sought with urgency. The CCM would be fully engaged with the succession plan but, due to the situation, the AGM would be asked to retrospectively ratify the new Chair at the next AGM. The Gen Sec expressed the Association's best wishes to General McDowall and his family.

(Secretary's afternote: Brig (Retd) David Hargreaves has offered to stand in as RSA Chair for a period of six months until a permanent successor has been identified.)

2. The Gen Sec welcomed some members to the meeting:

- a. Col Emma Bruce: New Deputy Corps Colonel, focusing on reserve matters within the headquarters, and a member of the Central Committee.
- b. WO2 Huw "Taff" Morris: New Corps Welfare Warrant Officer, engaging with the serving Corps and welfare business, including the SOS initiative.
- c. WO2 Martin Brand: Sgt Maj in 1 Sig Regt, involved in the SOS initiative, who would contribute with an SOS update during the meeting.
- d. 2Lt Charles Adams and Sig Alex Pawson from 3 Div Sig Regt who would provide an update on a major exercise involving the corps.
- e. Brig Nimal Don from the Sri Lankan Signal Corps Association who joined the meeting to observe how both associations could work together more effectively.

3. The Gen Sec thanked all for attending and for the members who attended the curry supper the previous night and the meeting.

Item 2: 79th Annual General Meeting of the Royal Signals Association

4. The Ops Mgr presented the minutes from the 79th Annual General Meeting.

- a. *Decision*** – *The minutes from the 79th Annual General Meeting were unanimously agreed as an accurate representation of the previous meeting.*

5. The Ops Mgr covered the actions from the previous meeting.

- a. *Decision*** – *All actions from the previous meeting had been covered in the HQ reports or had been marked as closed.*

Item 3: General Secretary's Report

6. The Gen Sec commenced his report by stating that General Dame Sharon Nesmith DCB ADC Gen had served as the Master of Signals for five years but due to her demanding role as Vice Chief, she had found it increasingly difficult to support both the serving and retired Corps. As a result, she had decided to stand down this year, despite having another year to serve as Vice Chief of the Defence Staff. The Gen Sec confirmed her departure would take place during the Corps Weekend this year and that Major General Paul Griffiths CB had been agreed upon by the Sovereign to succeed Dame Sharon as the next Master of Signals. He further stated that the Central Committee looked forward to welcoming General Griffiths in June when Dame Sharon stands down.

7. The Gen Sec announced that a collection had been organised for a farewell gift for Dame Sharon, on behalf of the serving and retired Corps. Donations were voluntary, and those who wished to contribute should ensure their donations are made by April 30th to allow time for organising the gift.

8. Area 2S and Wales: After the AGM last year, there were challenges in appointing Area Representatives for these areas. Unfortunately, both nominated individuals were unable to take up the position. However, Mick Neville had agreed to resume his duties for Area 2S, and Barry Doughty, who was heavily involved with the Cardiff branch, had stepped in temporarily for Wales. These are temporary arrangements until a more permanent solution could be found.

- a. **Decision – Mick Nevill to resume as Area Rep 2S and Barry Doughty to continue to be Area Rep Wales in the interim until someone else can be found.**

9. Area 1N: Ian Scrivin had served as Area Representative for 1N for four years but wished to stand down. Bill White, who offered to take over, was the only nominee, and the Central Committee approved his appointment. The AGM was asked to retrospectively endorse Bill White's appointment. The Central Committee extends gratitude to Ian Scrivin for his dedicated service.

- a. **Decision – Bill White confirmed to take over as Area Rep 1N.**

10. Area 2N: Bob Taylor had served as Area Representative for over 10 years but had expressed a desire to step down. Harry Ferguson from the Manchester branch had volunteered to take over the position. The Central Committee reviewed and agreed on his nomination, and the AGM is asked to endorse this change. Harry Ferguson's appointment would take effect immediately, pending no objections.

- a. **Decision – Harry Ferguson confirmed to take over as Area Rep 2S.**

11. The General Secretary emphasised that the biggest challenge facing the association was ensuring a steady flow of volunteers to support its operations. While the dedication of current volunteers was appreciated, there was an ongoing need to recruit new volunteers, especially as the footfall through branches continued to decrease. He stated that a significant factor contributing to the decline in branch participation was the diminishing number of veterans available, as the pool of former service members had decreased significantly since the end of National Service and the Second World War. This reduction in veterans, coupled with a smaller army, presented a long-term challenge for the association's sustainability.

12. The importance of engaging with younger members and encouraging them to join the association was emphasised. The Central Committee had been discussing this challenge for several years, noting that this issue was not unique to the association, as many other organisations, including the British Legion, are experiencing similar difficulties with branch closures. The Gen Sec continued to state that there was a need for more proactive outreach to retiring signallers and a greater effort to recruit younger members into the association. The Central Committee were seeking the help of everyone to identify where signallers are retiring and encourage them to join the association. It was noted that Corps headquarters could produce "heat maps" for branches, helping to identify signallers in specific areas. This data would help branches reach out to potential members.

13. The Gen Sec stressed the need to rethink the types of activities and events the association offers, to better appeal to younger veterans and serving personnel. This included looking at how to integrate the serving Corps more effectively with the retired corps. He further announced that some associations have moved to national models, and operated without a branch structure, but that the Central Committee believed the branch model was vital for the association. However, active engagement at all levels was required to ensure the success of the branch structure.

14. A suggestion was made to invite Phase 2 soldiers to learn about the history of the Corps and what the association offered, where branch volunteers would be present to explain the association's activities and purpose, as well as getting engagement from those who may have previously received the support of the Charity. There was also a view that the Association could help with the challenges faced by veterans transitioning out of service. Noting, that many veterans do not engage with the association until 10-15 years after leaving service due to life and career pressures this may encourage more engagement earlier in a veteran's journey. The Gen Sec noted both initiatives and confirmed that engagement with those transitioning out of the Corps was already happening with the next Career Transition Network Day being run by the Royal Signals Institution at the end of May 2025. Phase 2 soldiers also received a brief on the Association and Charity already, but the involvement of RSA Branch Reps would be investigated.

15. Further ideas to strengthen the connection between the serving Corps and veterans were discussed and several branches shared their success stories in maintaining strong ties with active units. One example was East London branch that continued to engage with its former unit, 68 Squadron, ensuring that new recruits are made aware of the association.

16. A member suggested the need for better communication and engagement with serving units and it was suggested that Corps headquarters was seen as the facilitator to help connect branches with active units and improve overall engagement with the serving Corps. It was further stated by the member that this would be key to ensure younger members were aware of the association and could join while still serving.

- a. **Action – Branches** were encouraged to reach out to retiring signallers and new recruits through various channels.
- b. **Action - Central Committee** would continue to work on strategies to appeal to younger veterans and serving personnel.
- c. **Action – RSA HQ** would look at the possibility of including Branch Reps in talks with Phase 2 soldiers.

17. The Gen Sec confirmed that the association area reps now had a dedicated pitch at the Senior Soldier Conference, held annually in Stafford over four days. The initiative, which started in the past 3-4 years, gives the Area Reps direct access to senior NCOs and warrant officers, allowing them to build connections within the military community and we had already seen great outcomes from the event. Notably, new branches have been established, including the Colerne branch from 21 Signal Regiment and Nuneaton branch from 30 Signal Regiment. He confirmed that strides had also been made in Cardiff by fostering stronger relationships with the local reserve squadron. This presence at the conference continues to grow and gives the association a prominent role within the Corps community.

18. The Gen Sec announced a tool which was available to help branches identify veterans in their areas using a 'heat map' generated from our membership data. The heat map can be customised based on any geographical area, allowing branches to target regions more effectively. For this to work, branches need to clarify the areas they are interested in, ensuring that we could provide accurate data. While we can share this data, branches should be aware that some of it may be outdated due to members moving or failing to update their contact details. To help address this, members are encouraged to regularly update their personal details on the RSA website, and branches should engage with RSA HQ to confirm the target areas they wish to focus on.

- a. **Action – Branches** to encourage their members to regularly update their contact details via the website members area (royalsignals.org/members-area)
- b. **Action – Branches** to contact RSA HQ if they wish to avail of a heat map.

19. The Gen Sec announced that the charity is placing increased focus on fundraising efforts, particularly in promoting gifts in wills for the charity. The website will soon feature more information on this, and we will be actively encouraging branches to get involved. The website is being continually developed to serve not just as an informational hub, but also as a tool for supporting members and promoting charitable causes. A key feature is the "members area," which offers a range of exclusive discounts and offers. These include bespoke insurance deals, car rentals, personal trackers, and even military-themed bespoke equipment like the popular polo belts. Additionally, a new partnership with All Arms PRI, a company run by an ex-signaller, will offer members unique, customisable equipment, with a portion of proceeds going towards the charity. He stressed the importance for members to take advantage of these offers as they not only provide great deals but also support the charity's work.

- a. **Action – Members** to make use of the new member offers available on the RSA website, as these deals benefit both the individual and the charity.

20. The Gen Sec continued to state that the charity had not actively focused on fundraising over the years. A recent survey conducted by Altair, a company specialising in not-for-profit businesses, indicated that while fantastic fundraising events are happening frequently, few of the funds raised were being directed to the Royal Signals charity. The plea from the charity is to encourage more participation in supporting the Royal Signals charity. It was not suggested that all funds should go to the charity, but ideally, a portion of any fundraising could be donated. The charity is the only one supporting Signallers directly, and it is important to remember this when planning fundraising events. The Gen Sec also announced that this year marks the 105th anniversary of the charity, and there was a goal to surpass the £85,000 raised during the 100th anniversary fundraising event in 2020. A “105th Challenge” would be launched soon, and efforts are being made to get branches involved in this initiative and donation buckets were available to support branch fundraising if required.

- a. **Action – Members** to think of donating any fundraising funds to the charity.

21. The Gen Sec mentioned the Single Cap Badge Associations Network (SCAN). This is a forum that brings together military associations, including those from the Army, Navy, Marines, and RAF. It provides an opportunity to share best practices and address common challenges. The association will continue to engage with this network, and any branch or member issues can be raised for discussion at their meetings.

- a. **Action – Members** to communicate any issues with RHQ to be addressed at the SCAN meetings if required.

22. The Gen Sec announced the upcoming events this year, highlighting the following:

- b. Founders Day: The event will be held differently this year. The association will be invited to the Governor’s Parade on Tuesday 6th May 2025, which should allow a better opportunity to engage with pensioners. The ballot for places will be drawn in the next month.
- c. Corps Weekend: It will feature the handover of the Master of Signals. Members are encouraged to attend to support this, and accommodation will be available on the camp for booking.

Item 4: General Secretary’s Financial Report

23. The Gen Sec provided an update on the One Day’s Pay Scheme, highlighting that more than 80% of the Regular Corps had signed up which represented the highest participation rate in many years. While this is a significant achievement, efforts will continue to engage the remaining members and further increase participation in the scheme.

24. He stated that there was a notable 20% reduction in the number of benevolence requests for assistance to the Royal Signals Charity in 2024, compared to 2023. While this could initially raise concerns, the reduction suggests fewer signallers needed support, which was ultimately a positive development. It was confirmed that all requests for assistance have been promptly addressed, with no backlog. He encouraged branches to maintain involvement in their local communities and ensure that any signallers in need of help are directed to the charity for support.

- a. **Action – Members** to continue encouraging signallers to approach the charity for support when needed.

25. The Charity continued its commitment to supporting the Army Benevolent Fund with an annual donation of £35,000. In return, the ABF had provided over £70,000 in assistance to signallers complementing what the charity was able to offer. The charity remains dedicated to supporting the ABF to enable it to continue its important work in helping military personnel and veterans.

26. The Gen Sec was pleased to report a 50% increase in the amount of money received from branches in 2024. This increase was a significant and positive development for the charity, and he expressed sincere thanks to all branches for their generosity, which will greatly support the ongoing work of the Royal Signals Charity.

27. The Charity underwent a major shift in its investment strategy, moving its funds from the BlackRock Armed Forces Charity Fund to a new company, Meridiem, driven by a new investment strategy. While still in the early stages, this change has already resulted in an impressive 87% increase in returns from 2023 to 2024. The Gen Sec expressed satisfaction with this change and acknowledged that it had a positive impact on the charity's financial situation, positioning the association for future growth.

28. The Gen Sec stated that the Corps Accountant had made a request for all donations from branches to clearly identify if they are legacies (gifts in wills) which was important because legacies must be accounted for differently than regular donations. He emphasised that it is crucial for branches to specify if donations are legacies so they can be correctly recorded in the accounts which helps ensure transparency and accuracy in the charity's financial reporting.

29. Some branches had raised concerns about bank charges on their accounts. Legal advice confirmed that branches are independent and not formally part of the charity. However, branches can negotiate with their banks, highlighting that their purpose is to support charitable efforts related to the Royal Signals charity. Some branches have successfully managed to get charges waived.

30. The Gen Sec concluded by thanking everyone for their ongoing support and reiterating the importance of clarity in financial dealings. The positive financial outlook, bolstered by the increase in donations and the success of the new investment strategy, signifies a brighter future for the Royal Signals Association. The Gen Sec once again encouraged branches to help signallers in need and ensure that all requests for assistance are addressed in a timely manner.

Item 5: Assistant General Secretary's Report

31. The Asst Gen Sec confirmed that during the year, several grants were issued, noting that many were for serving reservists, retired reservists, and their families. Most of the grants were used for debt relief and to provide household items, particularly following events such as divorces and family relocations.

32. He sadly announced that in 2024, five serving members of the Corps had passed away. The Corps, including the Corps Col, Gen Sec, and the RSA Chair, are immediately informed, as are the family. Upon receiving this information, the Corps immediately contact the regiment to provide support. A £1,500 donation is sent to the regiment to cover costs not supported by public funds, helping the family with funeral and other related expenses. This initiative has been in place for several years and ensures next of kin are supported during this difficult time.

33. He further explained that within five days of a death in service, the Corps engaged to ensure that the next of kin receive the £20,000 Death in Service payment from the Army, and this had been consistently achieved without fail. The efficiency of the process was commended, with payments typically processed within 24 hours.

34. The Asst Gen Sec confirmed that the Corps had continued the annual £35,000 donation to the Army Benevolent Fund, which helped support those in need. In return, the ABF assisted with 77 grants, providing vital support for members, including large grants for essential items such as

stairlifts and bathroom modifications. The RSC collaborates with other charities, including the ABF and Royal British Legion, to ensure comprehensive support for beneficiaries.

35. He announced that some national affiliations consisted of groups of people who may no longer be able to sustain active branches as the units that feed them have disbanded but they continue to meet periodically to foster camaraderie and support. These groups rely on regular communication with the central office, ensuring members remained engaged and informed. Notably, members from these affiliations actively participate in Corps events such as the National Memorial Arboretum, Project Noel and Corps Weekend.

36. He confirmed that there were 62 branches on paper, though only 28 are actively operational. The challenge of sustaining these branches was acknowledged, and the importance of maintaining connections with members who may no longer be involved in active branches was emphasised.

37. A significant update to the RSA website was discussed, focusing on improving the user experience. It was planned to move away from individual branch pages and instead focus on a regional model, with areas color-coded which directed members to their local representatives and branches. This would help members find relevant information quickly and make it easier for people to contact the correct representative. A list of branch contacts and links to their respective social media (especially Facebook) would be provided.

38. It was noted that the branch pages on the website were often not kept up to date compared to the more dynamic and engaging content found on Facebook pages. Moving forward, the new structure would allow branch representatives to update their Facebook pages without having to replicate content on the website. For the branches that have maintained excellent pages, these will be integrated into the new system to maintain consistency across platforms. Feedback from branches and members regarding the website updates would be welcomed, and the Asst Gen Sec offered an invitation to discuss any concerns or suggestions offline, with the goal to improve the website's functionality and ensure it meets the needs of all members.

- a. Action – Branches to speak to the Asst Gen Sec regarding any issues or concerns they may have regarding the restructuring of the branch pages.**

Item 6: Operations Manager's Report

39. The Ops Mgr started her report by announcing that despite challenges faced over the last year, the RSA has had a productive year, focusing on strengthening the bond with the serving and retired community. Initiatives include roadshows, careers briefing days, and collaboration with the Royal Signals Institution (RSI). She reiterated what the Gen Sec expressed regarding the reintroduction of the SCAN meetings which had proven beneficial. These meetings had fostered collaborations with other associations such as the REME Association, allowing for the exchange of best practices.

40. In the past 12 months, 1,625 members attended events such as Founders Day, Corps Weekend, and the Cenotaph Remembrance Parade. Membership engagement at events remained high, although some members had to be turned away due to the growing popularity of events such as the Cenotaph parade. Sadly, 163 members passed away over the year, with the Admin Asst supporting numerous funeral services for those who requested assistance.

41. The HQ Team's efforts to promote the association and engage with the serving and retired community have resulted in a 50% increase in membership applications, adding 455 new members. Additionally, the RSA social media pages continued to grow however, only two submissions had been made to promote branch events. It is encouraged that more content be submitted to help boost branch visibility and membership growth.

a. Action – Branches to send any photos or events to HQ Team to utilise on the social media pages to promote branches.

42. Branch visits remained a key priority, with efforts made to visit as many branches and events as possible. Despite these efforts, whilst new members are always encouraged to join a local branch, many members still prefer the RHQ branch, which has around 12,000 members. More work is needed to encourage these members to join local branches. New branches had been created, including the Colerne, Fijian, and Nepalese branches, and they were welcomed during the meeting.

43. The SOS Network had gained over 140 volunteers from the retired and serving community. These volunteers have already supported 15 requests and had helped those struggling with various issues such as loneliness, bereavement, marriage breakdowns, and mental health problems. WO2 Brand and WO2 Morris, both highly experienced in welfare, have joined the team to assist with the complex cases and provide mental health support. WO2 Brand has a background in mental health and welfare, and he had assisted with the more difficult cases due to his expertise. WO2 Morris will soon take over as volunteer coordinator for the SOS Network.

44. WO2 Brand briefed on the development of a training package for volunteers which was underway. The pilot will include heads of departments, with the goal of ensuring volunteers are equipped with the tools to effectively assist those in need. The training will include how to identify struggling individuals and where to refer them for further help, including signposting to services such as 'Hub of Hope'. In addition to this, volunteers for the SOS Network are eligible for free DBS checks when volunteering for charity work, which is particularly useful for those going on home visits.

45. A question was raised about the involvement of non-RSA members, such as spouses, in the volunteer training package. The scheme is currently only open to those who have served, but this may be reviewed in the future.

(Secretary's afternote: The volunteer handbook which is being developed contains a list of guidelines which will help branch volunteers and will be published on the website.)

46. WO2 Brand clarified that while volunteers were not trained mental health professionals, they were highly encouraged to signpost individuals to appropriate services when necessary. The Hub of Hope is one such service where people can find support agencies by entering their postcode.

47. A big thank you was extended to WO2 Brand for his extensive involvement in the SOS Network and to WO2 Morris for his ongoing support.

48. The Gen Sec confirmed that the Admin Officer's title would be changed to Operations Manager for the Royal Signals Association to better reflect her responsibilities and the work she does for the association.

a. Decision – Admin Officer role name to change to Operations Manager.

Item 7: Corps Col Update

49. The Corps Col announced that next week marks the two-year point of his tenure with his departure being in the first or second week of October. He confirmed that the new Corps Col would be Col Ed Swift, who was currently serving in Army Headquarters. Col Swift previously served as the Commanding Officer of the 13 Sig Regt during its transition to the Army's Cyber Regiment.

50. He confirmed that there had been no significant change in the serving Corps, both regular and reserve forces. The Corps remained in high demand and relevant, as noted by Dame Sharon, who believed the Corps was in its strongest position in over three decades.

51. In terms of operational involvement, the Corps continued to be actively involved in various operations, including the Steadfast Dart and Steadfast Defender exercises. The Corps also led and won the Defence Cyber Marvel 4 exercise, a large international cyber exercise with 10,000 participants from 10 different countries. In addition to this, 222 Sig Sqn from 22 Sig Regt were currently performing public duties at Windsor Castle, reinforcing the public image of the Corps.

52. He continued by commenting that the Corps is currently struggling with soldier recruitment. Last year, Capita was only able to fill 45% of basic training places, compared to 48% for Gunners and 43% for the Infantry. The Royal Engineers were an exception, exceeding their recruitment targets by 134%. On a positive note, applications to join the Army had reached a 10-year high, indicating a growth of interest in military service overall.

53. Corps headquarters had conducted a complete overhaul of recruitment materials, including a change in terminology. The term "Cyber Engineer" had been removed, as it was seen to deter potential recruits. The new materials use accessible language, tailored to younger recruits. Despite the challenges, the Corps had still managed to fill 72% of Phase 2 courses at Blandford, with a positive outlook for courses between present day and June 2026.

54. He was pleased to announce that officer recruitment was at its best in years, with significant interest, partly due to having a company commander and two platoon commanders at Sandhurst who were Royal Signals. The Corps familiarisation and potential officer visits at Blandford remained highly popular.

55. The Strategic Defence Review (SDR) was set to shape future Defence strategy, with the Army aiming to double lethality by 2027 and triple it by 2030. While Project Wavell was reviewing the Army's structure in line with the SDR, no major changes were expected within the Corps. However, some restructuring may occur, but the Corps workforce size would likely remain stable.

56. The Corps Col thanked the association for their support for Project Etherton, a government initiative aimed at redressing the policy to discharge soldiers from the Army due to their sexuality which ran between 1967 and 2000. To date, 14 former members of the Corps have been identified as part of this initiative, including Gwen Pettigrew and Cat Dickson. The Corps Colonel expressed deep gratitude to the association for embracing these individuals as they re-engaged with the Corps.

57. The Corps Col concluded by thanking everyone for their support and encouraged continued engagement with these important projects.

Item 8: Corps SM Update

58. The Corps SM apologised for being unable to attend the AGM in person but emphasised that she would be attending the next meeting physically.

59. She confirmed the dates for the upcoming Ex MERCURY KNOWLEDGE which would take place in Stafford from May 20th to May 23rd, with the conference scheduled for May 21st and 22nd. The dinner night would be held on Thursday, May 22nd. The Corps SM encouraged the area reps to attend and promote the event which fostered synergy between serving soldiers, veterans, and reserves. WO1 (RSM) Kieran Stott was managing the event, and the area reps could reach out to him directly or contact her for assistance. Accommodation would be available, and travel details were still being finalised.

60. She stated that last year's Standard Bearers competition was a great success and urged members to encourage more RSA participants this year. The goal was to increase participation and make the event even bigger. WO1 John Miller, the new Army Sergeant Major (starting 31 Mar 25), had confirmed that he would be attending Corps Weekend. He hoped to have a role in the

Princess Royal Day Parade (PRD) and wished would speak to the RSA contingent before or after the parade. This presented a great opportunity for RSA members to showcase their standards in front of the Army Sergeant Major.

61. The Corps SM extended her thanks to the Royal Signals Charity for their continued support of the events organised by her and for their sponsorship contributions. She encouraged RSA members to support the Royal Signals Charity, when possible, especially during fundraising events, and stressed the importance of supporting the charity to ensure its sustainability, even if only through small donations, rather than prioritising other organisations such as the Army Benevolent Fund.

62. The Corps SM then introduced and thanked 2Lt Adams and Sig Pawson who then delivered an excellent presentation on their experiences during Exercise CERBERUS. The brief highlighted the pressures on the Corps today and discussion afterwards drew comparison with years gone by. The conclusion from those veterans in the room was that the issues raised during the presentation seemed very familiar to those experienced previously. The AGM was hugely impressed by both 2Lt Adams and Sig Pawson, who received a rousing ovation.

63. The Gen Sec also expressed his gratitude for the presentation provided. He thanked them for taking the time to travel to London, concluding that the future of the Corps was in good hands.

Item 9: Matters Arising

64. The Ops Mgr stated that a total of 54 Long Service and Honour Awards had been granted by the Central Committee over the last twelve months. Some recipients were present at the meeting, and congratulations were extended to them. She noted that the Central Committee meeting dates had moved forward by one month and members were advised to submit award applications four weeks prior to the updated meeting dates. Awards granted in the last six months are detailed below:

40 Year Awards

*John Abram – Shropshire
Steve Hall – Liverpool/RS Riders
Karen Nicholls – East London
Philip Osment – Salisbury
John Roberts - Birmingham
Karl Scaife - Shropshire*

50 Year Awards

*Roger Curr – Dorset
Michael Dent – Salisbury
Albert Graham – Glasgow
Thomas Guy - Liverpool
Geordie Thomson – RHQ
Walter Drain - RHQ
Granville Yeomans – Lincoln*

60 Year Awards

*Ali Mohamaed Abdulrahman – Dorset
Robert Clarke – Birmingham
Robert McLaren – Dorset
John Nicholson – Birmingham*

Item 10: Any Other Business

65. The Asst Gen Sec detailed several fundraising initiatives that were upcoming this year:

- a. **105 Miles for Charity:** Corporals Robin Dennis and Gary Chapman will walk 105 miles in 3 days from Exeter to Blandford, along the challenging Jurassic coastline, raising money for the Royal Signals Charity (April 25–27).
- b. **Coffee Morning Initiative:** The success of last year's coffee morning in Blandford, which raised over £1,000, will be expanded across the Corps in June. RSA Branches were encouraged to host similar events.
- c. **Exercise On Top of the World:** A challenge involving climbing telegraph poles to the height of Mount Everest, which will take place during Corps Weekend at Blandford. Participants include current and retired Tele Mechs.
- d. **Tough Mudder Challenge:** Signaller Adam Hughes from 2 Signal Regiment is organising a Tough Mudder event, with 32 participants raising funds for the Corps charity.

66. The Asst Gen Sec emphasised the goal to raise £100,000 for the Royal Signals Charity and encouraged everyone to get behind these events and support the charity.

67. Tony Mullin (Liverpool Branch Sec) announced that he had taken over the organisation of Project Noel after the sad passing of David Barnes, the original organiser. The event would be held from November 21–24, 2025, at the Adelphi Hotel in Liverpool, with Corps activities like those of previous years. Details will be finalised by 26 Mar 25, and flyers will be distributed soon.

68. The RSA Admin Asst encouraged anyone fit enough to participate in Tough Mudder events, half marathons, or marathons to choose the Royal Signals Charity when signing up through Run for Charity, as the charity had partnered with them for fundraising.

- a. **Action – Branches** to encourage their members to sign up to Run for Charity and choose the RSC when completing running fundraisers.

69. The Ops Mgr informed members that the RSC Fundraising Mgr would be distributing a marketing survey next week to gather feedback on how to improve the Corps' fundraising efforts. Members were asked to complete the survey to help enhance the marketing plan.

- a. **Action – Branches** to encourage their members to complete the fundraising survey.

70. The Gen Sec reiterated that the Corps Col will be moving on later this year, and the committee expressed gratitude for his support over the past couple of years. The Corps Col is expected to be present at the next Central Committee meeting but will not be at the AGM in 2026.

71. The Asst Gen Sec extended thanks to all members who had welcomed Gwen Pettigrew back into the association, notably the Riders, Liverpool and the Cardiff branches.

72. The Gen Sec thanked all speakers, participants, and those attending both in-person and online for their support and engagement. The date for the next Annual General Meeting was confirmed as Saturday, 14 Mar 26, at the Victory Services Club, London.

Item 11: Date of Next Meeting

- a. **Decision** – *The date of the next Annual General Meeting is 14 Mar 26 and will be held in the Victory Services Club, London.*

T C Muers
RSA Ops Mgr
(Original Signed)

Action:
RSA Branches

Info:
Corps Col
Dep Corps Col
Corps SM
COS
Corps Adjt
Corps Col PA
Area Reps
Ops Mgr
RSA AA
WO2 Morris
WO2 Brand



**Headquarters Royal Signals
Griffin House, Blandford Camp,
BLANDFORD FORUM, Dorset DT11 8RH**

Telephone: **0303 371 0784**
E-Mail: david.craft464@mod.gov.uk



Reference: 04-17-03

All RSA Central Committee Members
All RSA AGM Representatives

Date: 27 Feb 26

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT TO THE 81st RSA AGM – 14 Mar 26

INTRODUCTION

1. 2025 was a year of significant change for the Association. Maj Gen David McDowall, the Chair RSA at the time, sadly passed in Apr 25. The Corps held a memorial service for him, planned and delivered by the Association, which was an outstanding tribute to his life and a celebration of his commitment to our Corps. Hundreds attended in person and many more watch online. It showed our Association at its very best!
2. 2025 has also seen a fairly substantial change in the members of the Central Committee. A new RSA President, a new RSA Chair, and new Corps Col, a new Area Rep covering Wales, a new RSA Admin Asst and, toward the back end of 2025, the loss of the Asst Gen Sec on retirement. The 'new' Committee sat for the first time in Feb 26.
3. My report, as ever, will continue to follow the format of updating you on issues where required and highlighting those areas that we will have the opportunity to discuss at the AGM.

SUCCESSION PLAN FOR THE ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY

4. The Asst Gen Sec post is a Civil Service tied appointment and, sadly, the current restrictions on recruiting have impacted our quest to replace Steve Lockwood in a timely fashion. We had been given initial authority to recruit and had only 1 week left on that recruitment campaign before the recruiting freeze hit us back in Sep 25. That freeze is still in place and is unlikely to be lifted any time soon. That will clearly add additional pressure on the RSA team in Corps HQ, so please bear that in mind if you are expecting a response to routine business/correspondence.
5. Of course, we do now have a new RSA Admin Asst, Liz Cooper. Liz has been in for 6 months now and is really starting to get her feet under the table. Many of you, I am sure, will already have met or spoken to Liz. Whilst she will certainly help to turn work around more quickly, just note that Liz is only supporting the RSA on a part-time basis.

I am sure that all members will join me in thanking Steve for his unwavering support to our Corps and the Association over a career which spanned more than 40 years.

KEY CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER APPOINTMENTS CONFIRMED IN 2025.

6. As already alluded to, two members of the Central Committee were appointed in 2025. Both appointments would normally have been brought to the AGM for ratification but, in accordance with the direction from last year's AGM, these appointments were dealt with by the Central Committee due to their timing.

a. **Chair RSA – Brig (Retd) Jake Thackray.** The direction from the AGM last year confirmed that a Chair RSA would be sought and appointed 'out of committee' by the AGM by staffing the nomination through the Central Committee. The RSA President's nomination to succeed Maj Gen McDowall was Brig Jake Thackray. This was staffed through the Central Committee members, and I know that Branches in their respective areas were also engaged. I am delighted to report to the AGM that support was unanimous, and Brig Jake took over as Chair RSA in Sep 25 from Brig David Hargreaves, who had kindly held the reigns following General David's death in Apr 25.

b. **Area Rep Wales – Gwen Pettigrew.** The Area Rep covering Wales had to step down unexpectedly and Barry Doughty, the Secretary of the Cardiff and South Wales Branch, very kindly agreed to hold the fort for as long as it took to confirm a new Area Rep. Thankfully for him, he did not have to wait too long. Gwen volunteered to become the Area Rep and this was fully supported by the Wales RSA members. The Central Committee agreed the appointment at their Board in Sep 25 and, due to Barry Doughty requesting to step down with immediate effect, Gwen has been covering the area since that meeting.

The AGM is therefore requested to note the appointment of Chair RSA and Area Rep for Wales and my thanks go to all members for their support and understanding whilst the Central Committee worked through these appointments.

My thanks also go out to David Hargreaves and Barry Doughty for so willingly and ably stepping in to cover the appointments whilst a permanent solution was found.

THE FUTURE OF THE BRANCH STRUCTURE

7. It will come as no surprise to you all to hear that the issue of maintaining our branch footprint remains the highest concern of the Central Committee. I am sure that it is on the minds of those branches that are struggling to encourage new members to join. Sadly, another two branches have closed in 2025. The Central Committee Meeting in Feb 26 again discussed this in detail and the branch updates, seen by the Committee, are part of this AGM reading pack so that members can see the scale of the situation facing our Association.

8. I will, of course, reiterate that we are not alone in addressing this issue. Every Association, including the National ones such as the Royal British Legion, are struggling to attract and maintain members, resulting in the closure of branches across the country. There is clearly a cultural aspect to this with the 'younger' generation of veterans not wanting

to meet in the traditional way that branches have done so to date and there is definitely an unwillingness to volunteer to run branches, resulting in Branches, even some with good membership, closing.

9. Our intent is to continue to support our branches as best we can but, as was reiterated last year, we simply cannot do that without the active support of the Branches themselves. I am delighted to see that some branches have taken onboard the discussion last year and have started to change when and where they meet, develop a more relaxed approach to meetings, to include other capbadges in their events and to reach out to the serving Corps where it is feasible to do so.

10. To support all this work, the Chair RSA has recently set in train a piece of work to see how we can better integrate the serving and retired Corps which would hopefully provide tangible support to branches. Getting the serving Corps engaged with the Association earlier in their career may just encourage more to stay engaged when they leave active service. More to follow on that initiative as we develop it over the next few months.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS WEBSITE

11. We discussed the need to change the Corps website at the AGM last year, due to the vast majority of branches not using the site, resulting in it being woefully out of date. That work, led by the Asst Gen Sec, to update the Corps website (www.royalsignals.org) has now been completed. The intent, highlighted last year, was to produce a more 'regionally focussed' page based on the Association areas, which would provide a 'business card' for branches and would also allow a link to the Branch social media sites, which is where the majority of branches published their information to.

12. I am aware that the few branches who had invested in their webpages on the old site now feel let down that the facility is no longer available on the new site. Whilst this is clearly regrettable, we simply could not leave the site as it was and hence the discussion last year at the AGM. I would encourage those sites to ensure that there is a link on the new site which takes people to their own social media page to ensure that the information you want publicised is still available.

13. The other changes discussed last year to do with Gifts in Wills and fundraising have also been completed. There are also some excellent 'Members Offers' now available so please do look at the new site if you have yet to do so. Finally, we are looking to move to a new application which would enhance the ability of the Association to communicate. This 'app' is known as The Military App (www.militaryapp.org). If this app is adopted, it also comes with its own website and so the structure implemented today on our own website should hopefully ensure that branch data isn't lost during any migration.

LAYING UP BRANCH STANDARDS

14. I am aware that many branches are concerned about the Standards that are left following the closure of branches. After some excellent work by our members to ascertain how many Standards might be in this situation, it appears that there may already be between 7 to 9 Standards. I have engaged with the Corps Museum on the matter but they do not have the room to display them all. Work to update the Museum will add further pressure on the space available.

15. I have therefore started to engage with the Garrison Church in Blandford to see if they could take the Standards. Initial discussions with the Garrison Padre were positive but space is also going to be the key issue. The Garrison Padre has been away for most of this year but I am hoping to re-engage on his return in March 2026 and I will keep you updated.

BENEVOLENCE UPDATE

16. This would normally be covered as part of the Assistant General Secretary's update but I will cover benevolence here for your awareness. The key points are:

- a. **Benevolence 2025.** From 01 January to the 31 December 2025 the RSC awarded **367** grants to past and present members of the Corps totalling **£290,046.71**, a 7% reduction on the amount spent in 2024. 35 of these grants were awarded to serving regular or reserve members of the Corps totalling £32,293. This clearly means that 332 retired members of our Corps required assistance in 2025 at a total cost of £257,753.71. The majority of the grants awarded were used for the provision of household items followed by debt relief.
- b. **Death in Service.** When a serving soldier passes away RSC makes an immediate grant of £1,500 to the Unit so that they may assist the unit and family at an extremely difficult time. Sadly, 1 Reservist soldier died in service during 2025.
- c. **Army Benevolent Fund (ABF).** The RSC gave the ABF a grant of £35,000 in 2025. This money allows the ABF to support Signallers quickly and often without the knowledge of the RSC. That said, the majority of funds given by them to support Signallers is done in conjunction with the RSC. In 2025, the Army Benevolent Fund, through almonisation with the RSC, supported 84 grants. 78 were for retired members of the Corps and 6 were for serving members of the Corps. The total value of the grants awarded was £92,982.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION EVENTS DURING 2026

17. As ever, I will finish my update with a quick look ahead to the key 'National' events coming up over the next few months. They are all very familiar to you but please get the dates for this year in your diaries:

- a. **Governor's Rehearsal for Founders Day, Royal Hospital Chelsea - 2 Jun 26.**
- b. **Corps Weekend – 19-21 Jun 26.** Follows the format of the previous few years with a 'Meet & Greet' in the Offrs' Mess followed by the traditional format for the Saturday.
- c. **Summer Sales Festival, Kemble – 7-9 Aug 26.** The fourth iteration of this excellent and growing festival.
- d. **Autumn Central Committee Meeting – 4 Sep 26.** Our 'in person' meeting will again be held in Lichfield just prior to the Corps Service of Remembrance at the NMA.

e. **Corps Service of Remembrance, NMA – 5 Sep 25.**

18. As usual, all information/updates for these events and those toward the end of the year will be posted on our RSA webpage (www.royalsignals.org).

SUMMARY

19. The future look and feel of our Association remains the key issue going forward but we should not lose sight of the excellent work that our branches are still delivering today. Without your continued help and support, the Association simply could not function and many of our Corps who require assistance or simply just a 'friendly ear' would not get it. I thank you all for that and I look forward to working through how we take the Association forward with you.

Certa Cito

{Signed on MODNet}

DA CRAFT
Colonel (Retired)
General Secretary
The Royal Signals Association



**Headquarters Royal Signals
Griffin House, Blandford Camp,
BLANDFORD FORUM, Dorset DT11 8RH**

Telephone: 0303 371 0784
E-Mail: david.craft464@mod.gov.uk



All RSA Central Committee Members
All RSA AGM Representatives

Reference: 04-17-03

Date: 27 Feb 26

**GENERAL SECRETARY'S FINANCIAL UPDATE TO THE RSA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING –
14 MARCH 2026**

INTRODUCTION

1. This short financial report has been compiled to aid wider briefings within the RSA community. At this time of year, we audit the previous year's budget, establish the indicative budget for this year and then look further ahead in the forecast of outturn columns. This report is, therefore, designed to be read with the attached budget sheets.
2. All money is held as part of The Royal Signals Charity (RSC) and constitutes part of the wider Corps finances. RSA input to the RSC is represented through the RSA Chair, who is both a Trustee of the charity and the deputy Controller of the RSTL Board, the Corps Colonel and myself; your interests are, therefore, well represented.
3. There are 2 elements to the budget and these are extracts from the full RSC Outcome 2025 report:
 - a. Donations & Legacies.
 - b. Welfare & Veterans.
4. In both, we need to focus on the first 4 columns of figures which are, left to right:
 - a. The Outcome 2024 which shows what we received and spent that year – purely as a comparison.
 - b. The Budget 2025 which shows what we thought we were going to receive and spend last year.
 - c. The Outcome 2025 which is what we actually spent and received last year and reflects the figures provided to our auditors.
 - d. The Budget 2026 which shows the financial targets set for this year.
5. The remaining columns are budget forecasts out to 2029 but these will be amended over time so they will not be covered in any detail in this report.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION – BENEVOLENCE UPDATE

6. The following points should be noted:

a. **Expenditure.**

(1) **Benevolence Grants.** The last financial year ran from 1 Jan – 31 Dec 25 and you can see at **Welfare Grants Expenditure** on page 2 that we spent **£268,976** in that period on **367** individual cases. This spend was down on 2024 by about 7%. This reduction seems to be following the trend that we have seen in the last few years and is also being seen across many other military charities. This has resulted in a slightly reduced budget for 2026 of £300,000 (down from £350,000 in 2025), but to reiterate, **there is no cap on benevolence** should demand rise even further. This figure is purely for budgeting purposes.

(2) **Grants.** The remaining grants are, once again broken down into their main areas. The annual grant to the ABF remains at **£35,000** in 2025. This money enables the ABF to react quickly to individual requests for support often without the knowledge of the RSC. The ABF actually gave **£92,982** supporting **84** Signallers in need. The rest of the 'expenditure entries' are, hopefully, self-explanatory.

(3) **Total Grants.** The total grant outcome for 2025 was **£315,765**, which is a slight **decrease** on 2024 of circa £24.7K or 7%.

b. **Income.**

(1) **Subscriptions.** The subscriptions from "One Day's Pay" giving (top of page 2) remain the main direct income for our benevolence. In 2025 we received **£310,722** which, as mandated by KRs (formerly QRs), represents 50% of a day's pay income from the serving Corps. Yet again, this figure is up on 2024 (by about 6%) as a result of our continued efforts to sell the benefits of the RSC to our serving Corps.

(2) **Donations & Legacies.** You will see on page 1, within 'Donations and Legacies', the income from all donations was **£79,672**. This was generated from branches, individuals, lottery income, units and fundraising, etc. Further, **£61,100** was received from legacies. Total income in this area was therefore **£140,772** which more than doubles the income achieved in 2024 (£69,030). I am delighted to see that, yet again, the generosity of our branches has delivered an increase on the previous year. The Association thanks those RSA Branches who have so generously donated and would urge those who haven't to help if/where they can. I should also point out that this income was transferred to the Corps Fund for use across all charitable activity including for Veterans and Welfare, in line with the RSTL Board policy. This allows for greater flexibility in spending income as the Corps Fund is unrestricted.

7. **Support Costs.** Support costs represent the overall cost of employing the RSC grant co-ordinator, general expenses specific to Welfare and shared costs (such as IT support) split between all elements of the charity. These totalled **£86,043** in 2025.

8. **Benevolence/Welfare Conclusion.** Our overall 2025 expenditure on welfare was **£401,808**, a reduction on 2024 driven primarily by the downturn in benevolence support. The net expenditure on benevolence (i.e. after the income from subscriptions has been applied) was **£91,086**.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION – VETERANS

9. The following should be noted:

- a. **Investment Income and Gains.** In 2025 the charity moved a substantial portion (70%) of its investment portfolio into a fund which better met the investment objectives of the charity. That changed the way the charity's income from its investments is received from an 'income plus gains' return to a 'total return' objective. Sadly, continuing global economic turbulence has hit the value of this fund and, at the time of reporting, has seen a loss of **£134,316**. This is hugely disappointing and is being very carefully monitored by the RSTL Board.
- b. **Expenditure.** Overall expenditure in support of Veterans activities was up slightly on 2024 (by nearly £22K) at **£165,502**. This was predominately driven by a higher number of 'in person' meetings and increased travel costs. Members will recall that 2024 saw a reduction in these areas due to a need to reduce expenditure that year.

CONCLUSION ON THE 2025 FINANCIAL SITUATION

10. The net expenditure on Welfare and Veterans activities in 2025 was **£368,455**. This, of course, was impacted by the investment losses mentioned earlier which makes the figure look slightly worse than was anticipated.

GIFTS IN WILLS

11. It is worth highlighting to members that the Charity now has a free will writing service with Octopus Legacy. The details for this service can be found on the Royal Signals Charity website (www.royalsignals.org). Please pass this to your Branch members where relevant.

{Original Signed}

DA CRAFT
Col (Retd)
Corps Sec & RSA Gen Sec

Attachment:

1. Royal Signals Association Outcome 2025 – 'Donations & Legacies' and 'Welfare & Veterans'.

Outcome 2025
Donations and Legacies

	OUTCOME 2024	BUDGET 2025	OUTCOME 2025	BUDGETS 2026	2027	2028	2029
Income							
Donations							
Individuals	27,755		30,583				
Commercial	-		509				
Lottery	6,244		6,586				
Branches	8,858		11,765				
Units	2,880		3,698				
Just Giving + web sources	12,432		26,531				
	<u>58,169</u>	<u>50,000</u>	<u>79,672</u>	<u>50,000</u>	<u>50,000</u>	<u>50,000</u>	<u>50,000</u>
Legacies	10,861	10,000	61,100	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Routine Income	<u>69,030</u>	<u>60,000</u>	<u>140,772</u>	<u>60,000</u>	<u>60,000</u>	<u>60,000</u>	<u>60,000</u>
Allocated to:							
Welfare & Veterans	34,515	30,000	-	-	-	-	-
Corps Fund	<u>34,515</u>	<u>30,000</u>	<u>140,772</u>	<u>60,000</u>	<u>60,000</u>	<u>60,000</u>	<u>60,000</u>

From 2025 all unspecified Donations and Legacies are allocated to the Corps Fund,
previously they were split 50:50.

Welfare & Veterans

as above	34,515	30,000	-	-	-	-	-
Legacies specific to RSA	3,708	-	-	-	-	-	-
RSA Donations	-	-	437	-	-	-	-
	<u>38,223</u>	<u>30,000</u>	<u>437</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Corps Fund

as above	34,515	30,000	140,772	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
Sundry Income	1,221	500	333	300	300	300	300
	<u>35,736</u>	<u>30,500</u>	<u>141,105</u>	<u>60,300</u>	<u>60,300</u>	<u>60,300</u>	<u>60,300</u>

Sundry Income includes book and gin sales.

Outcome 2025
Welfare and Veterans

	OUTCOME 2024	BUDGET 2025	OUTCOME 2025	BUDGETS 2026	2027	2028	2029
Corps Subscriptions Income							
50% of a day's pay as KR 5.613a	293,191	293,210	310,722	305,960	305,960	305,960	305,960
Other Income							
Investment Income	97,834	72,071	22,012	61,786	61,399	60,991	60,533
Invest. Gains/(Losses)	377,842	223,380	(134,316)	206,481	205,284	204,020	202,585
Donations & Legacies	38,223	30,000	437	-	-	-	-
	513,899	325,451	(111,867)	268,267	266,683	265,011	263,118
Total Income	807,090	618,661	198,855	574,227	572,643	570,971	569,078
Welfare Grants Expenditure				budgets are estimated outcomes; no actual "cap" is enforced.			
Benevolence Grants	290,238	350,000	268,976	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
Grants,etc							
Army Benevolent Fnd	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
Central Committee	8,500	8,500	8,250	8,500	8,500	8,500	8,500
Other	-	500	300	500	500	500	500
Funeral Expenses	794	1,000	1,739	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Unit - Death in Service grants	6,000	3,000	1,500	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Total Welfare Grants	340,532	398,000	315,765	348,000	348,000	348,000	348,000
Welfare Support Costs							
Welfare Grants Officer	46,957	46,000	47,975	48,500	48,500	48,500	48,500
General expenses	-	250	383	250	250	250	250
Shared Costs	35,301	37,260	37,685	37,050	37,050	37,050	37,050
	82,258	83,510	86,043	85,800	85,800	85,800	85,800
Total Welfare Expenditure	422,790	481,510	401,808	433,800	433,800	433,800	433,800
Net Welfare Expenditure	129,599	188,300	91,086	127,840	127,840	127,840	127,840
Veterans Expenditure							
Corps Weekend	19,892	20,000	* 16,627	* 20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Morale & Efficiency 50%	(9,946)	(11,000)	* (8,314)	* (11,000)	(11,000)	(11,000)	(11,000)
Memorials & Events							
NMA Memorial	13,112	12,000	* 12,006	* 12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
Morale & Efficiency 50%	(6,556)	(6,000)	* (6,003)	* (6,000)	(6,000)	(6,000)	(6,000)
Other	6,680	4,550	2,603	4,550	4,550	4,550	4,550
Branch Support	845	1,000	1,871	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
AGM & other meetings	(1,565)	9,200	12,026	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Support Costs							
RSA Secretary + Asst	64,092	62,600	67,486	75,100	75,100	77,400	77,400
Insurance	1,148	1,200	1,148	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
Travel & General expenses	8,835	10,000	15,805	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
Shared Costs	47,068	49,680	50,246	49,400	49,400	49,400	49,400
	143,605	153,230	165,502	168,250	168,250	170,550	170,550
Surplus / (Deficit)	240,694	(16,079)	(368,455)	(27,823)	(29,407)	(33,379)	(35,272)

* Reunion and Memorial Events have widened into Corps events (not mostly Veterans) and so costs are shared.

RSA Annual General Meeting Members

Reference: AGM/26

Date: 03 March 2026

Operations Manager's Report to the 81st Annual General Meeting – 14th March 2026

Introduction

1. Over the past twelve months, the Association office has delivered a wide range of activity and achieved a number of important outcomes in support of its members. Our efforts have been directed towards strengthening relationships between serving personnel and veterans, maintaining a strong programme of events, and ensuring consistent and visible representation of the Association at national level. Alongside this, we have continued to support and develop our branch network and have begun further work to grow and enhance the Supporting Our Signallers (SOS) network.

Delivery

2. During the year, our members represented the Association at a wide range of significant events, including Corps Weekend, Founders Day, the St James's Palace Cocktail Party, Signals Sunday at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, the Service of Remembrance at the National Memorial Arboretum and the Cenotaph parade.

3. Regrettably, during the year we were notified of the deaths of 214 members. Approximately three quarters of those notified received funeral or related support from the Administration Office. Many more deaths were announced on the Association Facebook group but, as members should be aware, we cannot react to unsubstantiated social media posts, so please ensure that deaths that you would like the office to react to are formally notified to us.

4. Our digital presence has continued to grow strongly. By the end of the reporting period, more than 1,200 members were following our Facebook page and 1300 our Instagram account, reflecting continued engagement across the serving and veteran community.

5. Visiting and engaging with members, serving and retired and other charities remains a core part of our work. During the year, Association representatives attended and supported a wide range of events, including:

- RSI Career Fair
- Rotherham Branch Dinner
- Sheffield Branch Dinner
- Bedford Branch Dinner
- Summer Sales events
- Colerne Family Day
- Fiji Day
- 1 Signal Regiment Charity Darts Night
- Project Noel

- Senior Soldier Conference
- Northern Ireland Branch Burns Night
- Numerous Christmas and annual branch dinners

6. As the Gen Sec already highlighted in his report, we are pleased to announce the recruitment of Liz Cooper as Admin Assistant. Liz has been outstanding in her support and will primarily deal with deaths, funeral support and membership queries so please direct any such requests to Liz via email RSA@Royalsignals.org. In addition to this, Liz also supports the charity and can assist with fundraising efforts and support.

Information Update

7. Branch updates – During the year the newly established West Yorkshire Branch has performed particularly well and continues to attract new members. The Reading Branch has formally changed its name to the Berkshire Branch. South London Branch has transitioned to affiliation status but continues to meet regularly. Sadly, the North Norfolk branch has closed due to lack of interest in the area.

8. Supporting Our Signallers Update – A total of 152 volunteers are now registered under the Supporting Our Signallers scheme. During the year, ten requests for assistance were received from both serving personnel and members of the retired community. The initial volunteer training package has now been delivered to a number of volunteers to ensure clear understanding of the support that can and cannot be provided. Following feedback from the attendees, the course will be further tailored and opened up to provide more volunteers with the opportunity to gain this valuable training.

9. Data Protection Impact Assessment - In line with data protection requirements, we must ensure that all branches are managing members' information appropriately. During the next month, a data protection agreement will be issued to every branch. We ask that branches complete and return this form promptly so that compliance can be confirmed and maintained. This is mandatory to allow Corps HQ to share personal information with branches, so please do not ignore this form when it comes in.

10. Social Media Concerns - The Digital Communications Team continues to do an excellent job in promoting the achievements and activities of the Corps across our social media channels. Unfortunately, a small number of negative and inappropriate comments have been posted, specifically relating to the appearance of individuals featured in our content. While these comments are largely from non-active branch members, we ask all members to assist in monitoring and reporting such behaviour to the relevant group administrators. Where necessary, we have authorised the blocking of individuals from our social media platforms to continue providing a safe space for all.

11. All Arms PRI - All Arms PRI have assumed the role of the new merchandise supplier for the Corps. All Arms PRI are a trusted and experienced provider specialising in supplying high quality products to military and defence sectors and are happy to provide bespoke presentation items on request. Founded by two veterans (one an ex Signals RSM) and every purchase made raises money for the Royal Signals Charity. They are regularly at Corps Weekend showcasing their wares and produce everything from presentation pieces to notebooks. We urge you and your members to help the charity by using All Arms PRI in the first instance for any branch related merchandise. They can be found online at allarmspri.com.

Conclusion

12. It has been another busy year for the Association, and we are striving to continue with greater promotion and awareness of the fantastic work our members do. Additionally, we intend to further

develop the welfare side and mental health aspect of our members through improved training via the SOS scheme. As always, if you have any queries or suggestions, you can contact us via tracey.muers101@mod.gov.uk and RSA@royalsignals.org.

Mrs Tracey Muers
Operations Manager
Royal Signals Association



Awards

40 Year Awards

John Chinchin-Brighton
Rob Dyball – East London
David Lambert – Middlesex
Roberta Harrison- Northern Ireland
Mark Harrison – Northern Ireland
John Lucas – Northern Ireland
Robert Foote – Northern Ireland
Keith Smale – Northern Ireland
Peter Whitfield – Northern Ireland

50 Year Awards

Steve Brisk – Liverpool
Alex Daley – Liverpool
Majorie Heatley– Liverpool
John Hudson – Liverpool
Peter Jervold - Liverpool
Chrystal David – Northern Ireland
Noel McBride – Northern Ireland
William Ogden – Northern Ireland
George Cook – Northern Ireland

60 Year Awards

Tony Jacklin – Birmingham

Joe Long – Northern Ireland

70 Years Awards

Jimmy Lister - Cardiff

75 Year Awards

Michael Stanger – Leeds and Scarborough

Honour Awards

Robert McSeveny – Scarborough

Keith Parsons - Scarborough



RSA, Area 1 (North)

Report for Central Committee Meeting

February 2026

Comment – I'm pleased to report that most of our branch's remain in good spirit, active and relevant, although like many organisations they continue to suffer from an ageing membership and lack of volunteers for key posts !!

My Visits/ Events -

Oct 2025 – Association of Harrogate Apprentices AGM which resulted in a lack of volunteer officials, and subsequent closure of the association. Distribution of their £6K funds were discussed with some being directed to The Royal Signals Charity.

Oct 2025 – Not really my area, but attended and supported the inaugural **West Yorkshire Branch** meeting which was well supported and showed lots of potential.

Nov 2025 – York Branch Annual dinner which was as enjoyable and vibrant as ever with an interesting brief from CO 2 Signal Regiment.

Nov 2025 – Project Noel – Reduced numbers but as pleasant and enjoyable as ever.

Feb 2026 – M62 Memorial Service for 1974 IRA coach bombing. Always well attended with Wreaths laid to remember the 2 Corps soldiers killed along with 10 others.

Funerals –

Support at, or for funerals within the area has probably been my major task recently, with attendance, coffin drape, standard, eulogies or readings at funerals in Pontefract, Stockton, Harrogate, and Leeds.

A second Coffin Drape from RHQ, is now held by Darlington Branch and is very much appreciated.

Notes -

Catterick Branch - are holding their annual 'For The Fallen' Memorial service at Gaza Barracks on 19 March 2026 which is the 38th anniversary of the murder of Cpls Woods and Howes. It will take place at the Sundial purchased by the Sun newspaper in their memory. All are invited and it's understood Brigadier Jake is planning on attending.

Peter Byers – Who is still an active member of York Branch will be 100 on 1st April 2026 and amongst many forms of celebration the Branch would like Peter to get 100 Birthday cards. To help reach this number, Branch's or individuals are asked to forward cards marked 'for Peter Byers' to 29 Burnholme Grove, York, YO31 0LN. A letter of congratulations is also being produced from the Master.

An interesting point on the changing nature of meetings of many organisations was raised by General John Stokoe, who chaired the Harrogate Apprentices Association meeting. He highlighted, how many younger folk were not attracted to the formality or regimes of old, at regular meetings, but were happy to meet up at a breakfast club, wetherspoons or other establishment for an informal session and catch up !!

Area 1 South

During the last six month period I have visited Lincoln, Sheffield and Rotherham.

Sheffield Branch

President Colin Slaughter
Chair David Warburton
Vice Chair Keith Moxon
Secretary Gail Leach
Treasurer William Evans
Life Members 47
Associate Members 11
Standard Adrian Simmons
Annual Subscription £5.00

Rotherham Branch

President Michael Hicken
Chair Keith Moxon
Vice Chair Terry Morahan
Secretary Keith Bates
Treasurer Keith Bates
Life Members 19
Associate Members 4
Standard Keith Bates
Annual Subscription £5.00

Lincoln Branch

President Granville Yeomans
Chair Wayne Bramley
Vice Chair Ben Revell
Secretary Sylvia Revell
Treasurer Ben Revell
Life Members 26
Associate Members 27
Standard Ben Revell
Annual Subscription £10.00 (only life members)

Dinner at Lincoln and 2 lunches.

**AREA 2 REPORT
FOR THE PERIOD
SEPTEMBER 25- FEBRUARY 26**

This was my first period in office. I contacted all branches in the area to inform them of the change of representative and introduce myself.

I requested the branch reports for the period September 25 until February 26 and the following is what I have received.

MANCHESTER BRANCH

The branch has been quite busy during this period. However, during June 25 we held a summer party night from which the proceeds of the raffle were donated to the Royal Signals Charity.

OCTOBER

A number of branch members attended the local Naval association Trafalgar Day Function.

NOVEMBER

The branch standard was paraded at a number of remembrance events including at the Manchester Cenotaph.

DECEMBER

The branch hosted a Christmas Function for some 80 attendees, this included representatives from the Naval, Wren and Wrac associations, we also had local council representation from 2 councillors.

The branch also has a presence at the Stockport breakfast club and Stockport Armed Forces Community Organisation (SAFCO).

SOUTHPORT BRANCH

Southport branch meet on the third Thursday of each month for a monthly meeting and hot buffet supper.

OCTOBER

The branch hosted an autumn formal dinner which was attended by Brig. Thackery as guest of honour.

DECEMBER

The branch held a Christmas party which was aa new event whioch went down well with members. It included games, dancing, carols and a Christmas raffle.

JANUARY

The branch had its annual AGM which was well attended by the membership. At the meeting the branch elected a new Chairman who is Mr. John Burns and a new vice chairman who is Mr. Andy Sole.

Going forward we will be holding an afternoon tea on the 27th March and a formal St. Georges day dinner with Mr and Mrs. Harry Ferguson as guests of honour.

Area South 2 & Northern Ireland Report – CCM, 25thFeb 2026

Since the last reporting period I attended the Corps Memorial Service at the NMA in September, Paraded at the Cenotaph in November, and attended the last day of the Senior Warrant Officers conference in Hayling Island culminating at HMS Victory for dinner, in January along with members of RHQ and Chairman, I attended Burns night celebration and dinner with the Northern Ireland branch. and have been in contact with the branches in Area two South regularly by phone, WhatsApp and by email.

SHROPSHIRE BRANCH

Membership in the Shropshire branch has risen to 59 with an added 3 Affiliate and 6 Associate members, with a further membership of 59 on email. 28 members on the Shropshire RSA WhatsApp group and 849 followers on Facebook.

In the previous six months Regular attendance at meetings is between 20 and 30 members.

An application for an outstanding 40-year award for Maj (Retd) Dave G Wright is in the process of being submitted.

On the 10 Sep 25 - Shrewsbury Mayor was invited to present 40yr RSA awards to Karl Scaife and John Abram.

On the 8 Oct 25 -The John Wall's Memorial Dinner was held to Remember all past Branch Members and friends who have sadly passed gonr to rest..

Chairman and Committee would like to request the following points:

1. Request an update to what is happening with the new revised RSA Website?
2. Is it possible for new potential RSA members for the Shropshire branch be trickled through or will they be batch processed?
3. Are we having another HQ RSA Roadshow? (RSA Shropshire are happy to host the team as in the past)
4. We would like to arrange a visit to the branch by the new Chairman.

NUNEATON BRANCH

Have a Membership of 41 on email, with a following of 80 members signed up on the Face Book group. Between 6 to 8 members meet regularly, in Gamecot Barracks with the kind permission of the CO of 30 Signal Regiment.

The branch often meets up for external meetings such as for a meal, where more members join in with their wives and partners. The Chairman attended the NMA and The Cenotaph in London.

Sadly, the branch has lost one member (Name not given)

NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH

In the last six months from last CCM in September 2025

The Branch has 3 New members and 2 new Associate Members, giving us a total of 110 Life Members and 7 Associate Members on the books.

There is not a dedicated branch following on social media , FB.

There will be a proposal at the AGM to make 4 members "Exempt" Being valued members who have supported the Branch for many years and due to illness, they are no longer able to attend meetings or events.

Meeting attendance over the period is regularly between 28 and 35 members

In November the branch attended the Remembrance Sunday Parade where 35 Members & 12 Guests took part

The Annual Formal Christmas Dinner was again well represented with 31 Members and 13 Guests
In January the Branch held a Burns night where 41 Members & 25 Guests celebrated in true Burns tradition.

Sadly, the branch lost Bill (William) Herridge in December RIP

General Info

New Application for Awards - The list of Awards applications was emailed to RHQ for 11 members
3 are ex regulars where mor info is requested from RHQ from service records.

Chairman and Committee would like to request the following points:

Corp Weekend in June 2026 - At present there are 17 plus? members attending.

Please pass thanks to Tracey and the new admin, Liz for all their support and help sorting out the NI Branch membership database and outstanding life members applications. With so many branches to look after, it must be a very busy and time-consuming job.

BIRMINGHAM BRANCH

The branch has a membership strength of 96 members on database, however, roughly only 76 are more active. The Branch has a social media following of currently 152

The branch meets on the penultimate Tuesday of every month and on average 30+ members attend each meeting, they hold events at the meetings to encourage members to attend, also outside meetings events such as, horse racing, bingo, snakes and ladders and quizzes, are organised also a raffle each month, which is also very popular.

The Branch has a very good relationship and enjoys the full support from 48 Squadron

The Christmas Dinner and Draw held at the golf club had 51 members and guests attend and 24 raffle prizes, donated such as a family of 4 trip to the West Midlands Safari Park. All monies raised from this event will be doated to the Royal signal's Charity,

For the upcoming AGM in April, it is anticipated that about 50 members will attend. At this meeting, it is hoped that a presentation will be made to Robert Clarke for his 60-year award

The Treasurer has recently sent a BACs payment to Blandford for £1,383.58, this figure includes monies raised through the monthly meetings and associated organised events.

Sadly, the branch reports the passing of the following members:

Lydon Jones

Barry Martin

Derek McConnell

Stafford Branch

The Stafford branch has still not yet been fully established. But watch this space.

Area 3 Reports

West Norfolk

On 19/01/2026 21:04, John Hopkins wrote:

Hi Trevor,

Could you please take me off your list as West Norfolk RSA is no longer.

I've written to Tracey **Regards John Hopkins West Norfolk**

Peterborough and District Branch Secretary

On 19/01/2026 14:49, chris williams wrote:

Hi Trevor,

Nothing but bad news from Peterborough Our late Chairman Gary Shaw passed away in December.

We only have three badged members so I don't think it will be long Before the Peterborough and District Branch will fold. I have been in contact with around a dozen people who have recently left

But there is no interest from them. Will keep you informed.

Chris Williams RSA Peterborough and District Branch Secretary

RSAPeterborough@outlook.com

Colchester – only receipt for message – nothing heard

On 19/01/2026 14:47, craigkwatts@btopenworld.com wrote:

Your message

To: undisclosed-recipients:

Subject: Rep.

Sent: 19/01/2026 14:44 was read on 19/01/2026 14:47.

Craig – always receipt's but no report?

Loughborough

On 04/02/2026 14:31, Liz Jones wrote:

I've not got time to send a full report but here are the highlights of our branch. 7 members have passed away during the last year and one member has resigned. With 60 members still on hand with 12 members attending on a regular basis and a full committee in place, we are a strong branch. The AGM is booked to be on the 3rd March to which you are most welcome.

Bob is having a rough time at the moment with Joy diagnosed with Breast Cancer. Ian Scott the chairman rang him last night and he says they caught it early so she will need an operation soon, meanwhile Bobs mobility problems has increased so he has limited walking We had a successful Dinner dance in November as usual and joined the Remembrance service at Woodhouse Eaves in November with a lunch at the Golf club afterwards which was very enjoyable.

Hope that is sufficient. I look forward to seeing you at our AGM if you can make it.

Liz Jones Secretary RSA Loughborough



ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION
AREA THREE
Representative T. E. Holyoake Esq.
BRANCH REPORT
FOR THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING



1. Summarized reports of the activities for the Branch are shown below.
2. During the last 6 month period
3. Problems – Matters you wish me to raise on members behalf

Branch = Norfolk

President	Mr. Mal Loverage	Chairman	Mr Kevin Barnard
Secretary	Mr Stephen Freeman - Pannett	Vice Chairman	
Branch Contact Number	01362 422029		
Treasurer	Mr Steve Nobbs	Life Members	22
Ass Members	2	Branch Total	22
Monthly / Other Meetings Date	Second Saturday in the month Not Aug, one week earlier Oct and Nov	Venue & Time =	Meadowsweet Community Centre, Bussey Road, Norwich 10.30hrs
Standard Yes/No	yes	Standard Bearer Name	Mr Bernie Farrow
Report; Activities; Matters; A.O.B;	Nothing to report. No Activities planned.		

Signed = Steve Freeman = Pannett Position = Secretary Date = 27/01/26



ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION
AREA THREE
Representative: T. E. Holyoake Esq.
BRANCH REPORT
FOR THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING



1. Summarized reports of the activities for the Branch are shown below.
2. During the last 6 month period
3. Problems – Matters you wish me to raise on members behalf

Branch: **East London**

Position	Name	Position	Name
President	Lt Col Jackie Allan	Chairman	Neill Keen
Vice Chairman	Reggie Cullumbine	Secretary	Anita Keen
Treasurer	Sarah Dyball	Assistant Treasurer	Anita Keen
Authorised Signatories	Clifton Springer, Alan Turner	Information Manager	Tony Glynn
Standard Bearers	Rob Dyball, Peter Dawes	Well-Being Officer	Rob Dyball
Social Committee	Anita Keen, Susan Edwards, Karen Nicholls, Peter Dawes, Clifton Springer	Standard Held	Yes
Branch Secretary - Anita Keen - Contact Details			
Email	neill.keen@ntlworld.com		
Tel	07775 663 640 (Anytime) / 020 8530 3955 (Evening only)		
Memberships		Meetings	
Honour (Life) Members	2	Location & Time	Ilford, 7.30pm for 8pm
Members	59	Branch Meetings	4 th Thursday of the month (except Jan / Aug / Dec)
Associate Members	6	Functions Held	0
Total:	69		

Report Activities	<u>Past events</u> Jul 2025 – Pub get together & Sandwiches Sep 2025 – Bake Off Night Oct 2025– Speaker (To be confirmed) Nov 2025– Christmas Party Games Night & Buffet Nov 2025 – Members attended Remembrance Day services at Chelmsford Race Day & also St Paul’s Cathedral <u>Future planned events:</u> Feb 2026 – Presentation Night/ Quiz and curry supper Mar 2026 – Wellbeing Talk & Buffet Apr 2026 – AGM & St Georges Buffet May 2026 – Dinosuar Race Night Jun 2026– Board Games & Pizza Jul 2026 – Pub get together & Sandwiches Sep 2026 – Bake Off Night Oct 2026– Movie Night with Hotdogs & Popcorn
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	Nov 2026– Christmas Party Games Night & Buffet
Matters A.O.B	<u>Regular, Reserves & Retired</u> Last year I asked: “We need contact between the regiments and their local RSA branches. Unless the local branch is near to one of the garrisons or one of the regular Regiments, there is very little (if any) contact between the Regiments and the Branches. Can introductions be arranged via HQ to neighbouring Regular / Reservist units so we can forge a relationship to try and attract more members to RSA Branches.” I note that the Gen Sec in the CCM meeting in Sept 2025 suggested that Regt SM’s are to be involved with bridging the gap. What has been arranged about this? I don’t believe we have received any direct communication progressing this further. <u>CCM Meetings</u> Can secretaries of the bigger most active branches be invited to attend ‘virtually’ (or in person if possible). i.e. can a representative from our Branch be invited to attend these meetings in the future?

Signed: *Anita Keen*

Position: Branch Secretary

Date: 4th February

2026



ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION
AREA THREE
Representative T. E. Holyoake Esq.
BRANCH REPORT
FOR THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING



1. Summarized reports of the activities for the Branch are shown below.
2. During the last 6 month period
3. Problems – Matters you wish me to raise on members behalf

Branch = **BEDFORD**

President	None	Chairman	R Major
Secretary	T. E. Holyoake	Vice Chairman	M. J. Taylor
Branch Contact Number	01234 349330 07989169843		
Treasurer	R Major	Life Members	45
Ass Members	2	Branch Total	47

Monthly / Other Meetings Date	Last Tuesday of Each Month except July & December	Venue & Time =	North End Social Club Roff Avenue Bedford MK41 7TW
Standard Yes/No	Yes	Standard Bearer Name	M. Luke K. Rawlins
Report; Activities; Matters; A.O.B;	About 25% members attend meetings – successful branch draw in December – Branch AGM come February 24 th – Annual Dinner planned for March 28 th Members looking forward to Corps W/End		

Signed = _T.E.Holyoake____ Position = Secretary Date = 1. 02.2026

Area 4 Report to Central Committee Meeting (CCM) 25th February 2026

Introduction

This report is presented to the CCM, including reports from individual branches and affiliations, where these have been received.

Positives

- There is now more 'cross-fertilisation' with a number of members attending events run by other branches, primarily the Eastbourne Branch dinner.
- The Aldershot branch has strong and established links with the serving Corps and holds regular meetings and activities. They have an annual Quiz night which is well supported by the serving Aldershot and Pirbright units.
- The Middlesex Yeomanry are continuing to document their history and attend many parades and memorial events.

Concerns

- Laying up of former branch standards, 5 standards have been identified as requiring laying up, but no home can be found for them.
- Branch Associate members would like to attend Corps level events but are finding it difficult to log in to the RSA website.
- Some feedback has been received that the new iteration of the website does not allow for branch individualisation.
- Aldershot have highlighted how challenging communicating with the serving Corps has become difficult.
- Confirmation of RSA membership as Membership cards are no longer issued.

Branch Reports

31 Signal Regiment Association

No Report Received

56 Div (London Signals) Branch, Incorporating 83 Signal Squadron

Dave Rayworth has taken over from Steve Bland as secretary. Their AGM is taking place on 27th April 2026.

81 Signal Squadron Association

As you are aware we are an affiliation spread across the country, so events are difficult.

However around 18 members (with partners) attended this year's 81 Squadron Ball in October.

The Manchester contingent hold an 'Octoberfest' in Manchester which a number of members attended with around 40 members attending this year's Manchester Christmas drinks at the end of November.

Membership (the number I have on the distribution list) is currently 153 and we have a strong relationship with the squadron who push retiring Soldiers our way on exit. I have pushed all additions to register on the RSA site but have had a lot of feedback saying they've joined but have received no confirmation which causes some confusion.

Regarding Standards, the Association does not possess a Standard.

Aldershot

Further to the report below, as I endeavour to tie up the details of our Quiz Night in the Garrison I realise there is one further point I could have made in my recent report to you.

That is the difficulty of contacting the Serving Corps. In the past I have managed it with telephone calls. For example, last year most of the details were sorted with an NCO in the Squadron on his mobile phone. This year the OC of 251 Squadron has I believe changed. The new incumbent has not made contact. So, it is becoming increasingly difficult to uphold the objective of the RSA which is to support the Serving Corps! This is not a complaint about any individuals but rather a

suggestion that there should be a little more pressure on the Serving Corps units to reach out to their nearby Association branches and individuals.

At the end of 2025 , 13 members assembled in the very snug Withies Inn for an enjoyable Festive Lunch which brought to an end another good year for the Branch. This had consisted of a full programme of events including the usual Quiz Night in Aldershot Garrison designed to maintain contact with Serving Corps, This was again successful with 9 teams taking part from the Branch, 251 Sig Sqn, Fowler Sqn from the ATR together with representatives from the Ranger Battalion for the first time. Old brains proved best on this occasion with Branch teams taking first and second positions.

Other events were mainly held in the Farnham Golf Club and these included the well attended AGM in April. A new venue for talks was tried out in November. This is in a small church hall in Church Crookham which will be used again in 2026.

Membership consists of 49 Life Members and 27 Associates giving a total of 76. This continues to be a declining number with no increase in new members as well as the loss of older ones. Recent losses have included not only Larry Larrington but also Mike Wilson and Neville Lyons, both of whom had made outstanding contributions to the Branch and the Association. Members were able to attend memorable Memorial Services for both of them.

A full programme of events for 2026 has been compiled by our new Programme Secretary, Aileen Assender. Members were informed of this before Christmas with further details in the Winter Newsletter distributed in early January 2026.

The Area 4 Rep is an active member of the Branch and we have received excellent support from RHQ over the past year especially from Tracey Muers and Colonel David Craft whom we approached on several urgent matters. We are grateful for all this excellent support.

There is one disappointment to report about the Association Website Pages which are contained on the Corps site. . For some years we have made good use of this facility by entering a modest amount of information about our Branch including, for example, copies of our Newsletter. Now that details of the changes to the site have been released it has become apparent that such content is no longer possible. We ask that this is restored for the benefit of all branches and the general availability of useful information.

One final point is that we have learned there is to be a new book published in 2026 entitled "Home of the British Army: the story of Aldershot Garrison." We understand this will give due recognition to the role of the Garrison in the early development of military Signalling and the continuous presence of Corps units there through to the present time.

Berkshire

A brief account as to what is happening with Reading Branch.

I have been in contact with Tracey at RHQ and we should now be called Berkshire Branch, this gives us more scope in trying to recruit more members. I have received the password to enable changes to be made to the web page, once I have spoken with Benny.

I have also asked RHQ for a covering letter to help us get a new bank account that negates charges (still waiting for accountant to get back to us). Benny has sent out details of our next meeting. (hopefully see you there ?)

Now for the big one....

Regarding Standards as already established there are several Standards that need to be Laid -up. I have one for Southampton Branch. I also know that there is one for I think Poole branch that is in Steve Lockwood's office.

I appreciate that we as an association have various hoops that we have to jump through, however, I am dismayed at the way some of the people we have in charge fail to understand that we the members of the association should have as much say as them.

I understand that meeting have been held with RHQ and the Museum to the effect of having Standards laid up in the Museum. I have not been notified officially of the outcome of said meetings, but would like to reiterate that the Museum is as much for the Retired as for the Regular and Reserve elements of the association.

I have been in contact with Various ecclesiastical people and have been advised that the churches are no longer wanting the responsibility of these Standards. I leave that one with you.

Any help you can put forward to the CCM in February would be greatly appreciated, as I am sure that there are at least another one/possibly two Standard Bearers on the Committee that should give us a bit of an edge.

I look forward to your comments and any outcomes regarding this. Should you need my help and/or assistance with future endeavours please let me know.

Brighton

No Report Received

East Kent

No Report Received

Eastbourne

Regarding events I am not sure how far you want me to go back but hopefully this will suffice.

The Branch had a quite busy Autumn with;

EVENTS

- 4th October we held our Annual Dinner with 61 Attendees at the Hydro Hotel Eastbourne
- 2nd November was the Eastbourne Remembrance Church Concert where the Branch are heavily involved in. As a branch we provided 2 Standard Bearers, the introductory speaker, the standards and Cadet Marshall, plus the seating plan organisation.
- 8th November Remembrance Sunday we paraded the Union Flag and the Branch Standard plus laid a wreath on behalf of the Branch. Several members attended the parade.
- 11th November we paraded the Association Standard and presented a wreath at the Eastbourne Memorial Houses parade with several members in attendance.
- 13th November we paraded our Branch Standard at the Funeral of Peter Valentine a local WWII veteran who died aged 101. Several members also attended.
- We have held our monthly gatherings at the Polegate RBL and average around 15 members in attendance each month.

MEMBERSHIP

We currently have 31 paid up members of the Association.

STANDARDS

We currently have our Branch Standard which as you can see above is in 'active service' and due to affiliations around us we also hold a Union Flag and the Army Standard which we parade when appropriate.

I am not aware of any Standards that require laying up and no other Branches have approached me.

OTHER

The challenges we face like all is the waning popularity of these associations culturally which makes it difficult to recruit new members as the membership ages. We ensure we are actively involved with other local organisations such as the RBL, District Veterans Associations and other Corps Service associations. We support local military events such as Armed Forces Day and push our name and existence wherever we can. We are currently engaging more with ACF and CCF units with our cap badge to promote further.

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Middlesex Yeomanry Association

Membership in the Association tends to remain reasonably static notwithstanding the passing of the years, and the decision to make the AGM and other relevant meetings hybrid, allowing Members to attend either in person or virtually, has proved very successful.

PLKRA

Robin Watson has taken over from Steve Bland as secretary. In early October members of the association will travel to France for regimental memorial services. They hold a joint annual lunch with 31Sig Regt Assoc in May.

South London

Have now become an affiliation with Steve Bland remaining as their POC.

RSA Area 5 Report

Salisbury Branch – Membership numbers remain steady, losing a couple who have moved out of the area but gaining a couple as well. Attendance levels continue to be lower than hoped for. A successful autumn lunch saw an all-time record of £320 raised for the Corps Charity. The branch has hosted a presentation from a legal firm advising on making claims against the MOD for noise induced hearing loss through military service. It has also hosted a team from 15 Signal Regiment briefing on their roles and capabilities. The Branch continues to build links with the serving Corps and regularly hosts visiting groups from 1 Sig Regt at monthly meetings.

Poole Branch – Over the last 6 months they have held their AGM and the existing Committee was re-elected for another year. Sadly Lt Col (Retd) Alan Davies, past President of the Branch, died after a long illness. We held our usual Christmas Dinner at the Bridge House Longham where the new Chairman RSA, Brigadier (Retd) Jack Thackray, was the Guest of Honour. They have raised the issue of bank charges for their branch account and which is a separate agenda item for the CCM.

Swindon Branch – The Branch have held occasional breakfast and lunch meetings as some have availability issues for evening meetings and some avoid driving at night. Attendance is low but consistent. Venue issues have been resolved and they continue meeting at the Polish Social Club.

Bristol Branch – The Branch still regularly holds meetings every last Thursday of the month. They co-hosted a cheese and wine evening in August with the REME Association and also had a couple of Chelsea pensioners attending. The last event of the year was the Annual Branch Dinner night held at the BAWA Filton at the end of November. 34 members on the books and paying subs.

Colerne. No progress has been reported in formally establishing a new branch. However, they are still running a series of veteran's breakfasts both in the local pub and the WOs' & Sgts' Mess. Last year they hosted a Veterans 80th Anniversary VE day dinner in the Officers' and WOs' Mess of 21 Signal Regiment with Deputy Lord Lieutenant Judge Simon Cooper as the guest of honour. Other guests included RBL President Andy Williams, Brian Mathew MP, serving members of 21 Signal Regiment, veterans and supporters of the Royal British Legion.

1. Summarized reports of the activities for the Area Scotland are shown below.

Area Representative Jeff Jephcote

RSA Edinburgh

President	Sheila Purvis	Chairmen	Jeff Jephcote
Secretary	Helen Jephcote	Treasurer	Babs Gowan
Life Members	24	Associate Members	1
Standard	Vacant	Annual Subscription	£10 Those aged 75+ £0
Notes	Secretary Address Mrs H Jephcote		
Events/Functions	May 1-3 reunion weekend at Cultybraggan Jun Battle Field Tour France July/August Branch visit to Military Museum Scotland Oct 23-26 Abba Tribute weekend (with the Herforders Association) Stirling Dec Branch Christmas Lunch Edinburgh		

RSA Wales area report.
Gwen Pettigrew.

Area Rep activities.

I have attend all meetings of the Cardiff and South Wales branch. In addition I attended the Corps memorial day at the National Memorial Arboretum (with Riders' branch), the Cenotaph parade on remembrance Sunday and the Senior Soldier Conference. I have had some conversations with 53 Sig Sqn permanent staff SSM regarding building close ties with the RSA.

Branch updates.

The South Wales and Cardiff branch (currently the only active branch in Wales) has had a change of chair and secretary. Gwen Pettigrew as the new chair and Owain Collins the new secretary of the branch. Many thanks go to the previous chair and secretary Wayne Broadhurst and Barry Doughty for the sterling service to the branch. The branch currently meets on a bi-monthly basis, alternating evenings and afternoons, this is under review.

Support.

Welsh area was asked to provide a standard for the funeral of L/Cpl Anthony Marcus Robert Gaynor. Unfortunately due to the distance that the Cardiff and South Wales branch standard bearer would have to travel (9 hours round trip) so Welsh area was unable to help with this request.

Future plans

I am intending to make contact with 14 Sig Regt as our only resident regular R Sigs unit in Wales with a view to building further ties between the RSA and R Sigs units in Wales. The west Wales branch has been inactive for some time, several people in West Wales have expressed interest in trying to revive this branch, it is hoped that we can get some more momentum for this.