

76th Royal Signals Association Annual General Meeting



By Video Teleconference

13 March 2021

AGENDA FOR
THE 76th MEETING OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
TO BE HELD BY VIDEO TELECONFERENCE
ON 13 MARCH 2021

ITEM 1 – INTRODUCTION

1. Chairman's opening remarks.
2. Minute's Silence to Remember Fallen Comrades

ITEM 2 – 75TH MEETING OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

3. To approve the minutes of the 75th RSA AGM held on 14 March 2020. Annex A
4. Actions Arising.

ITEM 3 – HEADQUARTERS REPORTS

5. Chairman's Report. Annex B
6. General Secretary's Report. Annex C
7. General Secretary's Financial Report. Annex D
8. Assistant General Secretary's Benevolence Report. Annex E
9. Administrative Officer's Report. Annex F
10. Corps Update.

ITEM 4 – MATTERS ARISING

11. Website Update.
12. Approval of Maj (Retd) Mick Nevill as the Representative for Northern Ireland on the RSA Central Committee.

ITEM 5 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

13. Any Other Business.
14. Date of the next Annual General Meeting as **Sat 12 Mar 22 (TBC)**.



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Reference: HQ R SIGNALS 4.5.2

See Distribution

Date: 23 Mar 20

MINUTES OF THE 75th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION, HELD IN THE EL ALAMEIN & TRAFALGAR SUITE, VICTORY SERVICES CLUB, LONDON ON SATURDAY 14 MARCH 2020.

Present:	Brig (Retd) D A Hargreaves Maj Gen D McDowall CBE Col (Retd) D A Craft Lt Col (Retd) S Lockwood WO1 R Scarcliffe Mrs A J Thorpe Mr K Bates Mr T Campbell Mr I Scivin Mr R Taylor Mr T Holyoake Dr D Swift-Hook Mr R Williams Mr G Phillips Mr R Jephcote RSA Members	Chairman RSA Des Chairman RSA Gen Sec Asst Gen Sec Des Corps RSM Admin Offr/Membership Sec Area 1 S Area 1 N Area 2 Area 2 Area 3 Area 4 Area 5 Area Rep, Wales Area Rep, Scotland
Apologies:	Col J S Gunning ADC Col D Douglas WO1 D (Corps SM) Corcoran	Corps Col R SIGNALS Colonel Reserves R SIGNALS Corps SM R SIGNALS

Discussion and Decisions	Action
Item 1: Introduction. 1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the El Alamein & Trafalgar Suite and thanked those present for attending the meeting. The Chairman confirmed the apologies for absences that had been received and informed the room that WO1(RSM) Scarcliffe, the Corps SM (Des), was in attendance and would be briefing on life within a unit later in the AGM. 2. The chairman explained the rules for social distancing and the impact of Covid-19. He opened the meeting at 1034hrs after a few minutes of technical difficulty.	

Item 2: Minutes of the Last Meeting. 3. The minutes of the 74th Annual General Meeting were unanimously agreed as an accurate record.	
Item 3: Matters Arising. 4. All matters from the previous minutes had been actioned.	
Item 4: Chairman's Report. 5. The Chairman presented his report to the meeting (Annex A). The Chairman thanked the Standards that paraded and over 1000 guests who joined in the celebrations at Salisbury Cathedral to welcome in the 1st event of the Royal Signals Centenary. 6. RSA 100. The Chairman discussed the ages of the branches and explained that several branches would be celebrating their Centenary in 2021 and 2022. The Chairman explained that it was also the RSA's centenary this year and suggested that project Noel XI was the perfect event to celebrate. He asked the meeting whether they agreed that the RSA should award an Association standard to themselves – All agreed. 7. Recognition of Affiliations. The chairman highlighted that after looking at the RSA rules on Affiliated groups, the only thing that differentiated them from Branches was a permanent location. He went on to state that the RSA must be much more flexible and welcome all groups of Signallers whether they meet monthly or yearly at events. The chairman welcomed views from the meeting; none were forthcoming. The chairman explained that the way Affiliations would be included within the committee would be down to Maj Gen McDowall but that the likely option was to co-opt representation onto the committee initially. 8. The Chairman explained to the meeting the rationale for the name change of the RSBF to Royal Signals Charity (RSC), confirming that it did not change the objects of the charity. 9. The Chairman gave a few words on Col Canham and his gifts received. 10. The chairman confirmed that everyone in the new RSA team had settled in to their roles and the RSA now had a full team, with Linda Sizeland remaining the rock of the RSA. 11. The chairman looked back over his time as RSA Chairman and thanked all, past and present, that had supported him. The Chairman wasn't disappearing completely he has joined the Harrogate Branch.	Gen Sec Gen Sec
Item 5: General Secretary's Report. 12. The General Secretary presented his reports (Annex B). 13. The General Secretary gave an update on all the Centenary events and celebrations. He explained that he understood that the temporary accommodation situation at Corps weekend was a huge concern but that there was no other option if people wanted accommodation on site during the event. He welcomed any other ideas from the floor. There were none. He then asked all present to promote the event fully to ensure its success.	All

14. The General Secretary explained that a trading Company had been set up called Royal Signals Enterprises Ltd. for the Centenary to ensure that the charity was protected from breaching the VAT threshold. 15. The General Secretary explained that Corps HQ and RSA were monitoring the current situation and following all guidance set out by the Government regards the COVID-19 pandemic and events. 16. The General Secretary explained that we were continuing to plan for events to go ahead until we were told otherwise, as there were contractual and financial penalties if we cancelled events ahead of National direction. All information could be found on the website. However, a lot of the AT had been cancelled and plans were rapidly changing on a day to day basis. 17. The General Secretary made a plea with members to understand the enormity of pressure on the small Corps HQ team. We were working hard during extraordinary times and would address issues as quickly as we could but members needed to have patience if responses were slower than usual.	
Item 6: General Secretary's Financial Report 18. The General Secretary presented his report. He highlighted the following: a. The more positive financial situation in 2019 after the crash in the market at the end of 2018. b. That there remained global uncertainty which continued to highlight reduced growth rates c. That our financial advisors remained confident that the fund was resilient enough to cope with this.	
Item 7: RSC Report 19. The Assistant General Secretary gave his report on the benevolence activity throughout 2019. He confirmed that the entry for Erskine (Princess Louise) Hospital should read £1500 and not £1750, as shown.	
Item 8: Admin Officer's Report 20. The Admin Officer presented her report (Annex C). She thanked all the branches who had hosted her and her husband over the past year and for all the assistance she had received since she started in the post a year ago today. 21. The Admin Officer explained there were a number of tickets available to various events for RSA members to bid for and to email her. 22. The Admin Officer explained that the workload landing on the RSA desk was considerable and it was therefore taking slightly longer than usual.	
WO1 (RSM) Scarcliffe, Corps SM (Des), gave a presentation on his current role as 10 Sig Regt RSM. The talk was hugely appreciated by the AGM members.	
Item 9a: Approval of Central Committee Members 23. There were no changes requiring agreement.	

Item 9b: Approval of Chairman Maj Gen McDowall 24. The appointment of Maj Gen D McDowall CBE as the Chairman RSA was confirmed and agreed by members.	
Item 10: AOB 25. The chairman addressed the members and invited any questions. Tony Mullen of Liverpool asked about accommodation at Blandford for the Reunion. It was explained that the RSA were making the best of a bad situation. 26. The General Secretary presented leaving presents to Brig Hargreaves from the RSA and thanked him for all his hard work and dedication over the past 7 years. He was wished good luck for the future. 27. Brig Hargreaves thanked the members for their kind generosity and wished the Association good luck for the future. He went on to say that it would not be the last that the RSA would hear or see from him, stating he would be the guest of honour at Project Noel XI. 28. A request for Branch Secretaries list was requested 29. Mr I Scrivin brought to the attention of the meeting that the minute's silence wasn't held as in previous years. The chairman agreed to conduct the silence at the end of the meeting.	RSA Admin
Minute Silence for all past and present signalers that have passed away	
Item 11: Date of Next Meeting 29. The new Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance. The 76th meeting would be held at VSC on 13th March 2021. The meeting closed at 1240 hrs.	

Original Signed

A J Thorpe for
S M Lockwood
Lt Col (Retd)
Assistant General Secretary

Annexes:

- A. Chairman's Report
- B. General Secretary's Reports
- C. Admin Officer's Report
- D. RSC Welfare Report

Distribution:

Action:

Area Representatives
Committee Members

Information:

Secretaries of Branches and Affiliated Associations



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All RSA Central Committee Members
All RSA AGM Representatives

Reference: 04-17-03

Date: 1 Mar 21

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE RSA CCM and AGM – 12/13 MAR 21

INTRODUCTION

1. As you would all expect, this report is much shorter than previous Chairman's reports, on the basis that very few RSA activities have taken place as a result of the impact of COVID-19. The full impact on Corps activities throughout our Centenary Year is well documented in the General Secretary's Report, as is his assessment of the impact there may be on RSA events in 2021.

2. I remain grateful to all of you for your efforts to support our veterans in your Areas and Branches. I am equally grateful to the Corps Headquarters team, who also work tirelessly to ensure we provide as much support as is possible to our Association Members. We must all continue to stay at home, protect the NHS, and save lives. We must all hope that before too long, we will be able to meet again in person.

DEVELOPMENTS DURING 2020

3. I once again draw your attention to the details of developments in the past 12 months which are well outlined in our Corps Secretary's Report.

4. I am very impressed with the following developments:

a. **Our new Logo.** When you tune in for the CCM and AGM in March, you will see that I use it as my virtual background for Zoom meetings. I am yet to decide which animal or cartoon character I will use as my virtual disguise!

b. **The new Corps Website.** Jim Knight has done a superb job, and I encourage you all to log in and review it. Any ideas you have for further development can be shared with Jim during the AGM.

c. **RSA Standard.** We now have an RSA Standard, and there has been much discussion on who is best placed to carry it on parades. I welcome the input to the

discussions that have taken place and look forward to concluding the debate at the AGM.

d. **RSA meetings.** I also welcome the review into future RSA meetings, and in particular the assessment of the timing and location of the AGM. I am absolutely open minded on this issue, and very much look forward to hearing the views of our Members. Even if we decide not to change the venue for the AGM, I do hope that we can bring a strong RSA focus to our Corps Weekends in Blandford in the future. You will have read of the challenges associated with the Corps Weekend this year - both COVID-19 and a lack of accommodation. But at the very least, we can look forward to 2022, and aim to have a fabulous RSA focus for the Corps Weekend in Blandford.

e. Finally, I also like the idea of encouraging greater RSA attendance at Project NOEL in Liverpool in November of each year. If it is seen as being sensible to combine that event with one of our CCMS, all the better. For the time being, I am most grateful to the Project NOEL Chairman for offering to host the CCM in Liverpool during the weekend of that event.

SUMMARY

5. In addition to my attendance at the Centenary Service in Salisbury in March last year, I made it to the Chester Branch lunch the following day. That was it! So, I really do look forward to getting around the Branches as soon as possible, to meet and share the “odd glass of wine” with as many members of my Corps family as possible.

{Original Signed}

D McDOWALL CBE
Maj Gen
Chairman RSA



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Reference: 04-17-03

All RSA AGM Representatives

Date: 6 Mar 21

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT TO THE RSA AGM – 13 Mar 21

INTRODUCTION

1. This report is unfortunately written under the continuing restrictions due to the impact of COVID-19. The fact that this year's RSA AGM is being held 'virtually' for the first time in its history (as far as I am aware!) is another unfortunate example of those restrictions and a consequence of the crazy year that we have all experienced. The impact of the restrictions on our Centenary was almost total. Thankfully, we did have an excellent gathering at Salisbury just before the first lockdown; but little did we know at that time that the event was to be the only Centenary gathering-in-person that we were able to attend.

2. That is not to say that nothing happened throughout the year. The headquarters team have been delighted to see 'pockets of resistance' springing up across our RSA community to combat the pandemic. From Branch and Area meetings on Zoom to the fantastic support from the RSA for the '#100for100' challenge, all were examples of the RSA 'fighting for comms' and spreading camaraderie through incredibly challenging times. It is therefore a huge 'thank you' from me and the HQ team to all those who went above and beyond to support Signallers when they needed it most.

3. There are some key issues that I would like to air in this report that we will hopefully have an opportunity to discuss at the AGM. These are proposals, not policy, but I believe will enhance the focus of the RSA, build on success and hopefully encourage even more support from our members. But this is your RSA, so your support is key if these proposals are to be implemented successfully.

THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION LOGO

4. Firstly, as those of you who attended last year will already know, Brigadier Hargreaves announced the change of the RSA logo to bring it into line with the rebranding of the charity. The branding changes made across all aspects of the charity (including the RSA and RSI) are already starting to have a very positive effect and are instantly recognisable, being based on the 'Tactical Recognition Flash' that our RSA Chairman introduced to the

Corps when he was the Signal Officer in Chief! For those of you who have not yet seen the new logo, it is replicated here:



THE ROYAL SIGNALS WEBSITE

5. The new Royal Signals Charity website has now gone live and we will be getting a short pitch from Jim Knight at the AGM to bring you all up to speed. The site was developed with the feedback from many of you; so again, my thanks for your feedback. A key change to the RSA page has been the reintroduction of the interactive UK map with all branch locations listed and links to branch webpages. The initial response to the website has been hugely positive and I would encourage you all to have a look prior to the AGM (www.royalsignals.org).

THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION NATIONAL STANDARD

6. The RSA National Standard has now been procured and sits within Corps Headquarters. The intent, as I am sure that you were all aware, was to unveil and dedicate the Standard at Project NOEL in Nov 20. Unfortunately, this event became yet another casualty of the pandemic. We will now look to plan another suitable event to mark the formal unveiling of the Standard.

7. There has been considerable debate on who is best placed to carry the National Standard. One view was to have the Standard carried on parade by the youngest Signaller (highlighting the link between the 'old and the new' elements of the Corps) another was to allow the RSA Standard Bearers to carry the National Standard, with a mechanism put in place to identify who was best placed to carry it. This issue will be finalised at the Central Committee Meeting (CCM) just prior to the AGM and we will confirm the way forward at the AGM.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION EVENTS DURING 2021

8. Corps Headquarters will continue to plan to run all of the major RSA events during the latter half of 2021, based on the assumption that the roadmap set out by the Government on Mon 22 Feb 21 to gradually reduce the COVID-19 restrictions will remain on course. Clearly, for the first half of 2021, we cannot run anything substantial and there have already been a couple of casualties (as you will see below). But most of the key RSA events fall in the second half of the year; so, we remain hopeful that we can at least get some of them off the ground. By way of a very quick update, I offer the following:

- a. **Eden Camp – May.** Unfortunately, **this is now cancelled.**
- b. **Corps London Dinner – May.** **This event has also been cancelled for 2021.** For your awareness, there is an ongoing study into the way the officer Corps will dine in future which will be discussed at the Corps Council in May 21. The RSA Chairman

and General Secretary will represent the RSA interests at the Corps Council. We will, of course, keep you updated on future intentions.

c. **Corps Weekend – 18-20 June.** Corps weekend will be run over the weekend 18-20 Jun 21. This clearly falls at the end of Phase 3 of the Government's roadmap and will mean that the weekend cannot run as we would have wanted. In discussions with the Master, various options were scoped (which also included the feasibility of moving the weekend), but the decision was taken to continue with the planned dates and reduce the weekend to the 11 Sig Regt element of the Parade only. Whilst this will be hugely disappointing news for those RSA members who were hoping to attend, there were simply too many variables to allow the movement of the weekend (availability of Col-in-Chief, bands, stands, accommodation, etc). The Master's intent is, therefore, to run the parade which will then hopefully be streamed live to the Corps and RSA Branches.

d. **NMA Service of Remembrance – 4 September.** The venue has been booked and we are now hoping to be in a position to run the full event as we should be out of all key restrictions. We are in constant discussion with the NMA to make sure that options are available should things change and the initial recce is booked for the end of Jul 21. We are expecting a large turnout so a key restraint will be the space around our Corps memorial.

e. **Field of Remembrance and the Cenotaph Parade – 11 & 14 November.** Both events are clearly an RBL lead but we would hope to secure a prominent place in this year's parade to compensate of missing our Centenary!

f. **Project NOEL – 27-28 November.** The Project NOEL team are already planning this year's event and, fingers crossed, by the end of 2021 we would hope that this will run.

9. As ever, with all of these events we will try to give as much warning as possible if they are to run or not but, as with the Centenary events, we will ensure that there is at least one month's notice of a 'go/no go' decision. All information will be posted on our RSA webpage (www.royalsignals.org).

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

10. **RSA AGM.** The Chairman RSA and the Corps HQ team are very keen to build the RSA focus on Corps Weekend and at Project NOEL. As mentioned, we are already moving the Standard Bearers Competition back to Blandford as part of the Corps Weekend and we are proposing to move the RSA AGM to Corps weekend as well. To do so would bring a strong RSA focus to the weekend and would hopefully allow many more members to attend. The intent is to hold the meeting late on the Friday afternoon which would hopefully allow sufficient time to conduct business before retiring to the WOs & Sgts Mess for supper. The intent for this meeting, as with this year, would be to also run it 'virtually' to allow those members who cannot attend in person to join in none the less. The key aim is to provide the opportunity for as many members as possible to attend, either in person or virtually, enhance the RSA focus (and attendance) at Corps weekend and to reduce the requirement to travel for a meeting which is currently held in isolation.

11. **RSA CCMs.** For your awareness, the intent would be to combine the Spring CCM with the AGM at the Corps Weekend and to also hold the Autumn CCM as part of Project NOEL in Liverpool in November. During the initial scoping of this option, the Project Noel Chairman has welcomed the opportunity to host the meeting during the weekend. This would hopefully encourage greater attendance at both the meeting and the weekend. We would also intend to provide a live stream for the meeting to ensure that those CCM members who could not get up to Liverpool still had the opportunity of attending the meeting.

12. These proposals will initially be discussed at the CCM but I am very keen to engage with the AGM attendees to agree the best way forward.

SUMMARY

13. Despite a challenging year for all, I believe that the Association is in a good place thanks to the support and drive from our members. The new website will hopefully start to improve the passage of information across all parts of the Association and I am looking forward to the lifting of restrictions which should start to allow some key events to run.

Certa Cito

{Signed on MODNet}

DA CRAFT
Colonel (Retired)
General Secretary



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Reference: 04-17-03

All RSA Central Committee Members
All RSA AGM Representatives

Date: 3 Mar 21

**GENERAL SECRETARY'S FINANCIAL UPDATE TO THE RSA CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 12/13 MARCH 2021**

INTRODUCTION

1. This short financial report has been compiled to aid wider briefings within the RSA community. As ever 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 sheet.

2. This money is held as part of The Royal Signals Charity (RSC) and constitutes part of the wider Corps finances. There are 2 elements to the budget and these are extracts from the full RSC Outcome 2020 report:

- a. The Welfare Fund.
 - b. The Donations & Veterans.
3. In both, we need to focus on the first 4 columns of figures which are, left to right:
- a. The Outcome 2019 which shows what we received and spent that year – purely as a comparison.
 - b. The Budget 2020 which shows what we thought we were going to receive and spend last year.
 - c. The Outcome 2020 which is what we actually spent and received last year and reflects the figures provided to our auditors.
 - d. The Budget 2021 which shows the financial targets set for this year.

The remaining columns are budget forecasts out to 2024 but these will be amended over time so they will not be covered in any detail in this report.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION – WELFARE

4. The following points should be noted:
- a. **Expenditure.**

(1) **Benevolence Grants.** The last financial year ran from 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2020 and you can see that we spent **£249,282** in that period on **376** individual cases. (Note that there are the normal end of year discrepancies between the Grants Co-ordinator and Corps Accountant's figures caused by sums carried over at the end of the year.) This spend was substantially less than normal and believed primarily to be the outcome of the pandemic which saw a substantial reduction in applications as lockdown affected both individuals and the caseworker process. (By way of comparison, 2019 saw the charity spend £329,910 on 474 cases.) Looking forward, we have, assumed a spend of £360,000 in the 2021 budget which takes account of an expected bow-wave of requests for assistance but, I would reiterate at this point that **there is no cap on benevolence** should demand rise even further; so this figure is purely for budgeting purposes.

(2) **Grants.** The remaining grants are, once again broken down into the main areas. The annual grant to the ABF remains at **£35,000** in 2020 but this is likely to be reviewed in 2021 with a view to possibly increasing the annual grant. This money enables the ABF to pick up various requests which the RSC might otherwise have to cover. The ABF actually gave over £84,962¹ in grants to Corps personnel in 2020 and so, yet again, our grant to them is an excellent deal. The rest of the 'expenditure entries' are, hopefully, self-explanatory.

(3) **Total Grants.** The total grant outcome for 2020 was **£300,794**, which is a reduction of circa 20% on 2019, for the reasons already mentioned.

b. **Income.**

(1) **Subscriptions.** The subscriptions from "One Day's Pay" giving remain the main direct income for our benevolence. In 2020 we received **£242,935** which, as mandated by QRs, represents 50% of a day's pay income from the serving Corps. The reduction can partly be explained by the reduction in the size of the Corps but also as a result of reduced input to training due to the pandemic. This trend has thankfully been reversed towards the end of 2020 when recruiting into the Corps has increased. To meet the required spend on benevolence grants, this required input from the Veterans Fund of a further **£57,859** to cover the benevolence bill; clearly less of an overall shortfall than was seen in 2019 due to the reduced spend as described above.

(2) **Donations.** You will see from the RSA Veterans sheet that we had an income of **£136,808** from various donations and **£38,171** from legacies throughout the year. This substantial (and welcome) increase was primarily due to the hugely successful and well supported '#100for100' fundraising campaign which raised nearly £75,000!

(3) **Transfer to the Corps Fund.** As explained last year, the trustees have made the decision to split donations evenly between the Corps Fund and the Welfare Fund, where we can do so (i.e. there is no specific direction with the donation to 'ring-fence' for a specific reason). This saw the transfer of £87,490 to the Corps Fund. This allows for greater flexibility and enhanced efficiency in running the charity but, as already stated, this does not reduce the ability to support benevolence requests.

¹ The ABF gave **90** individual grants totalling **£69,662.53** when the requested amount was above our threshold and almonisation was required between the service charities. A further **£15,299.01** was awarded towards the provision of Annuities and contributions towards Nursing Home Fees.

5. **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 **£67,524** in 2020.

6. **Conclusion.** Our overall 2020 expenditure on welfare was **£368,318**; substantially less than the budget, which was produced prior to the impact of COVID-19 and which subsequently reduced the welfare demand, as already described.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION – DONATION & VETERANS

7. The following should be noted:

a. **Income.** Income for 2020 was **£481,205**; up substantially on the forecast budget forecast. This was driven by two key areas:

(1) **Donations and Legacies.** As already highlighted, donations were more than double that anticipated due primarily to the success of the '#100for100' fund-raising challenge but there was also a 16% increase in individual donations. We also received a large legacy that had not been anticipated. The nett effect was an income from Donations and Legacies which was nearly three times that forecasted.

(2) **Investment Gains.** At the end of 2020, Investment Gains returned **£267,751** against a forecast of £44,620. This was due to strong returns from both of the key funds that the charity invests in; highlighting the value of a balanced portfolio.

b. **Expenditure.**

(1) **2020.** Our expenditure in 2020 was **£108,301**, which was substantially less than was initially budgeted for; this was due to the cancellation of the vast majority of planned events in support of the Corps' Centenary.

(2) **2021.** The budget for 2021 is £110,055 which is more in line with normal levels.

CONCLUSION

8. The overall result for 2020 was **£247,520** to capital. Whilst this looks a much more positive picture than the £177,382 deficit that was forecast, it was of course at the expense of our Centenary. In addition, our professional financial advice remains that the markets are likely to be volatile in the near term; which is why the trustees have continued to forecast cautious investment figures in 2021.

{Original Signed}

DA CRAFT
Col (Retd)
Corps Sec

Attachment:

1. Outcome 2020 Royal Signals Association – Welfare and Donations & Veterans.

Outcome 2020

Welfare

	OUTCOME 2019	BUDGET 2020		OUTCOME 2020		BUDGETS 2021	2022	2023	2024
Grant Expenditure									
Benevolence Grants	329,910	336,000	1	249,282	1	360,000	357,000	354,000	362,000
Grants,etc									
Army Benevolent Fnd	35,000	35,000		35,000		35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
Central Committee	7,500	7,500	2	6,750	2	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
Other	31	500		650		500	500	500	500
Funeral Expenses	781	1,000		112		1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Unit - Death in Service grants	1,944	3,000		9,000		3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Total Welfare Grants	375,166	383,000		300,794		407,000	404,000	401,000	409,000
Income									
Corps Subscriptions									
50% of a day's pay	243,071	257,852	3	242,935	3	253,290	262,103	267,206	272,411
Veterans Fund	132,095	125,148		57,859		153,710	141,897	133,794	136,589
	375,166	383,000		300,794		407,000	404,000	401,000	409,000
Support Costs									
Welfare Grants Officer	35,771	37,200		38,853		40,410	41,220	42,040	42,880
General expenses	201	1,000		-		1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Shared Costs	29,704	29,789		28,671		33,454	31,994	32,287	32,787
Welfare Support Costs	65,676	67,989		67,524		74,864	74,214	75,327	76,667
funded by Donations & Veterans									
Total Expenditure	440,842	450,989		368,318		481,864	478,214	476,327	485,667

NOTES

1 Benevolence Grants increased by 2% a year in budgets, but no actual "cap" is enforced.
2020 unusually low because of Covid19 restrictions on social worker visits to those in need.

2	Central Committee Grants	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
	Lady Haigs Poppy Factory	250	250
	B'mouth War Mem.Homes	750	750
	Royal Star & Garter Homes	750	500
	Erskine Hospital	1,500	1,500
	Scottish Veterans Hosp	750	500
	Stoll Foundation	1,250	1,250
	Veterans Aid	1,500	1,500
	Army Widows' Assoc	250	250
	Care for Veterans	500	250
		<u>7,500</u>	<u>6,750</u>

3 Standard - 50% of a day's pay, in accordance with QR 5.613a

Outcome 2020
Donations and Veterans

	OUTCOME 2019	BUDGET 2020		OUTCOME 2020		BUDGETS 2021	2022	2023	2024
Income									
Donations									
Life Subscriptions	55			30					
Individuals	37,581			46,757					
Branches	5,380			2,675					
Units	7,517			4,042					
Wristband & other sales	17			37					
Just Giving + web sources	4,437			83,267					
	<u>54,987</u>	<u>60,000</u>		<u>136,808</u>		<u>60,000</u>	<u>60,000</u>	<u>60,000</u>	<u>60,000</u>
Legacies	-	-		38,171		30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Routine Income	<u>54,987</u>	<u>60,000</u>		<u>174,979</u>		<u>90,000</u>	<u>90,000</u>	<u>90,000</u>	<u>90,000</u>
Transfer to Corps Fund	-	(60,000)	1	(87,490)	1	(45,000)	(45,000)	(45,000)	(45,000)
Investment Income	134,319	134,964		125,964		139,150	148,377	144,604	140,969
Invest. Gains/(Losses)	560,261	44,620		267,751		46,762	45,492	44,512	43,500
	<u><u>749,567</u></u>	<u><u>179,584</u></u>		<u><u>481,205</u></u>		<u><u>230,912</u></u>	<u><u>238,869</u></u>	<u><u>234,116</u></u>	<u><u>229,469</u></u>
Expenditure									
Reunions	7,133	6,000	2	143	2	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Centenary Review		22,667		3,273		-	-	-	-
Memorial Events	2,894	2,000	2	-	2	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Centenary Services		23,993		21,607		-	-	-	-
Branch Support	2,218	-		-		-	-	-	-
Centenary Branch Events		12,000		400		-	-	-	-
Friends & Relations	1,800	1,800		1,800		1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800
Support Costs									
RSA Secretary	31,420	32,300		28,194		32,300	33,000	33,700	34,400
Insurance	1,318	1,350		1,318		1,350	1,425	1,500	1,575
Travel & General expenses	23,975	22,000		13,339		22,000	22,000	22,000	22,000
Shared Costs	39,606	39,718		38,228		44,605	42,659	43,049	43,716
	<u><u>110,364</u></u>	<u><u>163,828</u></u>		<u><u>108,301</u></u>		<u><u>110,055</u></u>	<u><u>108,884</u></u>	<u><u>110,049</u></u>	<u><u>111,491</u></u>
Centenary Items		<u><u>58,660</u></u>		<u><u>25,280</u></u>					
Surplus / (Deficit)	<u><u>639,203</u></u>	<u><u>15,756</u></u>		<u><u>372,903</u></u>		<u><u>120,857</u></u>	<u><u>129,985</u></u>	<u><u>124,067</u></u>	<u><u>117,978</u></u>
Welfare Grants	132,095	125,148		57,859		153,710	141,897	133,794	136,589
Welfare Support Costs	65,676	67,989		67,524		74,864	74,214	75,327	76,667
Balance to/(from) Capital	<u><u>441,432</u></u>	<u><u>(177,382)</u></u>		<u><u>247,520</u></u>		<u><u>(107,716)</u></u>	<u><u>(86,126)</u></u>	<u><u>(85,055)</u></u>	<u><u>(95,278)</u></u>

NOTES

- 1 In 2020 and onwards 50% of Donation and Legacy Income will, by default, be credited to the Corps Fund. Grants could be made from this fund to support Welfare, if needed. In 2019 and for the Budget 2020 Legacies were treated as Corps Fund Income.
- 2 Reunion and Memorial Events have widened into Corps events (no longer mostly Veterans) and so costs are now shared.



SUMMARY OF ROYAL SIGNALS CHARITY BENEVOLENCE GRANTS

TOTAL AMOUNT OF GRANTS AWARDED

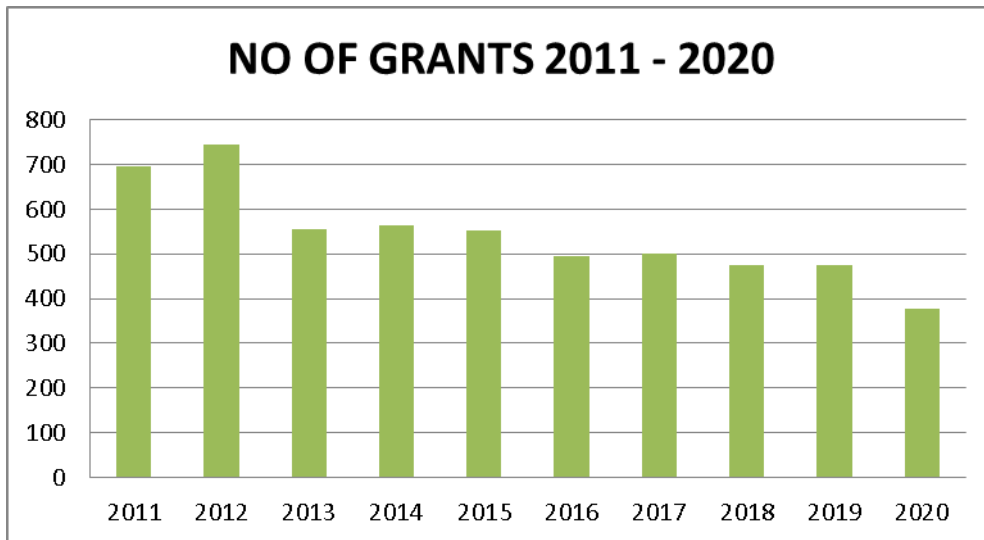
1ST JAN – 31ST DEC 2020

MONTH	TOTAL OF GRANTS AWARDED	NO. OF GRANTS AWARDED	NO. OF GRANTS TO NEW CASES	NO. OF REPEAT GRANTS	AGED 65+	SERVING CORPS	RETIRED
	£						
JANUARY	£24,097.23	33	18	15	12	2	31
FEBRUARY	£38,338.47	50	24	26	13	5	45
MARCH	£36,131.49	46	22	24	16	2	44
APRIL	£12,291.25	16	8	8	7	0	16
MAY	£6,067.36	15	6	9	3	0	15
JUNE	£12,446.99	20	6	14	5	1	19
JULY	£12,297.89	22	10	12	5	3	19
AUGUST	£20,702.96	33	12	21	13	3	30
SEPTEMBER	£20,306.86	31	12	19	10	1	30
OCTOBER	£22,747.03	39	18	21	12	5	34
NOVEMBER	£26,255.89	42	22	20	15	3	39
DECEMBER*	£21,424.71	29	12	17	10	7	22
TOTAL	£253,108.13	376	170	206	121	32	344
Comparative period 01/01/19 – 31/12/19	£325,725.29	474	236	238	135	36	436

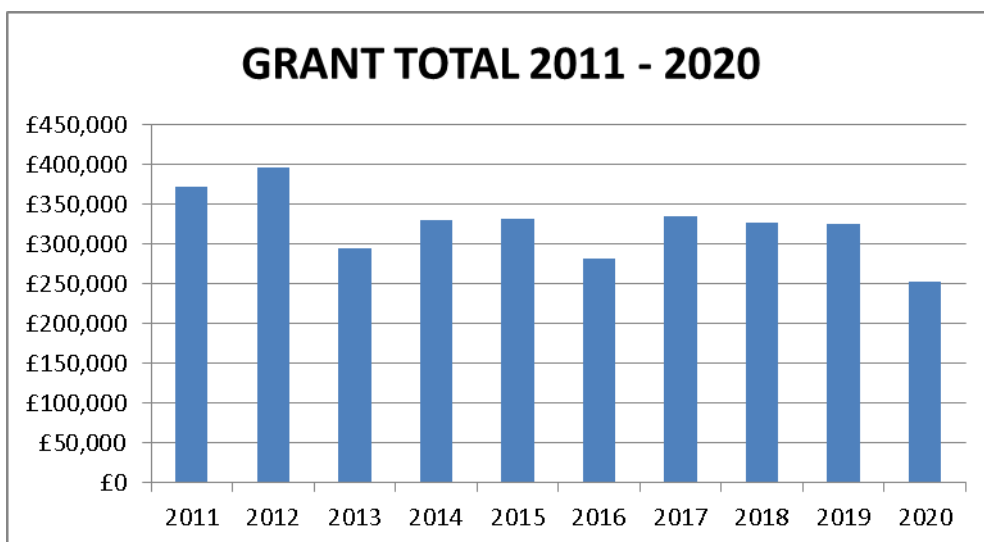
The above figures relate to 2020 with a comparison to 2019. There were 376 grants awarded during the period 1st January 2020 and 31st December 2020. 170 of these were first time applicants, including 19 serving corps personnel. A further 206 grants were awarded to people who had received assistance on previous occasions, including 12 still serving members.

*These figures do not include the individual Christmas gifts of £25 awarded in 2020.

Graph 1

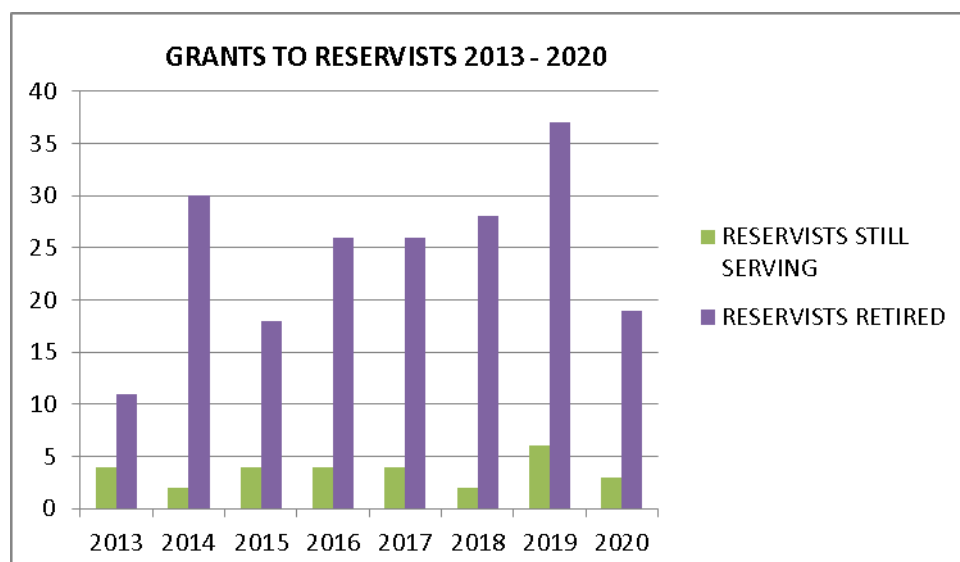


Graph 2

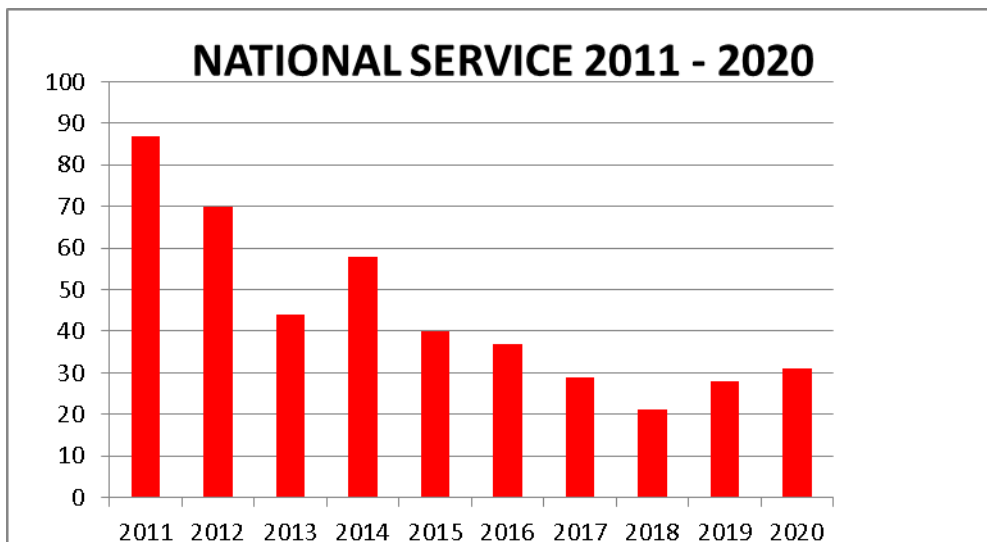


£25,239.44 of the total for 2020 has been awarded to 29 beneficiaries currently serving in the Regulars. £16,539.97 awarded to Reservists, 3 serving and 19 retired.

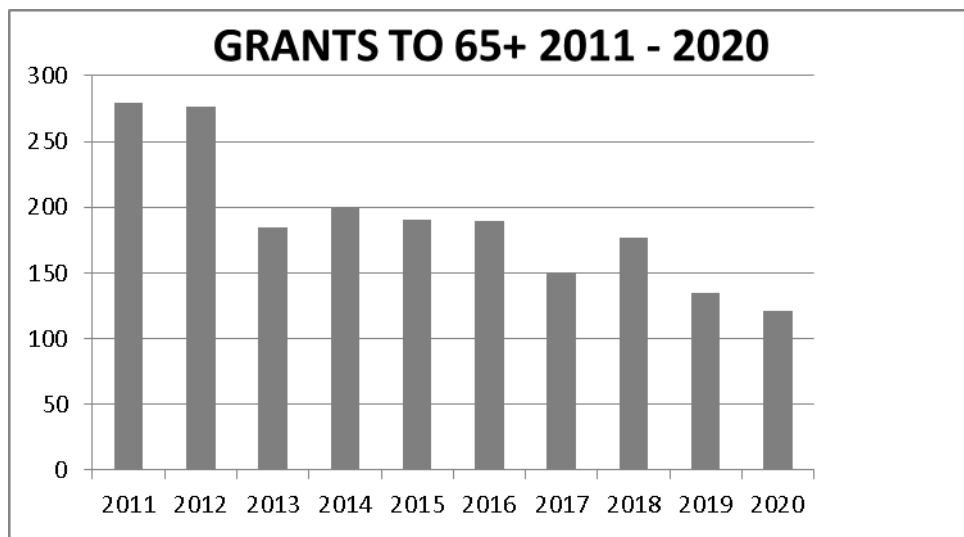
Graph 3



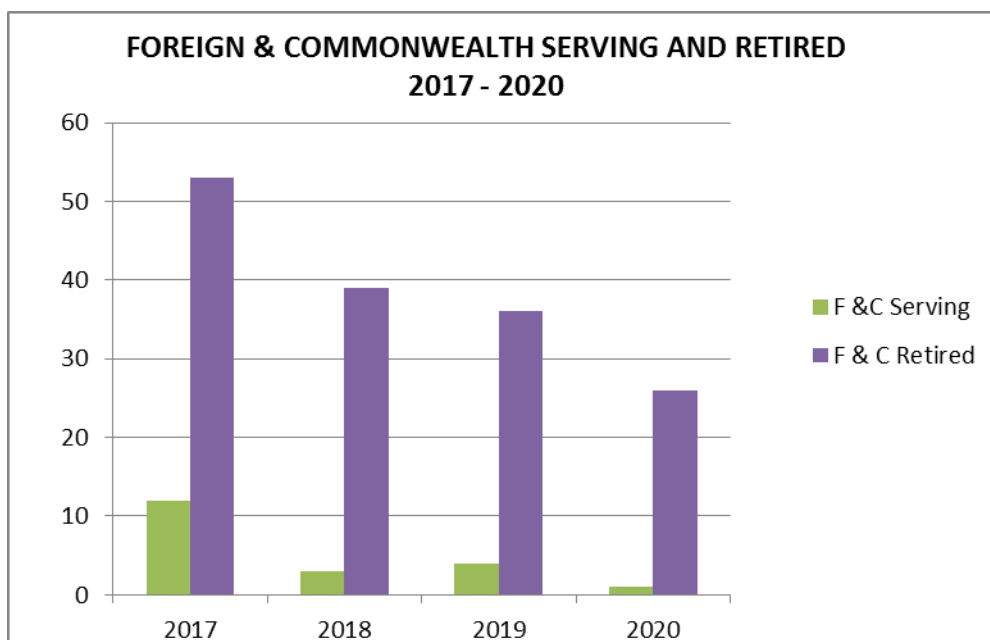
Graph 4



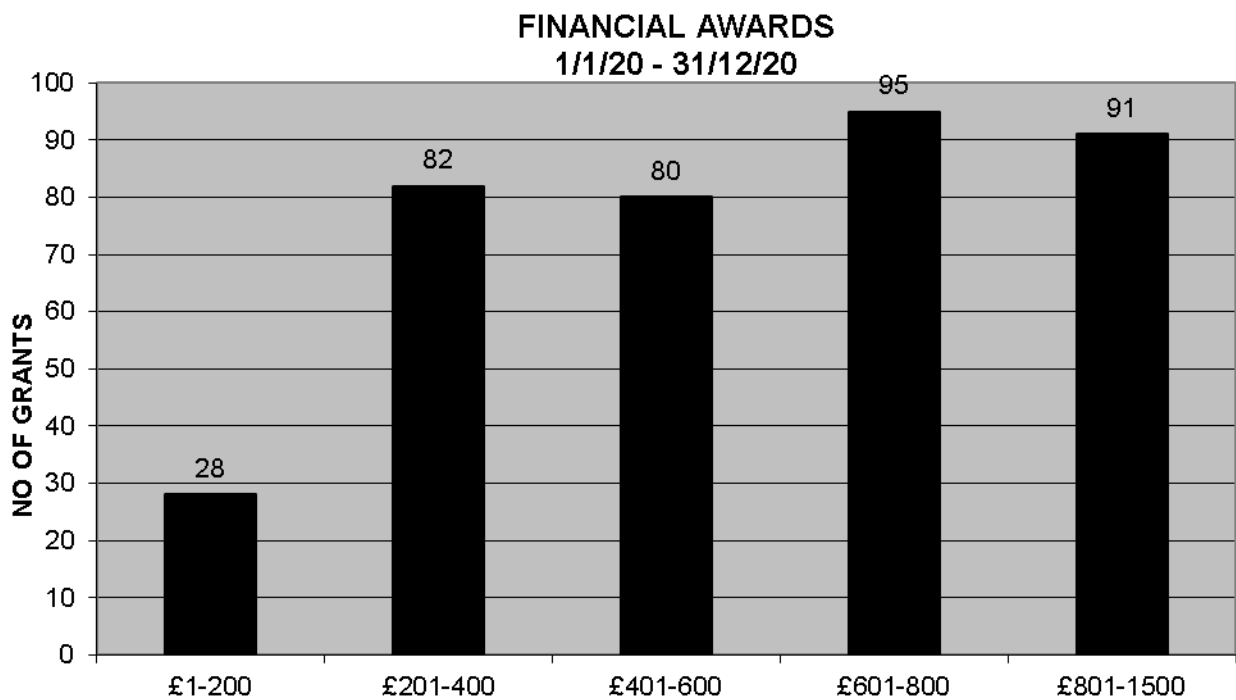
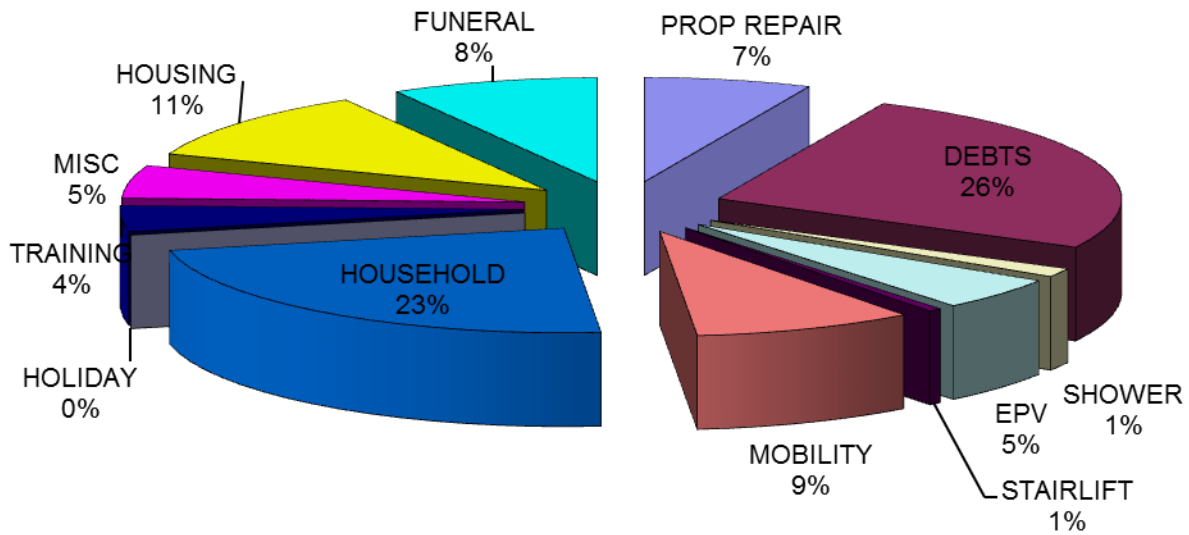
Graph 5



Graph 6



BREAKDOWN OF EXPENDITURE FOR 01/01/2020 - 31/12/2020



ANNUAL & CHRISTMAS GRANTS

Each June an **Annual Grant** is made directly to the home or hospital which has a Royal Signals veteran in residence of £250 per resident up to a maximum grant of £1,500. Total for 2020 was **£6,750**.

Expenditure For 2020

£250 PER RESIDENT UP TO A MAXIMUM OF £1,500

		£
1	The Lady Haig Poppy Factory	250
2	Star & Garter Homes	500
3	Bournemouth War Memorial Homes	750
7	Erskine (Princess Louise Hospital)	1,500
2	Scottish Veterans Residences	500
5	Stoll (Sir Oswald Stoll Foundation)	1,250
1	Care For Veterans	250
26	Veterans Aid	1,500
?	Widows Association	250
	TOTAL	£6,750

£1,975 was awarded as **79** individual **Christmas** gifts of £25 per beneficiary. In addition 70 cards were sent to veterans/members believed to be on their own or vulnerable at Christmas.

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 family with the expenses of the funeral eg the wake or transport. Sadly this was necessary six times in 2020.

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND - THE SOLDIERS CHARITY

January to December 2020 – **ABF - The Soldiers Charity** assisted with **90** individual grants totalling **£69,662.53** when the requested amount was above our threshold and almonisation was required between the service charities. A further **£15,299.01** was awarded towards the provision of Annuities and contributions towards Nursing Home Fees on our behalf.

RSA Admin Officer Report.

Good morning, as I am writing this it has been a whole year since we have met together in person and not virtually, not a great deal has happened so my report will be quite short.

I understand that this has been a very steep learning curve for RSA members. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for understanding the restrictions placed upon us all within HQ R SIGNALS and the delays you may have incurred. Its wonderful seeing the branches take this opportunity to carry on their meeting via digital means. It has also been a very testing and emotional time for everyone, we have lost 160 RSA members, veterans and serving members of the Corp since the start of the pandemic in March 2020 and not to mention close family and friends. On a personal note, I find it very humbling and comforting to see everyone coming together in these tough times.

RSA Website.

The new website is up and running (www.royalsignals.org) and it is a huge step in the right direction, having been developed by one of our own; Col (Retd) Jim Knight. If you are experiencing any problems or issues please do let me know. Once we all move into Step 4 of the Govt's roadmap and we can travel and hold our own events the website will come into its own and I look forward to seeing all your planning become reality at long last.

Events.

All RSA HQ events going forward will be booked online, however as always if you do have any problems or require assistance then please do let me know.

- a. **NMA Service of Remembrance** – Col Craft has already gone into detail, however once bookings goes live, I will let you all know. If you require any mobility aids, I will be able to book these for you as well.
- b. **Field of Remembrance and Cenotaph** – If you would like to attend either the Field of Remembrance or the Cenotaph please email RSA@royalsignals.org and state which one you would like to attend. Once I have the allocation I will be in contact as to whether you have been successful or whether you will be put on a reserve list.
- c. **Project Noel** – bookings are now open, I have attached the programme and booking form within this pack (Enclosure 1). If you get the opportunity to go, I would highly recommend it, It's a lovely weekend and the perfect start to the festive season.

In Conclusion.

I have managed to attend quite a few ZOOM meetings with you and want to take this opportunity to thank you for inviting me along it's an absolute pleasure and honour to be apart of your meetings and gatherings.

Mrs Amy Thorpe

RSA Admin Officer