

# The Royal Corps of Signals



**The Association and Retired  
Officers' Newsletter  
2015**

# MEMBERSHIP DATABASE CHANGES AND SUBSCRIPTION INCREASES UPDATE

- by John Fradley, SO1 Communication and Heritage, HQ R SIGNALS

Over the last few months Headquarters Royal Signals has been introducing significant changes to the processes by which it communicates with its 'customers' – the serving Corps, the retired Corps, members of the RSA, members of the RSI and subscribers to Corps publications (*The Wire* and *RSI Journal*). The new arrangements are based on a new database application called *Subscriber CRM* which will ensure that we can continue to comply with our responsibilities under the Data Protection Act at the same time as allowing members of the Corps Family to update their own contact details and subscription requirements through an online portal. The changes will allow HQ Royal Signals to continue to operate as an efficient and effective, fit-for-purpose, 21<sup>st</sup> Century organisation! A phased implementation of the new database is taking place so as to manage the admin burden and to minimise the risks.

A second significant change has been an increase in the subscription rates for Corps publications (most notably *The Wire*); they have not increased for more than a decade and we have not been immune to price rises.

As a first step, those who subscribe to Corps Funds (to pay for publications or other subscription services) have been sent a letter either by post or email giving details of the introduction of the new subscriber database, to request up-to-date information on individuals and to explain the new rates and subscription options which came into effect on 1 Jan 15; those who have responded will now be receiving their selected services. For those who have not yet responded, we will be writing again shortly, only this time we will only send our letter out by post, just in case our emails have found their way into junk folders or have been treated as Scam Emails. If you had a subscription and have not heard from us to renew your preferences please feel free to contact a member of the team on **01258 482818** or via email: [enquiries@royalsignals.org](mailto:enquiries@royalsignals.org)

Those who do not subscribe to Corps publications will clearly not be affected by the subscription increases; they will however be asked to log onto our new system later in the year (when our new system goes live on the internet) to update their personal details. This is the second phase of the implementation plan. For those who are unable to use the internet we will have a back-up paper based process.

As part of the third phase, we will be encouraging the Serving Corps to register with us to ensure that we can communicate effectively with all members of the Corps Family. At this point we will be able to allow everyone to register and pay for Corps events throughout the year via the internet portal.

Implementation Timetable	
<b>November 2014</b>	Subscribers to Officers' Club, <i>Wire</i> and RSI Membership written to by post or email with new subscription rates/options and re-registration paperwork.
<b>February 2015</b>	Non responses in all subscriber groups above written to again by post only with new subscription rates/options and re-registration paperwork.
<b>March 2015</b>	Retired Officers' List subscribers written to by post only with new subscription options and re-registration paperwork.
<b>Summer 2015</b>	RSA Members, Retired Corps, Serving and Reserve Corps invited to register online and update their personal details. This is subject to accreditation by the MoD.

**Want to learn more? Take the Subscriber CRM Tour at the following link: <http://www.subscriber.co.uk/>**

If you currently subscribe and have not received a letter from us or your usual publication fails to appear as expected, please contact HQ Royal Signals on 01258 482818 or via email [enquiries@royalsignals.org](mailto:enquiries@royalsignals.org).

# THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

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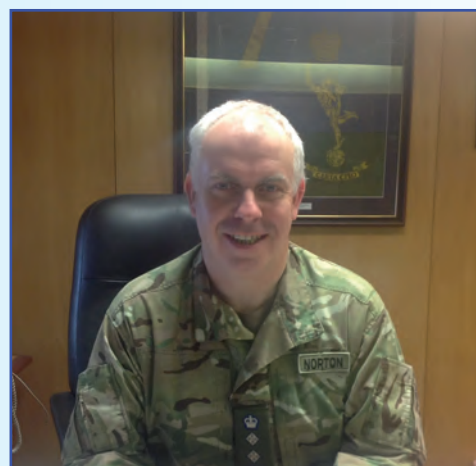
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# Report by the Corps Colonel

I suspect that when we look back in a few years time we will regard the 2014/2015 period as a major milestone in our Corps history. The last year has seen the end of major operations in Afghanistan, with the Corps' enduring presence there set to be less than 50, compared to the nearly 1000 at its peak. This is not to say the Corps has not been busy on operations, and we remain at the forefront of the delivery of communication and information systems to Defence. All aspects of our capabilities have been well tested in the last 12 months, with elements of the Corps both Regular and Reserve, committed to operations at home and abroad, be it in Sierra Leone (in support of UK efforts to contain the Ebola outbreak), the Middle East or support to the Commonwealth Games and the NATO Summit.



Concurrently our reorganisation to our Army 2020 structures is nearing completion; 7<sup>th</sup> Signal Group formed up last year to join 2 Signal Group as part of 11 Sig Bde in Donnington, and the final piece in creating a Corps hub in the West Midlands will be the move of our last two Germany based units (1 Sig Regt and 16 Sig Regt) to Stafford this summer. Also in the Midlands are the Corps Band who are now established and thriving in Cosford, and look set to be back to full strength ahead of time. The last element of the Army 2020 relocation programme will be the move of 14 Sig Regt from Haverfordwest to St Athan, planned for post 2018.

Our key theme for 2104 and beyond has been to drive forward the better integration of our 3 Rs (Regular, Reserve and Retired). We are getting better at this, demonstrated by the manner in which our Regular and Reserve units routinely work together, be it on operations, on exercises or at recruiting events. That said, I am still determined to do more to fully embrace our vibrant veterans' community. To this end I have again asked each of our Commanding Officers to personally engage with local RSA Branches, and I anticipate you will see an even greater involvement of the serving Corps at this year's reunion in Blandford.

I am sure you will be aware of the challenging recruiting environment at present. We are working hard to make sure we continue to recruit the very best, and this year we have re-established our recruiting team. In addition, as part of an Army-wide initiative, Regular and Reserve soldiers routinely attend recruiting events across the country. While we may slightly under-hit our targets over the next 12 months, I am always reassured by the genuine quality, outstanding enthusiasm and professionalism displayed by the young men and women who commit themselves to joining the Corps.

As part of the process of attracting the very best we continue to offer opportunities for personal development. This year; for the first time, every individual joining the Corps can pursue Corps sponsored professional development, ranging from Modern Apprenticeships to Masters Degrees and chartered status.

All in all another busy year with considerable change, and more to come! Rest assured however that our officers and soldiers, Regular and Reserve, continue to thrive and share with our veterans a palpable pride in wearing a Jimmy.

Certa Cito.



# Corps Sporting Achievements 2015

- by WO1 (Corps RSM) RJB Luke

As we draw down from Operations, the tempo of the taskings we undertake as a Corps has not lowered. We have an enduring commitment to Operations around the globe and other commitments such as the Commonwealth Games to provide for. Despite this our soldiers and officers have produced some fantastic sporting results throughout the year.

Although there are many, some of the individual highlights are of people like **Lt Miskelly**, **LCpl Dowle** and **Signallers Quinlan** and **Clifford** who made their Army Athletic Team debuts. This now brings the total of Royal Signals personnel on the Army Athletic Team to nine, an outstanding achievement for the Corps. Parachutist **Cpl Alexandra Dand** continues the success of last year by winning a double gold medal at the National Artistic Free Fly Championships and representing Great Britain at the European Championships.

Team sports have remained extremely competitive during the year, reports of which reach the Headquarters or are posted on Jimmys In Sport on a weekly basis. The foundations have been well and truly set for the Corps future in Netball, notably **Cpl Roberts** and **Sig Buckley** being selected to play for the Combined Services. The Corps Orienteering Team is becoming a force to be reckoned with, many of the Corps runners ranking in the top ten of many civilian attended events. Another accolade is the fact the sport has ten runners representing the Army and Combined Services.



## ALPINE SKIING

Alpine Skiing at inter-unit level is once again thriving as the annual training camp and championships (Ex ALPINE MERCURY GLACIER) welcomed in excess of 100 racers. The participants were ably supported as ever by a team of instructors and officials from across the Corps who volunteered to endure the harsh climates of the Kitzteinhorn Glacier in order to facilitate the exercise.

The inter-unit competition saw 1 ADSR lift the trophy, closely followed by 11 (RSS) Sig Regt. In the male competition, **Sig McLeod** (2 Sig Regt), who was novice champ in 2012, won the male championships. **OCdt James** (DTUS) and **Sig Nutt** (11 (RSS) Sig Regt) were second and third overall respectively. This was a superb result for **Sig McLeod**, especially considering that he had missed last year's season for operational reasons. In the female championships, **Sig Abel** (30 Sig Regt) was the clear winner overall and **Sig Jackson** (39 Sig Regt) was second. **Sig Abel** later went on to ski for the Corps at the Army Championships.



At the higher lever, a number of Corps Units took part in the Divisional and Army Championships in Jan / Feb 14. Individuals who qualified for the Army Championships then formed the Corps Alpine Race Team. A noteworthy performance came from the Corps Team Capt, **Capt Collins**, of 30 Sig Regt who finished 15<sup>th</sup> of 105 racers, despite a very nasty fall on the penultimate race, the Super G.

## KAYAKING / CANOEING

Royal Signals flat water racing paddlers have again dominated many Army competitions, including the recently reintroduced Army Descent Marathon. Of particular note, for the wider corps visibility of flat water racing this season, was for the time the inclusion of K1s in the Race the Sun event in York. This was an extremely competitive leg at the front end, with the five Army paddlers (two cap badges) gaining the first five places.

The Corps Inter-Unit competition and training camp held at Bradford on Avon surpassed expectation in all areas. A key development factor, aside from the increasing quality of the attendees, was access to the correct kit for entry level competitors; all enhanced by training being delivered in the now tried and tested format. RSCC flat water racing paddlers were the largest Corps represented within the Army team; winning a sizeable proportion of the Inter-Services silverware.



Slalom paddling has continued its steady improvement. RSCC came first in the Inter-Corps Championships with a 1<sup>st</sup> from a 216 (Para) Sig Sqn centric entry. This was backed up with some excellent individual performances from more established paddlers. Even without a specific training event this year (due to operations) participants have maximised opportunities to attend civilian races and Army Canoe Union (ACU) events using RSCC equipment and resources.

Surf has been a new area of development this season with **Capt Jeyes** (11 (RSS) Sig Regt) standing up as the discipline representative. Subsequent resourcing has been generated by generous advances from the RSGCC Chairman's Fund, and the 11 (RSS) Sig Regt CO PF Sports fund. The first competition saw novices introduced to this exciting discipline helping to secure 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the team competition and a 2<sup>nd</sup> place individual podium position for **Capt Jeyes**.



This year's 125 mile Devizes to Westminster race witnessed a new dimension to services paddling with the RSCC capitalising on the opportunity to include four paddlers on the tough, three month long, full time Army training camp. Two of the paddlers, **LCpl Diaper** and **SSgt Lawson**, paddled as part of the Army A Team, finishing consecutively in the first two boats in the Services competition. They won the Services Team Trophy and notably won the Belgian Para Commando Trophy for second place in the whole team competition after narrowly missing top spot.

### CLAY TARGET SHOOTING

Last year was an unprecedented year of success for Royal Signals clay target shooting. A shift in funding towards focused training supported by investment in qualified instructors has resulted in exponential improvements by Corps shots vindicated by promotion to Army Team status by a sizeable number and recognition of Corps talent. A raft of Royal Signals clay target shooters now dominate the Army clay target landscape and form half of the limited Army Team places.



Accolades aplenty for this sporting period saw the Royal Signals as Runners-Up at the Army Championships. 11 (RSS) Sig Regt won the Army Inter Units; **SSgt (YofS(EW)) Hamilton** was named as the Army Development Squad Outstanding Performer of the year. A further five Royal Signals shooters were promoted from the developmental squad to the Army Team and **Maj Robinson** was appointed as the Army Team Captain.

### CROSS COUNTRY

The Corps continues to offer fantastic opportunities to partake in cross country running throughout the year. The two training camps that are held each year provide a great opportunity to runners of all levels to learn the fundamentals of running and how to adapt them to their own running style. These camps are known as Exercise KESWICK RUNNER, one is aimed at the novice and the second is to prepare our more experienced runners for the season.

**Capt Jefferson** continues to deliver this superb running camp that is hugely popular and raved about across the Corps. Ex KESWICK RUNNER has proven extremely successful for introducing and equipping Corps runners with training and coaching approaches; injury prevention and management techniques. These invigorated athletes then return to units and pass on this knowledge base. From this camp the team captains are able to identify a significant proportion of the current and upcoming Corps team. Equally, it offers an invaluable cost-effective break from barracks which positively contributes to unit fitness and physical education.



## TENNIS

The appeal of tennis within the Corps is slowly rising; there is at present a limited squad of players but their dedication to the sport is second to none. With the first choice team playing every week they aim to be successful in the Inter Corps Championships. The identification of 4 new high quality players at this year's Royal Signals Tournament will have a significant impact in the next few years. With the continued progress of our younger players we have identified a further four players who have the ability to progress into the Army Team. Watch this space for a huge step forward in next year's report.

## SWIMMING

It has been a really exciting year for all swimmers within the Corps. Firstly a fantastic inter-unit competition was held in Aldershot and hosted by 251 Sig Sqn. It was conducted in an Olympic size pool with official timing equipment and 70 swimmers competed from ten units within the Corps including our Reserves. The event saw 10 Sig Regt win the Male Inter-Unit Competition and 14 Sig Regt (EW) win the Female Inter-Unit Competition. As well as the usual raft of racing events in the pool the Inter-Unit Water-polo took place. This saw 216 (Para) Sig Sqn come through as the victors. Another sport showing the Corps as a force to be reckoned with saw **Lt Col Healey** being selected as the Army Swimming Team Manager and taking part in the Level 3 Coaching Programme.



## GOLF

The Royal Signals golf team hosted and played in 12 competitive inter service and inter Corps matches over the year. These matches attracted players from across the Corps, which included all ranks and retired members. The team of 8 or 10 players have the opportunity to travel across the country and play at some fantastic venues for a reasonably small (payments are rank ranged) personal contribution. It has been a great year with the Corps team winning seven matches, drawing one and losing only four from a total of twelve games.

The Corps entered two teams into the Army Championships this year.

A Team	B Team
Maj (TOT) Pace – Team Capt	SSgt Murray
Maj (TOT) Cowie	SSgt Malcolm
SSgt Dickinson	Sgt Potts
LCpl Wilson	Cpl Innes
LCpl Flindall	Sig Shaw
	Sig Kennedy

As the defending champions the A-Team were seeded N<sup>o</sup>1 with the Royal Engineers seeded N<sup>o</sup>2. All the other teams were drawn from the hat. Fortunately our B team were in the opposite side of the draw. On day one the A-Team came up against CAMUS, which was a fairly straight forward match in the morning, presenting very little difficulty. In the afternoon it was an altogether different match coming up against the Intelligence Corps. After both teams were level at 2.5 points each it was a sudden death play off. **SSgt Dickinson** was the choice from the team to go down the extra hole. After a very nervous and scrappy hole the Corps A-Team came out winners.

The B-Team had an excellent event as well showing the other Corps that our current second string is as competitive as the A-Team. A very narrow loss to the AGC A team was followed by a match against the Army Air Corps.

The A-team faced the Royal Artillery in the semi final which was a very close match that went to the wire with the win coming on the 18<sup>th</sup> hole of the last match. The final was against the Royal Logistic Corps, who had two combined services players in their team. Strength in depth was the key with the Royal Signals A-Team coming out on top with a 3-2 victory and retaining the trophy for the first time in Royal Signals Corps golf history.

The outlook for 2015 is just as good, Corps golf has never been in better shape with four players representing the Army throughout the season.





## SQUASH

An incredibly successful year for the Royal Signals Squash Team. As part of the Royal Signals Open Squash Competition at Imphal Barracks, it was clear that investment in the players at unit level has produced some excellent quality, with 30 Sig Regt topping the competition. The seven highest scorers were selected to represent the Corps at the Army Inter Corps Championships in Aldershot. With outstanding results they won all three matches, this clearly won the competition, outperforming all of the other competing teams. Further to this, the Corps has produced five players who now regularly play for the Army A and B teams in the Berkshire League and have been selected to represent the Army in Squash tours to Gibraltar, Cyprus and Switzerland. Looking back, they also represented the Army in Hong Kong in November 14. Other notable achievements for the Corps Squash players are **LCpls Robinson** and **Jones** becoming the Army N<sup>o</sup>1 and N<sup>o</sup>2 respectively. Securing the future, **Maj Bothwick** is leading the Army Squash Development Team as well.

## BOXING

Boxing within the Corps is a sport that has really come to the fore over the last decade. A sport that relies on dedication by both the competitor and the trainer; the Corps has several opportunities for the novice boxer to step forward and try their hand. The Corps' premier event is Ex BRAMCOTE BOXER; this was held in both February and October of 2014 with around 73 boxers and coaches benefitting from this great exercise. The training camp not only includes boxing skills but also a nutritional seminar which the Corps Cycling Team took advantage of. At Army level the Corps is producing some excellent results. We had three finalists and two semi finalists in this year's Inter-Corps Championships, with **Sig James** of 2 Sig Regt being crowned as the Army Champion and subsequent selection for the Army Team.

Out of the competition arena **Sig Turbitt** of 22 Sig Regt won spectacularly in a non-competition bout and was also selected for the Army Team. Overall the Corps finished third in the competition, which is fantastic when you consider the first and second placed teams train full time for nine months of the year.

## CRICKET

The Royal Signals Cricket Club (RSCC) team had the best pre-season preparation possible with a tour to Antigua in Mar 14. This proved to be a challenging and rewarding tour with the team winning three games and losing four against some high quality opposition. One of the huge bonuses was the fact that three new players were capped and able to experience a foreign sports tour promoting work/life balance within the Corps.

May 14 saw the Inter Corps T20 competition take place in Aldershot, the Corps team making it through to the main competition semi final before being beaten by the Royal Artillery A-Team, the eventual runners up. The inexperienced team performed admirably showing that pre-season preparation is key to enable a good start.

In the 50 over Inter Corps competition, the Corps team made it to the semi final, being beaten by the Royal Logistic Corps, the eventual winners. In the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> place play off, the Corps team were beaten by the Royal Engineers in a close fought game on finals day at Aldershot. Again the Corps team produced some fine performances beating some quality opposition throughout the season, notable wins against the Intelligence Corps, Adjutant Generals Corps, Royal Armoured Corps and the REME, enabling them to progress to the semi finals stage. Another bonus of the 2014 season was the emergence of some new talented players coming through the RSS at Blandford. A common theme now amongst all of our Corps Sports which hopefully bodes well for the future of our Corps sporting prowess.

## BASKETBALL

Basketball remains one of the world's most popular and widely viewed sports and it still enjoys significant growth in popularity within the Corps. The quality of basketball played across the Army and within the Corps continues to develop with more competitions and training sessions played each year.

As with all sports within the Corps, basketball holds an annual Inter-Unit competition. The 2014 Inter-Unit competition was hosted at the home of Army Basketball in Grantham. The location has two English Basketball Association courts and enough transit accommodation to support competing units from across the Corps, which made it an ideal location geographically with the resources to deliver a top level competition. The competition was extremely competitive, very well organised and delivered. The competition saw six units competing for the male title and two units for the female title.



## FOOTBALL

It has been an extremely busy year for our Corps Football Teams and the past season has seen a lot of change. In essence it has been very much a transitional period for one of our Corps' more prominent sports. A new manager, coach and the departure of a number of influential players resulted in a mixed set of results for the male team. This was compounded part way through the season with the unexpected departure of the manager. After a period of consolidation, the returning Manager, **Capt Boughen**, improved results and began rebuilding the Corps Team, focusing on youth development and identifying new talent throughout the Regiments. The pre-season training conducted in Cyprus in early Sep 2014 has ensured the team has hit the ground running, beating all opposition, including the Royal Artillery, last year's Massey League, Quads and Woolwich Cup winners.

The Corps female team had a difficult 2013/14 season; player availability was a big issue and as a result the team had to forfeit the points of 2 matches due to the inability to field a team. The start of this season has seen a marked improvement, with the addition of **SSgt Tuck** taking over as Head Coach, assisted by **SSgt Marlborough** as Goalkeeping Coach and **Sgt Durham** as Admin and Kit SNCO. **WO2 Seymour** has taken up the position of Secretary, assisting **Capt French**. A hugely successful pre-season training camp in Cyprus has led to a very promising start to the season with 2 convincing wins against the Royal Engineers and confirming a place in the semi-final of the Edwards Challenge Cup.

The Corps also formed the Royal Signals Army Reserve team in Jan 14. **WO1 (RSM) Moore** of 37 Sig Regt has since identified a squad of players from across the Corps Reserve. To date they have only been able to play 2 games, this is due to the lack of opponents being willing to play on a weekend. The squad of players come together every 2 months to train or play matches. The 2013/14 season was very much a scoping exercise to understand the appetite for a RSFA Reserve Team. With huge amounts of effort and dedication that the squad of players and management have shown (players travelling from as far as Dundee), the next season (opponents dependant) promises to be a cracker for our Corps Reserve team.

## NETBALL

Following a successful Inter-Unit competition, the Corps Netball Team has demonstrated that the foundations for Corps netball are definitely improving on recent history. The squad benefitted from some exceptional talent; most notably, **Cpl Roberts** (ATR (P)) and **Sig Buckley** (11 (RSS) Sig Regt) who were selected for the Combined Service Team.

A Corps training camp was held in April which attracted many new players. The team funded an England Netball coach for the week to try and raise the standard of training sessions; this proved to be highly successful and received positive feedback from the players. The team's main focus for the camp leaned heavily on strength and conditioning. The players were encouraged to maintain this as a discipline in preparation for future competitions (as well as being of obvious benefit for military PT). For the first time we played a couple of friendly fixtures against the REME and Royal Engineers; winning one, losing one. This was a great opportunity for new players to play competitively. For the first time in recent history we entered two teams into the Inter-Corps competition. Whilst our final standings were not impressive (5<sup>th</sup> in Div 1 and 5<sup>th</sup> in Div 2), there were some positives; the motivation to play netball is spreading and the team rightly has four new players selected for Army level training.

## ORIENTEERING

The Royal Signals Inter-Unit competition was hosted by 15 Sig Regt (IS) in Sennelager, Germany in Mar 14. Both the male and female winners (**SSgt Ranson** and **Maj Calland**) retained their titles for the third and second years respectively. The inter-Unit Major champions were 3 Sig Regt who fought hard to win. The minor Unit champions and U25 champions were HQ Sp Comd and 22 Sig Regt respectively. Competitors also included the sports Chairman, **Col Fensom**, the Corps Colonel and Corps RSM.

The Captain also arranged two extremely successful training camps. The first, over the Easter weekend, saw 20 Corps members deploy to Sennybridge for the JK2014 four day civilian competition. The second, saw a further 16 Corps personnel deploy to the Lake District at the beginning of Aug 14 to compete in the Lakes5Days civilian competition.

Overall we have introduced over 15 novices to orienteering, some of whom are now regular attendees at the Military Leagues and civilian events. Outstanding performances have come from **WOII (FofS) Mallison** who made the Combined Services squad for the first time and also (almost single handedly) organised the Corps Champs in Germany. Further great news for the sport was **Maj Calland's** selection for the Combined Services squad for a second year running.

Our Corps Orienteers have recently paired with local civilian clubs in Wimborne and Blandford. As a result there are 5 Royal Signals team members as a part of their club. The club also assisted us with an event that was held in Blandford on 17 Sep 14 which saw orienteering as part of the Harrogate Cup. We opened up the course to civilians in the evening and 70 students from Clayesmore School joined us too. Another shining example of Civil Engagement and recruiting new talent into the Corps and the O squad!



Several members of the Team have also delivered training to other Corps Units including; 299(SC) Sig Sqn and 11 (RSS) Sig Regt in the past few months resulting in new Team members. The Team also took part in some intensive training from a British Orienteering Team Coach in Nov 14.

Due to an underspend the team Captain secured funds which has seen the team come to life with a complete new tracksuit and issue of all orienteering kit. This will save individuals and the Corps money as hiring equipment is no longer necessary.

Corps runners often rank in the top ten of many civilian attended events. Of note, two runners came 4<sup>th</sup> in both the men's and women's open in the recent London City Race. Another runner has just won the women's open UK urban league. Many Corps runners have climbed the British Orienteering Federation (BOF) rankings and sit firmly within the top 900 in the UK.



## THE FUTURE

This has been a small insight into just a few of our sporting teams and what they have achieved over this last year. The accolades just keep pouring in and for those that aren't on the winning streak, it is more than evident that they aren't far off the mark. A common trend already mentioned and encouraging for the future, is our ability to seek out new talent from within at all levels, and ensure that they are pushed to the fore in order to get the best from them. Also extremely encouraging is that amongst our more traditional sports like rugby, football and swimming, we still have new sports coming to fruition within our Corps. These include Mounted Sports, Powerlifting and Endurance Kart Teams, all should be encouraged and supported in order to become established.

Finally, behind all of our sportspersons we are lucky to have an abundance of selflessly committed, highly motivated coaches, trainers, managers and Games Club Members, without whom we certainly would not be as successful as we are. Long may this continue and keep the Corps sports teams on point.

# YOUR MUSEUM NEEDS YOU!!

**The Royal Signals Museum is in urgent need of volunteers to help run the Museum at the weekends. Volunteers keep the museum going at the weekends at no cost to the Museum or Corps, if we don't have them, we don't open at weekends!! There is also a requirement for volunteers within the week but my main concern at this time is the weekends. The weekend opening dates are 14 to 22 Feb incl. then 28 Feb to 01 Nov 2015. We have a wonderful, but small team who need help.**

**Contact Dave Walker on 01258-455748 or e-mail [davewalker424@talktalk.net](mailto:davewalker424@talktalk.net).**

**PLEASE HELP.**



# Royal Signals Association

## Chairman's Report

2014 was undoubtedly a year of commemoration and remembering the past. Few who visited the Tower of London to see Paul Cummins' and Tom Piper's stunning art work, "Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red", will ever forget the sight of 888,246 ceramic poppies, one for each of the British and Empire soldiers killed in the First World War. This was just one of countless commemorations that took place across the length and breadth of the country, from village green services to national events. Clearly we did not exist as a separate Corps during the Great War, but successful communications proved to be absolutely vital to the prosecution of that campaign, just as they have to every military operation since, and resulted directly in the formation of the Royal Corps of Signals in 1920.

Whilst this may have been the most prominent anniversary, there were many others which impacted upon the Corps, from the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day to the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the M62 Bombing. The latter, which saw the death of three members of the Corps returning to Catterick in the early hours of 4<sup>th</sup> February 1974, was marked with a most moving ceremony at Hartshead Moor Service Area on a bright and crisp Sunday morning. I was proud to lay a wreath on behalf of the Corps and to be joined by representatives of many Branches. If you are travelling west along the M62 around Bradford, do call in at the Service Area and take a few moments to visit the permanent memorials which have been established there.

In September, a very different type of anniversary was marked in Yorkshire when the Corps celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of being granted the Freedom of the Borough of Richmond. Our Colonel in Chief, the Princess Royal, was the reviewing officer. A typically misty North Yorkshire Autumn morning gave way to bright sunshine as Her Royal Highness stepped out of the car; such is the power of our Royal Family. In keeping with the new Master's emphasis on "the three Rs" – the Regular, Reserve and Retired elements of the Corps – the Association had a formal role to play with a number of members being presented to the Princess both during the parade and afterwards in the Town Hall.

September saw yet another moving event in Yorkshire, when I was honoured to attend the "Final Muster" of the Beverley Ex-Boys Association. Well attended by both ex-Boys and their guests, who included the Mayor and Mayoress, the Branch certainly went out on a high with a full weekend of activities, culminating in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Town War Memorial and a final service in the Minster. The latter evoked many memories of the Training Regiment marching down to the Minster every Sunday morning. Whilst it is always sad when a Branch decides to close, I am sure that this unique training organisation will live long in the Corps' collective memory.

The National Memorial Arboretum was of course established to provide a focal point for national and more local acts of remembrance. Next time you visit, you may wish to view the new Heroes' Square, to which the Corps has contributed, and which was opened officially by HRH Prince William in December. I am delighted that the annual ceremony to rededicate the Corps' memorial has now firmly taken root. 2014 saw a record number of members of the Corps, serving and retired, in attendance and a record number of standards on parade. "Jimmy" himself has now been fully repaired and the unsightly rust stains removed (at the manufacturer's own expense, I hasten to add). One or two members have meanwhile pointed out that the annual ceremony isn't the only thing to have taken root, in that some persistent weeds are encroaching on the memorial. Regrettably the NMA management is not responsible for maintaining the standard of the memorials themselves: that's down to all of us. Whilst the local Regiment and local Association Branch do a great job, it would really help if anyone visiting the memorial and seeing the pesky things would pull them up there and then!

Finally and on a much more parochial level, I drew your attention last year to the legal status of the Association and why we needed urgently to address it. This was discussed at length at the AGM last March and a way forward unanimously agreed. I have now written to all Branch Chairmen, explaining why we have had to adapt our approach somewhat. A copy of my letter follows this report and I would ask you all to read it. Whilst the impact on members should be negligible, you do have a role to play in implementing the solution. The proposal, agreed by your Central Committee, requires an amendment to the Association's Rules and this in turn requires your approval at the AGM. It would be wonderful to see as many of you as possible at the Victory Services Club on the morning of Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March, so that I can answer your questions and gain your approval for the changes we are putting forward.

Kathleen and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible during 2015, whether at the Reunion Weekend in Blandford, at Project Noel in Liverpool or during one of our visits to Branch events. I have no doubt it will be another full and active year for the Association.



# Royal Signals Association Legal Status Update

*The following is the content of the letter sent from the Chairman to Branch Chairmen on 5 January 2015 providing an update on the Legal Status of the Association*

I wrote to you prior to last year's Annual General Meeting, explaining why we need to update the governance structure of the Association. In brief, this is needed in order to comply with current Charity Law and to ensure that we can continue to provide comradeship and benevolence to our members effectively. At the end of the process, we aim to achieve a number of things:

- To be fully compliant with the Law (i.e. be legal).
- To have a Board of Trustees that is able and willing to discharge its legal responsibilities.
- To ensure that any legacies or donations made to the Association can be put to their intended purpose and cannot be legally challenged.
- For the changes to be transparent to our membership and not to affect our branches in any way.

I highlighted a number of options in my letter, explaining that the preferred solution was formally to merge the Association with the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund under the Trusteeship of the existing Royal Signals Trust Limited (RSTL). This proposal was discussed at the AGM and approved, subject to a review of the charitable object (or purpose) of the merged charity; in particular we were asked to maintain the concept of "comradeship" within the object and review the definition of "signaller".

Unfortunately it has not proved possible to implement this solution, principally because it involves rather more work for the Charity Commissioners than they are currently prepared or funded to undertake. We have therefore had to identify an alternative approach which produces the same overall effect whilst minimising the workload on the Commissioners. Your Central Committee have reviewed the situation and are now proposing a staged approach:

- First we propose amending the rules of the Association to make RSTL our corporate trustee, as it already is for the Benevolent Fund.
- With new rules and new trustees in place, we would apply to the Charity Commissioners formally to register the Association as a charity.
- As soon as this is achieved, we would seek the Commissioners' authority to run the Association and the Benevolent Fund as a single entity, under what is known as "uniting direction".

Whilst this may at first appear a somewhat laborious process, it is in fact quite straight-forward and will result in a structure which is not in reality much different from what we have always had, albeit with one significant difference - it is legally compliant and legally defensible. Provided the proposed change to our rules is agreed at the AGM in March, we would anticipate completing the remaining stages by the summer.

I therefore attach a copy of the proposed new rules for the Association, which I would ask you to circulate within your Branch. You will immediately notice that they are much shorter and simpler than our current rules. This is quite deliberate. They cover only those issues which need to be included in legally binding rules for a charity and which in future could only be changed by the Trustees (one of whom will always be the Chairman of the Association). All other items (such as branch standards, local branch preferred structure and membership cards) will be included in a set of guidance notes, which will remain under the control of your General Secretary and Central Committee.

Whilst change is rarely welcome, I believe that what we are proposing represents the best way of meeting the Association's charitable purpose whilst satisfying the requirements of current Charity Law. I would once again stress that what is being proposed has no impact directly upon your branch, as each branch is a separate entity, unaffected by changes to the national Association. The proposed rule changes are unanimously recommended to you by the Central Committee and it would be wonderful if they could be unanimously agreed at the AGM. I realise, however, that many of you may have questions or seek reassurance on certain aspects of the proposal. I will, of course, endeavour to answer any points which are raised at the AGM, although it would be helpful if, wherever possible, they could be flagged up in advance to the General Secretary.

Finally I should mention that, under the current rules, an AGM is only quorate if at least 50% of branches are represented. Could I therefore ask you to confirm to the Admin Officer as soon as possible whether or not you will have members present at the Victory Services Club on 14th March. If you are not able to be present yourselves, you may wish to consider asking your Area Rep to act formally as your representative at the meeting. Of course, if you wish to nominate someone else or not to be represented at all, that is entirely within your gift.



# Report by the Regimental Secretary

- by Col (Retd) Terry Canham, Regimental Secretary

There is a perception that RHQ is a “sleepy hollow” but I hope that the articles by Chairman RSA, the Corps Colonel, RSBF Welfare Grants co-ordinator and RSA Admin Officer illustrate just how much is going on in a Corps which is much reduced from that which many of you remember but is nevertheless heavily committed. In fact, most of our Civil Servants and Corps Employees are regularly putting in more than their contracted hours so I thought I would give you a flavour some of the work going on beyond the routine tasks for this headquarters in order to seek your support for what we are doing:



- **New Database System.** At the top of the list is the introduction of a new database system working through a web-based programme called “Subscriber CRM”. This impacts on all former members of the Corps to some degree but will be our main workhorse for the collection of Retired Officer, RSI and Wire Subscriptions, the management of RSA membership, tracking of welfare grant requests and, in due course, will provide on-line capabilities such as booking for Corps events and changing personal details. However, the original database is huge and our staff have been patiently working through our records to ensure that we are fully data protection compliant – not a trivial task for 94,000 records. There have been mistakes and I apologise for that but I hope that you will appreciate that this is a mammoth task and we will not always get it right no matter how hard we try.
- **Retired Officer Subscriptions.** I wrote to those who are already subscribing to “RO Subs” last year to brief them on the new approach and rates. To date, we have had roughly a 50% response which means that some 350 officers are not now eligible to attend the events advertised at the back of this Newsletter at the subsidised rate and will not receive their Wire or RSI benefits. I know that we all receive a vast amount of junk mail every year but this is important. We must confirm your details are correct and start new Direct Debits if you want to subscribe (no, the old ones cannot be continued) in order to cover our costs. Please also bear in mind that the rates have not been changed in over a decade and the charity is losing money as a consequence. I urge you, therefore, to let us have your return quickly if you have not already sent it and hope that the new “pick and mix” format will make it easier to match your own requirements. If you need new copies of the forms then please let us know.
- **Retired Officers’ List.** There are many officers who do not pay RO Subscriptions but who, nevertheless, receive a free copy of the RO List and this Newsletter – a service which will continue. By the time this newsletter is published I hope to have written to you to seek your confirmation that you are content for your details to be published in the RO List. We last carried out this exercise in 2009/2010 in order to produce the first of the new generation of RO Lists in 2011 but we need to do it again to ensure that we continue to be data protection compliant so I ask you to make a point of sending your reply in quickly once you get my letter. If you don’t reply then we cannot continue to publish your details on the list or provide you with a copy so this is important. With this work going on, you will appreciate that it is not an ideal time to produce new list so we aim to publish the next one in spring 2016.

I recognise that there has been a lot of change but this is all aimed at providing a better and simpler service for our members/subscribers and will deliver software and procedures which will reduce the workload of our very loyal and hard-working civilian staff. There is going to be a certain amount of pain in achieving this goal but I very much seek your support in helping us to do so.



# RSA Admin Officer's Report

In the following pages, you will find reports of Branch/Affiliated Association activities from all over the country. I hope you will enjoy reading about their various goings on and perhaps be inspired to go and join your local Branch!

If you live a long way from your nearest group and are able to access the internet, you could always look for the Royal Signals Association Group on Facebook. You will find chat/information/photos and you can join others who have found old and new friends on-line. The group is closed and limited to those who have a connection with the Corps. When you ask to join, your connection to the Corps will be requested by our moderators. You can find other groups on Facebook which are set up by RSA Branches and Corps-connected groups. Why not look for The York Reunion Group which at the Autumn Central Committee Meeting was officially recognized as an affiliated association? This vibrant meeting of like minds takes place at the New York Club & Institute in York. For details, see/join their group on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/266858296762410/>



*Group photograph of BEBA members and guests outside Beverley Minster*

In October 2014, the Final Muster of the Beverley Ex-Boys Assn took place in Beverley.

We salute all those who have been stalwart members of BEBA and hope that they will continue to enjoy being a part of our wider Association Family.

If you have visited the NMA you will have noticed that the Corps Memorial is looking smarter than it has been. There is still a problem with weeds which will insist on growing around the edge of the paving stones and if you see any during your visit, do feel free to pull them up! Last year a Corps Paving Stone to be set into the floor in "Heroes' Square" at the NMA was paid for by Branch subscription and Corps funds. In December 2014 HRH Prince William was invited to see the start of Heroes' Square where the Army pavings have been laid as

a temporary measure, until the new Visitor Centre has been completed in November 2016. They will then be moved, alongside the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force which is the next step in the process. If you visit the NMA you will be able to see the stones in their temporary site near the visitors' centre and you can see more at: <http://www.clcevents.com/national-memorial-arboretum-alrewas-staffordshire/#sthash.WU4QXMIB.dpuf>



*The Corps Contingent at the March Past at the Cenotaph*

The ceremonies to commemorate Remembrance in 2014 were very poignant bearing in mind the time since the beginning of the First World War. Personally, I found it a wonderful experience to take part in the march past at the Cenotaph and would recommend anyone who is considering requesting a ticket for this year to go ahead and take the plunge. It is true that you never forget how to march!!

To join us at either the opening of the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey (5 Nov) [only 15 tickets available for this event] or the Cenotaph Parade at Whitehall (8 Nov) [48 tickets for this event] please contact the Admin Officer at RHQ by email or in writing by Mon 28 Sep 15.

You will have read elsewhere in this magazine about the proposed change of the rules of the Association. If, following the AGM you would like to read the minutes, they can be obtained by application via email



(pdf copy) [rsa@royalsignals.org](mailto:rsa@royalsignals.org) or by sending a SAE (minimum A4 size with Large postage) to Admin Officer, RSA, HQ R Signals, Griffin House, Blandford Camp, Blandford Forum, DT11 8RH.

You may have heard that the Howes Wood Plaque has been removed from the Howes Wood Building next to the gymnasium at Blandford Camp and the building renamed as the “Blandford Garrison Fitness Centre”. The plaque has been re-sited in a more prominent position, next to the RSA Memorial Garden in front of the Princess Mary Hall. This has resulted in the memorial being in a much more appropriate place for those who wish to pay their respects. The original memorial garden and sundial at Catterick remains there and is being looked after by the staff at Catterick Garrison, overseen by the Catterick Branch.

Finally, items of interest for the Newsletter 2016 should be submitted by 31 Dec 15 to the Admin Officer (**submission does not guarantee inclusion and the editor’s decision is final**) by email [as a .doc or .docx file with any photograph(s) as a separate .jpeg file(s)].



The Howes Wood Plaque in its new home next to the RSA Memorial garden

## RSA Awards

Congratulations to the recipients of the following RSA Awards presented during 2014:

**Associate Life Membership** (for outstanding service to their Branch for many years):

**Len Jones** - Exmouth

**Honour Membership** (for outstanding service to the RSA over many years):

**Lt Gen Robert Baxter CBE** - HQ R Signals  
**Bob Taylor** - Liverpool

**Paul Burton** - East London  
**Jack Thorpe** – Catterick

**Lt Col Hugh Nealon** – Reading  
**Brig Nigel Wood** - HQ R Signals

**50 Year Award** (in recognition of 50 years combines service; Regular, TA, NS and active support to an RSA Branch):

**Brian Black** – Harrogate  
**David Coles** - East London  
**Jackie Donaldson** - N Ireland  
**Robert Jones** - Liverpool  
**Brig Noel Moss** – Aldershot  
**Andrew Riddell** - Loughborough  
**Robert Simpson** – Dorset  
**William Wilson** - Harrogate

**Roy Bilby** - East London  
**Lt Col Alan Davies** – Poole  
**David Geere** - Loughborough  
**Derek Layton** – Harrogate  
**Patrick O’Shea** - East London  
**Ronald Russell** – East London  
**David Tupper** - Brighton  
**Robert White** - Loughborough

**Lt Col Ian Buckley** - Harrogate  
**John Dollen** - Glasgow  
**Fraser Gordon** – Southport  
**Peter Ling** - Huddersfield  
**James Rodger** – Catterick  
**Peter Shepherd** - Harrogate  
**Kenneth Whillock** – Dorset  
**Walter Whiteley** - Sheffield





# Reports From The Branches

## Area 3 Report

- by Trevor E Holyoake, Area 3 Representative

Firstly my sincere thank you to all Area Three Branches who voted me back into office for a third time. I look forward to representing you all at the Central Committee Meetings.

Since I was reappointed in October 2013, I have visited with pleasure the following Branches: Norfolk and East London, where I received very warm receptions from everyone I met and it was a nice thing for me knowing many members from 36 Regiment and 54 Squadron days. I have also attended the St George's Day evening in Cambridge at a very nice pub in Girton.

In July I attended the NMA Cycle Ride and Memorial Service at the NMA, Alrewas. I thought it was good to see 11 Branch Standards there alongside about 150 cyclists and virtually the same number of RSA members.

During September the West London Branch arranged a Corps Sunday Church Parade and Curry Lunch at the Royal Hospital Chelsea. Again it was a pleasure to be invited and to enjoy the company of everyone who was there.

In October I went to Shepshed for the Loughborough Branch meeting, held in the Black Swan pub run by **Keith** (who is ex Corps). With 101 excellent different whisky varieties to try, I had an educational overnight stay (thank you).

Finally, I went to Peterborough for their meeting and Annual Dinner in the Park Hotel, another excellent evening with very good company!

All the Branches I have visited are well supported and have a core of members who keep each of them vibrant. On a personal note, I was extremely proud to be asked to attend the Armed Forces Concert at St Neots. I paraded the Bedford Branch Standard and was the only Army Standard present. It was a very emotive moment for me when the Corps Quick March, Begone Dull Care, was played as I entered behind the Royal Navy.

I look forward to 2015 and to visiting the remaining Branches in Area Three during the rest of my tenure.

## Aldershot Branch

At the beginning of 2014 we were studying the weather forecasts closely because much of the Thames Valley was under water including the venue for our first event of the year, a visit to the Sonning Mill Theatre. Fortunately by mid-February the flood receded just in time and we were able to enjoy an excellent lunch and performance. Thereafter our programme proceeded without a hitch thanks to the superb joint efforts of **Neville Lyons** and **Chris Endean**.

The recent innovation of morning meetings consisting of coffee and a formal talk in Fleet followed by optional lunch continues to be popular. The two subjects this year were "Auctions and Auctioneering" and "POW Camp 57". The latter was the story of a major Prisoner of War camp in use from 1942-48 on what is now the golf course at Guildford. This was a fascinating talk by associate member **John Glanfield** who has carefully researched this nearly forgotten piece of local history. The summer months saw



*The Middle Temple*



Branch members taking part in two very worthwhile visits, the first to the new Mary Rose Museum in Portsmouth Historic Dockyard and the second to London for a conducted tour of the Inns of Courts Inner and Middle Temples. At the end of this memorable event some members were able to travel further along the Embankment for the moving experience of seeing the Centenary Poppy Display at the Tower of London.

Links with 251 Signal Squadron continue to flourish. In April we were pleased to welcome the new OC, **Maj Gavin Darke**, and his wife, also a serving officer, to our AGM and lunch. A month later we met up with the whole squadron for our 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Quiz Night at which we were again pleased to welcome teams from Reading and Winchester Branches. The last major event of the year was an autumn lunch at the Camberley Heath Golf Club at which we were delighted to have the company of the Corps Colonel, **Col Graham Norton**. It turned out he was en-route to Glasgow and was therefore accompanied by the Corps RSM, **WO1 Rob Luke**, who we were very pleased to meet. It was also a chance to welcome the new SSM of 251 Signal Squadron, **WO2 Martin Cope** and his wife.

Our year came to an appropriate end with a festive pub lunch organised by our indefatigable secretary **Mary Pagan**. This was a time to enjoy good friendship, reflect on those no longer with us and ponder on what challenges lie ahead in 2015. Pictures of the event are on our Facebook page at "Aldershot Branch Royal Signals Association"; why not search for us and join us on us on Facebook?

## Bath and District Branch

The Bath and District Branch covers a large area across Somerset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire, and currently has about 120 members. The Committee is **Howard Ham**, President; **Mike Macklin**, Chairman; **Arthur Threlfall-Searson**; Treasurer; **Bob Vale**, Visiting Officer; **Dick Hemming** and **Steve Farrow**, Secretary.

We are particularly fortunate to have the support of 21 Signal Regiment and have held two curry lunches at Colerne in 2014, one in July and a second with our AGM in October. Both were well attended. We concluded the year with a most enjoyable Christmas lunch in the Officers' Mess on Tuesday 16 December, attended by 26 Branch members and their partners. These events were organised by **Steve Farrow**, our Secretary, with the assistance of **Maj Kevin Barker** from 21 Signal Regiment to whom we are very grateful.

On 8 July 2014 we staged an inaugural Branch golf match at Kingsdown Golf club near Bath. Fourteen members took part with the overall winner being **John Thomas**. We intend to repeat the event on 8 July 2015 at Cumberwell and would welcome participation from those outside our area. Please contact **Steve Farrow** ([sdfarrow@sffarrow.plus.com](mailto:sdfarrow@sffarrow.plus.com)) if you are interested.

21 Signal Regiment held their Afghanistan Homecoming Parade in Bath on 24 June 2014. **Alun Stewart**, our Standard Bearer, attended the ceremony held at the Abbey and the saluting base at the Guildhall for the march



*Lady Gass and Alun Stewart at the Guildhall in Bath*



*Paddy Crowley, John Thomas (centre) and Peter Pearson prior to teeing off*

past. Afterwards he was introduced to **Lady Gass DCVO JP**, the Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset.

**Alun Stewart** also performed his Standard Bearer duties during the Remembrance Sunday service at the war memorial in Bath where **Harry Hemming** laid the wreath.



## Bedford Branch

- by Trevor E. Holyoake, Branch Secretary

Branch membership is similar to previous years with 59 on the mailing list which includes 5 Branch Associate Members and 1 lady member, **Doreen** - widow of the late **Lou O'Dell**. Our Visiting Officer also keeps in contact with 12 known widows of former Branch members

Our monthly meetings attract 10 to 15 members each time and they are always constructive and interesting followed by a buffet for which a collection is held

In February we held our Annual General meeting with a few changes to the Branch Committee. A full list can be viewed on our web pages

In March we held our Annual Branch dinner at the Bedford & County Golf Club. A total of 41 members and friends attended. **Barry Tappenden** (Mayor of Bedford's Officer) – ex. RAF Warrant Officer and his wife **Jackie** were our guests for the evening. **Barry** gave a great talk on the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Capture of 'Pegasus Bridge' landing on 'D-Day' – his father was in one of the gliders that landed just next to the bridge. When he sat down **Maj. Dennis Prince** told **Barry** that his father was also one of those who landed and they had a good chat. The evening was enjoyed by everyone who attended. The provisional date for the next dinner is Saturday 21 March 2015.

In the month of April, 44 members and friends travelled to the Tower of London to view the 'Ceremony of The Keys'. At 1900hrs we met at the main gate where 14 members from East London Branch joined us. About 20 minutes later **Yeoman Warder Mark Anderson** took us all inside for a brilliant tour, spiced with both his humour and ghastly tales of disembowelments! At 2200hrs the Ceremony took place and after a few bebies and a raffle we left for home at 2330hrs. A great day with perfect weather.

Over the weekend Saturday 21/Sunday 22 June 2014 6 Branch members went to the Reunion at Blandford. The provision of accommodation meant that members were able to attend and we thank the Headquarters and Camp staff. Again a very good weekend. Following our return, 23 June saw the Flag Raising Day at Bedford Borough Hall at 1000hrs.

During the year our Branch Standard has been in attendance at the Blandford Reunion, the Flag Raising Armed Forces Week, the Beds & Herts Final Parade, the NMA Memorial Service, the Armed Forces Day Concert, the Whipsnade Tree Cathedral Service, the Scots Parade on 2 November by **Cadet SSgt Slater** ACF, 9 November by **Cadet Cpl. Piernicki** ACF, the Rushden RBL Carol Service, The Royal Anglian Association, the Beds & Herts reunion and the funerals of **Peter Day** and **Ken Grange**, (former Secretary Cambridge Branch).

In December we held our successful Annual Draw, which was as usual followed by a buffet. There were many lovely prizes, the majority of were donated by members and friends. This event closed our year and Bedford Branch members wish all readers a Happy 2015 and look forward to meeting up again at the Blandford Reunion.

## Birmingham Branch

Our Branch Charity Committee have been busy again this year, ably lead by **Paul Sowsbery**. He proposed a Great War Walk (in view of the 100 year commemoration) as a means of raising funds for the RSBF and after much discussion this was organised for a weekend in August. The team was lead by **Dave Arnot** and consisted of **Paul Sowsbery**, **Tony Jacklin** and **Bob 'Knobby' Clarke** after **Bill McNeish** (injured) and **Alistair Jacklin** (work commitments) failed to make the start. The walkers made it from Birmingham city centre to the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas via Erdington, Sutton Coldfield, Tamworth and Lichfield to be greeted by Branch members. **Padre Vic Van Den Burgh** (37 SR and NMA) conducted a Remembrance Service at the Corps Memorial and the team laid a wreath. The team raised £640 in personal sponsorship, £54 along the route and £354 on the Just Giving site. Many thanks to **Herbie Herbert** (RSBF Marketing Officer) and all who helped support this event.

As is frequently mentioned, it's a Small World! In our Branch, **Paul Sowsbery** (Branch Charity Member) served in 7 Sig Regt with **Ron Suett**; **Ursula Suett**, who is one of our Associate Life Members, is **Ron's** mother, another Branch member, **Rita Bramham**, is **Ursula's** daughter, and therefore **Ron's** sister!

**Vi Cannadine**, our 90 year old Associate Life Member, organised another successful Away Weekend in April which was enjoyed by everyone. She's already well ahead with this year's trip and has more energy the some half her age.



The Christmas Dinner was enjoyed by the 57 who attended the function which was held in the Tally Ho Club. Yet again **Susanne Hedge**, Associate Life Member, organised gifts for all and **Paul Sowsbery** arranged some interactive entertainment to help everyone recover from the Chairman's risqué jokes! **Sgt Eileen Monaghan** of 48(CoB) Sig Sqn, and an active Branch member handed over a cheque for £50 for the RSBF. She raised the money during a tournament at her golf club. Well done **Eileen** or should that be "Come On Eileen"?

I hope 2015 will be as good if not better than last year.



L-R: Bill McNeish, Paul Sowsbery, Dave Arnot, Bob 'Knobby' Clarke and Tony Jacklin outside 48 (CoB) Signal Squadron ARC at the start of the Great War Walk



The end of Great War Walk at the National Memorial Arboretum.

L-R: Paul Sowsbery, Tony Jacklin, Knobby Clarke, Dave Arnot, Ursula Suett, Jayne Bailey-Jones, Lyndon 'Taff' Jones, George Hedge (Chairman) on Standard duties as Dave Arnot (Standard Bearer) was otherwise engaged

## Cambridge Branch

- by Diana Abrey, Branch Secretary

### Happy New Year all

Our Membership currently stands at 42. Our monthly Branch meetings are held at Cambridge Army Reserve Centre, Coldhams Lane, Cambridge on the last Thursday of every month, average attendance is 14. We share the venue with the Royal Engineers Association.

The current committee stands as: President **Marion Lant**, Chairman **Eddie Kikas**, Vice Chairman **Leon Cracknell**, Secretary **Diana Abrey**, Treasurer **John Morley**, Branch Information Manager **Len Carr**, Branch Visiting Officer **Sue Cracknell**, Branch Events Co-ordinator **Graham Wade**. Sadly in 2014 we lost our retired Branch Secretary, **Ken Grange**.

Events during 2014 included our annual St George Day supper in April, a trip to the NMA in July to support the cycle ride and memorial service, our annual August BBQ, various joint social evenings, quizzes etc with the Royal Engineers Association, lunch at the Six Bells Fulbourn on Remembrance Sunday and a joint Christmas dinner with the Royal Engineers Association. We are looking forward to an active 2015



## Cardiff Branch

The year began with the Branch Annual General Meeting which was held at the Earl Haigh Social Club at Whitchurch, Cardiff. The officers and committee were elected en bloc. The Branch committee is:

President:	<b>Jim Lister</b>
Chairman:	<b>Selwyn Williams</b>
Secretary:	<b>Bill Davies</b>
Treasurer:	<b>Alan Cole</b>
Visiting Officer:	<b>Gordon Baker</b>
Web Manager:	<b>Darren Perkins</b>
Standard Bearer:	<b>Esme Aviet</b>

The minutes from the previous year were ratified as were the Branch audited accounts. The Chairman and Hon Secretary gave their reports for the year and this was followed by the annual report from the Branch Visiting Officer. Finally the Chairman surprised **Gordon Baker** by asking him to come forward and receive the RSA Award to recognise his 50 years active service to the Corps and Association. The President ended the meeting with his closing address.

Come the month of March and the Branch was represented at the AGM at the Victory Services Club by the Branch Chairman and Secretary. In May we were pleased to welcome **Mr Dan Peterson**, a war artist, who had visited Afghanistan. **Dan** showed us some of his various sketches of the conditions under which operations were conducted, which made for a very interesting evening. We were joined for this evening by our colleagues from Llanelli.

During June the Branch was represented at both the Armed Forces Day and the Annual RSA Reunion in Blandford.

During November, remembrance ensures that the Branch is very busy and this year was represented at the Annual Garden of Remembrance Service organised by the RBL. **Jim Lister** planted the cross on the Royal Signals cross and badge. One week later, Remembrance Sunday saw us on parade at the Annual Remembrance Service at the Cenotaph in Cardiff. **Selwyn Williams** laid the wreath on behalf of the Branch.

On 20 November, forty members of the Branch and their guests enjoyed the Annual Branch Dinner at the Earl Haigh Club. This anticipated event was enjoyed by everyone who was in attendance. During 2015 the Branch will continue to hold meetings at the Earl Haigh Club on the second Tuesday of each month. If you are in the area, why not come and join us?

## Catterick Branch

We had a very eventful year for the Branch, starting in April with the laying up of our old Branch Standard and dedication of the new Standard. Over 50 members and their wives attended the Garrison Memorial Church where we laid up our old Standard with the kind permission of the Garrison Commander, **Col S Padgett OBE**.

**Brig Hargreaves** and the Mayor of Richmond were also able to attend the service and celebratory lunch at the Garrison Golf Club. We were supported at this by the Branch Standards from Darlington, Harrogate and Middlesbrough.

Just when we thought things were going to settle down along came an offer to attend the Hartlepool Gathering of the Clans in August, shortly after our own Branch summer BBQ. Unfortunately our trip to Hartlepool had to be cancelled at short notice due to illness, but we do hope to make it in 2015 as it's a very good do put on by our sister Branch.

The pressure kept up when we were invited to take part in Operation "LIGHTS OUT" a commemoration of





the start of the Great War. The occasion was marked with a service in the Garrison Memorial Church at which our Branch Standard and the Catterick RBL Standard were paraded by **John Harris** and **Jim Roger** respectively.

It was also about this time that **Capt Paul Buckley**, the QM (T) of 2 Sig Regt, asked for us to provide support for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Freedom of the Borough of Richmond Parade. We were both delighted to have been asked and overwhelmed at our level of inclusion at this Corps event. The Branch Committee were tasked with providing an honour guard, information stand and personalities to meet the officiating officer. Our Colonel in Chief, HRH The Princess Royal was delighted to see the thirteen Standards, from Branches as far away as Glasgow and Liverpool, on parade on a crisp bright and quite warm

September day. The decision to pluck one of our Branch members and his wife from the crowd to be presented to HRH was a master stroke! **Johnny Jeffreys**, a veteran of Arnham, was tickled pink. In recognition of our efforts, 6 members of the committee, some of their wives and two Branch members who were on the original parade were invited to the function which took place afterwards. We were all presented to HRH. The weather was perfect and our very own '**Boomer Moore**' did us proud with his photographic support.



With hardly a break, we set about organising our own Remembrance Parade at the Howes Wood Memorial in Gaza Barracks. This was possible because of the kind permission of **WO1 RSM A Hilley**, RSM 5 Medical Regiment. For the first time we had to be fully self-supporting and for the event our padre, **Mr Alex Eckford**, officiated. The two local standards paraded and a bugler, **Sgt Danny Stevens**, was supplied by the ceremonial wing of the ITC from Vimy Barracks. Eighteen Branch members paid their respects. The wreaths were laid on behalf of the Branch and the Korean Veterans Association. We warmly invite anyone who may wish to join us to this annual event. If anyone would like more details, please contact our secretary at [IScrivin@aol.com](mailto:IScrivin@aol.com).



December saw us finishing the year with our traditional Christmas function in the Catterick Golf Club. This event was organised by **Jim Roger** and rounded off our year nicely, ensuring that we all get ready for the break in good spirits. We look forward to another busy year in 2015 with the possibility of a "Get Together in the North" at Eden Camp in May. The lead Branch for this is from Area 1 South and more information will be available in the near future.



## Chester Branch

- by Dave White, Secretary

In Chester Branch, 2014 began with The AGM when the usual suspects were elected to hold Branch offices! The Annual Dinner was held on Sun 26 Jan. This was a lovely event where everyone had a good time and the proceeds of the raffle were sent to the RSBF. Two Sunday lunches were organised, the first on 13 Apr and the second on 16 Nov. Both were well attended and again the proceeds of the raffles which took place were sent to the RSBF.

On 20 Aug, several members went on a canal trip in Chester. This very successful event was organised by **Pat Sanders**. The end of August saw a charity cricket match, hosted by the Blackpool Branch on 30 Aug. **Dave White** (Hon Sec) and his wife represented Chester Branch and had a very good day out! Our regular Branch meetings are held from 1930hrs on every third Thursday in the month at The Royal British Legion, 20 Heath Road, Upton-by-Chester, CH2 1HX. Do come and join us if you are in the area!

## Cornwall Branch

President	<b>Brig (Retd) Tony Bristow</b>
Chairman	<b>John Field</b>
Secretary	<b>Terry Winsor</b>
Treasurer	<b>Mike Hartland</b>

Once again the Cornwall Branch had a successful year in 2014. We still hold a bi-monthly meeting on the third Saturday of the month at the Kernow Club Truro. We also enjoyed many pub lunches as our alternate monthly meetings at varied locations throughout Cornwall.

At our AGM in May **Brig (Retd) Tony Bristow** was voted in as our new President and the standing committee re-elected to continue for another year. We also had a welcome visit from our Area 5 Representative, **Lt Col (Retd) Mike Macklin**, who gave a talk about the RSA within Area 5. In July we were contacted by the Armed Forces Liaison Officer of the Queen Alexandra Hospital Home (Worthing) asking if we could support them in any way; to this end it was decided to donate £200 from our funds. Also in July we had our annual two-day collection at Trago Mills and collected £1,069.63p. Our treasurer, **Mike Hartland**, suggested that we should round this figure up, so we made it up to £1,100 which we donated to the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund.

During the year we get an update via email of the travels, trials and tribulations of the RFA Victoria from one of our members, **Mick Luckes**, who is a Signals Officer on board. These emails prove to be both interesting and amusing.

On 25 October, at the suggestion of **Vic Prees**, many of our members enjoyed a visit to the "Classic Air Force" near Newquay. This is known as a "living" museum and houses the VC10 in-flight refueller, Meteor, Vampire and many more aircraft. In November our secretary, **Terry Winsor**, attended the Remembrance Day Parade at the Cenotaph in London and met up with the RSA contingents' right marker **Jim Gwinnell**, who is the son of two of our long standing members, **David** and **Cathy Gwinnell**. Congratulations go to two of our members, **David Peard** and **Denise**, who got married and a thank you to **Terry Wickens**, who still supports the Branch although he lives in Canada.

The end of the year ended on a high note when we had our annual Christmas Dinner at the Penventon Hotel, Redruth. At the dinner our chairman, **John Field**, thanked all the members for their continued support with a special mention for all those who collected on behalf of the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund. We were pleased that our president **Tony** and his wife **Fiona** were able to attend the dinner as he has a very busy schedule in his civilian life.

If there are any ex Corps members reading this and living in Cornwall who would be interested in joining our Branch, then please contact our secretary, **Terry Winsor**, on [tcw830@btinternet.com](mailto:tcw830@btinternet.com) for more information.



*The Annual Christmas Dinner*



## Dorset Branch

President      **Col (Retd) Cliff Walters**  
Chairman      **Geoff Grover**  
Secretary      **John 'Charlie' Drake**  
Treasurer      **Dennis Usher**

The Branch continues to meet every month on the third Tuesday; some of these are supper evenings with wives, girlfriends, partners and friends etc.

Our AGM is held in January normally at Sunday lunchtime. After the meeting we have a luncheon with our partners. Once lunch is over we have a raffle and a horse race or two to raise funds for the Branch.

Our Annual Dinner Dance was held in April at the Crown Hotel, Blandford, a very successful evening organised by our social team, **Terry** and **Sandy Disney**.

On the last Sunday in July we had our annual BBQ. This is organised by **Martin** and **Rene Prior**, assisted by our social team. This year **Martin** also had assistance from **John Rees** as assistant chef. Again members donated raffle prizes and then bought the tickets for the privilege of winning back their donation. **Geoff Grover** took control of the horse racing and did a terrific job in raising funds for the Branch, ably assisted by the **Prior** family: **Rene** who ran the TOTE and daughters who rolled the dice.

Photographs of both the dinner dance and BBQ are on the Branch website courtesy of **Andy Soward**, our web master.

Since the Branch last had notes published, **Maj (Tfc) (Retd) Bob McLaren** has been awarded Honour membership by the Corps Committee

In May, **Colonel Norton**, the Corps Colonel, paid a visit to the Branch to brief us on the latest information from HQ Royal Signals. A lively question and answer session followed. He presented branch member Ken Whillock with his 50 Year Award and badge to commemorate 25 years Boy and Regular Service and 25 years as an active Association member with the Dorset Branch.

**Bob Simpson**, a founder member of the Dorset Branch, has also been presented with his 50 Year Award and badge. **Bob**, who cannot get to meetings anymore, was taken out to lunch in Weymouth by **Bob McLaren** and **Geoff Grover**.



*Bob being presented with his award by our President, Col (Retd) Cliff Walters*



*Ken being presented with his award by Colonel Norton*

Following this, **Geoff** made the presentation. **Bob Simpson** joined the Army in the 1940's and after serving in Korea, where he was awarded the BEM, left the Army. In 1968, he got together with a few other old soldiers to start the Dorset Branch.

Earlier in the year we lost a stalwart of the Branch, **Bob Huxtable**. **Bob** had suffered with illness for some time and this eventually took its toll. As we go to press, the Branch has been informed of the sad news that **Maj (Retd) Len White** has passed away. **Len** joined in the 1940's and saw service in a number of theatres during the war. Rest in Peace.





## East London Branch

The East London Branch are having a joint service for the laying up of their old Standard and dedication of a new Standard service in St Mary's Church, Wanstead at 11:00am on Wednesday 8 April, 2015. Invitations have been sent to nearby Branches to join us for this day, but if there are any other members that would like to attend this service, please contact Branch Secretary **Alan Turner** by email [alanj.turner@ntlworld.com](mailto:alanj.turner@ntlworld.com)

## Edinburgh Branch

President **Mr Ian Green**  
Chairman **Mr Jeff Jephcote**  
Secretary **Maj Helen Jephcote**  
Treasurer **Mrs Babs Gowan**

Our Branch, based in the capital of Scotland, has 44 active members who pay yearly subscriptions. This year we have rationalised our membership and moved those who have not paid their subscription to the HQ RSA Branch who now administer them. This has saved us money on postage, and consequently virtually all our members are now contactable via e-mail.

It has been a busy year for us and we have had numerous social functions and get togethers. The chairman changed the format of the Branch meetings and we now have a social/quiz night one month and a formal meeting the next, each member taking turns to organise the quiz questions. This year at the RSA Annual Reunion in Blandford five of our members attended and our Standard Bearer, **Bill May**, came second in the Standard Bearers' Competition. The annual BBQ, hosted by OC 51 Signal Squadron, **Maj Penny Mell**, was very well attended and gave Branch members a chance to interact with the soldiers and officers of the Squadron. (We intend to hold a 61 CofE Squadron Reunion in 2015). In June we had a visit to the Royal Yacht Britannia, a must see for all tourists to Edinburgh, followed by afternoon tea at the Royal Botanical Gardens Edinburgh. In October, eight of our members went to France on a Battlefield Tour to Normandy with the Herforders Association which was very relaxing but also thought provoking and emotional as people remembered family members who perished in the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. We intend to join their future tour in 2016 for WW1 in Ypres. In December the Branch Christmas function was again held at Airth Castle, so good that we intend to book for 2015 at the earliest opportunity. Then to take a break from the Christmas shopping, 16 people attended high tea at Holyrood Palace to round off a very successful year.



*The Branch Christmas function at Airth Castle*

It was mentioned to the Chairman, **Jeff Jephcote**, by the Corps Colonel, that our Branch Standard did not have a 50 Year Badge on it. This led to **Jeff** investigating how long we as the Branch have had the current Standard, and in brief, The Royal Signals Club Edinburgh formed in 1946 and disbanded circa 1987. The Club was then reformed in 2000 as RSA Edinburgh, however, the Branch did not have a Standard and one of the Branch founder members, **Maj (Retd) Brian Murray**, whilst surfing the internet found that the Branch Standard and accessories were for sale on eBay.

During **Jeff's** investigation, by surfing the internet and telephoning a few people, he found out that The Royal Signals Club Edinburgh was formed on 18 September 1946 with over 100 members in attendance and **Brig DH Harris** being voted in as its first president. The Club flourished for quite a few years and even purchased their own building, 4/7 Torphichen Street, Edinburgh, (some of our current members remember attending functions there).

An Edinburgh company of solicitor's contacted the Branch Treasurer, **Babs Gown**, by letter wanting to know if the Branch knew of The Royal Signals Club Edinburgh. **Babs** passed the letter onto **Jeff** who contacted the Solicitors who informed him that the Club sold off the accommodation in 1989 to pay off its debts and that there was a little sum of money held in their holding account. After a few telephone calls between the Branch Chairman and the Solicitors it was agreed that the RSA Edinburgh was in fact a successor to The Royal Signals Club Edinburgh. After finding out that



we would not incur any costs and that the RSA Branch Edinburgh had no liabilities or debtors from the Club; then we would accept the inheritance left by the Club. A few days later the RSA Edinburgh Branch received a cheque for a considerable sum which has now been placed in the Branch bank account.

Future events for the Edinburgh Branch for 2015, RSA Reunion, Airth Castle, High tea at Holyrood Palace, the normal meetings and quiz nights. The Chairman is looking into the following visits; Scotland's Secret Bunker, National Arboretum, Tower of London and a battlefield tour. If you want to join our Branch then please contact us at the following e mail address [RSAEdinburgh@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:RSAEdinburgh@hotmail.co.uk)

## Harrogate Branch

President      **Lt Col R I Buckley MBE**  
Chairman      **Pete Shepherd**  
Secretary      **James McPhee**  
Treasurer      **Bridget Wilson**

2014 once again has been an extremely productive and interesting year for the 65 members of the Harrogate Association. We have also been fortunate enough to recruit three new members in the guise of **Alan Watts, Mathew Haley** and **Selby Robinson** this year, which gives a total of eleven since 2010.

The Entertainments Committee have been extremely busy making sure all the members and their guest have thoroughly enjoyed themselves at various events throughout the year. We started with a superb lunch at the George Hotel, followed by a well organised BBQ at the local cricket club. **Pete Shepherd, Dave Aldous, Taff Thomas, Brian Black, Syd** and **Bridget Wilson** were the main leaders on these delightful and well supported events.

Our really authentic German nights are extremely popular and well supported by members and their friends. Due to the influx of Aldi and Lidl in this area, we are able to purchase the necessary condiments to provide the devotees with a mouth-watering nostalgic trip back to our times spent in BAOR! Once again, our grateful thanks to our Entertainments Committee who made the event such a resounding success. This was ratified by a letter of thanks from our distinguished guests for that evening who were **Iain Scriven**, Area 1 North Representative and **John Harris**, Vice Chairman of the Catterick Branch, ably supported by their partners **Trish** and **Sylvia**.

The Harrogate Association was extremely pleased when the President, **Brigadier David Hargreaves**, agreed to be the Guest of Honour at our



*Pete and Wendy Shepherd at the Annual Lunch*



*Brian Black*



*Yorky Layton*





Peter Shepherd



Syd Wilson



Julie and Ian Buckley with Brigadier David

Annual Dinner. This is always the highlight of the year which is ratified by the numbers attending i.e. 94. This did provide a headache for the committee but in true Corps Spirit, they overcame all obstacles. The evening was further enhanced with the Presentation of 50 Year Badges by **Brig David** to five of our members – In Pensioner **Sgt Yorky Layton**, **Peter Shepherd**, **Brian Black**, **Syd Wilson** and **Lt Col Ian Buckley MBE**.

Harrogate RSA were also heavily involved assisting with organising an “Armed Forces Day” at the Rugby Club to Commemorate the Centenary of the First World War and In Memory of Harrogate RUFC’s fallen. A Service of Remembrance was held before the kick off where members

of the RSA participated, namely, **WO2 Bill Metcalfe** (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) **In Pensioner Yorky Layton** and on his left **Lt Col RI Buckley**. The names of the fallen were read out by the President of the Club, **John Finnigan**.

This was a very solemn event supported by a large crowd with a bugler from a local school sounding The Last Post and Reveille. A collection was made with all proceeds going to the Royal British Legion



**GOLF TRIP** - by *David Aldous*

Members of the Branch participated in their annual golf holiday which was once again spent north of the border at our normal Musselburgh base. This year we decided to have a sponsored charity day on behalf of St Michaels Hospice in Harrogate.

Some bright spark in the group suggested it should be a “Pink” day and so the finely honed fighting machines that once served the Corps wholeheartedly embraced the idea, searching far and wide for various items of pink clothing. A pink day it would certainly be.

The nine of us descended on Royal Musselburgh golf club on 7 Aug 14, one club member asked “are you members of the Gay Pride parade”?

The Cub professional and Club Captain welcomed us with open arms when informed of our charitable intentions and declared us the best dressed visiting party of the year. After our round of golf the Club Secretary presented **Pete**



**Shepherd** (our Branch Chairman) a complimentary 4 ball at the club to be auctioned for our chosen charity, a very nice gesture indeed. A good day's golf was had by all.

The landlady of the local hostelry we call home when we are up there, insisted that we turn up in our pink gear in the evening. The 1 mile walk from our B&B to the pub through Musselburgh main street was a sight to behold, wolf whistles, Hello Sailor (cheek) and "are you single" were some of the more printable comments made and one of the locals donated £5.00 to the charity pot.

A great day had a spectacular ending when one of the pub regulars informed us that a horse, aptly named "Sergeant Pink" was running in an evening televised race from Fontwell; too good to miss. A hasty collection from the group and a visit to Ladbrokes next door did the trick. This magnificent animal was cheered home by the whole pub, a winner at 9/2, the locals loved it, and so did we. A perfect end to a great charity day which raised £1133.00 for St Michael's Hospice.

Those attending: Pete Shepherd, Brian Black, Bruce Graham, Syd Wilson, Taff Thomas, Dave Smith, Dave Aldous and guests Mick Dickinson and Tim Thorley



*Taff Thomas and the Pink Day golf members presenting a cheque for £1133.00 to the events Fund Raiser at St Michael's Hospice in Harrogate*

## Hartlepool Branch

2014 began for us with our AGM; where **Tony Fitches** took over as Treasurer and **Rob Moore** took the new role of Branch Information Manager. Our membership now stands at around 35. The following events are of note for us:

During March, **Terry** and **Josie** celebrated their Golden wedding; in April the Branch attended the Freedom of the City of Darlington;



*Branch members at the Freedom of the City of Darlington Parade*



*The March Past at the Blandford Reunion Weekend*

June saw four members venture south to Blandford for the Annual Reunion. They had a fantastic time as usual.

On return home, Armed Forces Week events were supported in Hartlepool and Peterlee.

In July, we visited the Yorkshire Air Museum at Elvington. We watched the RBL Womens' Section Annual Parade and although the weather was poor, the company was good! Come August, we went to Eden camp for their RBL Womens' Section Annual Parade; we also held the Northern Branches Annual Get together; The Gathering of the Clans. This wonderful event was supported by the Durham ACF who provided the reception service and saw 130 members and guests enjoy great entertainment by the Hartlepool Male Voice Choir.





*Hartlepool Armed Forces Week*



*The Hartlepool Male Voice Choir*

The proceedings were enhanced by the attendance of **Brig David Hargreaves**, Chairman RSA, the Corps RSM, **WO1 Rob Luke**, the Mayor and other dignitaries. There was a raffle which raised £452. We are grateful to everyone who helped to make the event such a success and look forward to the 2015 version! Details will be available closer to August. During November we had good attendance at both Hartlepool and Peterlee for Remembrance Sunday. Following the services, there were drinks and a buffet to which we invited any veteran who had been at the services. This proved to be a great success and we have been asked to repeat for 2015 and are actively looking at taking part in a (to be established) North East Veterans Association.

The Branch meet every second Wednesday of each month at 1930hrs at the Pavilion, Helford Road, Peterlee SR8 1EN. If you are in the area and would like to join us, we look forward to seeing you!

## Huddersfield Branch

Unfortunately, during 2014 we lost one of our founder members, **The Rev Jim Dearden**, who will be sadly missed by us all.

The Branch has a new venue and now meet at the Black Bull, Lindley Huddersfield HD3 3JT at 1230 hrs on the first Wednesday of each month. Do come and join us if you are in the area.

As an example of some of the things we have organised over the year, the photograph shows us at a recent visit to a local private museum. This was very informative and everyone enjoyed their trip. Later in the year, in November, the Branch Standard was paraded at the Project Noel V Carol Service in Liverpool Anglican Cathedral and everyone who attended the service enjoyed themselves.



On 7 March, our Annual Dinner will be held at the Travellers' Rest, Brockholes, Huddersfield HD9 7AZ. If you are anywhere near Huddersfield we would be glad to see you either at a meeting or at our dinner. See our branch page at <http://royalsignals.org/rsa-branches/item/216> for contact details.



## Hull Branch

President **Lt Col David Sixsmith TD**  
 Chairman **Alan James**  
 Secretary **Malcolm Leech**  
 Treasurer **Joe Meggitt**

The Branch holds meetings on the first Thursday of the month (except January) and the third Thursday for lunch at Halifax Barracks, Beverley Road, Hull. To contact the Branch via the Secretary, email: [rsahull@live.co.uk](mailto:rsahull@live.co.uk) or call 07967 397367.

It was with much regret to announce that **Cpl John McCann** passed away on 15 April 2014. Described as “a true gentleman”, he proudly held the coveted 50 Year Award; the Branch became his only real “family” and consequently gave him a good send off.

We again had a presence at the Veteran’s Weekend in July which resulted in a chance meeting with the widow of a former Branch member, **Sig Dave Mant**. We signposted **Mrs Mant** to the Veterans Agency to research his Army records (which he never discussed). She confirmed she had received all these early in 2015. Our Chairman, **Alan James**, brought with him his impressive cap badge display, regaling all to his collection.

**Harry Daubney** and **Bev** became man and wife, leaving our shores for a new life in Malta.

The Branch minutes show that the Secretary, **Malcolm Leech**, re- instituted an Entertainments Committee for the Annual Dinner in October. The volunteers were selected in the time honoured tradition of “you, you and you” which some will remember so well! This honourable and distinguished body ensured a great event took place under the watchful eye of **Alan James**.

To round off the year, our December meeting included “pattie, chips and chip spice” as only those who’ve visited Hull will understand.

## Leeds Branch

For many years, the Branch has benefited from its close association with 49 Sig Sqn (V) when it was part of the now disbanded 34 (N) Sig Regt (V). More recently, the Sqn has been reorganised as 849 Troop 64 Signal Squadron, 38 Signal Regiment and times have become more challenging. However, we continue to hold some of our meetings at Carlton Barracks, Leeds, now courtesy of Yorkshire OTR, 849 Tp’s landlord unit.

Our meetings in the last year have included the AGM, with lunches and socials, a visit to the National Memorial Arboretum, Remembrance service at Leeds Minster, followed by lunch at Carlton Barracks, the Annual dinner and Christmas lunch (at which a collection raised £150 for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance). Committee meetings are held either at the Barracks or a local pub.

Stalwarts of the Branch include **Ken Naylor** who has been Standard Bearer since 2001. In addition to his duties on Remembrance Day, **Ken** has also achieved creditable performances at the RSA competition at the Blandford Reunion. He has also turned out on many occasions across Yorkshire marking those who fell in Afghanistan.



*At the National Memorial Arboretum:*

*Sgt Claire Norton-Kitching  
(849Tp) and Mrs Ann Watson*

*Ken Naylor packing away the  
Branch Standard*



*The Branch Standard paraded at Leeds  
Minster on Remembrance Day*

The Branch secretary is **Mrs Ann Watson** who can be contacted at 1 Well View, Guiseley, LEEDS, West Yorkshire, LS20 9AL, 01943 874 022



## Lincoln Branch

The Lincoln Branch is flourishing and over the last year we have added two or three new members. The Branch continues to play an active role in the Lincolnshire Ex- Servicemen's Association (LExSA), thanks mainly to **Maj. (Rtd) Derek Wood MBE** who is our Branch representative on the LExSA committee. **Derek** has a great deal of influence on the committee and is heavily involved in organising the Lincoln Armed Forces Day events.

Due to changes in Sobraon Barracks where we hold our meetings, we have had to change our meeting night. Instead of the first Tuesday of each month, from March 2015 we will meet on the first Thursday of each month. In the last issue, we mentioned the close relationship we have with the Parachute Regiment Association in Lincoln. They have also had to change their meeting to the same day as us, so that the relationship can continue. In October 2014, we had a very successful joint rededication service for the RSA and PRA Branch Standards. The credit for this is mainly due the **Rev Dr Hugh Jones** of St. Nicholas on Newport, our Branch Church. The **Rev. Hugh** arranged a very good service.

As some of you will know, 2015 marks the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of Magna Carta, one copy of which is held in Lincoln Castle. The castle has been under



*Lincoln Castle during the Christmas Market*



*A floodlit view of Lincoln Cathedral*

refurbishment for the last two years and is currently shut to enable that refurbishment to be completed prior to opening again in April 2015. Part of the work being undertaken is the provision of a high security, climate controlled room where the Lincoln copy of the Magna Carta will be displayed alongside The Charter of the Forest. The prison in Lincoln Castle is also being refurbished and will be open to the public for the first time.

Another attraction that Lincoln has to offer is Lincoln Cathedral which is well worth a visit, along with other parts of this old and interesting city, for example the Newport Arch, originally built by the Romans in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. Some of you may be aware that Lincoln Cathedral was used during the filming of the Da Vinci Code and more recently Downton Abbey. Lincoln dates back beyond Roman times, when it was called Lindum Colonia, being developed from a

settlement established around 100BC, so there is history in abundance here.

If any other Branches or Association members wish to visit Lincoln, we would be happy to help you in any way we can.

## Liverpool Branch

2014 has been a good year for the Liverpool Branch and once again we have increased our numbers.

Two of our members have been recognised for their commitment to the Corps. 'Trooper' **Bob Jones** received his 50 Year Badge and Certificate and our Chairman, **Bob Taylor**, received Honour Membership of the Association. **Bob Taylor** has also taken over as Area 2 Representative from **Col Ian Thomson**.

Our entertainments committee have really done us proud this year with many social events. We had a coach trip to Eden Camp in Malton, North Yorkshire and called in to Hartshead Moor Service Station to pay our respects to those killed in the M62 Bombing on the way back. The Blandford Reunion in June was also well attended with 20 members travelling down from Liverpool for the event. They thoroughly enjoyed



*'Taggy' quad biking*



the event, so much so that in 2015 we will be attending with even more of our members.

Our next event was the Armed Forces Day service and parade at Liverpool Anglican Cathedral. Then in August the next event was our, now annual, trip to the NMA in Staffordshire. We also had a quad biking event plus others which were all very well supported. Remembrance Day parade was also well supported by the Branch with 30 members able to attend and actively take part. Our 2014 event calendar culminated in our annual Christmas dinner; attended by 115 members, guests and partners. The guest of Honour was **Maj Gen John Crackett**, Asst Chief to General Staff (Reserves & Cadets).

We are now looking forward to a New Year with its many challenges and planned events.



*Obviously a good joke!*

## Loughborough Branch

President  
Chairman  
Vice Chairman  
Secretary/Treasurer

**Andy Riddell**  
**Gerry Kane**  
**Chuck Speed**  
**Bob White**

Our annual dinner and dance was held on 22 November 2014 at Longcliffe Golf Club, a new venue for this event. It proved to be a very successful evening with over 60 members enjoying an excellent menu complete with wine and the usual accompaniment of port for the toasts. Birthday celebrations were also in order for **Chris Kent**, wife of **Steve Kent**, including the usual birthday cake and very loud singing of "Happy Birthday"!! Age is not to be notified. From 1900 to midnight it just goes to show that we old soldiers and their ladies can still put on a party. Judging by the dancing, many could put the younger ones to a test. The facilities provided by the Golf Club were excellent and we will be back.



*Members seated for the dinner*



*Bob White receives his 50 Year Badge from the Chairman*

The event was also an opportunity to make a very special presentation. The Chairman, **Gerry Kane**, presented the 50 Year Badge and certificate to our Secretary and Treasurer, **Bob White**.

We are now looking forward to 2015 and hope to visit



*The "Birthday Party" Group, Steve and Chris Kent, John and Liz Wooders, John and Julie Monk, Martin and Jan Hoy*





Bletchley Park in August. We have a popular Branch that will always welcome new members. Our meeting venue of The Black Swan in Shepshed provides good facilities and food. The proprietor, **Keith Breen**, is a retired Sergeant from the Corps, so as you can imagine, we are very well looked after!

If you are down our way, please join us. The meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month, (except June, July and August), and you can be assured of a warm welcome.



*Keith Breen, mine host of The Black Swan*

## Newcastle Branch

Some of the highlights from our year here in Newcastle Branch were:

Remembrance 9/11/2014: We were invited by the Lord Mayor of Newcastle to attend the Remembrance Parade. Our Standard Bearer, **Harry Duncan**, and wreath layer, **Dave Ellis**, were accompanied by a good turnout by Branch members. We had a special guest on parade, **Lt Col Terry Crane** from APC Glasgow. **Col Crane** was met by **Guy Turnbull** and **Albert Reid** and escorted to the march off point. We were sorry not to be able to spend more time with **Col Crane**, as all personnel had to be at their marching stations early, but we have invited him to any of our future monthly meetings.

Sadly, towards the end of the year we heard the news that one of our oldest members, **Stan Dawson**, had died on Monday 8 Dec. Many Branch members and the Standard paraded at his funeral service which was held on 23 Dec. On a more positive note, on 11 Dec we held our Branch Christmas party. We invited other North Eastern Branches and had a great time with good food, excellent entertainment and dancing (Strictly eat your heart out!) Our special guest, **Maj (Retd) Mark Tivey**, Assistant Regimental Secretary, gave a little update from HQ and thanked the Branch for his invite. Everyone in the Branch send a very big thank you to **Mark** who introduced himself to each and everyone and mingled throughout the evening. A great night was had and we would also like to say a big thank you to **Derek Thorpe** for all his efforts.



*The Branch Christmas party*



## Norfolk Branch

Branch President	<b>Mr M. Snowling</b>
Branch Chairman	<b>Mr B.G Wilson</b>
Branch Treasurer	<b>Mr S. Nobbs</b>
Branch Secretary	<b>Mr S Freeman - Pannett</b>

Hello from Norfolk and north Suffolk, YES we do have a Branch out here in the eastern bulge of the United Kingdom with a fairly active membership of about 60 members. We are lucky enough to hold our meeting in the Reserve Centre in Norwich, normally on the second Saturday of every month with exception of October and November.

Our sombre events over the past year, like most Branches, have been sending Standards and representatives to funerals of Branch members who have passed away.

Over the past year we have attended various parades. As in most years, we attended the largest American Cemetery in UK, Madingley, Cambridgeshire for their Memorial Day Ceremony. Eight members of our Branch were present with three members laying wreaths on behalf of the Royal Signals, Combined Ex-Services Association and 398<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group UASF Association. The culmination of the ceremony is a parade of up to 110 UASF personnel who carry the wreaths to be laid by at the memorial. During the march past the wreaths are handed to volunteers who lay them when given the command to do so. This is followed by TAPS, the American equivalent of the Last Post and the ceremony ends with a fly past of WW2 and modern day Aircraft. As in other parts of the UK, the D-Day parade held in Norfolk at the City Memorial saw an ever increasing number of Royal Signals members attending. They paraded as well as acted as Standard Bearers and wreath layers along with many Norfolk County and Norwich City Dignities.

During June we showed our colours at the Royal Norfolk Show with the visiting military band marching around the show ground making ourselves known. Royal Signals Members carry Standards for other Associations on the march and are joined by more members for the Sun Set Parade and Flag Down ceremony at the end of the show with Serving Military, Royal British Legion, Veterans, and All Emergency Service marching off with the VIP Dignitary taking the salute.

This year has been a poignant year for Serving personal and Veterans alike with the start of WW1 in August one hundred years ago. Most members attended ceremonies in their towns and villages throughout Norfolk and north Suffolk. In addition to this, Veterans were invited into local schools to speak to the children about the Great War, up to, and beyond, Remembrance Sunday. We in Norfolk were very privileged to have a party of school children from 2 local schools parade with our Veterans and help lay the wreath on the Memorial in Norwich; followed by the short service in the Church afterwards.

Our First Remembrance parade and service is for Nurse Edith Cavell who was executed by the Germans on 12 October 1915 and is buried in Norwich Cathedral. This service is held in the open at her graveside memorial and is attended by the Red Cross, Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital Nurses, the Royal British Legion and Combined Ex-Services Association supported by the Salvation Army band, an officer of the Belgium Embassy, local Dignitaries and many members of the public. The parade and the salute take part in the Tombland area of Norwich just outside the Cathedral Gates and return to the Cathedral to be dismissed.

On Remembrance Sunday, here in Norfolk, as around the country, we hold services at churches and Memorials around the county. Norwich is no exception with wreaths laid at the city centre Memorial by Dignitaries, Heads of Services, Veterans, Cadets in front of a huge crowd of members of the public. We then march from the City Hall along the winding streets of Norwich to the Cathedral where the Lord Mayor takes the salute and where we all dismissed. We attend many services throughout November for other Associations with members of our Branch carrying out duties of Standard Bearer.

During the year we invited a number of speakers to come and inform us. Considering that we live in a predominately farming community we have not focused solely on fields and what grow in them, although we did include a talk by our resident garden expert.

Branch activities ended in December with a short version of the meeting, a speaker and our annual Christmas dinner. This year the speaker talked about his trips to France and WW1. Those present greatly enjoyed their Christmas dinner and we are looking forward to 2015 and our programme of events.



## Poole Branch

President **Lt Col (Retd) Bob Peake BEM**  
Chairman **Barrie Walker**  
Secretary **Ray Williams**

Our year started off with the sad news that the founder of the Poole Branch in 1978, **Jimmy Logan**, sadly died on 4 February after being unwell for some time. His full obituary was published in the April edition of *The Wire*. The end of the year, just before Christmas **Geoff McKie's** wife, **Margaret**, died after a long illness.

At our monthly meetings at the RBL Broadstone we continue to attract an average of 30 members where after the normal admin we enjoy various activities such as quizzes and darts. We have recruited 2 new members this year and welcomed **Mark Davison** and **John Roskilly** and their wives to our Branch. This year we were very pleased to have the Corps Colonel, **Col Graham Norton**, visit us at one of our monthly meetings and give us a talk on the future of the Corps.

At the annual RBL Broadstone Remembrance Parade, the Branch as usual supplied the majority of those who marched to the Cenotaph and it with this year being the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War it was very impressive to see the high number of local people lining the route to show their respects.

For our Summer Outing 31 members and guests went on a coach trip to Bletchley Park which was very interesting,

educational to all and very topical at the moment. In September we held our annual Sunday Lunch at the Elstead Hotel in Bournemouth with 26 members attending including the Area Representative **Mike Macklin**. At our October meeting we had a visit by **In Pensioner Brian Cumming** (ex R Signals) from the RH Chelsea who gave a very entertaining talk on the Hospital including how to apply for a vacancy there - whether he gets any takers from our Branch only time will tell! And to finish the year we had our very popular Christmas Dinner at the Queens Hotel in Bournemouth for 50 members and guests. We were pleased to see ex Poole Members **Bob** and **Karen Gifford** who have now moved out of the area and run a hotel on the Isle of Wight.



*The Branch Christmas Dinner at the Queens Hotel Bournemouth*

## Preston & Blackburn Branch

President **Jim Pritchard**  
Chairman **Gordon Maher**  
Secretary **Ian Lorimer**  
Treasurer **Leo Clitheroe**  
S/Bearer **Frank Del-Pinto**

Our once strong Branch has dwindled in numbers and now a handful of members meet monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in the WOs' & Sgts' Mess, Fulwood Barracks in Preston.

Small we may be, but we still manage to get out and about! As members of the Preston and District Veterans Council and under their supervision we parade our Branch Standard whenever we can, taking part in most civic occasions.

2014 was generally a quiet year for us with attendance at the AGM in London and the reunion weekend in Blandford being our main events. However we paraded the Standard on the Armed Forces/Veterans Day celebrations in Preston

In July we held an early meeting followed by an afternoon of liquid refreshments in and around Preston town centre,



*The July meeting*





*Jim Pritchard accepting the Jimmy statue from Jill Hargreaves*

the photograph shows those who were there and made this event our largest of the year.

We have been visited by **Bob Taylor**, our area rep, and also by **Ms Jill Hargreaves**, whose mother, **Doreen**, was a long standing member of this Branch. During her visit, **Jill** presented the Branch with a “Jimmy” in memory of her mother, who passed away earlier in the year.

Over the period 8 – 12 November three members of the Branch journeyed to Flanders for a 5 day visit to the Battlefields of WW1. During this visit they went to the various Commonwealth War Grave Commission Cemeteries in and around Ypres. The visit coincided with the Centenary of the start of WW1 and included the parade on the 11/11/2014 which marched through Ypres to the Menin Gate. The Branch Standard was carried by **Frank Del-Pinto**, his escorts were **Ian Lorimer** and **Leo Clitheroe**.

The Branch urgently needs new members and so if you live

in any of the following areas and you think you might like to support us, can I ask you to please to contact me, the Branch Secretary **Mr Ian Lorimer** via RHQ Royal Signals/ RSA Website or by using my e-mail shown below.

ian.lorimer@btinternet.com

Preston, Blackburn, Bolton, Wigan, Accrington, Burnley (anywhere in and around East Lancashire)

The Branch meets on a monthly basis every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month in the WOs’ & Sgts’ Mess, Fulwood Barracks, Preston, Lancashire from approx 8pm onwards.



*At the Menin Gate for the Centenary celebrations*

## Reading Branch

Over 2014 we have gathered for Branch Meetings, Curry Lunches, informal pub lunches and an excellent Annual Dinner. Whilst Reading Branch has managed to maintain this fairly regular programme of events, the numbers on our nominal roll, and consequently those attending gatherings, has been diminishing. Our efforts to attract new recruits have not been very productive; a situation which we understand is reflected in a number of other Branches in the Association. The numbers on the Committee have also shrunk over the years and where we once we might have counted on seven or eight stalwarts, to keep things going, we are reduced to three or four to run the Branch. None of the Committee is getting any younger so at our AGM in March the decision was taken to seriously reduce the level of our activities. In future our format will be that of a dining club which will hopefully meet for lunch on three or four times a year at an appropriate venue. One member, on a rotational basis, will take on the task of organising a venue for lunch and notify members. This more informal arrangement we hope will still enable members to meet up on a regular basis and will eliminate the need for a Committee, regular Branch meetings, minutes etc. Attendance at formal events, such as Remembrance, or Blandford, will be up to individual members, and sadly there will no longer be an Annual Dinner to which, in the past, we have invited our neighbouring Branches and friends. We are confident our new arrangements will continue to enable us to be recognised as a Branch of the Association.

The way forward, as outlined above, will be confirmed at our AGM in March 2015. But if you live in the Reading area and would still like to meet up with former signallers, on an informal basis, our contact details remain, for the time being, on the RSA web site.



## Salisbury Branch

The Branch has met on the third Thursday of the month throughout the year mostly during the later months at our new venue at the Salisbury Rugby Club. The social events of the year included our traditional Spring and Autumn Sunday lunches. The Spring lunch was again held at the local Grasmere Hotel where it was enjoyed by the membership which turned out in good number. The main event of the year was the Autumn Lunch when more than forty members and their guests attended the Legacy Rose and Crown Hotel at Harnham in early November. **Marilyn Offord** the Branch Social Member created a theme for the lunch based on the centenary of the beginning of the First World War. Her poppy table decorations were blended with Corps colours and a separate historical display comprised weapons, signalling flags and field communication artefacts of the time a century ago.

Chairman **Dick Offord** in his speech welcomed members from Southampton and Winchester Branches along with **Stephen** and **Eleanor Grantham** and guests **Bill** and **Margaret Roper** and **Roy** and **Maureen Shiner** who were attending the Branch Annual Lunch for the first time. Being somewhat risk averse, **Dick** requested the guests refrain from pulling the pin of a hand grenade **Colin French** provided for the historical display along with a Lee Enfield First World War rifle. He highlighted the fact that the branch was fortunate to have as its Standard Bearer, **Martin Hudson**, who despite working in Brussels, intended to return to Salisbury to carry the Standard the following week at the Salisbury Remembrance Day Parade. **Dick** ended his speech with an amusing introduction to guest of honour **Brig David Hargreaves**.

**Brig Hargreaves** who was accompanied by **Kathleen Evans** gave an interesting talk which reflected his appointment as Chairman of the Royal Signals Association. He thanked those present for raising a Branch record of £203 in the raffle for the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund.

One further event earlier in the year saw the visit of the Corps RSM **WO1 Rob Luke**. He was entertained by the Branch at a local pub restaurant and in return gave a talk to the members on current Corps developments along with some interesting highlights of his own career.

Sadly during the year the Branch lost its longest serving and most respected member, 94 year old World War Two Veteran **Sam Sherman**. Despite the challenges of great age, **Sam** seldom missed any of our meetings. He maintained a constant sense of fun and was a great inspiration to the members. He will be much missed by all who had the privilege to know him

## Scarborough Branch

Chairman **Mike Stanger**  
Secretary **Steve Jewell BEM**

Our monthly meetings are held in the Duchess Pub in Scarborough which is just opposite the Scarborough Hospital and off Woodlands Drive. We meet on the second Monday of each month with an average of twenty members in attendance. Unfortunately, our members are getting very elderly and no matter how hard we try, we seem to be unable to recruit any new younger members.

This year we have enjoyed two evening meals in the restaurant of the Duchess Pub and our Annual Dinner was held at The Grandby Hotel in New Queen Street, Scarborough. These evenings are always well attended by members and guests.

We still raise funds to help needy local families with children who require special equipment due to disability. Recently, the Yorkshire Coast Radio sent out an appeal to support 'The Legs for Angel' appeal fund. Angel is a five year old Scarborough girl from South Cliff who was born with deformed legs due to a genetic condition called Ectrodactyly Ectodermal Dysplasia – Clefing Syndrome (EEC). At nine months old Angel had her left leg amputated through her ankle. RSA Scarborough helped the appeal fund by giving them a cheque for £150.

Armed Forces Day 2014 was held on 28 June and many thousands of people attended with some of our members taking part at this annual event. The Remembrance Services held this year in Scarborough were well represented by our members – **Mike Stanger** at St Michael's Church, **Steve Jewell** and his wife **Teresa**, **Frank West** (Navy) and **Keith Parsons** in Scarborough, **Barry Moody MBE** in Bridlington and **Peter Muschamp** in Filey.



## Shetland Branch

- by Richard Hamilton, Secretary

There is little news from 60<sup>0</sup> North as it has been a quiet time for our Branch, however I am pleased to report that we have an additional two new members to attend our monthly meetings in RBLs in Lerwick. That takes our active membership up to six. RSA Shetland, small but perfectly formed!

Any Corps or ex-Corps members visiting the islands are most welcome to join us, any month, at the Lerwick Legion. For meeting date/time please call the Secretary, **Richard Hamilton**, on 01950-431545.

Certa Cito.

## South London Branch

The Branch has had another successful year with a variety of events. Apart from being represented at central events such as the RSA AGM and Reunion we have attended the Trooping of the Colour (June), the City of London march and lunch at the HAC (June), the Governor's Parade and lunch at the Royal Hospital Chelsea (September) and the opening of the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey (November).

Off our own bat, as it were, we have visited Borough Market in London for lunch, undertaken a canal boat trip on the Wey Navigation, visited the Spinnaker Tower in Portsmouth, had a tour of the Guildhall in London, and scaled the Shard and the O2 roof. Trips to the theatre have included "The Accrington Pals", a very interesting and moving production.



*Happy diners in a Borough Market pub*

## West London Branch

The year drew to a close with our Christmas Draw which was well attended. Among the usual activities we again had fun with **Vera Heath's** swap raffle which has now become a tradition with us. We were also pleased to entertain four former members of the Corps who are now In-Pensioners at the Royal Hospital Chelsea and we hope they enjoyed our company as much as we enjoyed theirs.

We made our annual visit to the Church Parade at the Royal Hospital in September and were joined by members of 31 Signal Regiment Association, the Bedford, East London and South London Branches along with the Area Representative, **Trevor Holyoake**. Our group also included the Corps Colonel, **Col Graham Norton**, and **Mrs Caroline Addison**, the Association Administrative Officer and Membership Secretary. The parade and choral matins in the chapel were followed by a curry lunch to the accompaniment of music played by a quartet from the Middlesex Yeomanry (Duke of Cambridge Hussars) Concert Band.

Next year will bring about two major changes for the Branch. Firstly, we will have to move from our present venue, the RBL in Richmond upon Thames, as it is due to close. However we have found alternative accommodation at the RBL in Heston and our thanks go to **Stan Heath** and **Ed Murphy** for facilitating that for us.



*The Church Parade being inspected by Colonel Graham Norton ADC*



The second and probably more significant change is the retirement of our Chairman, **Maj (Retd) Ron 'Dusty' Miller**, as he and **Pat** will be moving to Norfolk in the very near future. They will be much missed and they've been a big part of the lives of those who have known them for many years.

Still onwards and upwards as they say and we look forward to seeing all our friends during the coming year and carrying on with our regular monthly meetings, to which all serving and retired members of the Corps are warmly invited.



*Dusty Miller, Henry Holman and Ed Murphy with our guests from the Royal Hospital*

## West Wales Branch

Chairman **Mr Gwyn Phillips**  
Secretary **Mrs Linda Davies**

Over the past year the West Wales Branch have held various events. In February we held our New Year luncheon. Over 40 members and guests were able to see a painting by local artist and Branch member, **Mr Frank Goddard**, presented to **Mr Jim Jarman**. The presentation was made by our Branch Chairman, **Mr Gwyn Phillips**, to mark the end of **Jim's** presidency of the Branch. **Jim** stepped down because of ill health and sadly died in June.

Later in the year, in September, the Branch held the Annual Ladies informal luncheon at the Ashburnham Hotel, Burry Port. RSA Admin Officer, **Caroline Addison** and her husband, **Doc**, were guests and **Caroline** updated those present on Corps matters.



On Sat 13 Dec the Branch held their second annual Carol Concert at St Michael and All Angels Church, Dafen, Llanelli. The childrens' choir from Furnace Junior School performed alongside the Mynydd Mawr Male Voice Choir. Branch member **Neil Jackson** travelled from Milford Haven to entertain us singing carols and songs accompanied by his own backing music. Cadets from the local ACF, ATC and Sea Cadet Units lined the path from the main gate to the church entrance and also took the collection during the service. Standards from the West Wales and Cardiff Branches were in attendance. Honorary Branch Padre **Rev David Payne** conducted the service. The concert was well attended and enjoyed by all. It certainly put us all in the Christmas spirit.



## 56 Div (City of London Signals) Association

The OCA has had another successful year. The main event was the re-housing and rededication of our Memorial Rolls of Honour. The Memorials were in the RMR Barracks in Southfields, SW19, the final location of 83 Signal Squadron – the last successor unit to 56 Division Signals. By courtesy of the Mayor of the London Borough of Wandsworth, the Memorials were moved to the Twyford Room in the Civic Suite of the Town Hall where they were rededicated, on 21 October 2014.

On Friday 14 November we held our annual dinner at the Union Jack Club. Our Guest of Honour was **Maj Gen (Ret'd) John Badcock, the President of the East Kent Branch RSA, who was Honorary Colonel of 31 Signal Regiment (of which 83 Squadron was part) in the 1970s.**

## 260 Signal Squadron (SAM) Association

The annual meeting for 2014 was held in Essex during April. Although we were a bit disappointed with the turnout, those who attended had a good time. The meeting agreed that the Reunion would be held in Southport at the Prince of Wales Hotel over the weekend, 17 – 19 Apr. There is now a Facebook page for the group for anyone interested in finding old friends: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/230658153800826/?fref=ts>  
Information on the reunion can be obtained from: [bandgscott233@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:bandgscott233@blueyonder.co.uk)

# Reunions

## 'Red Hand Gang' Reunion 2015

A reunion is taking place at the Mercure Fairfield Manor, York on 13 Jun 15 for members of 244 (Air Support) Signal Squadron that were stationed at RAF Benson in the 1970s. For further details or to register your interest contact **Frank Riley** at [rileyft@hotmail.com](mailto:rileyft@hotmail.com)

## Association of Harrogate Apprentices

The Reunion Weekend and AGM to be held in Uniacke Barracks, Harrogate is provisionally booked for Friday 2 and Saturday 3 October 2015. Apprentices and permanent staff interested in joining the association, please contact the secretary email: [secretary@aoha.org.uk](mailto:secretary@aoha.org.uk) 11 Cranborne Rd., Portsmouth PO6 2BG. Tel: 0239 237 2777

## Harrogate Intake 75C Reunion

A reunion is being arranged in September 2015 as 40 years will have passed since 650 joined Intake 75C at Harrogate. **Ray Bray** is organising a reunion on 12 Sep 15. It will be held in the Majestic Hotel in Harrogate, in the Billiard Room. There is a special room rate of £115 single occupancy bed and breakfast or £125 double occupancy bed and breakfast for this event. Please contact **Ray** for more details at [ray.bray@gmail.com](mailto:ray.bray@gmail.com)





## Royal Signals Chief Clerks Reunion

The second reunion was held on 11 October 2014 at the Park Inn, West Bromwich which was attended by 14 retired Chief Clerks and their partners. A very enjoyable evening was had by all and old friendships rekindled after many years; in fact, some had not met for over 40 years so there was plenty of catching up to be done.

As the reunion was so successful it was agreed to hold another. The exact details will be published on the RSA website in due course.



## 3 Div Sigs Reunion Club



# "3 DIV SIGNALS - THE 70'S"

6<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion - Lincoln - May 15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> 2015



3<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Division HQ & Signal Regiment (Strategic Reserve) - Bulford, Wiltshire, UK – early 70's – 1977  
3<sup>rd</sup> Armoured Division HQ & Signal Regiment - Soest, Germany – 1977 – 1980(ish)

Why not join forces with us?

*"Let's drag up a sandbag, swing the lamp and catch up"*

**The White Hart Hotel, Bailgate, Lincoln, LN1 3AR**

"First Parade" (at the bar) & "Check in"  
– afternoon/evening, Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May

"Dismissal Parade" (at the bar) & "Check out"  
– lunchtime, Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May



*"Not so formal"* Private Dinner held on the Saturday Night. £25 per person, buy your own booze

For booking and/or further information, contact:

By email: **Pete Line** [pmline@aol.com](mailto:pmline@aol.com) (primary contact)

By phone: **Ginge Doak** 07850 020981 (alternate contact)





# RSA Reunion

## 21/22 Jun



The 2014 Royal Signals Association Reunion was blessed with sunshine for the whole weekend. In the beautiful weather Blandford Camp looked at its brightest and welcomed in the region of 650 Association members and their guests. Amongst this number we were very pleased to see six important attendees from the Royal Hospital Chelsea who were, I understand, fittingly hosted by members of the Sgts' Mess.

For the second year, the HQ Royal Signals organizing team was lead by **Maj (Retd) Mark Tivey**, Asst Regt Sec. Our team was given unstinting help from large parts of Blandford Garrison and we would not be able to achieve very much without their support and enthusiasm. As every year, our thanks are extended to everyone who helped towards the delivery of the weekend. The camp site looked wonderful. This year, for the first time, we were very pleased to be able to host a concert in the cinema by the RSA Pipes & Drums Assn.



As we hoped last year, we were able enlarge the number of static displays of equipment and soldiers from current units. For this invaluable support we are very much in the debt of all those currently serving who took the time to come and enlighten us. Although it must be said that the basics seem, to me at least, to be recognisable from days of yore! We also are in the debt of The Vintage Vehicle display (**Mr Dave Lancaster**), the Christchurch Cruisers Motorcycle Group (**Mr Terry Inman**), Warsaw Pact Radio Equipment (**Mr Tony Helm**), and Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society RSARS (**Mr Jim Heck**) who all provided displays. I am very grateful for the outstanding support from the reception team (supplied by 11 SR) who volunteered to give up their weekend to help.



As we have come to expect, the Princes Royal Day Parade (PRD) on Hawke Square was a great display of drill and it was good to see that virtually everyone from 11 (Royal School of Signals) Signal Regiment on parade managed to withstand the extreme heat. The inspecting officer was **Maj Gen N A W Pope CBE**, The Master of Signals.



Following on from the parade, the Corps RSM, **WO1 Rob Luke**, conducted the Standard Bearers' Preliminary Competition. This year five of the competitors went forward into the final. These were: **Graham Christian** (Liverpool Branch), **Norman Pearce** (West London), **Bill McNamara** (Glasgow), **Keith**



# on Weekend June 2014

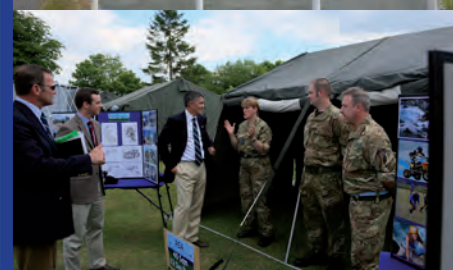
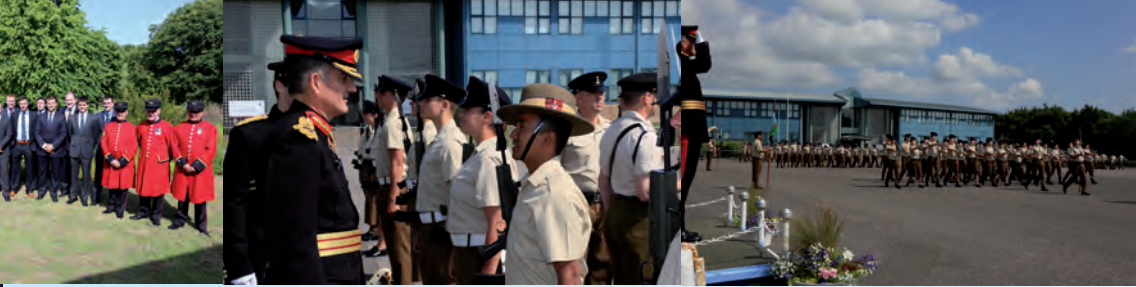
**Bates** (Rotherham) and **Bill May** (Edinburgh). The competition was overseen by the CRSM assisted by **WO1 (GSM) Matt Darby**, **WO1 (RSM) Chris Hoggard**, **Mr Barry Moody** from Scarborough Branch and **Mr John Mumford** from Reading Branch. The final took place as part of the afternoon programme of events on the square. The Master of Signals presented the prizes to: 3<sup>rd</sup> - **Bill McNamara**, 2<sup>nd</sup> - **Bill May** and 1<sup>st</sup> - **Norman Pearce**. Thank you to all the Branch Standard Bearers who took part in the competition this year. As agreed last year, each competitor was given a briefing on their score in the competition to inform their drill before their preparation for next year's competition.

The afternoon programme began at 1500hrs and featured music provided by bands of the Royal Corps of Signals and the Corps Pipes and Drums both individually and massed. The Signals Motorcycle Display Team 'The White Helmets' gave a virtuoso performance (as we have come to expect) and caused some younger members of the audience to jump very loudly when they lit the straw prior to their finale! The afternoon ended with The Sunset Retreat Ceremony which as always was a fitting end to the official displays.

During the evening, many of us gathered in the 11 (RSS) Sig Regt WOs' and Sgts' Mess (courtesy of the Presiding Member **WO1 (RSM) Chris Hoggard**) to enjoy a curry supper, libations and catching up with old friends. We are very grateful to all Mess Members and Staff for hosting this very important part of the weekend.

On Sunday morning at 1030 hrs we met on Hawke Square for the Drumhead Service. The RSA Honorary Chaplain, **the Rev Peter Clemett**, **the Rev Frances Canham** and The Padre of 11 (RSS) Sig Regt, **the Rev Stephen Lodwick**, conducted the service. **Mr Tony Hull**, from Beverley Ex-Boys Assn, turned the page of the Memorial Book. The collection during the service raised £447.73 for the RSBF.

Finally, following the service, members were invited by the Corps RSM to form up for the march past on the square. The contingent was made up of: RSA Standard Bearers; Beverley Ex-Boys Assn, Colonels Commandant, led by the Chairman RSA; Retired Officers; In-Pensioners from the Royal Hospital Chelsea; RSA Members and EPV users at the rear. The Master of Signals took the salute, thus ending the 2014 RSA Reunion.



# Corps Benevolence and Welfare

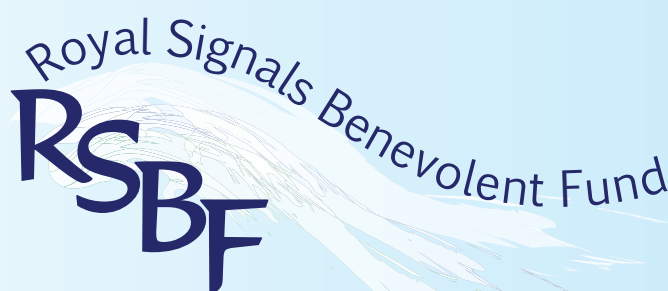
## The Team



**Mrs Linda Sizeland**  
Grants Co-ordinator  
Email:  
rsbfgrantscoord@royalsignals.org  
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**Mr Herbie Herbert**  
Fundraising & Marketing  
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The RSBF continues to be in much demand. The categories of those we support may be switching (less WWII and National Service and more recent Operations and Serving), however the requirement to provide grants to Signallers and their families in their time of need remains constant.

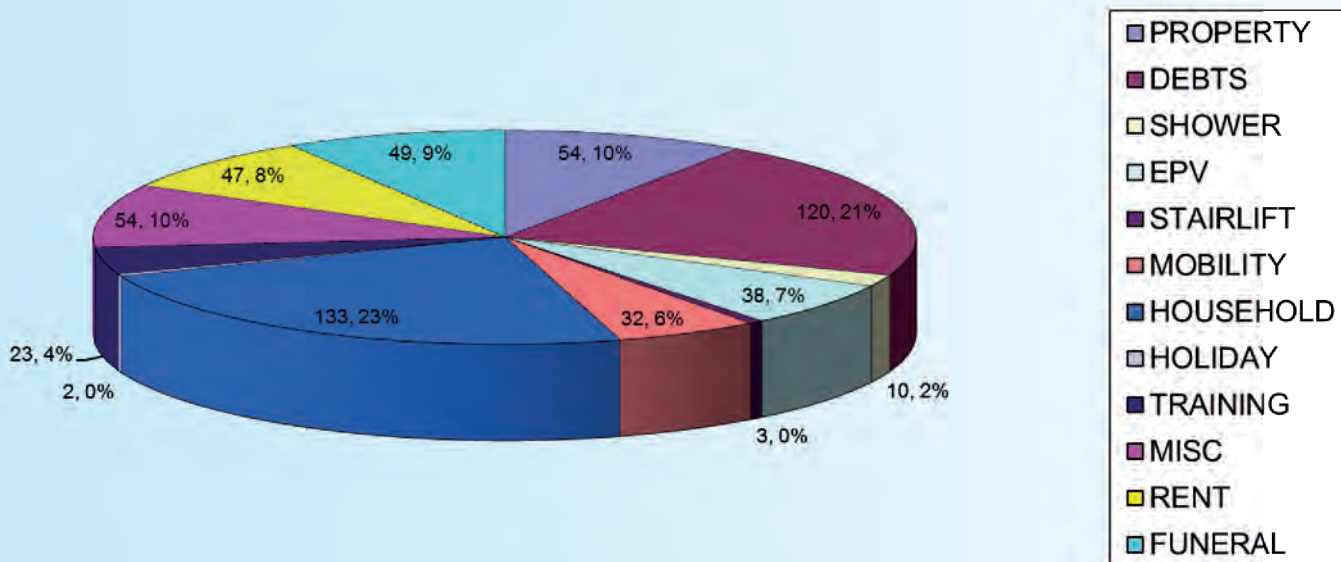
We are reliant upon both the Serving and Retired Corps to balance the books and over the last year we have seen a welcome increase in fundraising with both groups producing some outstanding results. The RSBF Fundraising Pennants will be awarded this year and selecting the winners will be difficult. If you are able and willing to fundraise then we would be delighted to hear from you (email to [rsbf@royalsignals.org](mailto:rsbf@royalsignals.org)).

It is difficult to capture and describe the net effect achieved. The statistics tell one tale but the real story lies in the lives of those who have received a helping hand when they most needed it. If you have supported the RSBF this year then you will have made life so much better for a Signaller and/or their dependants. The “thank you” letters we receive confirm that Signaller benevolence is very much appreciated and that grants really do make a difference. Injury and death have regrettably been a common theme in recent times and in these cases the charity has responded rapidly to make life easier for those affected.

We continue to uncover cases where Signallers are in need of our support but are unaware of the Charity and we ask for your help in apprising them of our existence. The simplest way to access information is from our website ([www.royalsignals.org/rsa-welfare](http://www.royalsignals.org/rsa-welfare)). The process requires initial contact with SSAFA or The Royal British Legion (TRBL) who in turn will forward an application to the RSBF. We often work in association with other charities to produce the desired effect and we maintain strong links with the Army Benevolent Fund, The Officers’ Association, the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League, Combat Stress and the Veterans Agency.

All applications are judged on merit with “need” being the most significant factor. Many cases come to us stamped “urgent” and we are able to react to these instantly. Grants for £800 and below are considered on a daily basis and those above (up to a maximum of £1,5k) are fed into a Major Grants Meeting (MGM) that sits monthly. The MGM is chaired by volunteers and attended by the Grant Coordinator, a Retired Officer, a serving Field Officer and a JNCO. The average spend (using the figures from Jan 2014 – Dec 2014) is £8,035 per meeting.





Breakdown of Requests Between Jan 14 and Jan 15

Over the past twelve months the RSBF has granted over £330k of assistance to 565 applicants, up £36k on last year. These grants have been instrumental in providing a wide range of solutions including mobility scooters, chair lifts, level access showers, emergency rent, house repairs and essential clothing. The net effect is enormous when measured in human terms.

In summary the RSBF provides an essential service in providing for those who are often in desperate need of our help. We would like to acknowledge and thank those who have supported the charity since its inception.



The Royal Signals Association  
and  
The Royal Signals Benevolent Fund

Swift and Sure Help for Signallers in Need

Royal Signals Association – ‘phone 01258 482090 or e-mail [rsa@royalsignals.org](mailto:rsa@royalsignals.org)

### Your Legacy can help us .....

Did you ever benefit from a welfare grant from Corps Funds or maybe one of your mates received help with a welfare problem where the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund stepped in to help him or her in their time of need? There has been a long-standing saying that the “Corps looks after its own” and Royal Signals has a proud history of care for its people, supported by the one day’s pay scheme and generous donations from serving and retired Signallers.

#### .... help others in their time of need

That work continues today and every year we help hundreds of those who have fallen on hard times whether it be a serving Signaller who has been injured on operations, the families of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, members of the Corps who need help with specialist medical care for their children or veterans who need help in maintaining their mobility and independence.

We don’t distinguish between Regular, TA, National Service, ex-ATS or WRAC who served with the Corps, officer or soldier and their dependants; any case brought to us will be considered with expert support from SSAFA, The Royal British Legion and the Army Benevolent Fund. We will help whenever we can .... and you can help too, by leaving a legacy in your will. Its simple to do and can make all the difference to someone who has worn the same capbadge and who may not have been as lucky as you. If you would like to make a difference, please contact the Association who will tell you how to leave a legacy so that others from the Corps might benefit from your generosity.



# Report From the Royal Signals Museum

-by Adam Forty, Museum Business Development Manager

2014 was a very busy year for the Museum. Our top priority was working towards Museum Accreditation, a scheme run by Arts Council England (ACE).

*“The Accreditation Scheme sets nationally agreed standards for museums in the UK. There are currently just under 1,800 museums participating in the scheme, demonstrating their commitment to managing collections effectively for the enjoyment and benefit of users.” (ACE)*

Accreditation is essential for the Museum as it is a requirement for continued MOD Funding. Although already qualified under both Phase 1 and 2, a great deal of work was necessary to ensure that we showed the correct level of progress. This included a complete new inventory of the whole Museum

collection, including photographs of every object.



In January we opened the new “Railwayman” Exhibition, featuring the story of Eric Lomax (ex Royal Signals) which had recently been released as major film starring Colin Firth and Nicole Kidman. The exhibition was opened by Eric’s wife Patty, played by Nicole Kidman in the film. Although not easy viewing, the story is quite harrowing, the film is a great example of endurance and in the final analysis reconciliation. If you have not seen the film or read the book – you should !

At the same time we were working hard to increase our public profile. With this in mind we were lucky to be offered a major

role in a six month tour of the UK with the BBC World War 1 at Home event. This took place at major events in eight towns and cities including, Woolwich, Wolverhampton, Sunderland, Dundee, Bristol, Rhyl, Port Rush and Nottingham and a smaller event in Weymouth. Our activities were hugely popular with the public and we attracted over 137,000 users. We ran four interactive activities including Semaphore, Morse Code, Field

Telephones and a “Wireless Maze”. Our activities fascinated the public, particularly children, and featured widely on local TV and Radio. The BBC WW1 tour also resulted in invitations to take part in other TV Programmes including the BBC Antique Celebrity Road Show, a film about “Rockex” for Canadian TV and CBBC’s Absolute Genius with Dick and Dom! Total local and national TV coverage for the events exceeded audience figures of 6.5 million. On top of which we featured widely on both local and national radio.



We hope that this increased media visibility will boost the Museums' profile and result in a growth in visitor numbers for the coming year.



# Last Post

Cpl P Anderson	08-May-14	Capt JDF Francis MBE	28-Jan-14	Sig JF Milward	??-?-14
Sgt A Anderson	10-Sep-14	Capt BM Freeman	20-May-14	Sgt CC Mitchell	
AF Andrews	16-Jun-14	Capt I Fry	10-Mar-14	WO1 TK Muir	23-Apr-14
SSgt GE Andrews	25-Oct-14	WO2 JR Fryer	27-May-14	Cpl AG Mulholland	28-Feb-14
Sig AW Arculus	19-Jul-14	Sig JF Fryett	10-Feb-14	Sig JA Munday	30-May-14
LCpl HJ Asher	05-Apr-14	Lt Col TP Furlonge	11-Apr-14	Sgt FC Murfitt	24-Jan-14
Cpl DE Athron	27-Dec-14	Sig A Gandey	??-?-14	Sig KN Murphy	27-Mar-14
Sig AG Atkins	??-Jan-14	WO2 I Garner	13-Apr-14	Cpl AW Nash	
LCpl RM Ballinger	31-Oct-14	Cpl DJ Gay	??-Oct-14	SSgt RD Ness	25-Sep-14
Sig J Barnshaw	??-Aug-14	Sig MC Gelken	04-Apr-14	LCpl K Nevin	22-Feb-14
LCpl LF Barrell	07-May-14	Cpl o Gibbons	04-Feb-14	Sig A Newark	22-Oct-14
Sig SJ Baxter	26-Jan-14	Sig EJ Gilkes	18-Jul-14	SSgt T Noonan	28-Feb-14
Sig MJ Baxter	12-Jul-14	Maj JE Gill	06-Oct-14	Lt Col DF Oakley	16-Oct-14
SSgt GE Bayley	08-Jan-14	Sgt DH Gillingham	24-Mar-14	Lt Col MG Panton	28-Jan-14
Capt HS Bayley	07-Sep-14	LCpl JS Goddard	06-Jul-14	Sgt T Parton	01-Jul-14
LCpl WT Baynham	20-Mar-14	Cpl K Grange	29-Jun-14	Sgt B Perrin	28-Jan-14
Sig CV Beardow	23-Jun-14	Maj PH Grant	14-Jul-14	Sig MIL Pluchino	26-Jun-14
Sig T Bell	??-Jan-14	Sig DR Grantham	05-Mar-14	Capt DJT Poole	13-Apr-14
Lt Col GN Bell	19-Jul-14	Lt Col LHM Gregory MBE	17-Feb-14	Sig G Poole	17-Sep-14
Maj Gen R Benbow CB	09-Jan-14	WO2 MP Grimshaw	17-Feb-14	Sig DL Rackham	12-Jun-14
Sig GP Bergin	27-Apr-14	Sig DP Hall	13-May-14	Capt A Rassim	23-Jul-14
Sig J Bin Nangah	??-jun-14	Maj PJ Handibode	07-May-14	Cpl KOL Reader	05-Aug-14
Sig J Brewster	20-Jan-14	Capt D Hanks	23-May-14	Cpl B Rees	14-May-14
Cpl H Bridger	09-Oct-14	Cpl TM Hanrahan	06-Jun-14	SSgt JMW Richardson	02-Feb-14
Maj W Brindley	04-Apr-14	Sig JL Harris	02-May-14	GE Richardson	22-Jun-14
LCpl F Broadbent	29-Jan-14	Maj G Harrison	20-Jun-14	Col MJ Ridlington	08-Aug-14
Sig LC Brown	13-Feb-14	WO2 CD Hatcher		Lt Col HSDE Rogers	26-Jun-14
Sig KH Brown	19-May-14	Capt G Hayes	27-May-14	Sig M Rose	29-Jun-14
RM Brown	16-Sep-14	Maj D Henry	09-Nov-14	LCpl C Rose	29-Sep-14
Sig JP Brownlee	06-Jan-14	Cpl H Henthorne		LCpl AJ Saxby	??-Feb-14
WO2 WMJ Buddery	10-Oct-14	Capt RE Herbert	08-Apr-14	Lt Col S Scofield	11-May-14
Sgt EGV Burgoyne	24-Apr-14	Maj DR Heyes	22-Oct-14	Sgt LW Sharp	08-Jan-14
LCpl F Burns	20-Mar-14	Sig DG Hibbs	19-May-14	WO2 TH Sharp	03-Aug-14
Sgt KJ Byrn	11-Oct-14	Maj PW Hill	02-Mar-14	Cpl SG Sherman	06-Aug-14
LCpl RD Castle	14-Feb-14	SSgt R Hill	??-?-14	Brig WE Sherratt	12-May-14
LCpl DG Clapson	28-Jul-14	Capt JN Horsfall	03-Aug-14	LCpl PC Sherry	06-Feb-14
Cpl GR Clarke	25-Sep-14	Sgt CH Houghton	21-Jun-14	WO2 A Sim	12-Jan-14
Sgt AC Clements	22-Oct-14	WO RW Howard	09-Jul-14	Sgt SG Simm	26-Sep-14
SSgt MJS Cole	21-Jul-14	Sig RF Howlett	08-May-14	Capt M Skilleter	15-Mar-14
Cpl MS Collom	05-Oct-14	Sgt AF Huet	20-Mar-14	Cpl C Slater	??-Jan-14
Sgt LW Colquhoun	06-Jan-14	Cpl C Hurley	16-Apr-14	Maj CA Smith	27-Aug-14
WO1 C Cooke	05-Jul-14	WO1 RV Huxtable	17-Jun-14	Capt CPB Smith	27-Aug-14
Maj AB Cooper	15-Apr-14	Sig DG James	03-Sep-14	Sig JS Smith	15-Feb-14
Maj F Cooper	18-Sep-14	Sgt JWH Jarman	30-Jun-14	Maj Gen IOJ Sprackling	28-Mar-14
SSgt JD Coultish	04-May-14	Capt H Jennings	23-Jul-14	Sig RA Squibb	19-Sep-14
LCpl KG Cowlishaw	17-Mar-14	SSgt GH Johnson	10-Nov-14	SSgt K Stewart	20-Feb-14
Col JD Cox	20-Sep-14	Lt Col DJ Jolly	24-Feb-14	Brig RL Stonham	05-Aug-14
Sig P Craft	11-Jan-14	LCpl MD Jones	09-Mar-14	Lt Col CRA Sumner	28-Sep-14
Cpl R Craig	13-Feb-14	Maj T Keany	08-Sep-14	Maj DG Thomas	06-Sep-14
Sgt M Cranny	06-Aug-14	Sgt MR Kearney	28-Apr-14	Cpl D Thomasson	10-May-14
Sig WS Crighton	24-Mar-14	Sgt JTP Keeling	30-Aug-14	Sig M Tomlinson	24-Apr-14
Sig C Crockett	28-May-14	WO RW Kelly	24-Apr-14	SSgt JH Tovey	26-Sep-14
WO1 DA Curley	21-Mar-14	Maj SL Kemp	30-Sep-14	Sgt FA Towler	26-Apr-14
SSgt IMF Danter	27-Jan-14	WO1 F Kirk	29-Sep-14	Lt Col JT Treglowan	21-Aug-14
Sig RG Davies	21-Apr-14	Sgt CAC Lambert	04-Apr-14	LCpl CP Upfield	23-Feb-14
SSgt GS Davison	28-Aug-14	Lt Col AS Lashmar	19-Aug-14	LCpl LA Usher	05-Apr-14
Sgt RP Day	05-Jun-14	WO1 W Lawson	29-Jun-14	JW Usher	??-Aug-14
Maj JV Dearden	11-Oct-14	Maj PA Lenthall	29-Sep-14	Lt EPJ Walker	11-Apr-14
Sig J Donnelly	28-Sep-14	Sig EGC Little	04-Jun-14	LCpl G Walker	20-Apr-14
Sig TP Dowling	19-Feb-14	WO2 JFF Logan	04-Feb-14	Maj DK Wallis	21-Feb-14
Sgt WJ Edwards	14-Sep-14	Sig B MacDonald		Lt Col MRC Weiner	16-Apr-14
Sig PMH Edwards-Rebbitt	11-May-14	E Machin	20-Sep-14	Sgt O Weir	19-Jun-14
WO2 RG Ellis	13-Feb-14	Cpl M Mallinson	23-Apr-14	Cpl GA Whalley	20-Jan-14
WO1 TJ Ellison	31-Mar-14	Sig RP Maskell	04-Jan-14	WO2 EJ White	28-Jan-14
Capt JA Esson	15-Jun-14	Cpl J McCann	15-Apr-14	Maj BL White	29-Oct-14
Sgt JE Ettel	06-Jan-14	RJ McFarland	09-Jun-14	WO2 T Wilkinson	05-Mar-14
Sig J Evans	09-Oct-14	Cpl JG McGill	06-May-14	LCpl G Wilson	01-Jun-14
Cpl K Everett	22-Feb-14	Sig DN McGrath	03-Feb-14	SSgt KN Winfield	??-Jul-14
Capt ADF Falconer	20-Sep-14	Sig R McIntosh	22-Mar-14	Sig D Wiseman	30-Apr-14
Sgt M Fellows	05-Feb-14	Maj FC McLoughlin	16-Mar-14	J Wollin	09-Feb-14
WO2 K Fenwick-Beadle	28-Jun-14	Sig JM McTear	23-Aug-14	Sgt W Wood	08-Jun-14
Col JV Fielding CBE	07-Sep-14	Cpl RM McTeuish	27-Jan-14	SSgt RL Woodfine	25-Jun-14
Sig JS Fleming	18-Apr-14	G Mercer	18-Aug-14	Sgt ED Woodward	07-Oct-14
LCpl JP Flynn	21-Jun-14	Lord R Methuen	09-Jul-14	Sig F Young	22-Mar-14



# Forecast of HQ R SIGNALS Sponsored Events 2015

## March

5	Corps Guest Night	Blandford	Ass Regt Sec
13	RSA Central Committee Meeting	London	RSA HQ R SIGNALS
14	RSA AGM	London	RSA HQ R SIGNALS
19	RSI Council Meeting & Spring Lecture	Blandford	RSI Secretary
26	RSTL Board	Blandford	Regt Secretary

## May

6-7	Corps Spring Golf Meet	Blandford	HQ R SIGNALS
9	Army v Navy Rugby	Twickenham	NA
12	Corps Council Meeting	London	Regt Sec
12	Corps London Dinner	London	Ass Regt Sec

## June

2	WCIT Dinner	Blandford	C2 WLD HQ R SIGNALS
3	WCIT Employment Panel	Blandford	C2 WLD HQ R SIGNALS
11	RSI Summer Lecture	Blandford	RSI Secretary
20-21	RSA Reunion Weekend	Blandford	Ass Regt Sec
20	Corps Luncheon	Blandford	Ass Regt Sec
TBC	Colonels Commandant Dinner	Blandford	Ass Regt Sec

## July

2	RSTL Board (TBC)	London	Regt Secretary
9	RSI London Seminar	London	RSI Secretary
9	RSI: Corps Sundowner Drinks	London	RSI Secretary
TBC	NMA Bike Ride/Corps Memorial Service	NMA	RSM 37 Sig Reg

## September

2-3	Corps Autumn Golf Meet	Blandford	HQ R SIGNALS
6	Corps Luncheon in the North	Catterick	Ass Regt Sec
18	QG SIGNALS Association dinner	Bramcote	Adjt QG SIGNALS
19	QG SIGNALS Regimental Birthday	Bramcote	Adjt QG SIGNALS
30	RSTL Board	Blandford	Regt Secretary

## October

1	Corps Guest Dinner Night	Blandford	Ass Regt Sec
15	RSI Autumn Lecture	Blandford	RSI Secretary
29	RSA Central Committee Meeting	London	RSA HQ R SIGNALS
30	Scottish Dinner Night	Glasgow	Adjt 32 Sig Regt

## November

5	Field of Remembrance Service (RSA)	London	RSA HQ R SIGNALS
8	Cenotaph Parade	London	RSA HQ R SIGNALS
19	Corps Council Meeting	London	Regt Sec
19	RSI Lecture & Dinner	London	RSI Secretary
TBC	Project Noel	Liverpool	Ass Regt Sec





# President of the Officers' Dinner Club Report

- by Brig J E Richardson MBE, President Dinner Club

This year will be something of a watershed as for the first time, I think, since the foundation of the Corps we will have all our Regular and Reserve regiments permanently stationed in the UK. With this in mind and looking forward to the anniversary of the foundation of the Corps in 2020, the Corps Council has tasked me to review the events of the Dinner Club in support of a wider review of our heritage. As a consequence there will be a number of changes to the programme:

**London Dinner:** This remains our most popular event, consistently supported to full capacity at the prestigious Savoy Hotel. This year we will dine on 12 May with the drinks reception starting at 7:00 p.m. We expect to continue our association with the Savoy for the next few years but will be reviewing potential locations for a centenary year dinner in 2020, for which we anticipate we will require a larger venue.

**Scottish Dinner:** With the sale of the dining facility at the Western Club we found a new venue for the 2014 dinner at the Royal College of Procurators. It was a successful and well-attended dinner and we intend to return on 30 October 2015 but we are still searching for a more permanent location.

**Corps Luncheon in Blandford:** Following a review of the RSA Reunion Weekend format, it is the Master of Signals' intent to draw together the Regular, Reserve and Retired Corps; this is termed the "3Rs". The result will be a shorter and more focussed series of events with the main day being Saturday. This will comprise the Princess Royal Day Parade, Corps Officers' Luncheon, afternoon arena events and sunset ceremony. The evening will see the traditional function in the Sergeants' mess to which all veterans are invited.

**Corps Luncheon in the North:** Following a period of refurbishment, this year's luncheon will return to the Infantry Training Centre Officers' Mess on Sunday 6 September. This marks the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of our departure from Catterick. The Corps Council have decided that in light of the revised geographic layout of the Corps and the need to support the new centre of gravity, this will be the last Corps luncheon in the North to be held in Catterick. From 2016, the luncheon is most likely to move to Stafford reflecting our new presence there.

Whilst some might see these changes as a break from tradition, history shows that we have continually reviewed and adjusted our Corps family events to suit the circumstances of the day. Application forms for all of this year's Dinner Club events are at the back of this newsletter.



# ROYAL SIGNALS DINNER CLUB

## CORPS DINNER IN LONDON 2015

1. The Corps London Dinner in 2015 will be held at the Savoy Hotel on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at 1900 hours for 1930 hours.
2. **Attendance.** All Royal Signals Officers, Regular or Reserve, Serving or Retired or former WRAC Officers who served with the Corps are eligible to attend.
3. **Cost.** (Includes pre-dinner drinks and wine at the table):
  - a. For officers who subscribe to the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund - £72.00
  - b. For officers who do not subscribe to the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund - £132.00
4. **Dress.** Black Tie/Ladies equivalent. Decorations or medals are not worn.
5. **Seating.** At round tables each with 10 places. Everyone attending will be allocated to a table but not to a specific place. The table plan/allocation will be described in an attendance list that will be handed to Officers as they arrive. The Ballroom allows a maximum of 380 (38 x 10) guests to attend.
6. Units or individuals may reserve complete tables or a particular number of places at a table. In an attempt to minimise confusion organisers are requested to ensure that Officers nominated to sit at their table are aware of the arrangements and that the details are annotated in full on the return proforma. Bids from individuals are, of course, also welcome. This is in order to ascertain the correct charge to be applied.
7. **Attendance Returns.** Please complete the accompanying proforma and send it to HQ Royal Signals by post together with a cheque(s) made payable to 'The Royal Signals Benevolent Fund'. Alternatively, those wishing to pay by **BACS** payment should do so to the following account details:

Sort Code: 30-11-75  
Account No: 01966016

Please put 'Savoy Dinner' in the 'descriptor/reference' area when making the payment. A fully completed proforma will still need to be completed and posted/mailed to the Dinner Club Secretary.
8. **Application Date.** Please note that applications to attend the dinner together with the appropriate payment must be received at HQ R SIGNALS (FAO: The Dinner Club Secretary, Corps London Dinner) by **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2015**.
9. **Tickets.** Tickets will be issued by the undersigned on receipt of an attendance proforma and payment. These will be distributed at least 14 days prior to the dinner and must be shown upon arrival at the venue, attendee names will also be checked upon arrival.
10. **Refunds.** Payment for the dinner will only be refunded if non-attendance is notified before Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2015.



# ROYAL SIGNALS DINNER CLUB

## CORPS LUNCHEON IN BLANDFORD - 2015

1. The 2015 luncheon will be held during the Royal Signals Association Reunion weekend in the Headquarters Mess, Blandford Camp on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at 1200 hours for 1230 hours.
2. **Attendance:**
  - a. All Royal Signals Officers, Regular or Reservist, Serving or Retired or former WRAC Officers who served with the Corps are eligible to attend. In addition, spouses and adult sons and daughters may also attend.
  - b. The luncheon in Blandford, like the luncheon in Catterick, is an occasion when Officers' Widows/ Widowers are entertained as guests of the Corps and they are entitled to be accompanied by a companion or an adult son or daughter.
3. **Cost:**
  - a. For officers who subscribe to the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund, their spouses and adult sons and daughters, the cost is £13.50 each.
  - b. For officers who do not subscribe to the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund the cost to them, their spouses and adult sons and daughters is £27.00 each.
  - c. Widows and the individual accompanying them are guests of the Corps.
4. **Dress.** Lounge Suit/Ladies equivalent.
5. **Seating:**
  - a. All those attending will be allocated to a table but not to a specific place. The table plan/allocation will be described in an attendance list which will be handed to everyone as they arrive.
  - b. Individuals may:
    - (1) Say with whom they wish to sit.
    - (2) Reserve a complete table in their name; table sizes are 10 or 16 places.
  - c. Officers specifically asking to sit with others must inform those concerned as soon as possible that they will be sitting together. If they are not told they may make their own arrangements.
  - d. Officers reserving tables must fill all places and must inform as soon as possible those they intend inviting to sit at the table.
  - e. Officers who are invited to sit with others and at specific tables must still confirm their attendance by individually completing a proforma and submitting it to RHQ together with their cheque.
6. **Proformas.** All those wishing to attend should complete the accompanying attendance proforma and send it to HQ Royal Signals together with a cheque(s) made payable to 'The Royal Signals Benevolent Fund'. Receipt of payment and seating requirements will be acknowledged by HQ R Signals by letter. **Please submit your proforma by no later than Fri 5<sup>th</sup> June 2015.**



# ROYAL SIGNALS DINNER CLUB

## ANNUAL CORPS LUNCHEON IN THE NORTH - 2015

1. The 2015 Annual Corps luncheon in the North will be held in the Infantry Officers' Mess (old Headquarters Mess), Vimy Lines, Catterick on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at 1200 hours for 1300 hours. This year the event will be significant as it is the **21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Corps' departure from Catterick as its home.**
2. **Attendance:**
  - a. All Royal Signals Officers, Retired Royal Signals Officers or Retired former WRAC Officers who served with the Corps are eligible to attend. In addition, spouses and adult sons and daughters may also attend.
  - b. The Luncheon in Catterick, like the luncheon in Blandford, is an occasion when Officers' Widows/Widowers are entertained as guests of the Corps, including an accompanying companion or adult son/daughter.
3. **Cost.** This includes pre-lunch drinks and wine at the table:
  - a. For Officers who subscribe to the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund, their spouses and adult sons and daughters the subsidised cost is £13.50 each.
  - b. For Officers who do not subscribe to the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund, the cost to them, their spouses and adult sons and daughters is £27.00 each.
  - c. Widows/Widowers and those accompanying them are guests of the Corps.
4. **Dress.** Lounge Suit/Ladies equivalent.
5. **Seating:**
  - a. Those attending will be allocated to a table but not to a specific place. The table plan/allocation will be described in an attendance list that will be handed to those attending as they arrive.
  - b. Individuals may:
    - (1) Say with whom they wish to sit.
    - (2) Reserve a complete table for 10 in their name.
  - c. Officers specifically asking to sit with others must inform those concerned as soon as possible that they will be sitting together. If they are not told they may make their own arrangements or be invited to sit elsewhere.
  - d. Officers reserving tables must fill all places and must inform as soon as possible those they intend inviting to sit at the table.
  - e. Officers who are invited to sit with others and at specific tables must still confirm their attendance by individually completing a proforma and submitting it to HQ Royal Signals together with their cheque.
6. **Proformas.** Everyone planning to attend must complete the accompanying attendance proforma and send it to HQ Royal Signals together with a cheque(s) made payable to 'The Royal Signals Benevolent Fund'. Please submit the proforma by **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2015.**



To: Dinner Club Secretary  
Corps London Dinner  
HQ Royal Signals  
Griffin House  
Blandford Camp  
Blandford Forum  
DT11 8RH

Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS

# CORPS DINNER IN LONDON – 12<sup>th</sup> MAY 2015

**UNIT/INDIVIDUAL BID:**

1. I wish to attend the dinner on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2015:

Regt No . . . . . Rank . . . . . Initials . . . . . Name . . . . .  
Unit . . . . .  
Address for tickets . . . . .  
. . . . .  
E Mail . . . . .  
Postcode . . . . . Telephone Number . . . . .

2. I wish to reserve . . . . . place(s) at a table. The Rank, Names and Regimental Numbers of officers filling the places, including myself, are as follows and I have informed them accordingly:

Number Rank Name of all those attending:

.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....

3. Number Rank Name of Reserves:

.....	.....
.....	.....

4. Individual Returns: Please indicate below if you have a preference of whom you wish to sit with. We will endeavour to accommodate you accordingly.

5. Special dietary requirements for the following personnel:

Name.....Dietary requirement:.....  
Name.....Dietary requirement:.....

6. I enclose a cheque made payable to 'The Royal Signals Benevolent Fund' for £ . . . . .

7. A BACS payment for the sum of ..... was made on .....

Date . . . . .

Signature . . . . .



Intentionally Blank



To: Corps Luncheon Secretary  
HQ Royal Signals  
Griffin House  
Blandford Camp  
Blandford Forum  
DT11 8RH

# CORPS LUNCHEON IN BLANDFORD – SATURDAY 20<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2015

## ATTENDANCE PROFORMA

1. I wish to attend the luncheon on Saturday 20th June 2015:

Rank . . . . . Initials . . . . . Name . . . . . Decorations . . . . .

Known As . . . . . Address for tickets . . . . .

. . . . .

Postcode . . . . . Telephone Number . . . . .

Email Address. . . . .

2. a. I wish to reserve . . . . . place(s) at a table. The names, forename and surname of those filling the places, including myself are:

. . . . .  
. . . . .  
. . . . .  
. . . . .  
. . . . .

b. I wish to reserve a table for either 8, 10, or 16. The names of those filling the places, including myself are:

. . . . .  
. . . . .  
. . . . .  
. . . . .  
. . . . .  
. . . . .  
. . . . .  
. . . . .  
. . . . .

c. I have been invited to sit with . . . . .

3. I enclose a cheque made payable to 'The Royal Signals Benevolent Fund' for £ . . . . .

4. If you will require a car pass for entry to Blandford Camp, please list your vehicle details here:

Make & Model: Colour: Registration Number:

Date . . . . . Signature . . . . .



Intentionally Blank





To: Corps Luncheon Secretary  
HQ Royal Signals  
Griffin House  
Blandford Camp  
Blandford Forum  
DT11 8RH

## CORPS LUNCHEON IN CATTERICK – SUNDAY 6<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015

### ATTENDANCE PROFORMA

1. I wish to attend the luncheon on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2015:

Rank . . . . . Initials . . . . . Name . . . . .

Known As . . . . . Address . . . . .

.....

.....

Postcode . . . . . Telephone Number . . . . .

Email Address. . . . .

2. I wish to reserve . . . . . place(s) at a table. The names/ranks of those filling the places, including myself, are:\*


3. I wish to sit with: .....

4. I enclose a cheque made payable to 'The Royal Signals Benevolent Fund' for £ . . . . .

5. If you require a car pass for entry to Vimy Lines, please list your vehicle details here:

Make & Model: .....Colour:.....Registration Number: .....

Date . . . . . Signature . . . . .

\* Officers nominated here must complete the attendance proforma.



Intentionally Blank



# ROYAL SIGNALS DINNER CLUB

## CORPS DINNER IN SCOTLAND - 2015

1. The dinner will be held at the Royal Faculty of Procurators, 12 Nelson Mandela Place, Glasgow, G2 1BT on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at 1900 hours for 1930 hours.
2. Attendance. All Royal Signals Officers, Regular or Reserve, Serving or Retired or former WRAC Officers who served with the Corps are eligible to attend.
3. Cost. This includes pre-dinner drinks and wine at the table:
  - a. For officers who subscribe to the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund the subsidised cost is £39 each.
  - b. For officers who do not subscribe to the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund the cost is £78 each.
4. Dress. Highland Evening Wear or Black Tie. Decorations or medals are not worn.

.....

To: Quartermaster  
32 Signal Regiment  
21 Jardine Street  
GLASGOW  
G20 6JU

## CORPS DINNER IN SCOTLAND – 30<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2015

I wish to attend the Corps Dinner in Scotland on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

Rank ..... Initials ..... Name ..... Decorations .....

Tel No .....

I enclose a cheque payable to 'The Royal Signals Benevolent Fund' for £ .....

Date ..... Signature .....



March 2015