



Women's Royal Naval Service
Benevolent Trust

**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT
AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2020**

What our beneficiaries say ...

"I wanted to let you know that I've completed my Level 6 studies. I was furloughed for 3 months and have been part-time flexi furloughed for 2 months and this diploma has kept me focused! I have completed it in 11 months, just in time for my annual appraisal in early October. Last October I set my personal objective to complete it within 12 months so I am chuffed to bits that I have!

It has been a very strange year to say the least. My mental health took a decline earlier in the year and then lockdown added to it. I lost my mojo a bit but The Poppy Factory were supportive and arranged some counselling through the EAP scheme. I ended up having 10 sessions and feeling much better. Since my return to work, I have felt that my studies have really improved my practice and I am already implementing my learning in supporting my veteran cohort back to work. I am going to join the register of career development professionals; so you have not only invested in me, but in all the veterans I end up supporting. I wanted to thank you all again for approving the funding for this course. It has made a massive difference to me and will continue to do so."

"I can't thank you enough for all the help and support you have given me over the past few years, it has been a godsend."

"I just wanted to drop you a "vote of thanks" for all the support we get each month from the Trust. The money you send each quarter has been a literal lifesaver. During lockdown and Covid restrictions our food bill has increased as the supermarkets change the way they put on offers, as usual food choices were scarce and alternatives needed to be found. Your money has been amazing. I have been able to buy new shoes for work and clothes for me and my daughter. So I am simply sending a thank you, that during times of Covid, the one thing you can rely on is yourselves, wonderful, caring and supporting you!"

"Further to previous correspondence, I am writing to advise that my Nursing Home is closing in January 2021. I am fortunate in that I have been able to secure a placement in another Nursing Home, which is a short distance from here. I shall be occupying a larger room and the fees are considerably less than I am paying at the moment - £895 per week as opposed to £1,100 per week. I wish to thank you for your help and support during what was for me a very stressful time."

"Thank you for your letter dated 23rd March which I received yesterday. I am so very grateful to you for what you have done. You can't imagine how wonderful it is to have hot water and heating for the first time in almost a year!! Thank you thank you thank you from the bottom of my heart."

Please note any former Wren can apply for assistance irrespective of age

WOMEN'S ROYAL NAVAL SERVICE BENEVOLENT TRUST

(Incorporated by Royal Charter)

Registered Charity 206529

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

The Trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2020. The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

Patron

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal

Chairman

Commander H E Rimmer MBE Royal Navy

Vice Chairman

Captain C E Jordan Royal Navy

Governors / Trustees

Ms M Bolam (2020 - 2027)

Mrs O Butler (2015 - 2022)

Mrs A Gott (Trustee) (2020 - 2021)

Mrs B M Hines (2014 - 2021)

Commander V Hooton Royal Navy (2020 - 2027)

Lieutenant Commander K Hutton Royal Navy (2014 - 2021)

Chief Petty Officer S Parkinson Royal Naval Reserve (2017 - 2024)

Mrs E Yeats (2018 - 2025)

Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity Nominated Trustee

Commodore A M Picton Royal Navy (2018 - 2021)

Hon. Treasurer

Ms M Bolam

General Secretary

Mrs S L Ayton

Assistant Secretary

Mr R G Collings MBE

Head Office

Castaway House, 311 Twyford Avenue, Portsmouth PO2 8RN
Tel: 023 9265 5301 Email: generalsecretary@wrnsbt.org.uk
Website: www.wrnsbt.org.uk

Bankers

Hampshire Trust Bank, PO Box 73115, London EC4P 4GP
National Westminster Bank Plc, 130 Commercial Road, Portsmouth PO1 1EJ
Scottish Widows Bank, 67 Morrison Street, Edinburgh EH3 8YJ

Auditor

Gibson Whitter, Larch House, Parklands Business Park, Waterlooville PO7 6XP

Solicitors

BDB Pitmans LLP, One Bartholomew Close, Barts Square, EC1A 7BL

Stockbrokers

Brewin Dolphin, 12 Smithfield Street, London EC1A 9BD

Vice Presidents

Mrs A P Bates
Commander M W Cole Royal Navy
Mrs J A Crabtree
Commander A S Crook Royal Navy
Captain P E Duncan Royal Navy
Mrs J Gray
Mrs F Hugill
Miss K King
Commandant A Larken CBE Women's Royal Naval Service
Mrs V Le Quesne
Commodore A M Picton Royal Navy
Commander M J Robbins Royal Navy
Captain J B Simpson Royal Navy
Commander R Wilson OBE Royal Navy
Miss A Wycherley MVO

Central Committee

Chairman
Vice-Chairman
Governors
Hon. Treasurer
Chairman of the Finance Committee
Chairman of the Grants Committee
Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity Nominated Trustee

Serving Representatives

Lieutenant Commander J Pizii Royal Navy
Chief Petty Officer A Allen

Nominated by Association of Wrens and Women of the Royal Naval Services

Mrs N Hill

Sub Committees at 31 December 2020

Finance Committee

Chairman: Commodore A M Picton Royal Navy

Ms M Bolam

Mrs O Butler

Mrs A Gott

Mrs B M Hines

Lieutenant Commander K Hutton Royal Navy

Ms N Sutherland (Independent Financial Advisor)

Grants Committee

Chairman: Mrs A Gott

Chief Petty Officer A Allen

Mrs M Brittan

Ms M Higgins

Lieutenant Commander K Hutton Royal Navy

Lieutenant Commander S A MacLennan Royal Navy

Chief Petty Officer S Parkinson Royal Naval Reserve

Lieutenant Commander J Pizii Royal Navy

Quality Assurance Group

Chairman: Captain C E Jordan Royal Navy

Mrs O Butler

Mrs E Yeats

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Women's Royal Naval Service Benevolent Trust (WRNS BT) was founded in 1941 by Dame Vera Laughton Mathews, then Director WRNS, and in 1950, the Trust was granted a Royal Charter. It is a Registered Charity (No. 206529).

A member is anyone who was serving in the Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS) and transferred to the Royal Navy on 1 November 1993, or anyone who has served in the WRNS since 3 September 1939.

The management of the Trust is vested in the Central Committee, which consists of the Chairman, Vice Chairman (who may be a serving member), Governors, Chairmen of the Grants and Finance Committees, the Honorary Treasurer and the RNRMC Nominated Trustee. The Chairman of the Association of Wrens, one member of the Association and two / three nominated Serving members act as advisers to the Central Committee. All except advisers are Trustees. Only those eligible for membership of the Trust are entitled to vote at meetings of the Committee.

Trustees are nominated by former members of the WRNS and are elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Trust. In accordance with the governing document, Governors of the Trust must not exceed seven in number. Furthermore, no Governor who has held office for seven consecutive years shall be eligible for re-election until the expiration of one year. The induction process for newly appointed Trustees includes familiarisation with the powers and responsibilities of the Trustee Board (Central Committee), and the Finance and Grants Committees. The induction pack includes a brief history of the Trust, copies of Committee

minutes, the most recent Annual Report and Accounts, a copy of the Royal Charter and the Charity Commission's guidance for new Trustees. Trustees are kept up to date by circulation of the Charity Commission's newsletters, subscription to relevant publications and attendance at external training and briefing events.

The Board of Trustees and the General Secretary comprise the key management personnel of the charity, in charge of directing and controlling the charity and running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis, including consideration of grant making, investment, reserves and risk management policies and performance. All Trustees give of their time freely and no Trustee remuneration was paid in the year. Details are disclosed in Note 10 to the accounts.

They appoint a Finance Committee to oversee and advise on the Trust's Finances and Accounts, a Grants Committee to which they delegate such powers as to the investigation, consideration and determination of applications for grants, and a Quality Assurance Group to review the Trust's procedures and risks. The Board of Trustees meets at least three times a year.

Trustees are required to disclose all relevant interests and register them with the General Secretary and, in accordance with the Trust's policy, withdraw from decisions where a conflict of interest arises.

The Trust employs two staff on duties concerned with administration, finance, grants and public relations. The day-to-day management of the affairs of the WRNS BT is delegated by the Trustees to the General Secretary. Staff pay is reviewed annually taking into account the Trust's and the individual's performance, and changes to the Consumer Price Index.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The primary objects of the Trust are to provide relief in cases of necessity or distress among members of the Trust and their dependants; to make provision in suitable cases for assistance with further education; to make contributions to other suitable charities to enable them to carry out their respective objects for the benefit of the Trust's members, and to do anything ancillary to any of the above objects.

The Trust's policies, adopted to achieve its objects, are to invest its funds in securities that the Trustees expect will give optimised financial returns.

The Trust's main objectives for 2020 were met throughout the pandemic:

- To satisfy from its own resources, or in conjunction with other charities, the needs of applicants assessed as requiring a grant, subject to grants policy;
- To review all regular grants on an ongoing basis;
- To review the Trust's performance against the output of the refreshed Actuarial Review and Strategic Plan;
- To develop further the Trust's relationship with the other Royal Naval Charities;
- To build on the increased awareness resulting from the Victory Walk to further the work of the Trust;
- To support the Association of Wrens and Women of the Royal Naval Services in their Centenary year;
- To implement the replacement Casework Management System;*

Although never formally agreed by the Trustee Board, it became clear that 2020 the Trust would need to respond appropriately to the demands of the global pandemic, as it developed. However, in line with some other military charities, there was no significant increase in demand in 2020.

**Implementation delayed until March 2021*

PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT

The Trust operates for the public benefit under two charitable purposes as defined in the Charities Act 2011: "The relief of those in need, by reason of youth, age, ill health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage, and the advancement of education". This benefit is delivered through regular charitable payments and one-off grants to former members of the WRNS and their dependants. The Trustees believe they have complied with their duty in Section 17 of the 2011 Charities Act, i.e. to have due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission in respect of their public benefit statement. Examples of the difference our work has made to the lives of some of our beneficiaries can be found on the inside covers of this report and on pages 9 - 10.

RISK MANAGEMENT

As part of their overall duties, Trustees of the WRNS BT are required to consider risk factors involved in its running. Three members of the Central Committee are responsible for carrying out an annual internal audit and review of the Risk Register. The Quality Assurance Group's (QAG) findings are then reported and discussed at the next meeting of the Central Committee; thus, any perceived potential problems are highlighted and dealt with as necessary.

The Risk Register covers all aspects of the charity's operations, from investments to staff recruitment to governance. External influences such as changes in the political and economic climates are considered. All potential risks are assessed as having a "*remote through to highly probable likelihood*", and an "*insignificant through to extreme / catastrophic impact*" and then the overall level of risk is calculated.

The principle potential risks are:

- The loss of key staff
The Trustees and Staff have produced a comprehensive plan to deal with the consequences of the temporary or permanent loss of its key staff.
- Information technology
The Trust has been involved with the requirement to replace the ageing Casework Management System used by most military benevolence charities. The new system was due to be launched in 2020 and is delayed until 2021.
- Stakeholder risk (Caseworking organisations)
Liaison through the RNRMC and Caseworking organisations to optimise limited resources where applicable and support any recruitment campaigns to increase the number of caseworkers in areas not currently covered, or where concentrations of potential beneficiaries exist. During 2020, the Trust provided beneficiary data to Northumbria University for their "Map of Need" research project.

- **COVID-19**

It is fair to say that Covid-19 was not foreseen as a risk by the Trust, nor any other pandemic that would have such a wide ranging effect. That said, the Disaster Recovery Plan was adapted and worked well. Following the QAG's assessment there remains a risk (score 10) for further peaks of Covid-19 or other separate global Pandemic which has several mitigations planned, ensuring the impact of such a risk is as low as practical.

Further mitigation is continually under review. As far as is possible, measures are in place to deal with those risks, which are considered to be within our control and steps taken to minimise the detrimental effects of outside influences.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Grants

Every case received is considered on its merits, based on real need for assistance. 170 such cases were received during 2020.

Grants Expenditure	2020	2019	2018
Regular Charitable Payments	£	£	£
General Amenity Grants	18,902	22,825	21,357
Weekly Grants	144,830	183,964	161,771
Sub Total	163,732	206,789	183,128
One-Off Grants			
Clothing & Food	870	1,860	900
Convalescent & Respite Care	0	3,726	1,550
Debts (Priority) & Arrears	4,612	6,494	14,974
Education	2,918	1,244	8,297
Funeral Expenses	7,954	6,941	5,219
Household Fuel	700	1,060	0
Household Goods	6,349	3,676	9,173
Household Repairs	8,474	8,382	6,093
Medical Aids	23,499	29,619	29,333
Removal Expenses	225	4,097	5,264
Rent & Deposits	200	5,351	11,239
Travel & Car Related Expenses	585	4,841	279
Total Grants Expenditure	220,118	284,080	275,449

Regular Charitable Payments. Subject to real need, we have five types of regular grants, categorised as follows:

- General Amenity Grants - These grants help with day-to-day living expenses, e.g. the payment of bills, clothing or perhaps household goods, otherwise unaffordable, and are paid biannually or annually. If the applicant has children of school age or below living with them, an additional grant may be awarded as a Christmas Gift for each eligible child.
- Care Enhancement Grant - Weekly assistance for beneficiaries of state pension age, paid quarterly. Small grants are given towards the cost of permanent or

temporary care in either a care home, their own home or external activities such as day centres.

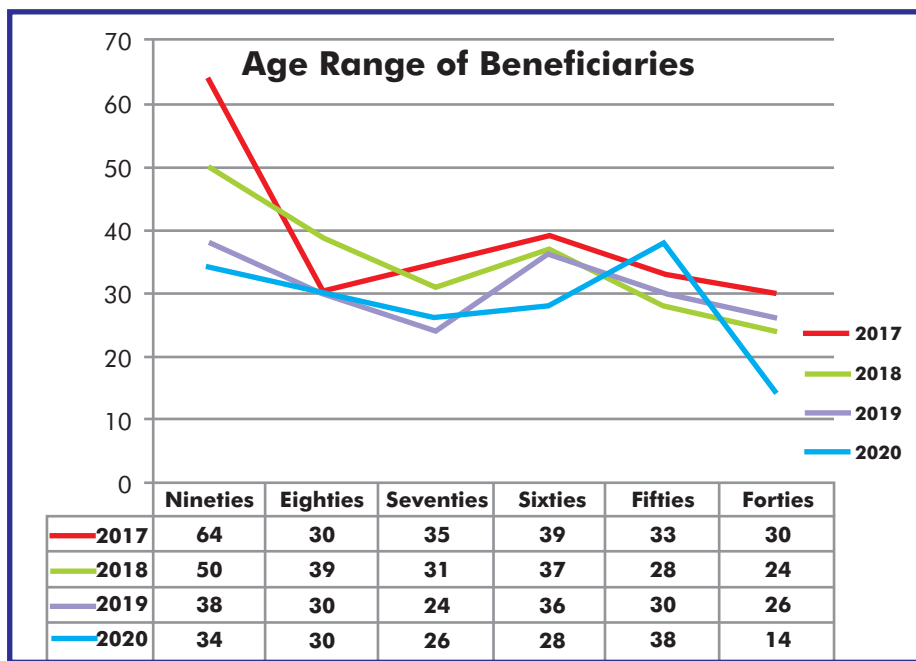
- Overseas Grant - A weekly allowance for beneficiaries who live overseas, paid quarterly. Some of the recipients are solely dependent on this allowance from the Trust.
- Weekly Maintenance Grant - A set weekly allowance for beneficiaries of state pension age, paid quarterly. It can make a huge difference to someone who is finding it difficult to make ends meet or help to pay for a few little extras, otherwise unaffordable.
- Weekly Support Supplement - A flexible weekly allowance awarded to beneficiaries below state pension age, paid quarterly. This grant provides a much needed boost to applicants who are too young to qualify for Pension Credit, and yet too old to find employment easily, or too infirm to do so.

All Regular Charitable Payments are reviewed on an annual basis, which means we are kept informed of the individual's welfare and can reassess needs as required.

One-off Grants. The types of demand can be extremely varied. The main areas of current expenditure are categorised as below, but there is no set parameter and each request is taken on its own merit.

- Debts (Priority) and Arrears - Help may be given in this area in the hope that it will assist the applicant to recover their financial situation. It is always recommended that advice be sought from organisations such as the CAB Debt Counselling Service, StepChange Debt Charity and the Seafarers' Advice and Information Line.
- Education - This is normally in the form of help with training courses, study costs, computers, books etc. for former Wrens who are mature students.
- Funeral Expenses - We help with certain costs once eligibility for the Social Fund Funeral Payment has been investigated. It may be to help one of our eligible beneficiaries towards the cost of a partner's funeral or perhaps a late beneficiary's funeral when the partner or family do not have the means to pay in full.
- Household Goods and Repairs - Household goods can include help with the purchase of white goods, furniture, floor coverings, redecoration etc. Repairs may include structural needs or boiler/heating replacement, but payments from the appropriate authorities are always investigated first.
- Medical Aids - With a high percentage of current beneficiaries being of pensionable age (see chart), demand for medical aids such as stair lifts and electric powered vehicles continues. We believe that swift assistance should be given to those with disabilities where special equipment is required. In many cases, we provide funding where there would otherwise be a long and unacceptable wait for statutory funding to which the individual is otherwise entitled.
- Removal and Travel Expenses - We may assist people relocating to an area where family will support them. Travel costs may be given to help our beneficiaries visit their family when they are in hospital, or in other care. Occasionally, we help with expenses when the use of a car is crucial to the applicant's day-to-day life.

- Rent and Deposits - Awards may be given towards a deposit or advance rent.



Grants Process Members of the Grants Committee are all former members of the WRNS (including those currently serving in the RN) and give their time and assistance voluntarily.

We have no caseworkers of our own and therefore work mainly with the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA), and The Royal British Legion (TRBL). Their caseworkers call on the majority of applicants on our behalf. They are discreet and knowledgeable and can give friendly support and advice on a wide variety of matters. They provide reports for consideration by our Grants Committee. Although SSAFA and TRBL are the main sources for caseworkers, we do sometimes use other organisations, particularly for overseas applicants. Members may apply to us for help direct, or a relation or friend can do so on their behalf. With the member's consent, we then contact the appropriate organisation in their area, which arranges for someone to visit.

As a result of the COVID-19 national lockdowns, new procedures were put in place in March 2020, for the processing of crisis and urgent grants and all beneficiaries of a Regular Charitable Payment were automatically reviewed, to ensure that no beneficiaries were disadvantaged by the absence of a renewal application.

WHAT DIFFERENCE HAS THE TRUST MADE TO THE LIVES OF OUR BENEFICIARIES?

The Grants Committee receives many letters of thanks from beneficiaries, families and caseworkers. The following are extracts from letters received, with an explanation of the grant awarded.

"I am writing to express my gratitude. I am hopefully on the road to recovery after a long illness and have been worrying about how I was going to pay for my very expensive (accommodation-related) service charge. Now I will be able to focus on my new job, which is perfect for me, and on my health, building up my strength without any anxiety. I cannot put into words the difference you have made to my life. Thank you so much for your consideration, your understanding, and the hard work that you do to make the lives of ex-service personnel so much easier. Thank you." A 58yr old single former Wren, living alone, and after significant illness struggling to meet the very high service charges linked to her leasehold property. The Trust has been able to award this first-time applicant a weekly grant to help meet the related annual cost, which she pays by monthly instalments.

"I write with great sadness to convey news of the death of my dear Mum at the age of 94... I also wish to express my sincere thanks to (the Trust) for looking after Mum's interests, and for the financial assistance provided at a time when Mum was in need of support. This enabled independent living for a greater length of time in her own home (before moving into residential care). Mum was also so appreciative of her annual Christmas card which she would display with great pride and fondness, perhaps a reminder of good times." An extract from a long and lovely letter from the daughter and only surviving child of this former wartime Wren, an avid supporter of the AOW who passed away at the age of 94 years, in July 2020. The Trust had provided some modest one-off assistance before the award of a Weekly Maintenance Grant for a period of 21 months prior to, on sale of her house, a move into self-funded permanent residential care.

"I am writing to say 'thank you' for the Regular Charitable Payment that you awarded me last year. I realised this month just how much of a difference it has made when I had my car's MOT, insurance and vehicle tax to pay for all in one month. In previous years it has been a struggle to eke out my pension to cover them, but because I put 'your money' aside, I was able to do this stress free on this occasion. I've also been able to visit my daughter in Suffolk without worrying about petrol money, and..." (as a volunteer)... "carry on helping out at my grandchildren's old school - I have been doing this for 15 years and it helps keep me 'young!'" A 77yr old former Wren, otherwise depending only on the Government's Statutory Minimum Income Guaranteed, a sum which is stretched to breaking point when trying to keep an elderly car on the road. This client had approached the Trust for assistance towards the cost of installing a new domestic boiler, for which a grant of £1,363.00 was awarded; the Grants Committee observed that her weekly budget was severely stretched without sign of waste, and additionally granted a Regular Charitable Payment of £25.00pw on top of this, which is reviewed annually. She clearly uses this wisely, to ensure her freedom of movement and continued ability to benefit society by assisting unpaid at a local school.

"This is now a very belated letter to thank you for the greatly appreciated financial assistance given to my aunt. With your assistance, during the last 18 months of her life she was able to remain a resident in the care home, where she had already resided for 5 years. Sadly, my aunt had been suffering from dementia and your generous contributions enabled her to remain at the home, rather than having to move to a different residence... With many thanks from J's very grateful family." The niece of our then-91yr old former wartime Wren (a single lady with no children), had been struggling while paying a third party shortfall of £115.00pw

towards her aunt's care home fees, from her own fast evaporating resources. By the time of application to the Trust, as encouraged by the owners of the care home, she had managed to negotiate a reduction to £60.00pw, and the Trust was able to award £50.00pw towards this sum, which was our maximum care grant at that time. From January 2019, we were able to meet the full sum of £60.00pw. Our lady sadly passed away in January 2020.

"Thank you for the regular grant that I have received since January 2019. It has been of great support to me while my income and savings have been so low. In May of this year I will receive my State pension so my situation will be very much improved all around... the temporary grant can be stopped so that funds may be provided to someone else in need. Thank you again for your kindness and support since we first spoke." A 65 year old single former Wren who approached us for the first time in late 2018. With income restricted to a Service invalidity pension which was less than half of the minimum guaranteed to a State pensioner and which denied entitlement to ESA, the Trust was pleased to provide her with a Temporary Weekly Support Supplement of £30.00pw to help her through to her State Pension qualifying date.

"I write to thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the help that you provided me by way of a regular grant from January 2019 through to October 2020, when I qualified for my State pension. In tandem with a grant from the RNBT, your assistance has been more helpful than you may know, helping clear some outstanding debts, meet bills, restock my kitchen cupboard and put food in the freezer, and has allowed me to have breakfast, dinner and tea each day, something that without your kindness I was previously unable to do..... I have taken up enough of your valuable time, but I do want to thank you for all your help and support. Even though we have never met, I class you all as my friends." A 65 year old former Wren, and Royal Naval widow since 2001 when aged just 47 years after 25 years of marriage, with no children or other close family. By 2016, she had used up all of her own savings in paying towards her mother's residential care. The Trust was very pleased to provide an initial grant of £500.00, to be managed by SSAFA, to help with housekeeping costs while we liaised with the RNBT in order to maximise charitable support for her. Once the RNBT had awarded Regular grant of £33.00pw, we were able to supplement this with an annual General Amenity Grant of £800.00.

"I just want to say once again how grateful I am for all the help - and particularly the Weekly Maintenance Grant paid into my bank each quarter - which I have received over the years. The last instalment paid for car repairs and some extra heating oil." This still-active 83yr old former Wren has long lived in a quite isolated area of Northern Ireland, and her letter on this occasion relates how both of her children had managed to visit her from England between lockdowns in 2020, and that she had enjoyed a (very) early Christmas dinner with her son, which he cooked. The main benefit of our regular grant over the last 20 years has been to keep her increasingly elderly car on the road, and she remains a keen and able driver.

***Read how this trike
changed one woman's life
on the inside back cover
of this report***



Moreover, it is not always about the money...

Our Grants Administrator also spends a good deal of his time pointing applicants and their families in the right direction for advice and support relating to benefits, pensions, local authority grants and care providers, providing encouragement and reassurance to those seeking assistance. As the numbers of our beneficiaries reduce, much more time is now spent in providing holistic and tailored support.

Further messages can be found on the inside covers of this report

THE CHARITIES (PROTECTION AND SOCIAL INVESTMENT) ACT 2016

During the period covered by this report, the Trust did not engage with any professional fundraiser or commercial participator. Neither did the Trust market itself to the public.

However, the Trustees are aware of the Fundraising Regulators "Code of Practice" and its key principles and expected behaviours. These were taken into consideration when the Trust planned for a small number of initiatives.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2020

Review of Accounts - 31 December 2020

The 2020 financial year was a reasonable one for the Trust despite the impact of Covid-19. The accounts show net income of £59k after investment gain (2019 - net income of £592k after investment gain). Disregarding investment losses and gains, net expenditure was £9k (2019 - net income £121k). Notwithstanding net expenditure accounts for payments and allocations, this surplus was more than our budget. We budgeted for a deficit of £243k. Our positive position was again mainly due to the receipt of legacies. Overall, the Trust's cash position increased by £68k to £526k at the year-end. The year-end value of the investment portfolio increased to £3.903m (2019 - £3.852m) including unrealised gains of £67k.

Income and Expenditure

Income

Income from legacies totalled £180k in the year (a fall of £164k compared with the previous year), however 3 receipts exceeded £10k, the largest being for £123.9k from Miss Jean Gutteridge. The Trust has been notified of further legacies in the region of £66k still to be received. This relates to 7 estates that have issues to resolve but should all be completed within 2021.

Donations have remained consistent with the levels received in 2019 however, fundraising income has decreased due in part to Covid-19 and because 2019 included the Victory Walk event.

Investment income fell to £116k (2019 - £142k) due primarily to the impact of Covid-19 on companies' dividend policies in the year.

As has been the case in the last 6 years no external grants were requested due to good financial outcomes over the period. The Trust does not intend to request any major grants for 2021 and if there is a cash shortfall in year, we will draw down on our investment portfolio in accordance with the Strategic Plan.

Expenditure

Fundraising and publicity costs have decreased in the year principally due to a reduction in support costs. Investment management fees have decreased slightly to £23k (2019 - £24k).

We awarded grants of £220k against a budget of £300k, a decrease of 22.5% in the year which is due to fewer caseworker reports received caseworker reports received owing to Covid-19.

Other expenditure support costs have decreased slightly by £8k against a budget of £117k. Measures such as both staff working from home were established, Zoom replaced our usual face to face meetings and rent and other expenses were lower than usual.

Governance costs are made up of legal fees, audit and accountancy and meeting expenses. These costs had a saving of £1k against budget, primarily because of the AGM which was held online.

Balance Sheet

The Trust did not make any capital purchases during the year. This has resulted in, after depreciation, a decrease in the overall value of fixed assets. The Trust's policy is to capitalise items over £500 and so any small items are treated as revenue expenditure.

The value of the Trust's investment portfolio fluctuated during the year, but Brewin Dolphin followed market trends closely and made a small number of changes to the portfolio. Despite global market volatility and the impact of Brexit and Covid-19, the Trust still received an income of £116k for the reporting period. The value at the year-end was £3.855m with an unrealised gain of £67k. The yield is still down at 2.9% but the Trustees are hopeful for a market bounce back in 2021.

Taking into account other debtors which included prepaid insurance, legacies, bank accounts, accrued legacy and investment income, together with accruals including unpaid expenses, rent and other expenses including with the annual audit fee, the Trust closed the year with a balance sheet figure of £4.46m (2019 - £4.4m).

Statement of Cash Flows

Cash income from investing activities of £133k was sufficient to cover the cash used in operating activities of £65k and this is reflected in the increase in bank balances to £526k.

Reserves Policy

The income from investments is the only constant source of funds and provided approximately 53% of that needed to cover the grants expenditure of £220k or 35% towards the overall cost of running the Trust (£330k). The shortfall is met from donations and legacies, which are an extremely unpredictable source of income. Reserves of £4.46m in unrestricted funds are sufficient to meet the Trust's commitment to those beneficiaries currently supported should legacies, as a source of income, no longer be available.

The Trust commissioned an Actuarial Review of the remaining population of the WRNS in 2010 to assist with its plans for future staffing and reserves. The Review originally concluded that approximately £5m would be required to help fund all requests for assistance, based on mortality rates of the members over the next 50 years. In 2015, the Review was refreshed to include updated performance, together with the impact of external influences such as changes to benefits and pensions, VAT and inflation and it was calculated that £3.7m would be required to help fund all future requests. During 2019, the Review was refreshed and it was again concluded that approximately £3.7m would be required to meet beneficiary needs. The costs of managing the Trust were not included in this figure, but the Trust's annual performance is monitored annually against the Review, and the Trustees continue to be

satisfied that reserves are sufficient.

Investment Policy and Performance

The aim is to invest in a diverse range of asset classes with a view to providing income to meet the needs of beneficiaries and to generate sufficient growth to counter inflationary tendencies. In order to achieve this aim the Trust invests in a range of equities, whilst maintaining a reasonable representation in fixed interest stocks. A benchmark of £141k net return on investments was set in 2020. Despite continued market volatility in relation to the global pandemic and the impact of the Brexit trade negotiations, the Trust still received an income of £114k for the reporting period. The value of the investment portfolio increased by approximately £51k from £3.852m in 2019 to £3.903m in 2020.

APPRECIATION

The Trust maintains close cooperation with organisations, which are able to help former members of the WRNS, including those still serving in the armed forces. In this way, the Trust is able to seek for its members, not only wider financial assistance, but the best possible help and advice available. Many have found the advice given even more valuable than material aid. We would like to thank most warmly all those with whom we liaise, just a few of whom are listed, for their cooperation during the year:

- Age in Spain
- Association of Wrens
- Blesma
- Greenwich Hospital
- Help For Heroes
- Naval Children's Charity
- Poppyscotland
- Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund
- Royal Air Forces Association
- Royal Commonwealth Ex - Services League
- Royal Naval Association
- Royal Naval Benevolent Trust
- Royal Naval Officers' Charity
- Seafarers' Advice and Information Line
- Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association
- South African Legion
- Special Forces Benevolent Fund
- The American Red Cross
- The Army Charities
- The Burma Star Association
- The Not Forgotten Association
- The Officers' Association
- The Officers' Association Scotland
- The Royal British Legion
- The Royal British Legion Women's Section
- The Royal Canadian Legion
- The Royal Marines Charity
- Veterans Outreach Support
- WRNS BT Team of Ambassadors
- Zimbabwe A National Emergency

Donations

We acknowledge with gratitude the very generous donation from our Patron, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal.

EBay Auction

The Trust held an auction of WRNS related jewellery, clothing and memorabilia via EBay, which raised a superb £2k. The majority of the items had been bequeathed or donated to the



Trust for fundraising purposes. Thank you to everyone who supported the auction by bidding and congratulations to those lucky people who were successful. The Trust is extremely grateful to all those who donated items and in particular special thanks are due to Fanny Hugill, Katharine Lovegrove, Jane Allen, Ann Miller-McCaffrey, Sally MacLennan, Rita Sayers, Patricia Rate and Gwendoline Davis. This event could not have taken place without the advice, support and practical assistance from WRNS BT Trustee Alison Gott, whose superb working knowledge of eBay made a good idea a reality. Thank you Alison.

We also gratefully acknowledge the generous support received during 2020 from:

- Amazon Smile
- Association of Wrens Headquarters
- Catherine Davies
- Easyfundraising
- Fanny Hugill
- HMS Collingwood
- HMS Nelson Snr Rates & WOs Mess
- Jacqueline McMahon
- Lascaris (Malta) Comms Association
- Lilian Harper Phipps
- Marian Williams
- Nick Carter
- Pamela Anderson
- Patricia McKain
- Patricia Sanders
- Peta Maidment
- Royal Naval Association - Aquitaine Branch
- St. Ann's Church, HMNB Portsmouth
- Sue Hind Valentine
- Sylvia Lodge

As always, we received many donations from other organisations and individuals which are too numerous to mention, but to whom we are most grateful for their support.

Legacies

The Trust cannot thank enough those who have thought to remember us in their Will. The following legacies have been gratefully received during the year:

Legator	£
• Ballard - Miss Elizabeth Irene	10,000
• Bellamy - Miss Irene Mary	1,000
• Blackall - Mrs Jean Mary nee Anstruther	500
• Burrage - Miss Rosemary Elizabeth	6,000
• Folbigg - Miss Lilian Una	500
• Glue - Mrs Jean	1,000
• Green - Miss Jennifer	98
• Gutteridge - Miss Jean Beryl	123,900
• Harrington - Miss Barbara Eileen	300
• Hickman - Miss Daphne Joan	15,000
• James - Mrs Janet Rowena nee Ellis	14,422
• Lacey - Mrs Beryl Joan nee Bryant	12
• Lee - Miss Kathleen Victoria	5,489
• Morrison - Miss Gillian Constance	1,000
• Spencer - Miss Anne	32
• Watson - Mrs Pauline Joyce nee Tuffs	391
• Wood - Miss Betty Mary	500
TOTAL	180,144

In Memoriam Donations

We have received kind donations in memory of former Wrens and our supporters as listed below:

	£
• Bayliss - Miss Susan	375
• Bond - Mrs Ruth Mary	70
• Cardall - Mrs Gillian nee Roberts	1,702
• Cassar-Torreggiani - Mrs Heather Mary nee Herbert	666
• Collings - Mrs Rubina (Ruby) nee Makin	75
• Davies - Mrs Kathleen Edith nee Neal	373
• Gutteridge - Miss Jean Beryl	84
• Hartin - Mrs Moira Elspeth Anne nee Brasier-Creagh	25
• Leake - Mrs Elizabeth nee Burns (Paddy)	25
• Marchant - Mrs Valerie	188
• Marsden - Mrs Brenda	63
• Parrish - Mrs Alice Peggy (Peggy) nee Hose	466
• Pritchard - Mrs Mary Eileen nee Purver	50
• Steadman - Mrs Patricia nee Mayhew	25
• Surgenor - Mrs Vicki nee Brooke	296
• Thomson - Miss Nancy Challis	50
• Tier - Mrs Kathleen Anne nee Richardson	200
• Waggott - Mrs Marjorie nee Watson	375
• Wordley - Mrs Eileen nee Hussey	50
TOTAL	5,158

Association of Wrens and Women of the Royal Naval Services

Our grateful thanks go to the Branches and Informal Groups who held fundraising events in support of the Trust during the year. Individual totals include collection box money where applicable but not "In Memoriam" donations:

	£
• Bournemouth & District	75
• Manchester & District	54
• Portsmouth	570
• Solent	50
• South Dorset	50
• Swansea	25
Total	824

Voluntary Support

In addition to the hundreds of voluntary hours given so generously by our Trustees, Trust Officials and Serving Representatives, the Trust is also fortunate to benefit from time given by many others including:

- Members of the Central, Grants, Finance and Quality Assurance sub committees;
- Advice and support from the Honorary Treasurer and Independent Advisor;
- Our team of Ambassadors;
- Those who support the WRNS BT at external events;
- Those who participate in sponsored and fundraising events on our behalf;
- Those who give the office administrative, creative and technical support.

The Trust is always looking for new ways of (a) raising its profile, and (b) continuing to remind both the population of former Wrens and the current Naval Community that the Trust is still providing assistance where required. Support from those listed above is crucial and enables our small team to take our message to as wide an audience as possible.

During 2020 the Trust's officials and volunteers worked extremely hard to promote its work and recruited two new Ambassadors to improve its geographical spread. The Trust is always seeking volunteers to replace retiring Trustees and to recruit new Ambassadors. If you are interested in finding out more please contact the office.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The Trust's annual objectives are:

- To satisfy from its own resources, or in conjunction with other charities, the needs of applicants assessed as requiring a grant, subject to grants policy;
- To review all regular grants on an ongoing basis;
- To review the Trust's performance against the output of the refreshed Actuarial Review and consider the Strategic Direction of the Trust;
- To develop further the Trust's relationship with the other Royal Naval Charities;
- To support the Association of Wrens and Women of the Royal Naval Services in their delayed centenary year;
- To implement Mosaic, the replacement Casework Management System;
- To be prepared for a possible increase in applications for support once furlough and other support schemes cease, and the true impact of the global pandemic on the economy is known.

By order of the Trustees



Commander Heather Rimmer MBE, Royal Navy - Chairman
Date 9th March 2021

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

29th September 2020

The Chairman, Commander Heather Rimmer MBE, Royal Navy, opened the meeting by welcoming viewers to the Trust's first virtual Annual General Meeting, held during Covid-19 and hosted from Castaway House, Portsmouth.

Patron's Address

Her Royal Highness said that it was somewhat ironic that at the last Annual General Meeting, at Trinity House in May 2019, the Trust and its members had been able to take continuing pride in that, although social media and technology had its place in bringing people together, it could not replace the face-to-face interaction that could be enjoyed wherever the Annual General Meeting took place. It had not



not been imagined that sixteen months later the world would now be very reliant on technology; not only to conduct business, but also simply to keep in touch with people.

Her Royal Highness said that the Trust had received an increasing number of legacies which had been completed, with a staggering £344.5k donated and a further £147k in the pipeline at the year-end.

Finances had been further boosted by fundraising income from Commander Jane Allen's Victory Walk, which raised over £30k split between the Trust and the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity. One of the greatest challenges for the Trust was to remind all those who had served in the Women's Royal Naval Service that their charity was still operating for their benefit, and such superb publicity afforded by the Victory Walk could never be bought.

Her Royal Highness said that 2019 had seen another Dauntless Association Reunion at Hayling Island, which had resulted in immense enjoyment, while raising significant funds for both the Trust and other charities. She thanked their small but very efficient team for their continued support.

Her Royal Highness said that the Trust had decided to refresh its Actuarial Review. The 2019 report had concluded that there had been no significant changes to any of the markers from the previous review in 2015. Her Royal Highness gave reassurance that those eligible for support would always be provided for, even if that may be under slightly different arrangements.

Her Royal Highness said that at the start of 2020 the Trust had plans to work closely with the Association of Wrens to help celebrate in this, their centenary year. Sadly, these plans, both at national and local levels, had to be cancelled for 2020 but subject to prevailing circumstances would go ahead in 2021.

Chairman's Report

Commander Rimmer said that she sadly had to report news of the death of one of the Trust's Vice Presidents, Nancy Thomson, who had died in March. Nancy had enjoyed a full career in the WRNS, starting with undertaking her initial branch training as a Signals Wren at HMS Mercury in 1954. Commissioned two years later, Nancy went on to undertake a diverse variety of roles, including being a WRNS Recruiting Officer; the officer in charge of the biannual Petty Officer Wrens' Leadership Course at HMS Royal Arthur; Head of the Commander-in-Chief's Management Information Centre; and as a member of the Cadet Entry and Admiralty Interview Boards. In 1977, Nancy was appointed Deputy Director WRNS, and while acting as the Royal Naval Charities Coordinator she became a member of the Grants Committee of the WRNS Benevolent Trust.

This was to be the beginning of a long relationship with the Trust. Nancy retired from the WRNS in 1979 and became Chairman of the Trust in 1986; charming, persuasive, quick-witted and using a light touch, it is said that her invariably efficient meetings were always a pleasure to attend. During her tenure as Chairman, she oversaw the initial introduction of "modern technology" for the Trust's staff, absorbed the implications of "Wrens at Sea" and its impact on the Trust and Royal Charter, and then commenced discussions to move the Trust's office from London to Portsmouth. Nancy passed on the Chairman's reins to Mary Brown in 1991 and became a Vice President in 1992. The Trust would remember Nancy with gratitude for her enduring interest and support, as well as her generosity to the Trust.

Commander Rimmer presented the 78th Annual Report of the WRNS BT on behalf of the Central Committee. She went on to highlight the most significant points and a simple reminder that the Trust takes risk management very seriously, with all risks reviewed annually, alongside continuous efforts to mitigate them as far as possible.

During 2019, the Grants Committee had made awards to 184 beneficiaries, including 11 residing overseas. While this reflected a drop from 209 in 2018, the total value of regular and one-off grants had come close to budget at £284,080. The decrease in applications was not considered significant and was in line with the most recent Actuarial Report.

The overall value of Regular Charitable Payments issued in 2019 had increased against 2018, with this largely due to higher expenditure involving residential and domiciliary care. The individual value of these grants compared favourably with those provided by similar charities and were annually reviewed. The next highest area of expenditure was £29,619 spent on Medical (Disability) Aids. There was an excellent example of this on page 11, of how funding of an electric scooter for one of the Trust's younger beneficiaries had made a huge difference to her life, giving her back some much needed independence.

Commander Rimmer drew attention to further examples of support, including a touching note from the young daughter of a former Wren who had died very suddenly and in tragic circumstances.

While six maximum grants of £4k were provisionally awarded during 2019, five were subsequently reduced when the Trust successfully almonised with other charities, very effectively sharing the cost.

Commander Rimmer drew attention to expenditure in relation to Education grants, where this had reduced significantly against the previous year. The Trust's Royal Charter allows for financial assistance to those wishing to retrain in order to be better able to support themselves and their families, and unlike Welfare grants, the level of household income is not taken into account.

The number of applicants approaching the Trust for the first time had increased to 55, a small increase against 49 in 2018. Returning applicants numbered 50, a noticeable decrease from 67 in 2018.



Following the above summary of work undertaken by the Trust in 2019, Commander Rimmer said that she could not forego mention of the unprecedented times that everyone was going through due to the global pandemic. While there had been no upsurge in applications for support over the last six months, which had been the common experience across charities, with furlough schemes soon to finish and more job losses expected that situation may not endure. She wished therefore to provide reassurance that the Trust remained financially well placed to respond as quickly as possible to any increase in applications, and would continue to work with other charities to ensure the best outcome for the individual.

Financial Review

The Honorary Treasurer, Commander Walmsley, started by saying that the 2019 financial year had seen good results for the Trust. Whereas net losses were reported in 2018, in 2019 the accounts reflected net income of £592k, comprising gains of £471k in the value of investments and an operating surplus of £121k against a planned budget deficit for the year of £236k - primarily due to the value of a number of legacies. This had contributed to an increase of £109k in the Trust's cash position.

Income from legacies totalled £344.5k, an increase of £211k compared with the previous year. There were five receipts which individually exceeded £10k - the largest being an extraordinary £162.5k. Commander Walmsley said that the Trust continued to be extremely grateful to all those who remembered its good work in their wills, and their thoughtful contributions really did continue to make an enormous difference.

Investment income remained the most reliable and constant source of annual income. In 2019, investment income bounced back slightly from the previous year, to £142k, mainly due to the increase in cash holdings and slightly higher interest rates.

Income from donations, fundraising and rebates remained consistent with the levels received in 2018. Fundraising included receipts from the Victory Walk; the Dauntless Association Friday Night Fundraiser; the HMS Collingwood Cake Sale; and the joint Fundraising Dinner with the AOW. There had also been an increasing and very welcome number of Facebook Birthday fundraisers. Commander Walmsley gave great thanks to Jane Allen, the Trust's Ambassadors and many supporters, for all that they had done for the Trust.

Grants made to beneficiaries had increased by 3.1% against 2018, totalling £284k.

Investment Management Fees had increased slightly to £24k, reflecting the rise in the value of the portfolio.

Fundraising and publicity costs were higher in 2019, primarily due to a reallocation of costs apportioned within the General Secretary's employment. Conversely, support costs had decreased for the same reason, and due to the reduction in the paid working hours of the Trust's two members of staff, together with other measures put in place to reduce overheads.

Turning to the balance sheet, Commander Walmsley highlighted that the value of the Trust's investment portfolio had risen significantly due to the recovering market performance, thanks to the previously mentioned unrealised gains of £471k. Other debtors included prepaid insurances and accrued income from investments, bank accounts and four legacies. Taking into account all assets and liabilities, the Trust closed 2019 with unrestricted funds of £4.4m, representing an overall increase of £592k compared with 2018.

Elections

The Chairman asked those eligible to vote (i.e. former Wrens), to approve the list of those nominated for office in 2020/2021. Ms Bolam had agreed to replace Commander Walmsley as Treasurer. Mrs Gott had agreed to replace Commander Robbins as Chairman of the Grants Committee and Commander Hooton was nominated as a Trustee. Commander Robbins had agreed to be nominated as a Vice President. With her extensive time as a Trustee, she would be a very valuable re-addition to the team. All nominations were unanimously accepted.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOMEN'S ROYAL NAVAL SERVICE BENEVOLENT TRUST

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Women's Royal Naval Service Benevolent Trust (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2020 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2020 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements ; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees Responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

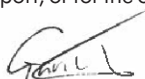
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Independent Auditors that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under Section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Gibson Whitter Limited
Statutory Auditors



Eligible to act as an auditor in terms of Section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006
Larch House, Parklands Business Park, Denmead
Hampshire PO7 6XP

Date: 9 March 2021

WOMEN'S ROYAL NAVAL SERVICE BENEVOLENT TRUST

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

		31.12.20 Unrestricted funds £	31.12.19 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM	Notes		
Donations and legacies	2	196,802	369,592
Other trading activities	3	8,138	22,407
Investment income	4	<u>116,250</u>	<u>142,150</u>
Total		321,190	534,149
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	5	47,931	58,743
Charitable activities	6		
Grantmaking		<u>281,989</u>	<u>354,343</u>
Total		329,920	413,086
Net gains/(losses) on investments		<u>67,479</u>	<u>470,910</u>
NET INCOME		58,749	591,973
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward		<u>4,398,201</u>	<u>3,806,228</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>4,456,950</u></u>	<u><u>4,398,201</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

WOMEN'S ROYAL NAVAL SERVICE BENEVOLENT TRUST

**BALANCE SHEET
AT 31 DECEMBER 2020**

		31.12.20 Unrestricted funds £	31.12.19 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	13	2,414	2,849
Investments	14	<u>3,902,508</u>	<u>3,852,066</u>
		3,904,922	3,854,915
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	15	40,306	97,043
Cash at bank		<u>526,511</u>	<u>458,594</u>
		566,817	555,637
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	16	(14,789)	(12,351)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>552,028</u>	<u>543,286</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>4,456,950</u>	<u>4,398,201</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>4,456,950</u>	<u>4,398,201</u>
FUNDS			
Unrestricted funds	17	<u>4,456,950</u>	<u>4,398,201</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>4,456,950</u>	<u>4,398,201</u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees on 9 March 2021 and were signed on its behalf by:



Ms Maggie Bolam -Trustee



Commander H E Rimmer, MBE, Royal Navy -Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

WOMEN'S ROYAL NAVAL SERVICE BENEVOLENT TRUST

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	Notes	31.12.20 £	31.12.19 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Cash generated from operations	1	<u>(65,370)</u>	<u>(90,705)</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities		<u>(65,370)</u>	<u>(90,705)</u>
 Cash flows from investing activities:			
Purchase of fixed asset investments		(718,335)	(455,674)
Sale of fixed asset investments		735,372	513,094
Interest received		2,230	2,847
Dividends received		<u>114,020</u>	<u>139,303</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		<u>133,287</u>	<u>199,570</u>
 Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		<u>67,917</u>	<u>108,865</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		<u>458,594</u>	<u>349,729</u>
 Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u><u>526,511</u></u>	<u><u>458,594</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

WOMEN'S ROYAL NAVAL SERVICE BENEVOLENT TRUST

**NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	31.12.20 £	31.12.19 £
Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	58,749	591,973
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	435	435
Interest received	(2,230)	(2,847)
Dividends received	(114,020)	(139,303)
Unrealised (gains)/losses on investments	(67,479)	(470,910)
Decrease in stocks	-	672
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	56,737	(69,339)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	<u>2,438</u>	<u>(1,386)</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>(65,370)</u>	<u>(90,705)</u>

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.1.20 £	Cash flow £	At 31.12.20 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank	458,594	67,917	526,511
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	<u>458,594</u>	<u>67,917</u>	<u>526,511</u>

WOMEN'S ROYAL NAVAL SERVICE BENEVOLENT TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with the exception of investments, which are included at market value, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets.

Income

Income generally is recognised when the Trust has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Donations and legacies

All income from donations is accounted for on an accruals basis. In respect of legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either the Trust is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and the notification has been made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the Trust has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Tax credits on income from legacies and on gift aid donations have also been recorded on an accruals basis.

Grants receivable

Income from grants, whether 'capital' or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the Trust has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grant have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Fundraising

This represents gross income from events and from sales of merchandise in the year.

Investment income

Investment income has been accounted for on an accruals basis which includes dividends on stocks and shares where we 'ex-dividend' at the balance sheet date.

WOMEN'S ROYAL NAVAL SERVICE BENEVOLENT TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Expenditure

Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. The Trust is not registered for VAT and accordingly all expenditure is shown gross of irrecoverable VAT where applicable.

Investment management costs

These are the gross costs charged by investment fund managers with allocated support costs.

Charitable activities - grants to individuals

Grant and annuity payments are included when authorised by the Grants Committee and payable. These costs include the costs incurred in managing the grants and annuities system.

Costs of raising voluntary income

This heading comprises direct costs of participating in events, all publicity costs and support costs allocated on the basis of staff activity.

Allocation of support and governance costs

Support costs have been allocated between raising funds and charitable activities. Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. These costs include costs related to statutory audit and legal fees together with an apportionment of overhead and support costs.

Governance and support costs relating to charitable activities have been allocated directly based on the nature of the costs. Support staff costs have been apportioned between raising funds, charitable activities and governance costs based on the staff time spent on each of these areas.

Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Fixtures and fittings	- 20% on cost
Computer equipment	- 20% on cost

Individual assets costing £500 or more are capitalised.

Badges of Office are not depreciated as it is considered they will not depreciate in value.

Investments

The investment portfolio has been valued at market value at the balance sheet date. The SOFA includes the net gains and losses on investments arising on revaluation at the year end and on disposals throughout the year. Realised gains and losses on sales of investments are calculated as the difference between the sale proceeds and opening market value. Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement between market value.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

WOMEN'S ROYAL NAVAL SERVICE BENEVOLENT TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charity's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	31.12.20	31.12.19
	£	£
Legacies	180,144	344,511
Grants	-	2,880
In Memoriam donations	5,158	6,908
The Association of Wrens and Women of the Royal Naval Services	797	1,645
Other donations	9,871	12,982
Royal Naval Association donations	<u>832</u>	<u>666</u>
	<u>196,802</u>	<u>369,592</u>

Legacies in excess of £10,000 were received during the year from the following estates:

Miss Jean Beryl Gutteridge	£123,900
Mrs Janet Rowena James nee Ellis	£14,422
Miss Daphne Joan Hickman	£15,000

The Trust has been notified of further legacies in the region of £66,000 (2019: £163,000) for which the conditions of recognition in the current year have not been met.

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	31.12.20	31.12.19
	£	£
Corporation of Trinity House	<u>-</u>	<u>2,880</u>

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	31.12.20	31.12.19
	£	£
General fundraising	<u>8,138</u>	<u>22,407</u>

WOMEN'S ROYAL NAVAL SERVICE BENEVOLENT TRUST

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	31.12.20	31.12.19
	£	£
Investment portfolio	114,020	139,303
Bank interest	<u>2,230</u>	<u>2,847</u>
	<u>116,250</u>	<u>142,150</u>

5. RAISING FUNDS

Raising donations and legacies

	31.12.20	31.12.19
	£	£
General fundraising	5,365	7,224
Support costs	<u>17,131</u>	<u>23,931</u>
	<u>22,496</u>	<u>31,155</u>

Investment management costs

	31.12.20	31.12.19
	£	£
Portfolio management	22,985	24,169
Support costs	<u>2,450</u>	<u>3,419</u>
	<u>25,435</u>	<u>27,588</u>

Aggregate amounts	<u>47,931</u>	<u>58,743</u>
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6. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct costs	Grant funding of activities	Support costs	Totals
	(See note 7)	(See note 8)	(See note 9)	
	£	£	£	£
Grantmaking	<u>29,677</u>	<u>220,118</u>	<u>32,194</u>	<u>281,989</u>

7. DIRECT COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	31.12.20	31.12.19
	£	£
Staff costs	29,676	29,235
Trophy rental	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>29,677</u>	<u>29,236</u>

WOMEN'S ROYAL NAVAL SERVICE BENEVOLENT TRUST

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

8. GRANTS PAYABLE

	31.12.20	31.12.19
	£	£
Grantmaking	<u>220,118</u>	<u>284,080</u>

All grants were payable to individuals during the year.

9. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management	Governance costs	Totals
	£	£	£
Raising donations and legacies	14,376	2,755	17,131
Investment management costs	2,056	394	2,450
Grantmaking	<u>27,471</u>	<u>4,723</u>	<u>32,194</u>
	<u>43,903</u>	<u>7,872</u>	<u>51,775</u>

Activity	Basis of allocation
Management	Time
Governance costs	Time

Support costs, included in the above, are as follows:

Management

	31.12.20	31.12.19
	Total activities	Total activities
	£	£
Raising donations and legacies		
£		
Wages	10,738	18,407
Social security	337	578
Pensions	537	920
Rent	955	1,638
Insurance	147	253
Telephone	27	46
Printing, postage and stationery	1,069	1,833
Sundries	86	147
Computer maintenance	-	2,824
Office equipment	159	273
Training	17	30
Travel and subsistence	152	261
Depreciation	<u>152</u>	<u>261</u>
	<u>14,376</u>	<u>27,471</u>
Investment management costs		
£		
Wages	1,534	1,534
Social security	48	963
Pensions	77	1,534
Rent	137	2,730
Insurance	21	421
Telephone	4	77
Printing, postage and stationery	153	3,055
Sundries	12	245
Computer maintenance	-	2,824
Office equipment	23	455
Training	3	50
Travel and subsistence	22	435
Depreciation	<u>22</u>	<u>435</u>
	<u>2,056</u>	<u>435</u>
Grantmaking		
£		
Wages	18,407	31,114
Social security	578	1,380
Pensions	920	1,556
Rent	1,638	3,310
Insurance	253	401
Telephone	46	594
Printing, postage and stationery	1,833	2,586
Sundries	147	155
Computer maintenance	2,824	2,643
Office equipment	273	676
Training	30	367
Travel and subsistence	261	1,706
Depreciation	<u>261</u>	<u>435</u>
	<u>27,471</u>	<u>46,923</u>

WOMEN'S ROYAL NAVAL SERVICE BENEVOLENT TRUST

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

9. SUPPORT COSTS - continued

Governance costs

	Raising donations and legacies £	Investment management costs £	Grantmaking £	31.12.20 Total activities £	31.12.19 Total activities £
Auditors' remuneration	1,407	201	2,412	4,020	3,540
Auditors' remuneration for non audit work	420	60	720	1,200	1,200
AGM expenses	242	35	416	693	8,745
Trustees meeting expenses	96	14	164	274	789
Legal and professional fees	<u>590</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>1,011</u>	<u>1,685</u>	<u>7,180</u>
	<u>2,755</u>	<u>394</u>	<u>4,723</u>	<u>7,872</u>	<u>21,454</u>

10. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2020 nor for the year ended 31 December 2019.

Trustees' expenses

During the year four (31.12.19: nine) trustees were reimbursed expenses by the Trust for travel, subsistence and training totalling £388 (31.12.19: £1,073).

11. STAFF COSTS

	31.12.20 £	31.12.19 £
Wages and salaries	59,518	58,960
Social security costs	1,800	2,769
Other pension costs	<u>1,534</u>	<u>1,556</u>
	<u>62,852</u>	<u>63,285</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	31.12.20	31.12.19
Charitable	1	1
Support	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

WOMEN'S ROYAL NAVAL SERVICE BENEVOLENT TRUST

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

12. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM	
Donations and legacies	369,592
Other trading activities	22,407
Investment income	<u>142,150</u>
Total	534,149
EXPENDITURE ON	
Raising funds	58,743
Charitable activities	
Grantmaking	<u>354,343</u>
Total	413,086
Net gains/(losses) on investments	<u>470,910</u>
NET INCOME	591,973
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS	
Total funds brought forward	3,806,228
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u><u>4,398,201</u></u>

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Badges of Office £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST				
At 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2020	<u>2,025</u>	<u>4,366</u>	<u>2,045</u>	<u>8,436</u>
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 January 2020	-	3,782	1,805	5,587
Charge for year	<u>-</u>	<u>195</u>	<u>240</u>	<u>435</u>
At 31 December 2020	<u>-</u>	<u>3,977</u>	<u>2,045</u>	<u>6,022</u>
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 December 2020	<u><u>2,025</u></u>	<u><u>389</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>2,414</u></u>
At 31 December 2019	<u><u>2,025</u></u>	<u><u>584</u></u>	<u><u>240</u></u>	<u><u>2,849</u></u>

WOMEN'S ROYAL NAVAL SERVICE BENEVOLENT TRUST

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

14. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Listed investments £
MARKET VALUE	
At 1 January 2020	3,852,066
Additions	718,335
Disposals	(735,372)
Revaluations	<u>67,479</u>
At 31 December 2020	<u>3,902,508</u>
 NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 December 2020	<u>3,902,508</u>
At 31 December 2019	<u>3,852,066</u>

Investments are held in a portfolio managed by Brewin Dolphin. The market value of investments by geographical area is as follows:

	31.12.20 £	31.12.19 £
Held within UK	1,977,546	2,449,783
Held outside UK	<u>1,924,962</u>	<u>1,402,283</u>
	<u>3,902,508</u>	<u>3,852,066</u>

All investments are listed on recognised stock exchanges.

Material Investments

	Holding	Market Value
Baillie Gifford American W1 Income	12,468.75	£221,570
JPM US Equity Income Fund K - Net income	179,725.719	£214,053
Schroder US Equity Income Maximiser Fund L Income GBP	360,500	£210,460
Vanguard US Equity Index Fund Institutional Plus GBP Inc	880	£200,539

15. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.12.20 £	31.12.19 £
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>40,306</u>	<u>97,043</u>

Included in the above is £nil (2019: £68,554) for accrued legacies.

WOMEN'S ROYAL NAVAL SERVICE BENEVOLENT TRUST

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

16. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.12.20 £	31.12.19 £
Trade creditors	265	-
Accruals	<u>14,524</u>	<u>12,351</u>
	<u><u>14,789</u></u>	<u><u>12,351</u></u>

17. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.20 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.20 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	4,398,201	58,749	4,456,950
	<u>4,398,201</u>	<u>58,749</u>	<u>4,456,950</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>4,398,201</u></u>	<u><u>58,749</u></u>	<u><u>4,456,950</u></u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	321,190	(329,920)	67,479	58,749
	<u>321,190</u>	<u>(329,920)</u>	<u>67,479</u>	<u>58,749</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>321,190</u></u>	<u><u>(329,920)</u></u>	<u><u>67,479</u></u>	<u><u>58,749</u></u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.1.19 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.19 £
Unrestricted Funds			
General fund	3,806,228	591,973	4,398,201
	<u>3,806,228</u>	<u>591,973</u>	<u>4,398,201</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>3,806,228</u></u>	<u><u>591,973</u></u>	<u><u>4,398,201</u></u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	534,149	(413,086)	470,910	591,973
	<u>534,149</u>	<u>(413,086)</u>	<u>470,910</u>	<u>591,973</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>534,149</u></u>	<u><u>(413,086)</u></u>	<u><u>470,910</u></u>	<u><u>591,973</u></u>

WOMEN'S ROYAL NAVAL SERVICE BENEVOLENT TRUST

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

17. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.1.19 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.20 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	<u>3,806,228</u>	<u>650,722</u>	<u>4,456,950</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>3,806,228</u></u>	<u><u>650,722</u></u>	<u><u>4,456,950</u></u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	<u>855,339</u>	<u>(743,006)</u>	<u>538,389</u>	<u>650,722</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>855,339</u></u>	<u><u>(743,006)</u></u>	<u><u>538,389</u></u>	<u><u>650,722</u></u>

18. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 December 2020.

What our beneficiaries say ...

"The positives during the Covid-19 lockdown have been my wonderful son and my "new" garden - along with Sainsbury's deliveries, these have been my saviours! Once again, I write my thanks to you for arranging such lovely grants, without which I wouldn't have been able to fence the garden"... ((for privacy/security) ... "or provide some little additional things in general."...(my SSAFA Caseworker)... "very kindly acquired a new tablet for me which is streets - nay blocks - ahead of my old iPad. It used to take so long to do the smallest of jobs online. Thank you again for all your kindness."

A 76yr old former Wren and RN officer's divorcee (after 30 years of marriage), living in a housing association sheltered bungalow on State's Minimum Income, now in easy reach of her son, who suffers from Asperger's and is in supported living accommodation. This lady first came to us towards the end of 2018; previously very active, she had shattered her hip and recovery took some time, during which period she was supported by her son, who at the time lived some miles away. We were able to help her with a sum to help pay towards his petrol costs (local authority support having been delayed), so that he could travel daily; logistically, she could not put him up. We also awarded her a short-term Weekly Maintenance Grant while we sought to identify her ex-husband, and with her confidence being regained but her body slowed, we were able to meet the cost of removals to enable her to move closer to her son, within the same county. Ultimately, RNOC awarded this lady their annual grant, allowing her to carpet her new sheltered accommodation, and we were able to reduce our own support to an annual General Amenity Grant, a much more modest sum. She and her son are very close, and with his assistance she is now able to look after her garden, a hobby that she dearly loves. SSAFA recently provided her with a new tablet, which allows this intelligent, savvy woman to manage her life so much more easily. She always conveys enormous gratitude and appreciation for our help.

"May I, on behalf of my client, thank you both for your swift and generous response to her request for financial assistance, so enabling necessary modifications to be made to her house. Your support will make a significant difference to her ability to cope with her life changing, and life threatening, hereditary illness, as will the assurance that she has the support of the Service family. She is truly grateful for your kindness."

A SSAFA Caseworker responding to both WRNS BT and RNBT on behalf of a 60yr old single former Wren & RN rating, suffering from a chronic hereditary health condition. While her Local Authority had awarded a public Disabled Facilities Grant to provide a Level Access Shower, she was required to provide a personal contribution, which she could clearly not afford without resort to a loan. WRNS BT immediately provided the £641.00 required, while RNBT followed with a grant of £351.50 to meet the cost of a helpline installation and initial annual rental.



"I would like to go on to convey my absolute sincere thanks for the funding you have provided towards my trike.

You have no idea that after so many years of not being able to accompany my daughter on bike rides or even a walk, I can now not only cycle with her, but I can keep up and cycle by her side.

I don't need to get off to stop the trike and I don't need to balance myself as with a bicycle, as it is also very stable and safe. The seat has been designed to support my lower back and it has a suspension system, which helps on bouncy roads and tracks. It is also a step-through trike, so I just step into it and onto my seat. It has a basket for picnics and accessories like spanners, puncture kit, pump - and the charger - just in case!

Look at the smiles!! Just being able to do something again by myself; it sounds silly but it is so freeing. The great thing is the trike itself brings lots of smiles and admiration from locals in my village, so it not only cheers me up it has also cheered others, and a few have even invested in an electric trike themselves.

I also went on a cycle ride around the loch with my neighbour whose husband incurred a similar back injury to mine whilst in service. We have become great friends, as well as neighbours, over lock down.

As you know, some years ago towards the end of my service I had a bad back accident that took away all my sport. My injuries have caused me serious mobility problems; these issues unfortunately are degenerative, and my condition is getting worse. I am limited in what I can do, although recently through my new trike and love of cycling I set up the WRNS Women's Royal Navy Veteran's cycle club. You can find out more on Facebook by searching for WRNS Women's Royal Navy Veterans Cycle Club.

My cycling has also got me into a version of another sport I never ever thought I'd play again - disabled golf through the services' On Course Foundation; thus my trike opens up so many new opportunities, helping me to keep my mental wellbeing in a good place during lockdown and beyond."



