

Almoner Report

May 2024

1. Current sub-almoner list updated. We are still short in many areas, including the South East and South. Peter Biddulph does a sterling job but as he is in his 80's, wishes to retire from sub almoner duties and needs to be replaced. We also lost Biff Way a few years ago, so this area is serious.
2. As Almoner, in this quarter I dealt with a number of deaths (Ayers-Hunt, Hollis, Bailey, Murray, Brock, Chris Roberts, Peter Jefferson Smith (members) and a small number of non-members such as John Plumridge, bugler)
3. Counselling was made available to several of our aged members, as well as recent widows, mainly in the area of state benefits, credit debt issues, and dealing with the BSAP Trust for grants – including a motorised wheelchair and wheelchairs – and delivery of the same.
4. Represented the BSAP at the funeral of John Plumridge (army bugler) who played for us at the arboretum.
5. An issue has arisen where I am receiving requests for assistance for non-association BSAP members who live in the UK and who have health or immigration issues, or lost relatives who need tracing etc. These requests usually come from overseas squad mates who want someone to get in touch with the individual – and are difficult to refuse. Where possible I get them to join the Association. However, possibly this is something for the committee to discuss, as on the one hand one does not wish to turn away needy former members, whilst on the other hand, they have not paid subs etc.
6. We are busy with a recruiting drive for sub almoners as we are under-represented in many areas. A start has been made with attending regional meetings and a number of new sub-almoners signing up – in conjunction with inviting subscriptions for the Trust 1890 Club.
7. The Committee has formally proposed for an assistant Almoner to assist in the areas of making contact with widows and the elderly on a regular basis and tracking those on the 'watch' list, which is appreciated.

Tony Granger

Almoner