The Trust made donations and grants during the year totalling £1600. This included a donation of £1000 to the Royal British Legion at Maidstone. The Legion has been most useful to the Branch in providing assistance and accommodation for Branch members and a donation was thought appropriate. A report of the presentation of the cheque was published in a recent Outpost.

The grants of £600 were made in respect of 2 requests for assistance.

The Trustees have met during the year and keep in regular contact via email and telephone.

The exercise to update the Gift Aid eligibility of donors to the Trust was finally completed. New gift aid forms were sent to the 64 regular donors with some 39 forms being returned. The reclaiming from HMRC of tax on donations can now be continued. Any member wishing to donate to the Trust will be asked to complete a Gift Aid form if they are eligible. The Trustee Co-ordinator, Tony Granger, will be happy to advise any member wishing to make a bequest in their will to the Trust.

The joint project with the Association to compile an electronic database of members has also been successfully completed and has enabled the Trust administration, particularly the interface with the HMRC website, to be very considerably streamlined saving those who do the work much time and effort.

The Trust bank accounts have also been upgraded to allow online banking which again assists in making the Trust more efficient allowing for grants to be disbursed much more efficiently.

The Trust finances remain sound. The Trustees have commenced a further review of the Trust investments, in accordance with the agreed Trust investment strategy, to ensure the investments are achieving as good as return as possible.

I must thank my fellow Trustees for the time and effort they have devoted over the year to the Trust, with particular mention to Jim Harris whose efforts on behalf of one particular applicant were strenuous and protracted before finally achieving a successful outcome and also to his office staff for their assistance with the mailings for the Gift Aid exercise.

My thanks also to Tony Granger for his efficient handling of the Trust administration, Cindy Kennedy the Treasurer particularly for the time and trouble she took with the preparation and compilation of the database and of course to our Patron for his continued support.

____________________ Alan Toms, Chairman of the Trustees.