

2024 IMPACT

WRNS BT exists to provide worldwide advice and financial relief in cases of necessity or distress among its WRNS members and their dependants. We can also make grants for the training and education of members.



It is both a privilege and a pleasure to introduce 2024's WRNS Benevolent Trust Impact Report. As Chair, I continue to be inspired by the remarkable resilience, generosity, and spirit of our WRNS community — a legacy that endures through every grant awarded, every life supported, and every connection strengthened.

This report highlights the very real difference your support makes. Behind every figure is a story — of a former Wren whose independence has been safeguarded, of comfort provided in times of hardship, and of companionship restored through our ongoing efforts to reduce loneliness and isolation. These are the quiet yet powerful impacts that define the work of the Trust.



As we look to the future, our mission remains the same: to honour the proud heritage of the Women's Royal Naval Service by ensuring that all those who once served continue to feel valued, supported, and remembered. None of this would be possible without the dedication of our Trustees, Volunteers and Partners, nor the continued generosity of those who share our commitment to care.

To every supporter, thank you from all of us; together, we carry forward a tradition of service that remains as vital today as it has ever been.

*Commander Heather Rimmer MBE RN
Chair, WRNS Benevolent Trust*

Overview

2024 marked the successful transfer of the administrative services of WRNS Benevolent Trust (WRNS BT) into the Royal Navy & Royal Marines Charity (RNRMC). The WRNS BT exists solely to support former members of the Women's Royal Naval Service, both officers and ratings, who served before 1 November 1993, offering welfare relief and assistance with education or training linked to current or future employment. The transition in January 2024 brought a significant increase in workload for RNRMC, particularly around staff training to assess bids, implementing documentation within the Grants Management System, and learning to use an additional database, Mosaic. Despite the steep learning curve, the process was managed carefully to ensure that WRNS BT beneficiaries experienced no disruption in the support available to them.

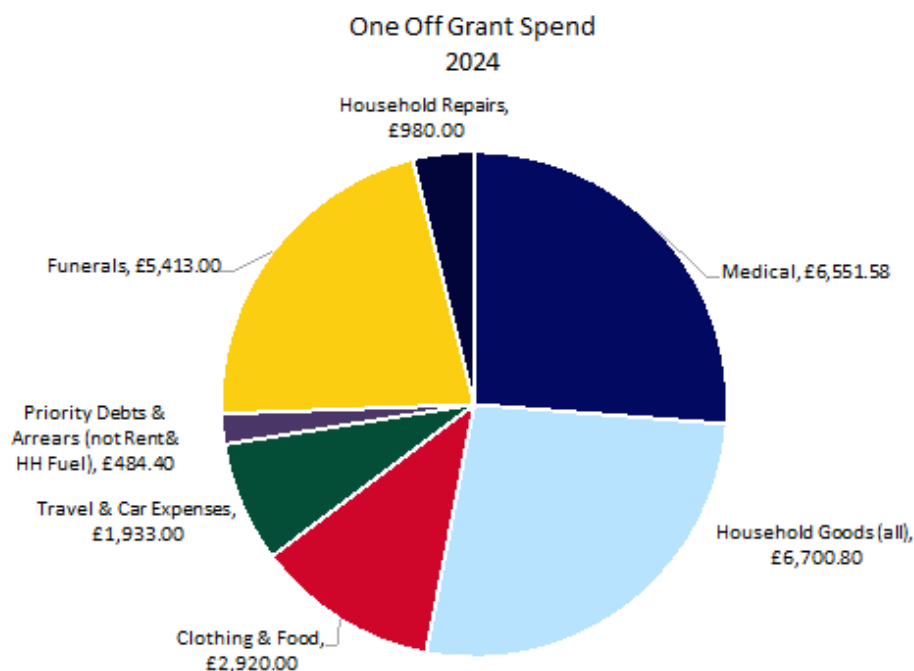
The end of 2024 saw strong progress, with effective processes established, staff fully trained, and strong collaboration between RNRMC and the WRNS BT Trustees and Grants Committee. Over the past nine months, the Committee has held six meetings—one more than usual—reflecting the complexity of the cases and the high level of support requested. This achievement represents a significant team effort and a positive step forward in continuing the proud legacy of the WRNS BT within RNRMC.

One-Off Grants

From 1st January 2024 there were 41 applications processed by RNRMC, out of the 41 applications staffed 27 were approved totalling £24,982.78; and 14 were Declined.

Of those approved:

- the highest areas of spend continue to be in Household Goods, Medical and Funeral Costs.
- 16 were new applicants, with the remaining 11 having been supported previously by WRNS BT.
- the average age for those receiving a one off grant is 71.

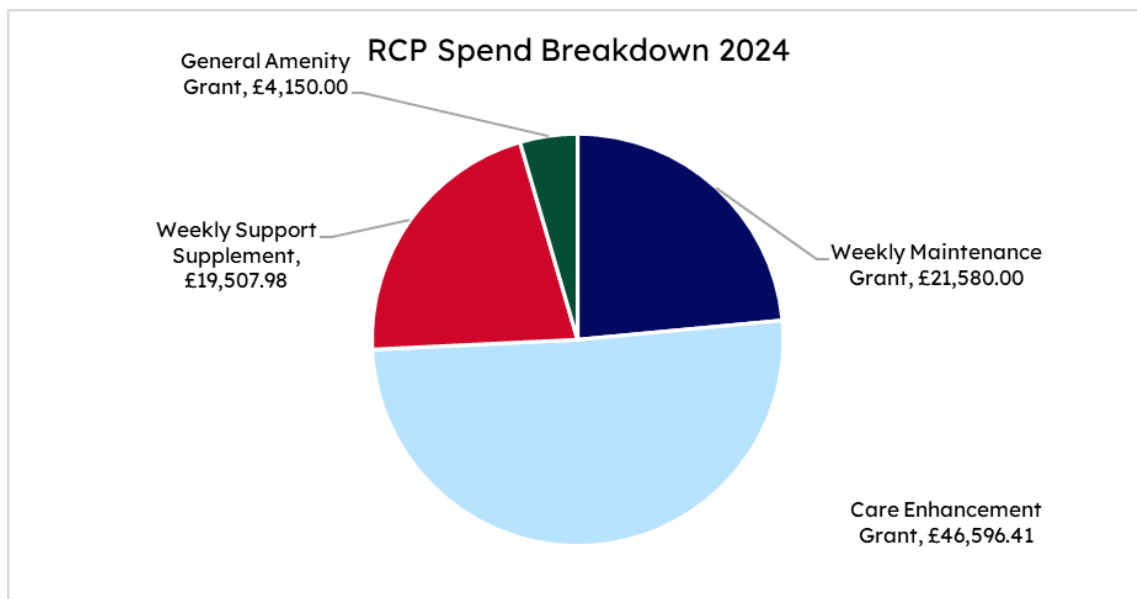


Regular Charitable Payments (RCPs) Spend Breakdown

RCPs are made to recipients who are in financial need and reviewed annually to ensure the need is still prevalent.

Types of RCPs are

- Weekly Maintenance Grant (WMG) – the applicant must be of State Pension Age, living on a low income and demonstrate acceptable financial need for such assistance.
- Weekly Support Supplement (WSS) – this regular grant is for those below State Pension Age who are too young to qualify for Pension Credit and are unable to find employment through no fault of their own.
- Care Enhancement Grants (CEG) – Shortfall this is to provide assistance with care home costs in the UK in the form of a third-party shortfall (top-up) fees. Own home UK to provide assistance with the cost of permanent domiciliary care in the client's own home. Overseas awarded to clients residing in care/nursing home overseas.
- Regular General Amenities Grants (GAG) – a flexible annual grant for a beneficiary of any age, which the recipient may normally use for any purpose ('general needs').



Type	Number of Active RCPs
CEG(O)	1
CEG(OH)	1
CEG(SF)	3
GAG	5
WMG	15
WSS	8
Grand Total	33

First Annual Presentation

The first Annual Presentation of the WRNS Benevolent Trust (WRNS BT) was held on 9 May 2024 in the Princess Royal Gallery at the National Museum of the Royal Navy, Portsmouth Dockyard. Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, Patron of the WRNS BT, presided over the occasion and met with a number of ex-Wrens and distinguished guests, including Sir Nick Pope from Cobseo. The event also featured Guest Speaker Captain Millie Ingham, Royal Navy, and welcomed all former members of the Women's Royal Naval Service and those serving members of the Royal Navy who joined before November 1993.

Commander Heather Rimmer MBE RN, Chairman of the WRNS BT, reflected on the day, saying: "It was a special day in a very fitting setting and our first Annual Presentation as a subsidiary of RNRMC. We were delighted HRH The Princess Royal could join us.

Her continuing dedication to our charity, beneficiaries and the wider Naval community is fantastic." The event marked an important milestone for the Trust, celebrating its proud heritage while looking forward to a new chapter within Royal Navy & Royal Marines Charity.



D-Day 80

Trustee Alison Gott (Chair Grants Committee) attended the UK National Commemorative Event in Portsmouth, in the presence of His Majesty The King along with surviving D-Day veterans.

The event was broadcast live on the BBC and told the story leading up to D-Day, together with a series of musical performances, acts and readings.



Visit to Admiral Jellicoe House

In November 2024 the Trustees of the WRNS Benevolent Trust had the pleasure of visiting Admiral Jellicoe House in Portsmouth. During their visit, they met with manager Jade, who shared inspiring insights into the exceptional care and support provided at this state-of-the-art home.

Admiral Jellicoe House offers specialist nursing, dementia, and residential care for retired members of the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, and their families. To learn more about Admiral Jellicoe House and the vital services it provides, visit their website: rnbt.org.uk/admiral-jellicoe-house-care-home/

Lady of the South

In June 2024, Commodore Catherine Jordan attended the unveiling of the Lady of the South statue, a moving tribute to the women who played a vital role in the preparations for D-Day.

Pictured alongside Cdre Jordan are former WRNS members Beryl and Joyce, representing the many women whose dedication and skill were instrumental to the success of the Normandy landings. Reflecting on their contribution, Cdre Jordan said:

"It was to free up men for the

front line, so the range of tasks the Wrens were asked to do was just immense — from marine engineering to weapons, to code breaking.

Many people know about the Bletchley Park Wrens, but there were hundreds based here too, supporting the landing craft that made D-Day possible."

Also in attendance were three fellow WRNS Benevolent Trust Trustees — Veronica Radakin, Sandra Parkinson, and Janette Crisp — joining Cdre Jordan to honour the enduring legacy of the Women's Royal Naval Service and its remarkable role in wartime history.



New Vice-Chair

In March 2024, Catherine Jordan handed over the Vice Chair brooch to Kath Hutton who has taken up the Vice Chair position.

While Catherine Jordan leaves her role as Vice Chair at WRNS BT, she remains as the RNRMC Corporate Member.

We would like to thank Catherine Jordan for her support during her position with WRNS BT and we look forward to continuing to work with her as the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity Corporate member.



Thank you

"Thank you very much for the grant, the family are very appreciative."

"To all at WRNS BT, thank you for once again coming to my aid. It has allowed me to move. I am now happily settled in a sheltered housing bungalow, in sleepy village, on the outskirts of town. I could not have made this positive change without your financial support and kindness. As previously I will continue to "pay it forward" in thoughtful deeds. I am blessed that you have saved me once again. I have a WREN nesting in my garden here, that has to be a sign from the universe, that I am home! Thank you, warmest regards!"

"...would like to express her deepest thanks for the support she has received. She is extremely grateful and wanted to pass her thanks on to you. Very many grateful thanks, especially for the RCP.... an unexpected bonus.

"I am most grateful that the WRNS BT has renewed the RCP; I shall give her the welcome news today."

**GREAT BIG
THANK
YOU!**

FROM THE



A big thank you

There is a fantastic core of WRNS BT supporters who also volunteer for Royal Navy & Royal Marines Charity on a regular basis.

RNRMC wanted to say a big thank you for your dedication, support and enthusiasm, it is a joy to work on these events alongside you.

WRNS BT (charity number 206529)

C/O Royal Navy & Royal Marines Charity

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For general enquiries and donations: Email: theteam@rnrmc.org.uk; Tel: 023 9387 1520

For financial assistance and advice: Email: grantsadmin@wrnsbt.org.uk; Tel: 023 9387 1522