



• The Gunners •

Newsletter - April 2023

Welcome to the The Royal Artillery Charities Newsletter. This is where you can keep right up to date with all the regimental family's news and information.

If you have any news for the Gunner website or the Newsletter from your regiments, branches, districts and regions we would like to receive them. Please ensure that you have permission to share information and images.

The Gunners

• Events •

Please monitor the RAA [website](#) and [facebook page](#) for any further information and event updates and join the RAA [facebook group](#).

Forecast of Events 2023/24

BOOK EARLY
TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT.



The Royal Artillery Assembly

FRIDAY 12TH - SUNDAY 14TH MAY 2023
AT THE NORBRECK CASTLE HOTEL



For what will be one of the largest social gatherings of Gunners, a truly memorable weekend. Enjoy a spectacular programme of entertainment, including dancing to Live Bands, Fantastic Production Shows and International Cabarets. All appearing at the Royal Artillery Grand Gala Dinner Night.

3 Night Package inclusive of Dinner, Bed & Breakfast

(Including RA Grand Gala Dinner - Saturday 13th May) - Just **£152 Per Person**

2 Night Package inclusive of Dinner, Bed & Breakfast

(Including RA Grand Gala Dinner - Saturday 13th May) - Just **£126 Per Person**

Grand Gala Dinner Only - No Accommodation £25 Per Person

FRIDAY

- Check in from 3pm
- 3 Course Carvery Dinner
- Entertainment

SATURDAY

- Full English Breakfast
- Standard Bearers Competition
- Annual Assembly
- Sunset Ceremony
- Civic Reception
- Gala Dinner
- Live Entertainment

SUNDAY

- Full English Breakfast
- Church Service
- Themed Buffet
- Entertainment

To book a Gala Inclusive Package - call **0871 222 0031** and quote **RAANB0523**

Calls cost 13p per minute plus your chosen phone company access charge.

A refundable deposit of **£35** per person is required when booking Gala Inclusive Packages.
Please remember to advise the reservationist of your branch when booking.

For Gala Dinner Only bookings - please call **01253 352 341**

Accommodation reservations cannot be made on this line (01253 352 341)

FREE PARKING FOR RESIDENTIAL GUESTS, NON RESIDENTS TO PAY AT THE PAY AND DISPLAY.

Norbreck Castle Hotel, Queens Promenade, Blackpool, FY2 9AA. www.britanniahotels.com

Gunner Sunday

16 April 2023

Gunner Sunday this year, will take place on 16th April 2023 at the Royal Hospital Chelsea.

Click on the link for details on how to book [here](#).

RA Service of Remembrance

22 July 2023

The RAA will conduct a Service of Remembrance at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas on Saturday 22nd July 2023 commencing at 1100 hrs.

Please find the full details of the event and how to book [here](#).

National Service 60

The Royal British Legion are marking National Service 60 at the National Memorial Arboretum on 16th May 2023.

It has been sixty years since the last serviceman was demobbed from National Service, remembering all those conscripted into the UK Armed Forces from the end of the Second World War until 1963.

More than 2 million men served during this period, and 395 National Servicemen were killed during active service. Their names are inscribed on the Armed Forces Memorial at the Arboretum.

The event will feature an on-site exhibition, testimonies, music and a Service of Remembrance.

If you or a loved one were a National Service conscript, please register your interest to attend at rbl.org.uk/national-service-60

· RAA Branch News ·

RAA Sec Spring Update

As the dust settles on what was a wonderful Royal Artillery Gold Cup I would very much like to thank all, for your enthusiasm and attendance, what a great day and thank you for all your contributions that resulted in £1,172.14. being raised which given the move towards a cashless event is remarkable. Thank you for your support and to the team from Wycombe and District RAA for their efforts on the collecting front.

I hope you find the branch map below interesting and informative (there is also a copy in GUNNER, on the RAA website); I do want to assure all, that those geographical branches remain important and are essential as the backbone to the Association. However, as we try to develop and evolve as an organisation, these branches will need to run alongside future on-line and national footprint branches. You will see in the table some of the areas we are focusing to broaden the membership and increase the link between the past and present. This direction will be important as we move forward, the opportunities I believe are endless and I look forward to hearing from anyone who has any thoughts and ideas for possible associations in the future.

I will continue my visit program as we start the year, a program which should see me having been in every RAA Region by the time we get to the Assembly (Blackpool) in May. I also want to thank the Regiments that have also welcomed me, as I continue to visit as many of our serving family as I can. Remember every Battery is an association branch in its own right, so do engage with me when planning any activity that promotes our charitable objects namely fostering that Esprit De Corps that burns at the heart of the

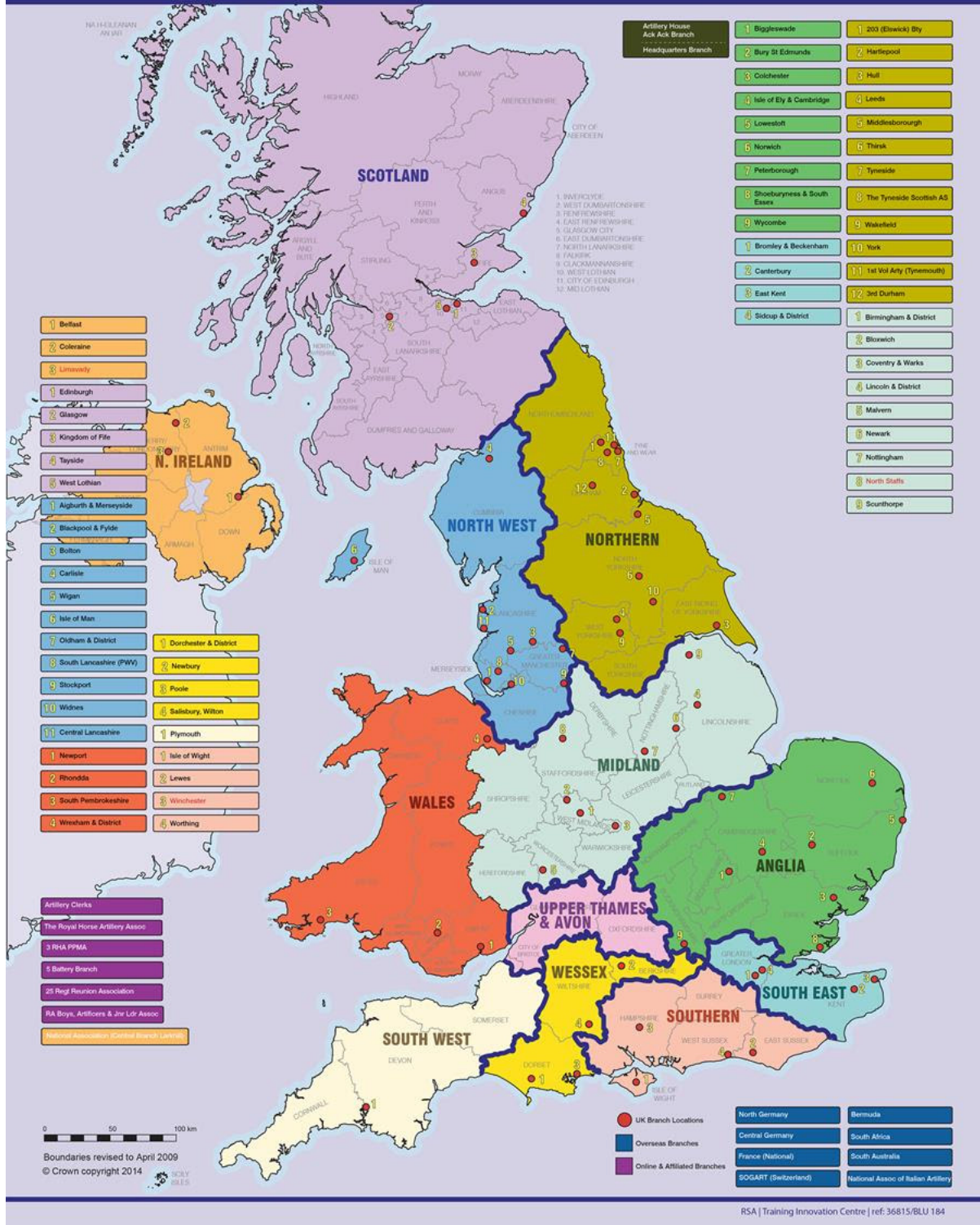
Regiment and the all-important promotion of Comradeship. I look forward to receiving any thoughts and ideas, particularly those that bring the past and present members of the Regiment together that was so perfectly demonstrated at Sandown Racecourse.

| Online & National Branch Ideas | Remarks/Thoughts |
|--|--|
| <i>Regimental Reunion Groups:</i> | |
| 50 Regt RA 25 Regt RA 45 Regt RA 22 Reg RA 5 Regt RA | Just some of the groups we have recently spoken to, the fact is many find their comradeship not from a specific branch but at a Regiment personal to them – bringing such groups under the RAA umbrella simply for light touch support, will be key in adapting the branch model in the future. |
| <i>Battery Reunion Groups:</i> | |
| 53 (Louisburg) Bty 46 (Talavera) Bty | As above but with many Batteries moving around between Regiments over the last 40 years or so, some find their comradeship at the Battery level, the very strong affiliation and growth within those that have already become Associations (5 Bty for example) demonstrates what can be achieved in this space. |
| <i>Interest Groups:</i> | |
| Riders Branch E-Sports Carp Fishing Ornithology Camper Van | One of the most exciting areas has been the interest within the Gunner E-Sports community, which not only reaches a large group of our serving community but also demonstrates that however you find comradeship we will do all we can to support, likewise any hobby or pastime that brings people together we are keen to understand how we can support. The interest and membership of the Riders Branch (Motorbike Club) again demonstrating how we are diversifying the Association Branch model. |
| <i>Sports:</i> | |
| Insert sport here!! | Our intention is to align ourselves to any and all our recognised sports, exactly how we engage, and support is yet to be defined but if you are the lead or actively involved within any Gunner sport; from Road Cycling to Football, Ruby to Badminton - then we look forward to having a conversation on how we can work with you in the future. |
| Interested? or perhaps you have any thoughts and ideas of possible areas for development. | Contact: RAA Sec – Maj (Retd) Richard Davies (Dickie) Richard.davies557@mod.gov.uk RAASecDavies@outlook.com Tel: 01980 845362 Skype: 0300 1555277 |

2023 ROYAL ARTILLERY

Royal Artillery Association

Branch Locations



• RAA Branch News •

Wycombe & District Branch

Thank you to Wycombe and District Branch who organised the collection at the Royal Artillery Gold Cup, Sandown Park Racecourse on behalf of the RACF. Thank you to everyone who contributed, raising an amazing £1,172.14.



Tyneside Scottish Branch

Earlier this month Tyneside Scottish Branch hosted their Burns Night at the Masonic Hall, Jesmond, Newcastle Upon Tyne. Sixty-seven people attended including guests; Councillor Linda Wright and her husband, Colin, and Chairman, Nick Turnbull from the Black Watch Newcastle Branch.

The top table was piped in by the Pipe Major and the haggis was addressed by the Chairman of the Black Watch. Members and guests enjoyed music from the Pipes and Drums of the Tyneside Scottish Pipe Band. A good night was had by all.



Wrexham Branch

The youngest serving Branch Member of Wrexham has started 2023 with great success. Recently Elizabeth Ward was promoted to Bombardier and at the RA Boxing Championships in March, she retained the title belt in her category. Warmest congratulations Elizabeth on your recent achievements.



Lewes Branch

Lewes Branch RAA Members attended The RA Gold Cup at Sandown on Thursday 16 February and all had a Great Day. Members met up with their Affiliate Battery, 43 Battery (Lloyds Company) - the old and the new, keeping their Affiliation as strong as always.



The Branch also held a Race Night on Saturday 25 February at their home, St Marys' Supporters Club in Lewes. Branch Members were joined by their families and friends and Members of St Marys' also joined in the fun. A very enjoyable evening and lots of winners. The Branch raised £175.00 for the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund, which goes a little way to help.



· RAA Annual Return & Summary of Accounts ·

Branches who have not submitted their Branch Annual Return and an up to date nominal roll, please forward to the RAA soonest.

Thank you to all the Branch Treasurer's who submitted their Summary of Accounts for 2022, very much appreciated.

[Download Forms](#)

· The Royal Artillery Charitable Fund ·

RACF Welfare Team Quarterly Report

Closing out 2022 we helped our Gunner family by providing 1,234 grants.

Over £669,000 was pledged to help those in need in 2022.

Looking to 2023:

To date the RACF have helped to provide 177 families help for those essential needs.

Some of the areas we can help with are household goods, funerals, rental deposits, removals, mobility aids, priority debts (rent arrears, council tax arrears, utility arrears), training, care home fees and annual grants.

18% of our total grants pledged thus far have been for household goods – Our Gunner families are needing help to buy those much needed items in the home.

If you have a concern's about finding the money for essential needs, please contact us. We cannot however help with private medical or legal fees.

Please do not hesitate to ask for help if you need it. Call SSAFA on **0800 731 4880**, the Royal British Legion on **0808 802 8080** to get a case up to us or contact us on either **0300 167 3998/0300 158 7035**.

We can be contacted by email: RARHQ-RACF-WELFARE-MAILBOX@mod.gov.uk, [RA Charitable Fund Application](#)

Thank You's

"Thanks to the RACF for contributing to care home fees for the past seven years. Without your help goodness know how we could have managed...Please convey our thanks to the Charitable Fund committee. The family is truly grateful to you all"

"I would like to thank you and the RA and those involved for helping me after sleeping on a camp bed for many years my new bed and bedding is a total joy to sleep in many thanks"

"Just wanted to say a big, big thank you for my October grant...I am so grateful. It lessens my anxiety and worry so much...We would never have been able to do this without your help and kindness....."

How We Help

· The Gunner Lottery ·

Gunner Lottery is for the benefit of the Gunner charities and replaced the RAA Annual Draw. The hope is that the Lottery can raise much needed funds and raise awareness of the good work done by the Royal Artillery charities. Thank you to everyone who supports the Lottery and congratulations to the winners each week. Good luck in future Draws.

3 Digits: You'll win 5 Entries into the next Draw

4 Digits: £25 Cash Prize

5 Digits: £1,000 Cash Prize

6 Digits: £25,000 Cash Prize

You can take part as an individual or syndicate; Battery, Regiment or RAA Branch. You could be in with a chance of winning the top prize of £25,000 each week.

The Draw takes place every Friday.

JOIN TODAY [Gunner Lottery](#)

Gunner Lottery

JOIN TODAY

to be in with a chance of winning

For every £1 entry, at least
50p goes directly to The
Royal Artillery Charities



Fantastic cash prizes up to

£25,000

could be yours!

Supporting those who serve. Supporting those who have served.

www.thegunners.org.uk

· Regimental News ·

Thank you very much for your continued support and fundraising for the
Gunner Charities.

Fundraising for your Charity

The Charities use Enthuse as their fundraising platform. If you are fundraising for the RACF/RAA or supporting the Charity with individual donations, please click [here](#) to donate or to set up a fundraising page.

The Cornwall Cup

The Cup is awarded to the Regiment or establishment that raises the most funds for the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund (RACF).

The RACF is extremely grateful for the efforts of those who have been able to raise funds for the charity, in addition to the significant sum donated by individuals through the service giving scheme each year. Donations such as this enable us to continue to support individual serving and retired members of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, and their families, who are in need, as well as supporting the serving Regiment with grants to support welfare and comradeship.

Many congratulations to 32 Regiment for raising the largest sum. We would encourage all regiments to consider the RACF when organising sponsored events during the current



| Regt | Total Raised | Placing |
|---------|--------------|---------|
| 32 Regt | £4,695.04 | 1 |
| 16 Regt | £4,258.30 | 2 |
| 47 Regt | £1,360.68 | 3 |

· Awards/Grants ·

Royal Artillery Association Battery Grants

One of the charitable objects of the Association is to promote comradeship, fostering esprit de corps and preserving traditions. Each year the Association makes funds available to Batteries in the form of annual grants to help fund Battery events, improve conditions for members of the Battery and their dependants.

Find out more information from emm.pagan-skelley100@mod.gov.uk or through your chain of command.

World Rowing Indoor Championships, Toronto

22 members of the British Army Rowing Team travelled to Toronto over the weekend of 25-26 February to compete in the World Rowing Indoor Championships. The team competed in various categories at 500m and 2km, as well as entering two teams in the Men's Relay, Women's Relay and the Mixed relay, all over 2km.

Maj Matt Rea from 5 Regt RA produced two seasonal bests in the individual 500m and 2km races, finishing 11th and 17th respectively in the fiercely competitive Men's Heavyweight category. He was also part of the British Army A team in the 2Km Mens Relay, finishing 8th in an impressive time of 05.34.

Capt Lindsey Denyer from RMA produced a personal best in the 500m to finish 20th, and 24th in the 2km Women's Heavyweight category. She was also part of the British Army A team achieving 11th in the 2km Mixed Relay with a competitive time of 06.12.

It was a fantastic trip, providing the opportunity to compete against Olympic level athletes in a challenging but inclusive event. Both competitors offer their sincere thanks to the Army Sports Lottery and the Royal Artillery Institution for their kind support to enable the trip to take place.



16th Regiment Royal Artillery

14 (Cole's Kop) Battery

On Wednesday 8th February, 14 (Cole's Kop) Battery took part in the Op Teamwork initiative. They were hosted by D-Day Story Museum in Southsea, who provided a fantastic function room and accompanying refreshments. Delivering the initiative in the appropriate setting reinforced the importance of the material being discussed. Members of the battery of all ranks came together for the event and were able to voice their opinions and experiences of the Army's culture. In particular, we were able to discuss themes such as leadership, challenging, feeling valued and psychological safety. The battery then sat together and had fish and chips on the seafront to reinforce cohesion and strengthen our battery culture. The event would not have been possible without the input of the RAA who advised and offered generous funding towards the event.

11 (SPHINX) Battery

Ex SPHINX SOLDIER was a training camp run by 11 (SPHINX) Bty. The Bty had just recently come back from a 6 month deployment in Poland in October 22 and is due to

deploy again 6 months later in April 23 to the Falkland Islands. The aim was to qualify personnel on the new core military ITR skills, pass SP on the ACMT, deliver AT and reward the troops on a 6 months on, 6 months off Op cycle.

Due to the turnover of recent deployments the Bty hadn't been in one place as a collective since the return from Poland and the time spent together as a Bty was well received by all. The Ex was a time to build cohesion, remind and revise key soldiering skills and remedy the deficiencies from Phase two training establishments left during COVID. All aims were met and with great gratitude to the RAA, who provided a large amount of the funding, the Bty managed to subsidise the cost of sending troops Go-Karting and holding a Bty Smoker on a catamaran in Limassol Harbour. Without the support of the RAA the exercise would have had to be either reduced in ambition or delivered at a much higher cost to personnel.

The two events funded featured at the end of the two week period and were a well deserved reward for the service personnel who attended.



Joan Wanklyn Memorial Prize

The Joan Wanklyn Memorial prize is a bursary to be presented each year by the Royal Artillery Association in memory of Miss Joan Wanklyn who was, for many years, our Regimental Artist.



(King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery - oil on board is reproduced by kind permission of Jess Hills.
www.jessicahills.com)

The Bursary comprises a cheque of £500 is to be presented at the RA Assembly to the artist who produces a piece of work judged worth of exhibition at the following year's Assembly. Applications are open to the sons, daughters and grandchildren of Serving or Retired members of the Regiment, regardless of rank or station, who have reached the tertiary stage of education and are in or about to begin their first year of a course at a recognised College or University to study art in its broader form.

Contact Emma Pagan-Skelley on 01980 845895 or Emma's email for further details emm.Pagan-Skelley100@mod.gov.uk

· **Community and Companionship** ·

The RA Charities can keep you in touch with the Regimental Family

Join Your Association Here

· **RA Historical Society** ·

Military History Webinars

The RA Historical Society arranges Zoom On-Line Webinars for its members on Gunner military history subjects. If you would like a copy of the Back Catalogue with links to the You Tube recordings of webinars held in the last 12 Months, please contact the RAHS Secretary.

If you wish to attend the webinars below please contact the RAHS Secretary, Lt Col Richard Clayton: richard.clayton312@gmail.com:

RA Historical Society 2023 Programme

| Date and Timings | Event | Subject | Lecturer/Lead | Bookings Close | Cost per Head |
|---------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 2023 | | | | | |
| Tuesday 25 April 0900 hrs | Visit | Guided Tour of RA Museum in Wood Road, Larkhill | Mr Martin Harvey | Tuesday 11 April | |
| Tuesday 25 April 1100 hrs | Spring lectures, Newcome Hall, Larkhill, RA Mess lunch and pm RAHS AGM | The Failure of Blitzkrieg in Russia 1941-2 | Col Bob Kershaw | Tuesday 11 April | To be notified |
| First week of July | Battlefield Tour | Sedan, France: 1870, 1940 & 1944 | Brig Jon Cresswell & Col Tim Ventham | | |

These events are open to all Gunners

To register please email the RAHS Secretary by the dates shown
Email Lt Col Clayton, RAHS Secretary: richard.clayton312@gmail.com

All Gunners are entitled to join the Society. Please contact the Secretary for details.

·RA Museum·

Volunteering with RAM

We finished 2022 with a special lunch to say “thank you” to our volunteers. They are the lifeblood of our museum, and we’re pleased to report that by the end of the year the team had grown to over 30 people from all walks of life – serving personnel, veterans and civilians. With even more exciting activity planned for 2023 we still need help across all areas of our work, from historical research to hands-on conservation in the workshop. Please give us a call if you can spare a few hours each week and are interested in helping us to preserve and promote Gunner heritage.

Future Museum Project

We continue to work towards securing the land for our future museum, with the RAM Manager recently meeting on site with representatives of Army Basing and Infrastructure, Defence Training Estates and the Land Warfare Centre. While there is still more work to be done before we can move forward with our proposals, initial feedback from these important stakeholders has been positive, and we hope to be able to report further on this very soon.

Caring for our Collection

The new uniform store is rapidly taking shape, and with volunteer Jackie checking the condition of each uniform as it arrives, we’re filling the new hanging rails as fast as Graham can build them! Recent visitors to Wood Road have seen Mo’s latest work on the Pak 36 restoration project, with the RAM Manager taking great delight in demonstrating the smoothness of the elevation and traversing mechanisms. Elsewhere, volunteers Martin and Tony continue to assist with an exhaustive (and exhausting) audit of the medal collection (all 11,000 of them).

After a huge amount of work (and a great deal of help from museums expert Tim Burge), the review of options for our new catalogue database is complete, and we will be moving forward with the chosen supplier within the next month.

Access and Engagement

Visits to Wood Road continue to be a real success. In the final weeks of 2022 we welcome more groups from the Royal Artillery and other military organisations, including 14 Regt RA, 7 Para RHA, the Army Recruiting team at Upavon, and the Mobile Fires Platform project team at Abbey Wood. One chilly Saturday in December saw us introducing over 100 Army Cadets to our amazing collection (photo opposite). 2023 has got off to a great start with visits including a group from the Young Officers course, and also one from 43 Battery (with Tony on hand to welcome his old Battery).



We were particularly pleased to support 24 Battery, with some of the younger members of the Regiment, in hosting a visit by veterans from the Royal Artillery Association, and we hope to offer more events for veterans in the near future.

Wood Road has also seen visits by representatives from organisations as diverse as the AOP Association and the Macedonian Battlefield Trust. Last but not least, we recently had the opportunity to show round our new RAM Trustee (and CO of 19 Regt RA) – welcome on board Lt Col Ben Baldwinson!

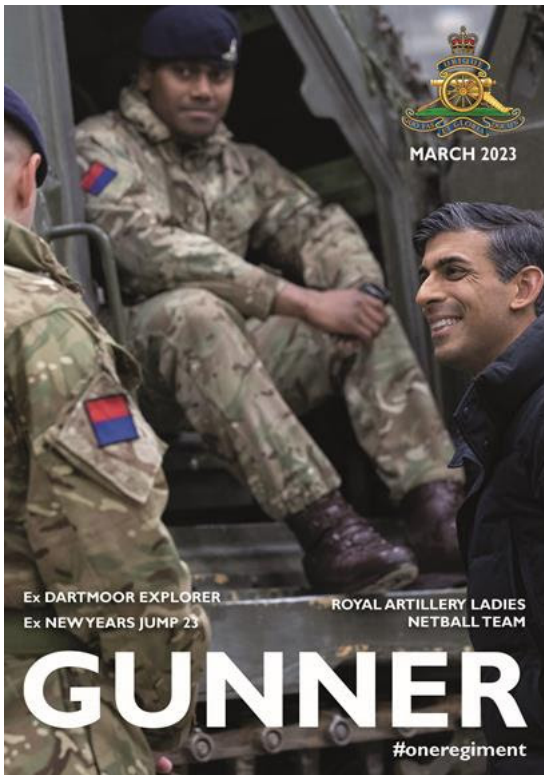
For those who have been unable to visit in person, we have made great progress on the development of a completely new RAM website for you all to enjoy, and we hope that Phase 1 will be ready to launch in just a few weeks time. This newsletter will soon be getting a makeover too, as part of our plans to reach out to a wider audience. If you don’t currently receive the newsletter directly from us, please do drop us an email asking to be added to our mailing list.

You can contact us at info@royalartillerymuseum.com or on **01980 653333**
www.royalartillerymuseum.com www.facebook.com/TheRAMCollection

· Gunner & Journal of the Royal Artillery ·

Further details to subscribe to the GUNNER and/or Royal Artillery Journal can be found [here](#)

The GUNNER magazine is now available on line via the website, please click on the button below to view the recent issue.



REJOINERS: YOUR NATION NEEDS YOU

THERE ARE TWO ROUTES AVAILABLE TO REJOINERS:

Fast Track Pathway. Is A Veteran Who:

- Left the Regular Army within the last 36 months.
- Is returning to the same Main Trade and capbadge.
- Had no less than 24 months remaining engagement or commission.
- On leaving had a medical grade of Medically Fully Deployable or Limited Deployable and can self-declare they have had no significant injury or illness.
- Have no unspent convictions.

Regular Rejoiner Pathway. This is for veterans who left the Regular Army but who are not eligible for the Fast Track. Your pathway is approximately 8 weeks, but can vary based on medicals, security vetting and interviews.

Fast Track Pathway - 4 weeks



Regular Rejoiner Pathway - Approximately 8 weeks

Age limit. The upper age limit for all rejoiners is 57.

How to apply?

<https://apply.army.mod.uk/how-to-join/entryoptions/regular-army-rejoiner>
or call the rejoiner team on 0345 600 8080

**READY
RESILIENT
RESPONSIVE**



REJOINERS: YOUR NATION NEEDS YOU

ARE YOU AN EX-REGULAR OFFICER OR SOLDIER?
HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT REJOINING THE ARMY?

DID YOU KNOW?

Depending on your personal circumstances,
if you've left within the last 36 months,
you could be fast-tracked back in within a month
or sooner.

READY
RESILIENT
RESPONSIVE

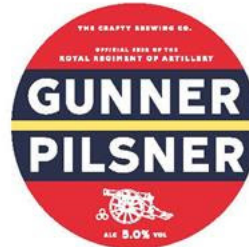


ARMY
BE THE BEST



The Royal Artillery Craft Beers

We are proud to announce the arrival of two very special guests.



THEY TASTE GOOD. THEY DO GOOD.

Champions in their own right, these fine craft beers were hand-picked in June 2019 by a tasting committee of over 90 Gunner soldiers. Gunner IPA and Gunner Pilsner are more than simply great-tasting, flagship examples of the brewer's art. For every litre of beer sold, The Crafty Brewing Co., will make a donation to Royal Artillery Charities – to fund sport, adventure and challenge activities for all Gunners – be they regular or reserve.

So now, when you raise a glass of your very own Royal Artillery craft beer – to slake a thirst, make a toast or in tribute to absent friends – you'll be putting a smile on more faces than just your own.

These delicious Gunner craft beers make their debut this evening and are provided courtesy of The Crafty Brewing Co. for you to enjoy. They will shortly be available in keg and 500ml bottles to every Royal Artillery Mess and for purchase online from November 2019.

To place your advance order visit www.craftybrewing.co.uk



TASTING NOTES:

Gunner IPA – ABV 4.2%

Gunner IPA is a modern classic. It is a golden amber, lightly-bopped IPA bearing all the hallmarks of its four international hop superstars– Simcoe, Chinook, Amarillo and Perle. Refreshing citrus and pine notes are mellowed by toasted fine English crystal malts.

Gunner Pilsner – ABV 5.0%

Gunner Pilsner is a refreshing, full-flavoured, mellow craft lager. Expertly crafted with pale malts and the prince of 'noble' hops – Tettnang. This pilsner is conditioned for 12 weeks and naturally carbonated for a crisp, mouth-filling quaff.



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