



# • The Gunners •

## Newsletter - August 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

## Annual Royal Artillery Assembly – Blackpool 2023

Given that last year's event was the return of the Assembly after the break caused by COVID, I was a little concerned that after that surge in interest, that numbers and attendance might be down this year, this was before the Army and Navy Rugby game had been moved to the same weekend due to dates changes created by the Coronation. Thankfully my concerns were unfounded as once again we all came together in great numbers. On the weekend of 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> May, the Royal Regiment of Artillery hosted over 336 Gunners, both serving and retired, along with special guests to join them in Blackpool at the Norbreck Castle Hotel for the AGM and Grand Gala Dinner.

The Friday evening saw the National Executive Committee coming together for the Master Gunner St James's Park Dinner which also saw the return of several old friends and colleagues, amongst their number being Lt Col Nigel Cooke, returning to Blackpool with many of our veteran community (who Nigel will have undoubtedly helped), commenting on how nice it was to see our former RACF Welfare Officer back within the ranks.

This year's program had undergone some significant changes in the running order of the event. One of the drivers for this was to ensure the Standard Bearers Competition returned with a vengeance, particularly as this year it would provide the platform for the selection of the National Standard Bearer. Turning out in all weathers, often at short notice, regimental standard bearers provide visible support to both serving soldiers and veterans at a variety of events up and down the country, ranging from services of remembrance to military parades to family funerals. In so doing, they bring a degree of flair, dignity and respect that is admired and appreciated by all in attendance. Mark Ballard, Newbury and District Branch Standard Bearer, was successful in winning the competition and appointed the National Standard Bearer. Mark's turnout, the quality of his drill, and his bearing on parade marked him out from his fellow competitors to win the award, which was presented by the Master Gunner St James Park in the afternoon. WO1 (RASM) Sanders L is thanked for pulling together a quality team to run, judge and support the competition.

The Assembly began with an address from the Master Gunner, Lt Gen Sir Andrew Gregory KBE CB DL, always capturing the topics of the day and the general mood, he spoke about some of challenges both on the home front and abroad in the Ukraine, as well as the King's Coronation just the week before, he tempered this with a request for patience, with regards to confirmation of the announcement of our Captain General and in turn possibly a hopefully similar announcement with regards to Patron of the Gunner Charities. He closed with how pleasing it was to see strong numbers of both past and present members in attendance. The Regimental Colonel, Col RC Harmer ADC also touched on Golden Orb (The Coronation) but also Operations, Capability and rounded it all off with a section on 'Gunner Purpose' bringing into the light for the first time for many veterans the new Gunner Find and Strike message. In addition, the Assembly also received a presentation from the RAA Chairman Brig Mark Pountain CBE, and the Regimental Secretary Col Matthew Carter which focused on the work that has been ongoing in the development of the Association in line with several Working Groups that have been undertaken over the year since the last Assembly. The final presentation, was the collective update from both 12RA and 16RA on how Air Defence has been promoted, invested, utilised and grown over the last 12 months included many references to the ongoing war and support to the military both regiments are giving to Ukraine. Both RAA and Air Defence presentation were very well received and promoted discussion and questions that reach well after the open forum and through the remainder of the weekend.

The annual awards this year were presented by the Master Gunner St James's Park. Each year various awards are presented to individuals as well as the Branch/Regiment for outstanding service and support to the RA Charities. There were many winners this year and Artillery House would like to send its warmest congratulations to the recipients of all the awards. Of note it would be remiss not to highlight a couple of very notable awards; Royal Artillery Association Medals were awarded to Mr David Hadjicostas MBE Shoeburyness & South Essex Branch and Mr Trevor Lisseman Newbury & District Branch, both awards be thoroughly deserved and well received and acknowledged by the gathered audience. The prestigious Mansergh Memorial Award was presented to Gunner K Davies 47 Regiment RA. Gnr Davies's lifesaving actions were truly remarkable and there was hardly a dry eye in the house out of emotion,

admiration or pride, a truly deserved award to a remarkable young woman who is a credit to her family, her regiment and to us all in the Gunner family.

The RAA AGM was chaired by Brig Mark Pountain CBE who delivered his Chairman's Report focused on RAA events and activities over past 12 months, the Chairman was assisted and supported by the Regimental Secretary Col Matthew Carter who during his address focused on this year's financial report. This brought a close to the formal proceedings with everyone retiring to bar for refreshments and a catch up before the evening's activity.

The Sunset Ceremony, which was attended by the Mayor of Blackpool, was spectacular. We as Gunners are truly blessed to be able to call on the Lancashire Artillery Volunteer (LAV) Band, who were immaculately turned out, the band were also once again superbly supported by the Pipes and Drums, and it is with sincere thanks to 103 Regt RA who not only support with the band but also supply displays, workforce, and equipment throughout the weekend. The LAV Band also routinely provide an opening set for the Gala Dinner, but I have to say this year along with the Pipes and drums, out did themselves with a magnificent musical program that entertained the Gala Dinner well into the evening.

It would be remiss of me to write this report without specific acknowledgment to all those who made this year's Royal Artillery Assembly such a resounding success, particularly the RASM and his team along with a whole host of individuals both serving, veterans and not forgetting the outstanding support the management and the team at the Norbreck Castle Hotel, who all come together to make the weekend such a worthwhile and successful event.

So, a huge 'Thank You' to you... The Association Members, Veterans and Serving Soldiers from across our Regiments who turned up and supported. The weekend completely exemplified the strong comradeship within the whole Gunner community and '*esprit de corps*' that this and occasions like it seek to promote.

Look forward to seeing you next year, ***We'll Meet Again***  
***Date – 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> May 2024.***

***To view more photographs, please see Mollie Ballard's website [here](#)***



## Founders Day 2023

Members of the Association were invited guests at the Royal Hospital Chelsea for Founders Day. King Philippe of Belgium and his wife, Queen Mathilda reviewed the Parade of the Chelsea In-Pensioners. The Pensioners wore their vibrant scarlett uniforms adorned by oak leaves - this is a day steeped in tradition and celebration. Our members thoroughly enjoyed the occasion and meeting the In-Pensioners after the Parade.



## RA Service of Remembrance

The annual Royal Artillery Service of Remembrance organised by the RAA HQ Staff, took place at the National Memorial Arboretum on Saturday 22nd July 2023. Over

300 people attended this special event; representatives from RHQ RA, serving regiments, cadets, Chelsea In-Pensioners, veterans and their families.

The Honorary Chaplain of the RAA, The Venerable Stephen Robbins CB, led the service and wreath-laying ceremony. A most fitting service took place in the Aspects Building, with Colonel Matthew Carter, Regimental Secretary who read the Lesson. After the Service, we moved to the RA Memorial Garden where Colonel Matthew Carter, and Colonel Charlie Harmer ADC, Regt Col, led the Wreath Laying service and WO1 (RASM) Sanders recited the Ode of Remembrance.

Throughout the whole event, Mr Mark Ballard, our National Standard Bearer, organised the Standard Bearers in a manner that added a splendid pageantry to the day. WO2 (BSM) Daniel Hanlon, a cadet from Arnold Hill Spencer Academy CCF paraded their Standard in the Inspection.

The event was, once again, superbly supported by members of the Lancashire Artillery Volunteers Band, by kind permission of the Commanding Officer 103rd Regt RA.

Thank you to everyone who supported this event, neither the weather or road works were in our favourite but it did not dampen the occasion, the event was a great success and we look forward to welcoming you next year on Saturday 29th June 2024.



**Royal Artillery Officers' Alanbrooke Lunch**



The next Royal Artillery Alanbrooke Lunch is on Thursday 5th October 2023 at the Army & Navy Club, St James's Square, London. Drinks 1200. Lunch 1245.

Our guest speaker will be announced nearer the time.

The Alanbrooke Lunch Club is open to all Gunners officers, Regular and Reserve whether serving or retired. The lunch costs £65 and the price includes pre-lunch drink, wine and port. A cash bar is available after lunch.

To attend the lunches you must be a member of the Alanbrooke Club. There is an annual membership fee of £10 but this is waived for serving officers.

Members wishing to attend this lunch should make a bank transfer for £65 to the Royal Artillery Benevolent Fund (Sort code 30-11-75, Acc number 00568858) annotating your transfer with your initial and surname or send a cheque made out to 'Royal Artillery Benevolent Fund' to the Royal Artillery Secretariat Officer, Mrs Emma Pagan-Skelley (Emm.Pagan-Skelley100@mod.gov.uk). If you make a bank transfer please email the Royal Artillery Secretariat Officer to say that you have done so. Any excess of funds will be donated to the RACF at the end of the year.

Do spread the message amongst your Gunner friends, and of course you may bring a guest (who may be non-military) should you wish, or bring a group of friends you served with. Commanding Officers are asked to encourage and facilitate attendance by their officers.



## Lewes Branch

Lewes Branch held their 2023 Annual Dinner which combined the 30th Anniversary of the reformation of Lewes Branch on Saturday 27th May 2023 at The John Harvey Tavern in Lewes.

Invited guests included; RAA Association Secretary, Maj Dickie Davies (Retd) and his wife Julie, along with Lt Dexter Fletcher, WO2 (BSM) Pete Kinsey and WO2 John Godwin-Smart (Ops WO) from our Affiliated Battery, 43 Bty (Lloyds Company) RA. 43 Bty were presented with the Royal Artillery Association Kerr Cup at the RA Assembly, and brought the trophy with them to have a photo with their nominating Branch.

The evening was a great success, members and everyone had a great time.



Members of Lewes Branch RAA joined their Affiliated Battery, 43 Battery (Lloyds Company) RA for their Battery Birthday Celebrations on Thursday 20th July 2023 in 47 Regt WO's & Sgt's Mess. A truly great evening with great company, great food and a perfect chance for the Branch to meet Members of the Battery including the new BC. It was a great opportunity to cement our affiliation and relationship with such a supportive Battery.





## Canterbury Branch

On Sunday 21st May Canterbury Branch recently attended a Service at St Mary in Castro (Dover Castle) to celebrate Foundation Day. Standards were paraded on behalf of Kent District, Dover and Canterbury Branches and the lessons were read by Canterbury Branch Chairman, John Bishop. After the short service a short wreath laying ceremony was held at the Anglo American Artillery Memorial on Langdon Cliffs, Dover.



## Shoeburyness & South Essex Branch

The Royal British Legion marked National Service 60 at the National Memorial Arboretum on 16th May 2023. Branch member and former National Serviceman Pat Nixon attended the event to commemorate the ending of National Service 60 years ago. Pat served in West Germany from 1956-1958 as part of 88 (Arracan) Battery, 41st Field Regiment, Royal Artillery.



## Norwich Branch Centenary Celebrations

Members of Norwich Branch gathered together on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2023 for Afternoon Tea at The Old Rectory Hotel, to celebrate 100 years since its formation as Norwich Branch Royal Artillery Association.

Guests and members were welcomed by the new Chairman, Clive Johnson, who said he was very honoured to take up the role and wished everyone an enjoyable afternoon.

The Secretary, Herbie Slaughter then paid tribute to the former Chairman, Col Ian Makin TD\* DL, who sadly, due to ill health, had to stand down from the role earlier this year. Col Makin had been the Chairman for 51 years and last year, was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award by the members for being such an outstanding leader of the Branch, showing dedication and commitment throughout that time.

The secretary went on to say, "Col Makin has agreed to take up a new role as President of Norwich Branch and therefore remains at the very heart of Norwich. He is a remarkable man and has held many posts and roles throughout his career; the highlights of which, were being Deputy Lieutenant of Norfolk and Equerry to her Late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth the Second. He is an inspiration and a role model to us all. I am in awe of his

achievements and proud to call him a friend, as I pay tribute to him today.”

Tribute was also paid to the longest-serving member, Mr Colin Thackery, who, over the years has also made a huge contribution to Norwich. Colin is now an In-Pensioner at the Royal Hospital Chelsea and is very famous for being the winner of Britain’s Got Talent in 2019. Despite being very busy, he always attends the functions held here and we are very proud to have him as a member of the Branch.

It was also good to welcome some new members and their wives to the event, The food was delicious and plentiful, it was a beautiful, sunny afternoon and everyone said they had enjoyed themselves, so here’s to the next Centenary!



## Artillery Clerks’ Association Celebrates Silver Anniversary

As a vibrant and active branch of The Royal Artillery Association, the Artillery Clerks’ Association reached a significant milestone in 2023 with a celebration of its silver anniversary. The Association commissioned a silver centrepiece to coincide with the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and 120 years since the inception of the Artillery Clerks’ Section in 1903.

As part of the Reunion weekend, a small party of Association members met up in London on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June and then joined the majority of the Association

members at Larkhill on Friday evening to enjoy the opportunity to catch up with each other.

On Saturday the reunion dinner was preceded by the unveiling of the new centrepiece by the Master Gunner St James's Park. A first class dinner was held in Royal Artillery Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, accompanied by music from Sandhurst Band Musical Quartet.

In all, a total of 62 Association members, guests and partners sat down to enjoy a splendid dinner which was a very fitting celebration of our 25 years as an Association and provided us with a night to remember for a very long time, with, of course, a spectacular silver centrepiece.



## · The Royal Artillery Charitable Fund ·

### RACF Welfare Team Quarterly Report

The RACF are here to help with 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.

**£55,000** 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.

**£64,000** of grants pledged helped towards mobility adaptations and mobility needs such as EPV's Riser recliners and mobility changes to 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](mailto:RARHQ-RACF-WELFARE-MAILBOX@mod.gov.uk), [RA Charitable Fund Application](#)

### **Thank You's**

**“Thank you to you and your team who turned the application around in the working day”**

**“Thank you ever so much for your continued support; this will be a huge weight off (their) shoulders and I know will go along way to demonstrating the value we place on supporting our people”**

**“It is with profound gratitude that I write this email to express my utmost appreciation to the enormous and unselfish contribution given me at this difficult time”**

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](http://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.

### 101 Regiment Royal Artillery

205 (3 DVA) Battery conducted a cycle fundraiser for the RACF on the 4th February. Gunners undertook a charity bike ride which raised over £500 for the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund (RACF). The ride was conducted on exercise bikes covering the distance of 517 km: the distance from the 205 Battery Army Reserve Centre to the RACF office in Larkhill. Many thanks for supporting the RACF.



## · 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](mailto:emm.pagan-skelley100@mod.gov.uk) or through your chain of

command.

## 47<sup>th</sup> Regiment Royal Artillery

### 57(Bhurtpore) Battery Royal Artillery

On 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023, 57 (Bhurtpore) Battery of 47 Regiment Royal Artillery celebrated its 198<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Although today its primary focus is the operation of the Watchkeeper, 57 (Bhurtpore) Battery has been rerolled numerous times throughout its history, serving in numerous wars and conflicts as recent as Iraq and Afghanistan.

The day began with a service in the Larkhill Garrison Church led by the Regimental Padre. This was an opportunity for the Battery to come together to remember the service and sacrifice of those that came before us, as well as looking to the future of the Battery. Following this, the Battery contended with some stiff competition across the Regiment in the Warmesley Cup. 57 (Bhurtpore) Battery put on great show in racket events that included badminton, squash and table tennis. It was a great opportunity to showcase the teamwork and camaraderie of which the Battery is so proud. The activities concluded with Gunners, JNCOs and Officers being hosted in the Sergeant and Warrant Officers mess for a formal Battery dinner night. For many Gunners and JNCOs it was their first exposure to this kind of event and an excellent occasion for SNCOs to introduce Mess traditions. Additionally, it also afforded the opportunity to introduce several new Gunners and Troop Commanders to the wider Battery, with one of the newest Gunners reading the Battery history spanning from its inception through to the present day. The day reminded all present of the legacy that it is their duty to uphold and the spirit of 57 (Bhurtpore) Battery is alive and well after 198 years.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment Royal Artillery

### 3/29 (Corunna) Battery

On the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023, the 4th Regiment Royal Artillery Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess was filled with camaraderie and celebration as the 3/29 Battery marked the 30th anniversary of its amalgamation with an all-ranks, friends, and veterans' dinner. The event was held to

commemorate the historic merger of the two batteries that took place on the 1st of April 1993.

The evening was a joyous occasion that saw current and former members of the battery come together to reminisce and catch up with old friends. The event was made possible by the support of the wider regimental team, for which the 3/29 Battery is truly grateful. In addition, the Royal Artillery Association's financial support was essential in ensuring that the event was a success.

The 3/29 Battery dinner night was a testament to the strong bonds of brotherhood and community that are formed in the military. It was a time for members of the battery to reflect on their shared experiences, both good and bad, and to honour the legacy of the units that came before them.

It was a family affair as a number of currently serving members invited their family, veterans' of 3/29 battery, to share in this celebration. The Quartermaster Technical invited his brother Mr Digger Barnes, previously a Warrant Officer within 3/29 and Gnr Mackay an Observation Post Assistant invited his father, once an OPA during the Falklands War with 3/29.

The event was perfectly timed to also take advantage of the opportunity to say welcome to members of 3 RHA as they resubordinate a Gun Group to 4 RA and to also say farewell to the stalwarts of 3/29 as the Regiment rebalances to meet the threats of the future.

Presentations were made as the Battery Commander presented the Commanding Officer with an updated version of the Battery History. Captain Welsh showcased his ability to grip an audience as he walked us through some of the significant acts of service within our collective history and the King, His Majesty King Charles III took time to write to the Battery and wish all members his best wishes.

The amalgamation of the 3 and 29 Batteries was a significant event in the history of the Royal Artillery, and it is heartening to see that the bonds forged between members of the two units continue to thrive three decades later. The 3/29 Battery's dinner night was a fitting tribute to the legacy of those who have served and continue to serve in the Royal Artillery, and it will undoubtedly be remembered as a highlight of the battery's history.



## 29 Commando Regiment RA

### The Meiktila Spring Dinner Night/Op TELIC 20 Anniversary Dinner

On the evening of Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March, nearly 100 serving and former members of 148 (MEIKTILA) Commando Forward Observation Battery sat down to dinner in the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess at Royal Marines Hamworthy Poole; to celebrate and commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Operation TELIC and to remember the members of the Battery who lost their lives during the Conflict.

The evening commenced with superb welcome drinks from Drop Zone; a veteran owned company. Dinner was a splendid affair and the wine flowed and the food was delicious and served impeccably by Julie and her team of Mess staff. A huge thank you to The RSM at RM Hamworthy for allowing us to use his mess to hold our dinner there, The Mess manger 'Smudge' was extremely helpful and helped to make the evening such a success.

The serving BC of 148 Bty during Op TELIC was Col (Ret) Philip Sheppard-Walwyn who delivered a fine speech which covered every aspect of the battery's activities, not just at the sharp end but also the vital work carried out by the rear party.

The current serving BC Maj Birtwistle spoke of the unsung heroes of the Squadron like the Gunner who stowed away to go to war, the Marine who conned his way down to Ascension and the Sqn members on exchange with the Army who managed to return to the San to be able to go to war.



Finally, Bdr Hamzat gave a fantastic Bty update to the room and had everyone in tears of laughter with his dry sense of humour. The evening ended where all good evening's end - in the bar, with lots of war stories 'flying' about.

Our truly grateful thanks go out to the Royal Artillery Association for their generous donation that the organisation gave the Battery to be able to put on such a truly memorable event. Everyone agreed that the night was a success.



## 101 Regiment RA

### 205 (3 DVA) Battery

On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2023 saw serving and past members of 205 (3 DVA) Bty along with members of the 3 DVA Association come together to commemorate 163 years since the formation of the Bty on the 14 March 1860. This year was made even more special as the dinner was held in the South Shields Town Hall. This shows the close ties that the Bty has with its local community.

The Bty also had the honour to host several dignitaries from the local area including the Mayor, Councillor Pat Hay and Mayoress, Mrs Jean Copp of South Shields.

The dinner also gave the Battery Commander, Major Andy Loader RA the opportunity to present this year's top JNCO and Gnr shields that went to LBdr Thompson and Gnr Smith. Well done to them both on all of their hard work and dedication they have given over this year.

As the dinner drew to a close, members of the Bty gave readings on the Bty's history and what it has achieved over the years along with the changes it has gone

through. I am glad to say that the Bty is still going strong, and we look forward to many more years ahead.

This evening could not have happened without the hard work of the Bty committee, and they must be thanked for all their hard work on putting on such a splendid evening. All members of the Bty would also like to thank the Royal Artillery Association for their kind donation that they have gifted to the Bty. This sort of events strengthens the Bty ties with past members, our association, and our local community. Thank you to all those that attended, and we look forward to seeing you all next year's dinner.



### 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment Royal Horse Artillery

#### D Bty Secundra Gunge Dinner Night Feb 2023

D Battery RHA celebrate the action taken at Secundra Gunge on 5th January each year. It is the most significant event in the Battery's calendar, celebrating our long and rich history and the sacrifices made by our soldiers in both distant and much more recent history, building cohesion in the Battery today. This year was a particularly poignant celebration of our battle honour: not only is it the 165<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, but it is the last year that D Battery RHA will truly be a Gun Battery, as it was at the time of Secundra Gunge, with the Battery saying farewell to its L118 Light Guns and transitioning to its new function under Army Future Soldier as an M270 MLRS Battery. The Army's restructure programme sees an almost complete churn of the Soldiers and Officers in D Battery RHA and, for all ranks, this was the last opportunity to mark this historic event before moving to other sub-units or Regiments.

There could be no more fitting way to celebrate and say farewell to our Colours, and to the many personnel departing the Battery, than an all-ranks dinner, in Mess Dress, in the lavish surroundings of Slaley Hall. The night was a unique occasion for the Battery on a second note: For the past 18 months the Battery had been separated supporting Operations in Estonia, Poland, and the UK, with over 50 SP extended on Op CABRIT (E) from a planned six-month tour to a nine-month tour at short notice: the night marked a rare occasion where all members of the Battery were together in one place!

The dinner night was thoroughly enjoyed by all that attended, with great food, plentiful drinks and of course very entertaining speeches! Members of the Battery enjoyed the luxury of their surrounding as they recalled stories of the best and the worst of times, and for some ex-serving (and even serving!) members of the Battery, stories from a long time ago! The highlight of the night came in the form of Mr Vice's re-enactment of the action, as he took to his chair and ordered a charge following the Loyal Toast.

The kind donation provided by the Royal Artillery Association made sure that the event was affordable to all ranks, giving all from the youngest Gunners up a fitting send off before they move on to their next sub-unit.

### Mansergh Memorial Award

At the Royal Artillery Assembly the Mansergh Memorial Award was presented by the Master Gunner St James's Park to Gunner Davies K, 47 Regiment Royal Artillery. The Mansergh Memorial Award is awarded for an act of outstanding bravery or special achievements by an individual, which have not been recognised by another award or commendation.

Gnr Davies conducted CPR and administered the use of a defibrillator on a unresponsive soldier, until the paramedics arrived and they took over from her whereby they were able to stabilise the soldier.

*On the night of 22nd Jan 23 she displayed true courage and selfless commitment whilst acting calmly, decisively, and effectively in a high-pressure event to save another*

*soldier's life.....Davies exemplifies the values and standards of the British Army and is a credit to the Royal Regiment of Artillery. Davies's actions meant a soldier's life was saved that day. She acted rapidly and courageously, taking command of a situation where a life was at stake. Acting above her rank and taking command of the situation she showed calmness, maturity and clarity of thought typically way beyond her years and rank.*

Gnr Davies's lifesaving actions were truly remarkable and there wasn't a dry eye in the room as the Regimental Secretary read out her citation to the Assembly. A truly deserving award to a remarkable young women who is an ambassador for the British Army, Royal Regiment of Artillery and to us all in the Gunner family.

Warmest Congratulations to Gnr Davies on receiving the Mansergh Memorial Award.



### 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:richard.clayton312@gmail.com):

RA Historical Society 2023 Programme					
Date and Timings	Event	Subject	Lecturer/ Lead	Bookings Close	Cost per Head
Tuesday 26 September 1930 hrs	Webinar	Besancon: Bombing, Resistance and Liberation 1940-1944	Brig Jon Cresswell	Tuesday 22 September	Nil
Friday 20 October 1000 - 1600 hrs	Shrapnel Lectures, Newcome Hall, Larkhill with Coffee and a Buffet Lunch in the Tactics Lecture Room	<b>Theme:</b> China, Korea and Great Power Composition <b>Lectures on:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• China today</li> <li>• The Chinese Maritime Sphere and Missile Defence</li> <li>• The Defence Policy of South Korea</li> <li>• The Peoples Liberation Army</li> </ul>	Lt Col Peter Thompson	Friday 6 October	£8 for Morning Coffee & Buffet Lunch

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](mailto:richard.clayton312@gmail.com)

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

•RA Museum•

**Caring for our Collection**

We're really making the most of the space at Wood Road now, with more field guns arriving from our other stores, along with the last of the uniform collection. Recent donations to the collection have included a number of interesting Gunner medal groups and a lovely oil painting of Major General Henry Francis of the Bengal Artillery.

However, what has kept us most busy over the last couple of months has been completing the first stage of our "Unpacking the RA Collection" project, kindly funded by grants from both South West Museums Development and the Friends of the RA Collection.

This has seen RAM staff and volunteers take part in three days of conservation training provided by specialist conservators from Wiltshire Conservation and Museums Advisory Service. It has also enabled us to purchase conservation-standard packing materials, including sturdy plastic boxes to replace the crumpled cardboard boxes in which the collection arrived at Wood Road. We're particularly grateful to the Friends of the RA Collection, who last month provided an additional grant for even more boxes, allowing us to finish re-packing the swords and bayonets collection.



There was more learning in store for the RAM staff in March, when they paid a visit to the Small Arms School Corps at Warminster for a tour of their incredible weapons collection and an introduction to the history of small arms.

**Access and Engagement**

Regimental visits to Wood Road over the last two months have included a number of groups from 24 Battery. We've also been pleased to welcome groups from 127 (Dragon) Battery and 47 Regiment RA.

The archives have been busy, too, with around a dozen researchers visiting, including two overseas visitors from Heritage Malta. Our volunteers have continued their excellent work reorganising the Archive stores and improving our collections documentation, which is making it much easier for researchers to access the material we hold.

We're planning to step up our education work in the coming months, so the RAM Manager recently met with some of the local schools to discuss how we could provide free visits and activities to support their curriculum.

Meanwhile, our Curator Phil Magrath has also been in action, giving a well-received lecture to the Amesbury Society.

The design of our new website is now well underway, with the developers moving on to the technical build stage.

Peter Williams and Paul Cattermole from the Friends of the RA Collection volunteered to join us for a day photographing some of the collection for an initial online gallery/ exhibition that we are preparing for the new website.

Peter visited again for the first meeting of a new RA Heritage Coordination Group, also attended by representatives of RAM, the RA Historical Society, RA Historical Publications and Garrison Artillery Volunteers. We hope this group will help coordinate our efforts and find new ways of working together to preserve and promote Gunner heritage.

**Future Museum Project**

There has been further progress in discussions about the site of our future museum, with positive feedback received from the highest levels within Army HQ. The next step is to work towards a formal agreement to lease the land - once that is in place, the project can begin in earnest and we will be able to tell you more about our plans for the future.

**STOP PRESS: WOOD ROAD OPEN DAY ON FRIDAY 5 MAY 2023**

We have a long association with the Royal Family - it was on King George III's instructions that our collection was first established, while Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was not only Captain General of the RA but also Patron of our museum. We've decided to celebrate the Coronation weekend by holding an open day at Wood Road on the Friday before the Bank Holiday. This is a great opportunity for those of you who haven't visited us yet to come and see some of our collection and find out more about the historic hangars. Visit our website or Facebook page for more details!

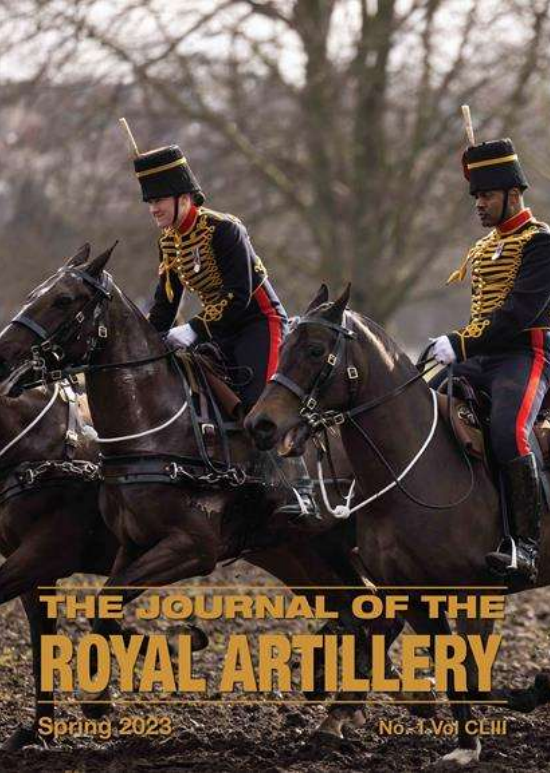
You can contact us at [info@royalartillerymuseum.com](mailto:info@royalartillerymuseum.com) or on 01980 653333  
[www.royalartillerymuseum.com](http://www.royalartillerymuseum.com) [www.facebook.com/TheRAMCollection](https://www.facebook.com/TheRAMCollection)

## • 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.

**GUNNER**







## Press Release

### Forces Pension Society: can you help identify a Veteran with an unclaimed pension?

As part of a campaign to encourage Veterans with unclaimed pension benefits to come forward with their claims, the Forces Pension Society encourages you to help identify anyone you think might qualify. We know there are thousands of Veterans who have not yet made their claims. Our recent Freedom of Information request showed that during the 24-month period alone, between 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022, over 4,000 Armed Forces pensions went unclaimed.

The AFPS Annual Report (July 2022) identified a larger total of 16,518 unclaimed benefits, with some Veterans having more than one entitlement.

**Maj Gen Neil Marshall, CEO of the Forces Pension Society said:**

**“We can all play our part in encouraging Veterans we know, to come forward if they have not claimed their preserved pensions or preserved lump sums. These can be significant amounts of money. For example, a preserved pension of £1,500 for someone who left in April 1985, would now have a value of £4,500 pa.**

**Anyone serving after April 1975, now aged 60 or over, could have an unclaimed pension. AFPS pensions earned before April 2005 are payable at age 60 but will not be paid automatically – they have to be applied for.**

**“We urge you to encourage anyone who might be eligible, to visit the Veterans’ Gateway website without delay:**

[https://support.veteransgateway.org.uk/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/395](https://support.veteransgateway.org.uk/app/answers/detail/a_id/395)

**“Of course the Government also has a role to play in signposting the issue to the Veterans’ community, and we continue to encourage them to do just that.”**

The Forces Pension Society is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that acts as a pension watchdog for the entire military community. If you would like to find out more about our work and how we empower our Members to make the best pension choices, visit our website – [www.forcespensionsociety.org](http://www.forcespensionsociety.org)

# 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 Rejoinder 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**

Candidate contacts the Rejoinder Team	Rejoinders team conduct Prior Service and Employment Checks	Candidate conducts medicals and interviews if required (non Fast Track)	Application sent to the Army Personnel Centre	Application reviewed by Career Manager. Officers approved at an Army Employment Board	Offer made to the candidate	Rejoin arrives in Unit	Refresher training conducted as required
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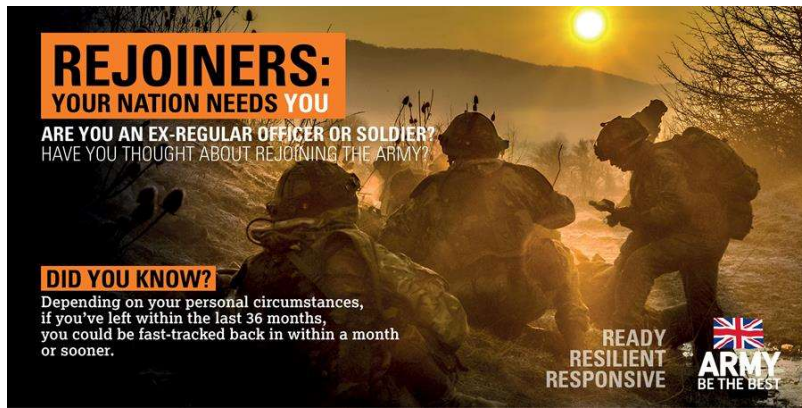
**Regular Rejoinder Pathway - Approximately 8 weeks**

**Age limit.** The upper age limit for all rejoinders is 57.

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

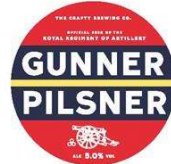
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RESILIENT  
RESPONSIVE**

**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](http://www.craftybrewing.co.uk)

	<p><b>TASTING NOTES:</b></p> <p><b>Gunner IPA – ABV 4.2%</b>  <i>Gunner IPA is a modern classic. It is a golden amber, lightly-hopped 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.</i></p>
	<p><b>Gunner Pilsner – ABV 5.0%</b>  <i>Gunner Pilsner is a refreshing, full-flavoured, mellow craft lager. Expertly crafted with pale malts and the prince of 'woble' hops – Tettnang. This pilsner is conditioned for 12 weeks and naturally carbonated for a crisp, mouth-filling quaff.</i></p>



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