



## • The Gunners •

**Newsletter - November 2025**

Welcome to the Royal Artillery Charities Newsletter. This is where you can keep up to date with all the regimental family's news and information, we have over 3,000 subscribers.

If you have any articles for the communications team from your Regiment, Branch, District and Region, we would like to receive them, to share with our subscribers. Please ensure that you have permission to share information and images.

**The Gunners**

## • Events •

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

**Forecast of Events**



The annual Ceremony of Remembrance will take place at the Royal Artillery Memorial, Hyde Park Corner on Sunday 9th November 2025. The event is available to everyone, and reserved seating is available.

To register and book your seat: <https://buytickets.at/royalartillery/1454444>



## St Barbara's Day, 7th December 2025

This year we will be celebrating St Barbara's Day on 7 December 2025 at the Royal Garrison Church of St Alban with St Barbara, Larkhill. Outline timings for the Service are as follows:

1000 Standard Bearers must arrive at the Church to receive a briefing.

1040 Congregation to be seated.

1100 Service begins.

After the Service, lunch will be served in the Royal Artillery Mess, places are limited (booking is required).

For anyone wishing to attend, please contact: [cas.thoburn603@mod.gov.uk](mailto:cas.thoburn603@mod.gov.uk)



### • RAA Branch News •

[Join Your Association Here](#)

### RAA Annual Return & Summary of Accounts

For those Branches who want to make a start on their Annual Return and Summary of Accounts for 2025, the forms can be downloaded from the website.

- Summary of Accounts - Required by 31 January 2026
- 
- Annual Return (with nominal roll) - Required by 1 March 2026

[Branch Forms](#)

### Scottish Region

The Scottish Region held their Annual Summer Meeting on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> August in Edinburgh hosted by West Lothian Branch. Sixty-four members and guests including Royal Artillery Association Secretary Dickie Davies and his wife Julie met at the Army Reserve Centre, Colinton Edinburgh. The morning started by remembering those members who had died in the last year. Following the meeting Dickie Davies presented Branch Committee Members with their Bronze and Silver Pins. The Catherine Cockwell Memorial Medal is the highest award in the Scottish Region and this year was awarded to Nicholla Brunt.

A short dedication service was then conducted of the new West Lothian Branch Standard which was proudly paraded by their Standard Bearer Dougie Crabbe.

Following a hot lunch the Branches and Guests had an afternoon of socialising fundraising and an inter Branch Games with Tayside Branch winning the new inter branch games trophy.



### Aigburth-Merseyside

On Tuesday 26th August members of the Aigburth- Merseyside Branch welcomed the Royal Artillery Association Secretary, Dickie Davies and his wife Julie to their August Branch meeting, 29 members of the Branch came together to host their guests.

The Branch meetings take place courtesy of our hosts, 208 Bty 103 Regt RA at the Army Reserve Centre in Aigburth, Dickie needed no introduction to the ARC as he served with 103 Regt RA as the RSM. The evening commenced with SSgt (BQMS) Alan Shacklady inviting Dickie to their mock pistol range before the Branch Meeting. At the Meeting, Chairman, Gordon Stewart welcomed Branch Committee members from St Helens and Widnes Associations and Dickie presented Harry Heatley a Silver RAA Committe Pin and Peter Brandwood, a Bronze RAA Committe Pin.





## North Germany Celebrate 30 Years

The RAA in Germany celebrated its 30th Anniversary on 27<sup>th</sup> Sep 25, in Celle Immelmann Kaserne.

The occasion was celebrated with a formal dinner, speeches, presentations, meet & greet with light entertainment. The celebrations were very well attended by both North & Veterans Germany Branches. VIPs and local dignitaries; including the RASM, Lt Col M Lawrence, Major R Clark, Major J Tippet (Co-Founder) and Celle's Bürgermeisterin Iris Fiss.

Special thanks must be given to both Branch Committees and Members in particular, Lee Renshaw & Rupert Richards, with outstanding service from the Casino's Joint Mess Staff.

To summarise, an all-round effort, making the celebrations a very special and unforgettable occasion.



## JLRRRA

Over the weekend 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> October the Royal Artillery Old Boys and JLRRRA Association came together for their 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Gathering.

This was their second gathering since formally becoming affiliated to the Royal Artillery Association in 2024. This year saw the return to Coventry having held the event in Bosworth for the last couple of years, 98 members came together for a weekend of comradeship, pride, and reflection.

Once again, the committee produced a fantastic weekend of socialising, entertainment, and a wonderful Gala Dinner. The weekend also provided the opportunity for their AGM to take place, and it was reassuring to see engaged and enthusiastic attendance.

The event also provided the opportunity to issue RAA Committee Service Awards to Committee members – Silver Pin Awards were presented to Jim Taylor, President and David Dufall, Chairman of the Branch. Ted Mackenzie received his Gold Pin Award from the Royal Artillery Regimental Secretary, Colonel Paul Bates and this was the perfect opportunity to formally present Ted with a RAA Certificate of Merit which he was awarded at the RA Assembly in May, but unfortunately Ted was unable to attend, these awards were not only for Ted's commitment to the JLRRRA but also his regional and Branch work with Biggleswade Branch. Warmest Congratulations Ted.

A perfect weekend, brilliantly organised and well attended, the significance about this reunion is...it isn't about how long or how successful an individuals' career was but simply where we all started and there is something in that, that makes the whole gathering so very special.

If you are an ex-RA Boy or Junior Leader, please do seek out their website and I encourage you to become a member. It was also great this year as several groups used the event for their own significant reunion 40/50/60 year gatherings, and if you have a similar anniversary coming up, please do consider getting in touch with the committee team, they would love to hear from you.



## Canterbury

Canterbury Branch attended a couple of events this month; on Sunday 12th October they represented the Royal Artillery Association in Folkestone at the 10th Anniversary Gurkha Memorial Grand Celebration Day.

The 1st Bn Royal Gurkha Rifles paraded with the Gurkha Brigade Band, Gurkha veterans and their families and in attendance was the UK Nepalese Ambassador, the High Sherrif of Kent, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Kent, Local Mayors and Councilors, local British Legion and Regimental Associations members.

The Branch Standard was on parade carried by Tony Howard and a wreath was laid by Dennis Gabb at the Memorial. It was a privilege for the Branch to be invited to attend this special occasion, especially with the new formation of the Royal Artillery Gurkhas.



On the 13th October Branch members and family members of Captain Leslie Gosling (ex 3 RHA) assembled at his graveside on the 4th anniversary of his death. A short ceremony was held to remember this remarkable officer and gentleman. This annual event is held in memory of Leslie and his wife Joan, who were valued and much-love members of the Branch.

## Wrexham

\*\*\*\*\* THANK YOU, JOYCE \*\*\*\*\*

Members of the Wrexham Branch, Royal Artillery Association, have expressed their sincere gratitude to Mrs Joyce Toth, and the staff and clients of Toppers Hair Salon in Wrexham.

Working hand-in-hand with Toppers, Joyce's hand-made crafts have been snapped up by the salon's regular clients, raising hundreds of pounds for branch funds.

This week, the Wrexham Branch Chairman, Mr Barry Guest, made a surprise visit to Toppers to present a 'Thank You' award and a letter of appreciation for their tremendous fundraising efforts.

All donations are gratefully received and go towards promoting camaraderie, social well-being and welfare support for veteran gunners and their families.



## Major General Sir Christopher Teesdale VC KCMG CB

A special thanks to David Victors, Matt Cole and James Haden and the VC Trust who recently refurbished the grave of Major General Sir Christopher Charles Teesdale VC KCMG CB. On 29<sup>th</sup> September; local dignitaries, RHQ RA, RAA, veterans and families attended a Rededication Service in St Mary Magdalene Churchyard, South Bersted, near Bognor Regis.

The day was even more commemorative; on 29th September 1855, Lieutenant Teesdale aged 22, was awarded the Victoria Cross at the Battle of Kars. Teesdale was wounded at the Battle of Kars, taken prisoner and held in Russia until he was released in 1856. He was decorated with the Victoria Cross by Queen Victoria, at Windsor Castle on 21st November 1857.





## · The Royal Artillery Charitable Fund ·

### RACF Welfare Team Quarterly Report

The RACF to date has provided 462 Gunners help with household goods, bereavement costs, annual grants and other essential items. The RACF has provided £391K in help this year alone. Can we help you or someone you know? Reach out to us, so we can help our Gunner family. Unfortunately, we cannot help with needs such as private medical or legal fees.

The team is here to help and we can be contacted by email. [RARHQ-RACF-WELFARE-MAINBOX@mod.gov.uk](mailto:RARHQ-RACF-WELFARE-MAINBOX@mod.gov.uk), or via our website RA Charitable Fund Application – RA Association ([The Royal Artillery](#)). We aim to respond in 3 working days. We can signpost you and discuss the next step to help. Our office number is **01980 634309** or **0303 379 4560** if you would like to speak to someone or leave a message. If you are serving, contact your UWO for help or advice.

Or

Call SSAFA on **0800 731 4880**, the Royal British Legion on **0808 802 8080** to get a case to us.

## · The Gunner Lottery ·

Gunner Lottery is for the benefit of the Gunner charities and 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 the weekly 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](http://www.thegunners.org.uk)



The poster features the Royal Artillery Charities logo at the top left, which includes a circular emblem with various military-related images and the website [www.thegunners.org.uk](http://www.thegunners.org.uk). To the right of the logo, the text "GUNNER LOTTERY" is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font, followed by "JOIN TODAY" in a large, bold, orange, sans-serif font. Below this, the text "CASH PRIZES UP TO" is written in a smaller, red, sans-serif font, followed by "£25,000" in a very large, bold, orange, sans-serif font. A curved banner across the middle of the poster contains the text "Supporting those who serve" in a white, sans-serif font. Below the banner, a circular inset shows a portrait of a woman in a military uniform. At the bottom of the poster, a group of soldiers in full ceremonial dress, including bearskin hats and plumed helmets, are standing in a line, holding rifles. The background of the bottom section shows a large, ornate building with many windows.

Royal Artillery Charities  
[www.thegunners.org.uk](http://www.thegunners.org.uk)

**GUNNER LOTTERY**  
**JOIN TODAY**

CASH PRIZES UP TO  
**£25,000**

Supporting those who serve  
Supporting those who served

For every £1 entry, at least  
50p goes directly to royal  
artillery charities



## · Regimental News ·

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

### 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 [Carla.brawn100@mod.gov.uk](mailto:Carla.brawn100@mod.gov.uk) or through your chain of command.

### 1st Battery (The Blazers), 14th Regiment Royal Artillery

On Wednesday 30th July 1st Battery gathered to celebrate its birthday, a proud lineage that traces back to the original formation of the Battery in 1779.

Thanks to the generous support of the Royal Artillery Association, our soldiers enjoyed a well-earned day of adventure and connection. The morning began with a lively game of Touch rugby which fostered a healthy competitiveness which was followed by a relaxed brunch in the Battery lines. We then travelled to Basingstoke via coach, where two thrilling escape rooms tested our teamwork and grit, the day ended with a hearty smorgasbord dinner at The Duck and Tipple, allowing us to unwind after a busy day of activities.

We are deeply grateful to the Royal Artillery Association for making this memorable day possible. Their continued support strengthens the bonds that keep our traditions alive.



## 295 (Hampshire Yeomanry) Battery Royal Artillery

### 106 (Yeomanry) Regiment Royal Artillery

On 5-6 September, 295 (Hampshire Yeomanry) Battery Royal Artillery, an Army Reserve unit based in Hilsea, Portsmouth, celebrated a milestone weekend with the Battery's annual birthday event and the launch of the Hampshire Yeomanry Old Comrades Association Dinner.

Part of 106th (Yeomanry) Regiment Royal Artillery, the British Army's only reserve anti-air warfare regiment, the Battery operates the highly capable Starstreak High Velocity Missile alongside the new Lightweight Multirole Missile. Formed in 2014, 295 Battery is a relatively young unit, still shaping its identity and history. Following the success of its 10th anniversary in 2024, the Battery resolved to make an annual birthday gathering a tradition, celebrating achievements and strengthening the ties between past and present members.

This year's celebration also marked the founding of the Hampshire Yeomanry Old Comrades Association. These associations, first established in the early 20th century, provide a way for veterans to stay connected, uphold traditions, and support one another. The new Hampshire Yeomanry branch aims to keep former members in touch while fostering links with serving personnel. Its mission is not only to honour the spirit and heritage of the Battery but also to offer practical and emotional support to members and their families in times of difficulty.

Generous funding of £1,150 from the Royal Artillery Association enabled the Battery to host both the inaugural Dinner and a family friendly all ranks BBQ. The two-day event brought together more than 80 officers, soldiers, veterans, and their families for a weekend of camaraderie, reflection, and celebration.

On Friday evening, guests enjoyed a formal three-course dinner at a local restaurant, while Saturday featured a relaxed family BBQ that gave everyone the opportunity to reconnect in a more informal setting.

On behalf of the Battery Commander, the officers and soldiers—past and present—and their families, I extend our sincere thanks to the Royal Artillery Association. Your generosity made this occasion possible, helping to strengthen our community and celebrate our shared Gunner identity.



## · Awards/Fundraising ·

### RAA Annual Awards

The Royal Artillery Association has a number of awards that we present each year at the Royal Artillery Assembly, please consider those individuals in your Branch that make a difference. All of these awards can be found on the website where you can download the forms you need. Here is a list of the Awards that we that present at the RA Assembly:

- Certificate of Appreciation
- Certificate of Merit
- Royal Artillery Association Medal
- Royal Artillery Association Cup
- Royal Artillery Association Kerr Cup
- Royal Artillery Association Eire Cup

Submission deadline for the Awards is 23rd January 2026.

### **RAA Awards**

### 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.

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 Carla Brawn on 0303 380 9714 or Carla's email for further details [carla.brawn100@mod.gov.uk](mailto:carla.brawn100@mod.gov.uk)

### 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). All fundraising donations needs to be with the Charity by the 31st December 2025.

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.





## · Communications ·

### Gunner App

Gunner Net is a one-stop shop for the entire Gunner Family: Serving (Regular and Reserve), Retired and their Families. With links to every Gunner Regiment's Welfare, Padre and Medical personnel, it can provide easy to reach support for the whole Gunner Family should they need it. It also has a wealth of other agencies for support via the HARDFACTS system, with links across all areas to help make contact as easy as possible. We also provide links to each Gunner Regiment, including their many social media platforms, to make it easier to keep in contact with the whole Royal Regiment.

It remains a work in progress and we always encourage suggestions for improvement and links to agencies that will support the Gunner Family – please get in contact with James Billingham if you have any ideas! [James.Billingham100@mod.gov.uk](mailto:James.Billingham100@mod.gov.uk)

Download the QR codes below:

Apple

Android

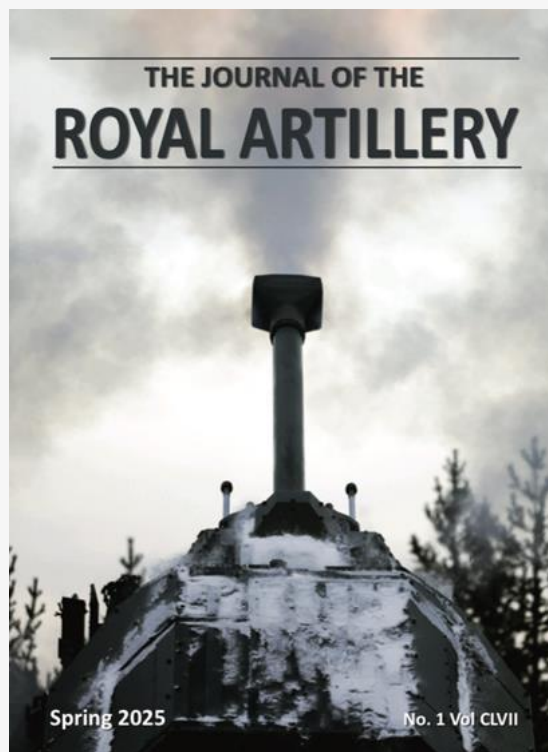
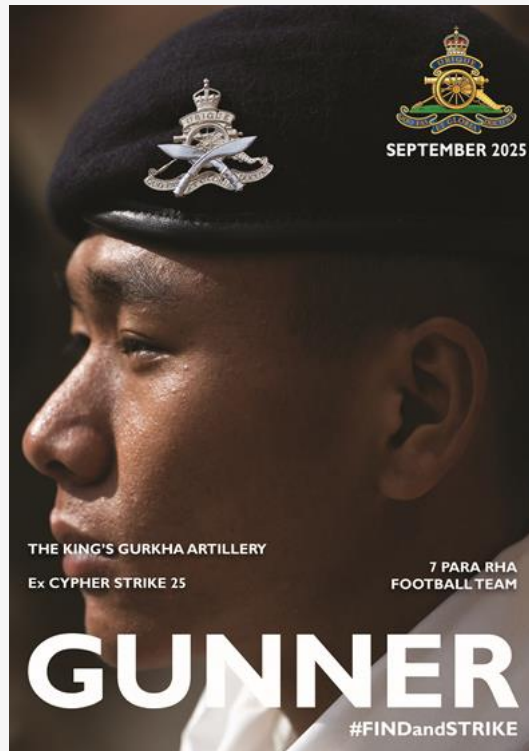


## Gunner & Journal of the Royal Artillery

The Gunner magazine and RA Journal are now available to read via the website, please click on the button below to view the recent issue.

[Gunner](#)

[RA Journal](#)



## •Notices•

### Reporting a Death.....

Occasionally the office receives enquiries on how to report the death of an individual in receipt of an armed forces pension.

Guidance is available on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) on how to report the death of a member, whether the person was receiving a pension at the time of death or if they were a deferred member. The link below is informative and gives details of the information needed to report a death.

[Death of an Armed Forces Pension Scheme member - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)

However, deaths can also be registered on 'Tell us Once' service, this is a government initiative in the UK (except NI) that allows you to notify multiple government agencies when a death is reported. The link below gives details of what is required:

[What to do after someone dies: Tell Us Once - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)

This Service will notify relevant departments including: DVL, HM Passport Office, HMRC, local councils and the Armed Forces Pension Scheme. This service enables early notification of deaths, which means the processing of benefits are actioned quickly, to reduce the risk of potential overpayments that relatives may have to address in their time of grief.

### 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 2025/26 Programme

Date and Timings	Event	Subject	Lecturer/ Lead	Bookings Close
Wednesday 19 November 1930 hrs	Webinar	Lessons learnt: Constructing the 1914 British Expeditionary Force	Dr Spencer Jones RA Regimental Historian	Friday 14 November
Wednesday 21 January 2026 1930 hrs	Webinar	Panic in London: Gothas, Bombs and Rockets in Two World Wars.	Dr Linda Parker Author & Secretary British Modern Military History Society	Sunday 18 January
Wednesday 25 February 2026 1930 hrs	Webinar	The Brassington Animations Part 2 12.5in RML Gun 1885 12in Siege Howitzer 1918	Mr Rob Brassington Animation Designer	Sunday 22 February

These events are open to all Gunners. To register please email Lt Col Clayton, RAHS Secretary:  
[richard.clayton312@gmail.com](mailto:richard.clayton312@gmail.com) by the dates shown

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



# 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



# 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

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<https://www.thegunners.org.uk/>

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