



• The Gunners •

Newsletter - December 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





Message from the Chairman

Brigadier (Retd) Mark Pountain CBE

Dear Members

2023 draws soon to a close, and we have said farewell to a number who have left our ranks this year, as we have also welcomed those new members who have now joined our Association.

We all know the saying, 'once a Gunner, always a Gunner' but what does that mean? Different things to each of us, probably, in our own different ways, but we also all share a common bond. The foundation stones of our Association are comradeship and welfare. Welfare has come to mean for many the help given by the state or an organisation to those in need, and certainly the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund has dispensed about £750,000 this year to help members of the Association in need. More widely though, welfare means the health, happiness, good fortune and prosperity of a person or group, which is also delivered through comradeship.

GK Chesterton wrote, 'Friendship implies individuality, whereas comradeship implies the temporary subordination ... of individuality. Friends are the better for being for two; but comrades are the better for being two million'. We may not be two

million, but whatever our age, gender, ability, race or creed, whether currently serving, retired or a family member, we all share the common bond and distinction of serving or having served our Country through being members of our Gunner family, an experience not shared by any other. It is important therefore that we acknowledge that, and honour those who have gone before us as well as celebrate our shared experience and those who have now joined us.

This year has seen our usual time-honoured events – among them Sandown, ‘Gunner Sunday’ at The Royal Hospital Chelsea, the Royal Artillery Assembly at Blackpool, remembrance at the National Memorial Arboretum, and our annual Remembrance Day service at The Gunner Memorial in London. I am delighted to report that these have been even better attended than last year, which indicates that these are all important, and wanted.

It would be easy to be satisfied with that, but we are not complacent, and we know that people turn to each other when times are tight. Following the workshops that I wrote of last year, we briefed the findings and the work now being undertaken to the Royal Artillery Assembly at Blackpool. There have been some ‘quick wins’, such as dropping Branch membership dues. Other initiatives will take more time, but we recognise the need to acknowledge and support in some way all the various groupings, whether families, former regimental associations, functional groups like the RA clerks or bandsmen and women, or interest groups such as ‘The RA Riders’. We shall continue to listen and work hard to ensure that your Association is and remains relevant to you.

My heartfelt thanks to the National Executive Committee (NEC), our Honorary Chaplain, the Branches, all our wonderful volunteers, particularly our Standard Bearers and the Royal Artillery Band of the Lancashire Volunteers for their outstanding commitment, and of course the central staff at Larkhill for all their work over the year. The thoughts of the Association are with those on operations over the Christmas and New Year period and with all those on duty, especially where families are separated, as well as with all those in need.

May you be safe wherever you are, and with best wishes,

Mark Pountain

· Events ·

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

Forecast of Events



ROYAL ARTILLERY GOLD CUP Sandown Park Thursday 15th February 2024



AN AFTERNOON OF QUALITY JUMP RACING

The Royal Artillery Gold Cup, first run in 1862 and one of the oldest events in the horseracing calendar and a flagship day for the Gunners. Regiments will again be setting up co-located focal points, within a dedicated Gunner area, this time in the Surrey Hall, which forms part of the main concourse on the ground floor. This venue puts the Regiment very much at the centre of the day, with immediate access to the racecourse and bookies on one side and to the Parade rings and the Winner Enclosure on the other. It also makes a range of catering outlets more easily available, with convenient bars and food outlets

range of catering options more easily available, with convenient bars and food outlets, providing greater choice and the opportunity to have a drink and meet with friends.

Serving and retired members of the Regiment will be able to meet fellow Gunners in the Surrey Hall, but there will also be an option to book a two-course buffet lunch in The Gallery, which is on the first floor of the Grandstand and has its own bar and views over the track. It is hoped that will be an attractive option to those who wish to enjoy a sit-down meal in slightly more formal surroundings. This will include:

- Two-course buffet including dessert
- Pay as you go bar (Card payments only)
- Private lounge, with shared tables

Gallery Badges and admission tickets included £49 per person, please contact the Sandown Park hospitality team on 01372 477747 or by emailing London.Hospitality@thejockeyclub.co.uk

Entry to The Gallery will be restricted to badge holders only until 1400 hrs.

Use promotional code **UBIQUE24**

Purchase tickets by scanning the QR Code



Tickets at the discounted price of £14 can be booked online <https://www.thejockeyclub.co.uk/sandown/events-tickets/royal-artillery-gold-cup-day/>

POC please email Emm.Pagan-Skelley100@mod.gov.uk

#FINDandSTRIKE

Royal Artillery Officers' Alanbrooke Lunch

Thursday 7th March 2024

The next Royal Artillery Alanbrooke Lunch is on Thursday 7th March 2024 at the Army & Navy Club, St James's Square, London. Drinks 1200. Lunch 1245.

The Alanbrooke Lunch Club is open to all Gunners officers, Regular and Reserve whether serving or retired. The lunch costs £70 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 £70 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. If you make a bank transfer please email the Royal Artillery Secretariat Officer on Emm.Pagan-Skelley100@mod.gov.uk to

on RAANB0524@mod.gov.uk 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.



FRIDAY 17TH - SUNDAY 19TH MAY 2024
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 18th May) - Just **£158.50 Per Person**

2 Night Package inclusive of Dinner, Bed & Breakfast

(Including RA Grand Gala Dinner - Saturday 18th May) - Just **£130.50 Per Person**

Grand Gala Dinner Only - No Accommodation £31.00 Per Person

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

- Full English Breakfast
- Standard Bearer's 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 **0161 923 0300** and quote **RAANB0524**

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 500 701

Accommodation reservations cannot be made on this line (01253 500 701)

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

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

Lisbon Maru Memorial Service

Last month the RAA Association Secretary attended the screening of 'The Sinking of The Lisbon Maru'. In October the 81st Anniversary Service was held at the National Memorial Arboretum, representatives from RHQ RA attended the commemorative event; Lt Col Richard Carter (Retd), Maj Richard Lupton and the King's Standard Bearer, Mr Mark Ballard.



Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey

Her Majesty The Queen opened the 95th Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey today, 9th November 2023. The Annual event marks the start of the nation's Remembrance commemorations and has been held every year since 1928.

After the observance of two minutes' silence, The Queen toured the grounds meeting veterans, representatives from the military

organisations and members of the public. Members of the Royal Artillery Association attended with three families of Royal Artillery Officer's; Captain Tom Sawyer RA - 29 Cdo Regt RA, Lieutenant Aaron Lewis RA - 29 Cdo Regt RA and Captain Alex Eida RHA - 7 PARA RHA.



Suez Maru Memorial Service

Standard Bearers from Nottingham, Bloxwich & Walsall and Birmingham Branches attended the 80th Anniversary of the sinking of the Suez Maru on Wednesday 29th November 2023. The Suez Maru was sunk by the USS Bonefish at 0817 hrs on Monday 29th November 1943 with the loss of 414 British POWs, including 133 Royal Artillery soldiers. The memorial service was held at the National Memorial Arboretum.





St Barbara's Day

On Sunday 3rd Dec 23, the Royal Regiment of Artillery celebrated St Barbara's Day with a Service held at The Royal Garrison Church of St Alban and St Barbara.

The Service was led by The Rev Mark Henderson CF, Chaplain to 32 Regt RA and accompanied by The Ven Stephen Robbins CB, Honorary Chaplain to the RA. This year we also celebrated the 50th Anniversary of Dorchester Branch and we commemorated those members of the Gunner family who have recently died.

A carvery lunch was held in the RA Officers' Mess after the Service.

Many thanks go to all who were involved with the organising of every aspect of the day to make this an enjoyable event by all those who attended.





· RAA Branch News ·

Message from the Association Secretary

Dear loyal members and supporters of the Association

I have the pleasure and honour of writing to you at the end of my first full year as your Secretary. It has been a year that has seen me visiting Branches across our nation including Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales along with many regions in England and our three branches in Germany. I am proud of the number of Branches I have had the privilege of visiting but I am conscious there are still others I need to focus on as we begin 2024.

This starts early, as I hope to visit several of your Branches as you hold your AGMs at the start of the year, and I have already committed to attending Branches both in the South and the Midland Regions. I am also keen to ensure that I spend some dedicated time in the Northern Region as well as the Northwest, and I look forward to visiting these wonderful regions in the first half of the year.

Whilst I have spoken and been physically
working on growing our connections to Old

working on growing our connections to Old Comrade Associations, Past and Present Members Groups along with Interest Networks. I am pleased and excited that we have also been able to grow our traditional membership, both in new members and even in a couple of cases, some whole new Branches at regional level. We have however, had to say farewell to a couple of our Branches, this is unfortunate, and I will continue to do all I can to ensure where possible this is not the case next year.

It has been a challenging year for several our Branches, and I wish to thank all those members who tirelessly give their time in committee roles and in many cases covering more than one post and, in some cases, even across numerous Branches. Your support may often go unmentioned, but it is never not valued or truly appreciated, and I know I can thank you personally, from me as your Secretary as well as on behalf of your members, for everything you do, you are truly the engine room of the Association and without you, we would be adrift.

It is with true admiration, that I must thank our Standard Bearers, not just for their upfront attendance at the Assembly, Remembrance Services and most recently the twelve of you that travelled all the way on a miserable weekend (weather wise), to attend St Barbara's Day Service in Larkhill - but your tireless attendance, supporting Memorial Events, both National at the NMA but also more locally within your Regions, ensuring the Gunners are represented appropriately at events throughout the year. Finally, and most of all... I thank you for turning up day in, day out as we say our last farewell to Gunners on their final parades, as you attend funeral services up and down the country.

So to you all, my best wishes to you and your families in the New Year, thank you for all your support, help and advice and I look forward to seeing you in 2024.

Regards to all

Dickie

On Saturday 19th September twenty Branch and families members visited Lytham St Anne's to visit the 1940s Festival Wartime Weekend displaying WW2 military equipment, history displays, a replica Spitfire and vintage traders.

Merseyside - Aigburth Branch



A team of six ex-Members of 208 Bty HSF Troop completed their annual fundraising event to raise funds for the Liverpool Alder Hey Children's Hospital on 27th September before the expected 'Storm Agnes' arrived. Over the years this team have raised in excess of £30,000 for the Children's Hospital.





Lewes Branch

Lewes Branch held their Annual Branch Summer BBQ on Saturday 26 August 2023 at St Marys' Supporters Club in Lewes. After the Advance Party got drenched in the downpour setting up the gazebo's, no sooner had we set up, they were no longer required as the sun shone brightly on the RAA for the rest of the day.

35 members & their guests enjoyed a fun packed day. The 'Boys' finally took the lead in the Annual Skittles Tournament against the 'Girls' and they now lead by 2 - 1.

All enjoyed a truly fantastic day of a great laugh, good food, excellent company and a true sense of comradery, at such a Great Annual Event which lasted into the evening (as always). We also welcomed two new members to our Branch.

It was also a great opportunity to celebrate our Vice Chairman, Budge Harding's, 83rd Birthday. Happy Birthday Budge.

All RA Serving or Veteran's are always
Welcome to Lewes Branch and please get in

welcome to Lewes branch and please get in touch via

<https://www.theraalewes.co.uk/contact-us>



Canterbury Branch

In September and October Canterbury Branch supported local commemorative memorial events:

On the 1st September members from the Branch attended a Commemorative Service for the Merchant Navy Day service in Dover. It was very well supported by local dignitaries, British Legion Branches, Merchant Navy Association, Sea Cadets, Royal Marine Association and RAA members. There were 3 RAA Standards on parade; Kent District - Doug Kay, Dover - Harry Hopper, Canterbury - Ray Homer. Wreaths were laid by Dennis Gabb (Canterbury) and John Bishop (SE Region). It was a moving ceremony conducted within view of the Straits of Dover where so many seafarers lost their lives in conflict.

A wreath was also laid on behalf of the Norwegian Embassy at the Royal Norwegian Navy Garden of Remembrance.





The Branch attended the Battle of Britain Commemorative Service at the Memorial Arch in Folkestone. Standard Bearers were on parade with the Air Training Corps.

On 1st October the Branch were honoured to attend the 9th Gurkha Memorial Day held in Folkestone. The Royal Regiment of Artillery have strong links with the Brigade of Gurkhas and we were proud to represent the Regiment on this important occasion.

South Pembrokeshire Branch

Most recently the Regional Representative, Clive Boyles visited the Branch, attending one of their meetings. The Branch has continued to forge links with the British Legion in Milford Haven and the VC Gallery Centre which operates both in Pembroke Dock and Haverfordwest. Although consisting of only 24 members, South Pembrokeshire Branch have organised many fund-raising events throughout the year and continue to make contributions to the RACF.

In this area of historical Royal Artillery presence, with Manorbier, Pendine, Penally and Castlemartin (in their heydays!), seeing many Gunners pass through their gates, it is

considered that there are many RA veterans in our area, and we continue to try and recruit new members, to foster good social ties and maintain the feeling of the Gunner Family.

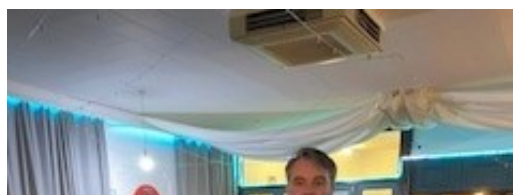
So, if you live in the South Pembrokeshire Area and you are reading this, don't delay -

PLEASE GET IN TOUCH, TODAY



On Wednesday 15th November the Association Secretary travelled to South Pembrokeshire Branch to present Mr Colin Friend with a Certificate of Merit for his outstanding service and commitment to the Association and South Pembrokeshire Branch over 28 years. Colin has been supported by his wife Florrie who is also a Branch member.

'Colin has been a source of inspiration and is greatly admired by all the members of the Branch and also to the wider community. Colin has dedicated his life to the Royal Regiment and it is rightly fitting that he is recognised for his lifetime of service.'





North Germany Branch

Veterans in the Branch attended the Candle in the Wind Commemorative Service. This Service remembers the fallen and honours the veterans. It was held at Nederweert War Cemetery with a fly past conducted by the Dutch Airforce. Wreaths were laid in memory of soldiers from the RA, RHA and HAC.

Please click here to view the [event](#).



25 Regiment RA - Reunion

Over the weekend 16/17 Jun 22 saw the 20th

Over the weekend 16/17 Jun 23 saw the 39th Annual Reunion of the disbandment of 25th Regiment RA. The event was held at 204 Battery RA, 101 Regiment RA, Newcastle Upon Tyne.

25 Regiment RA were disbanded in 1984 in order for the reformation of 3 RHA with the majority of its manpower being subsumed into 3 RHA during the reformation process. It is a real testament to the tenacity of this diminishing band of brothers that over 120 attended the weekend – bearing in mind the age group is some 60+. Indeed even 39 years on we had members attending for their first time and a fantastic weekend was had by one and all. Next year, however, sees our 40th and due to the age of those attending, but more importantly to drive down the cost, the event will be held over three days during the week commencing on Mon 24 Jun 24 and culminating in a Cathedral Service on Wed 26 Jun 24 followed by a party in Newcastle Labour Club that evening. This will be a high-profile event with the Lord Lieutenant of Tyne and Wear, Maj Gen R Clements representing the wider Gunner community and the Mayor of Newcastle in attendance. A generous benefactor has underwritten accommodation in two of the top city centre hotels; the Vermont and the County and anyone who has still to sign up for this should contact Tom Robson at: tom@matom.com for further information. Outline details are contained on the Regiment's Facebook page: "25 Regt RA – 40th Anniversary".





Edinburgh Branch

The Branch had a great visit to Lady Haig's Poppy Factory in Edinburgh on Monday 16th October 2023.



RAA Dorchester Branch – Vignettes

Celebrates 50th Anniversary

The first available RAA Certificate of Authorization to form the Wareham/Dorchester and Districts Branch is dated 14 November 1980. However, prior evidence that a Branch existed in 1978 consists of humorous acceptance replies from Spike Milligan and Harry Secombe inviting them to become honorary members.

Whilst early meetings were probably held in

...and early meetings were probably held in Wareham, by 1986 meetings were being held at the Royal British Legion in Dorchester. By 8 May 1987 a new Standard had been purchased for £173: 7p and was dedicated on 6 September 1987. The old Standard was laid up at Wareham Church. The Branch now meets at The Junction Hotel.

Early Minutes from 1985 show membership to have been 90 in total many of whom had seen active service during and after WW2. A Ladies' Section was formed in 1986 growing rapidly to 32 within a year. At the same time Branch numbers rose from 73 to 94, drawing members from further afield in the County. The Ladies Section disbanded in 2002 when they became full members of the Branch. In 2014 there were 30 members.

On Saturday 9th April 2016 the presentation took place of the new RA Pennant to Veteran boat 'My Girl' at Weymouth quayside. 'My Girl' saw service in the Second World War when in 1939 she was requisitioned by the Royal Artillery to ferry Gunners, ammunition and supplies to the coastal defences, to carry troops from the harbour to the sea forts at Weymouth and Portland and to assist with the D-Day build up. 'My Girl' had been honoured previously in 1994, when Major General Steele presented the first RA Pennant.

This year the Branch celebrates it's 50th Anniversary. They currently meet on the third Sunday of the month at The Junction Hotel, Dorchester and conduct reciprocal visits throughout the year to other Branches including Poole. The Branch is affiliated to 29 Commando Regiment, 8 (Alma) Commando Battery. The Branch Standard was paraded at St Barbara's Day on 3rd Dec 2023.

With acknowledgement to 'A Short History of the Dorchester Branch' (2012) written and published by Rev. Norman Beggs.

Bury St Edmunds Branch

A joint RAA and RBL Christmas Lunch was held in West Suffolk College, students who are studying Hospitality and Food Management Courses took care of group in their Restaurant, EDMUNDS. Meals were paid for by the groups contributions to the college, and they were informed that the students would benefit from the college trip to the East Anglian Coast next year. A great afternoon of comradeship.



Newbury Branch

Seven intrepid members of the Newbury and District Branch of the RAA spent the first weekend in December in Celle, Germany, as guests of the North Germany Branch. From the moment we arrived we could not have been looked after better. Highlights include a visit to Celle's Weihnachtsmarkt to test the Glühwein and the branch Christmas Dinner held in the local Bundeswehr Officers' Mess. After a wonderful meal we played bingo and tested our luck in the raffle. Lots of fun,

laughs, new friends and happy memories. Whilst there are too many names to mention, Newbury Branch's thanks go to Michael Bridgeman for his hard work, and Elke, Ben and Michael; Lee and Maja; and Henry, Bernhardt, Cathy, Nick and Bernie, and the two Santas... who all went out of their way to make us feel part of the Gunner family in Germany. Thank you!



• RAA Annual Return & Summary of Accounts •

For those Branches who want to make a start on their Annual Return and Summary of Accounts for 2023, the forms can be downloaded from the website.

- Summary of Accounts - Required by 31 January 2024
- Annual Return (with nominal roll) - Required by 1 March 2024

[Download Forms](#)

· The Royal Artillery Charitable Fund ·

A message from the Chair of the
Welfare Committee

Major Andrew Dines TD

The 'Gunner' charities have continued to work very hard behind the scenes this year to support the whole Royal Artillery Regimental Family – whether serving or retired as well as their dependants – as a key foundation of our central Regimental message that 'Once a Gunner – Always a Gunner'.

The RACF provides a wide range of welfare help and support to our "Gunner" family ranging from signposting best practice, help and support, grant giving, liaising with other charities or providing help with capital projects.

The level of financial welfare support – already in 2023 the RACF has enabled £1.5 million of welfare support to be paid out to those with individual welfare needs (as at the end of November 2023). This involves working closely with and harnessing the support of other charities, funding sources and local authorities (a process called almonising and this is a key role of our Welfare Team). The RACF, itself, has contributed £583,000 towards the above £1.5 million total effectively multiplying the

available welfare funding by a factor of approximately 2.6 times. This is real value!

Looking after each other – over the last couple of years I have emphasised the need for us all to look after each other as we face various financial challenges e.g. cashflow, petrol costs for visiting people in hospitals or a lack of capital for purchases such as mobility aids or converting bathrooms to wet rooms. But we must also be aware that the military community generally is reluctant to seek financial advice, help or support often until it is too late (probably because we are all either too proud to seek that advice, feel that we should just cope or that we do not know where to go for that advice).

Seeking help earlier – putting off decisions about key financial issues is usually always counter-productive and seeking financial advice at an early stage can make a huge difference avoiding, for example, very expensive “pay day loans” or ‘doing without’ etc.,. However, it takes a “determined mindset” or simply “guts” to admit that help is needed and then to actively seek that advice.

My Christmas Message is, therefore, to ask that if you, or anybody that you might know, potentially needs RACF help – whether financial/priority debts, mobility, general needs, essential household goods and bereavement/funeral expenses etc., – please do contact your local RAA branch, SSAFA, RBL, ABF, Unit Welfare Teams or the RACF Welfare Team itself (contact details below) to find out if help might be available.

I would again like to give my **heartfelt thanks**, on behalf of the Trustees and yourselves, to all members of the RACF and RAA teams for the commitment, dedication

and enthusiasm they bring to their roles and which they do so willingly on behalf of us all.

With my very best wishes to you all for a happy Christmas and let's hope it is a more settled and peaceful 2024.

RACF Welfare Team Quarterly Report

The RACF are here to help with those essential needs over this winter period. Let us help.

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.

£90,000 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.

£101,000 of grants pledged helped towards mobility adaptations and mobility needs such as EPV's Riser recliners and DFG mobility changes to the home.

If you have a concern 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 or [RACF Contact Form](#)

Thank You's

"Very quick turnaround. Again from the Regiment and the individuals thank you so much for the generous offer and all you have done for members of 105RA this financial year, your help and support is invaluable and has made real differences to our Soldiers and Officers lives."

"Once again thank you so much to the RACF. This will greatly enhance the recovery process for XX."

"Thank you. The Royal Artillery Charitable Fund are fantastic and help out the RA community immensely. I am glad they have supported you through this troubling time"

• **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

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.

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.

The King's Troop RHA

The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery recently hosted the Baxter Ball; their yearly event celebrating the end of the ceremonial season prior to some well-earned summer leave. This year was a particularly large celebration to match an equally busy year seeing Op BRIDGE, Op GOLDEN ORB and the mounting of King's Life Guard, amongst many other occasions, all taking place in this training year.



106 Regt RA

Serving members of 457th (Hampshire Carabiners Yeomanry) Battery, veterans and

family members enjoyed a summer families day in the Summer.

Over 85 members gathered with families at the Orangery Suite with some ex- members travelling from Canada, Spain, and France to attend the day. The historic venue is set in three acres of walled gardens which allowed families and friends together in the relaxing environment to catch up whilst enjoying a beautiful hog roast buffet.

Over the last 12 months the Bty has mobilised Army Reserve soldiers and officers to support 12 Regt RA in Northern Iraq on Op SHADER and will continue to do so into 2024. The Bty has regularly deployed officers and soldiers too Iraq, Afghanistan, Cyprus, and numerous MACA taskings since its formation in 2000.



7 Para RHA

At the end of a busy and demanding EX HAKARA STORM in Kenya, F Bty enjoyed celebrating Ahmed Kehl Day and spent their last full day at the Maiyan Resort. This provided a great opportunity for everyone to relax before flying home and to enjoy some well-deserved rest and recuperation after an exciting and challenging period in Kenya.



14 Regt RA

1st Bty RA, The Blazers recently celebrated their 244th Birthday. The aim of the celebration was to bring members of the Battery together, encouraging team building, boosting morale and educating members of the Battery on the history of The Blazers.

Thorney Island Summer Fayre

The Thorney Island Summer Fayre returned with a bang. After being postponed in 2022 due to the death of Queen Elizabeth II, on Saturday the 2nd of September the long-awaited family's day was opened by the Fort

Cumberland Guard and the firing of their ceremonial cannon. This event is traditionally tailored to facilitate community cohesion across the whole of 7 Air Defence Group.

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 donations for the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund and Royal Artillery Association go towards winning the Cornwall Cup and must be received by **31 December 2023**.





· Awards/Grants ·

RAA Annual Awards

The Royal Artillery Association has a number of awards that we give out each year, 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 19th January 2024.

[Awards Forms](#)

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 2023/4 Programme

Date and Timings	Event	Subject	Lecturer/ Lead	Bookings Close	Cost per Head
Tuesday 14 November 2023	Webinar	Air War Ukraine 2023: Are Air Forces obsolete?	Col Mike Blair	Friday 10 November	Nil
Tuesday 23 January 2024	Webinar	17 Pdr SP M10 in WW II	Maj Frank Baldwin	Friday 19 January	Nil
Tuesday 20 February 2024	Webinar	Tracing Frederick Miller VC	Maj Mark Martin	Friday 16 February	Nil
Tuesday 23 or Wednesday 24 April	St George's Day Lectures, RA Mess Lunch and ACGM, Newcome Hall, Larkhill SP4 8QT	War in North America: Could the British have won the War of Independence? British Artillery in the War	Professor Jeremy Black (to be confirmed) Maj Rick Hatton	Tuesday 9 April	To be notified

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.

· 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



Regimental Christmas Cards Order Form 2023

- A** Foiled RA Badge £12.50 per pack of 10
- B** The Regimental Family
- C** The Royal Artillery War Memorial in Winter

	<p>Embossed RA Coat of Arms with Ribbon (Queen's Crown) £15.50 per pack of 10 incl. p8p* 171x117mm. (Limited old stock) With Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year</p>		<p>Foiled RA Badge (Queen's Crown) £9.00 per pack of 10 incl. p8p* 140x102mm. (Limited old stock) With Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year</p>
<p>D</p>		<p>E</p>	

Name: _____ Quantity required: _____
 Address: _____
 Postcode: _____
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 C _____ Total: _____

*Please add an extra £4.00 per 10 cards for overseas European postage
 Payment to **Royal Artillery Association BACS Account 00181906 Sort Code 30 99 88** or send **UK Sterling cheque to: Royal Artillery Association, Artillery House, Artillery Centre, RA Barracks, Larkhill, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 8QT**
 All money raised goes to the RAA. For enquiries please e-mail cas.thoburn603@mod.gov.uk

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 employment 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

Candidate contacts the Rejoiner Team	Rejoiner team conduct Pre-Service and Employment Checks	Candidate conducts medicals and interviews if required (see 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 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 8000

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