

# The Crossed Quills

The Magazine of the Artillery Clerks' Association



LEST WE FORGET



Edition 22  
December 2018



# Foreword by Association President - Lt Gen Richard Nugee CBE



1918 was an extraordinary year. In early April the Prime Minister Lloyd George told the House of Commons that 'we have entered the most critical phase of this most terrible war'. Amidst significant retreats the General Staff started to plan

for the evacuation of the British Forces from France, via the Channel Ports, and on the 12th April General Haig, the Commander in Chief declared 'every position must be held to the last man. With our backs to the wall and believing in the justice of our cause each one must fight to the end. The safety of our homes and the freedom of mankind depends upon the conduct of each one.' A few days later Passchendaele was given up, a cruel blow to the 275,000 soldiers who had been killed or wounded taking it the winter before.

But by 8th August, just a few months later, at the Battle of Amiens the Allies started the last 100 days, after which there was no significant set back, and the war was won with the Axis forces in full retreat. Why? Much was to do with an exhausted German Army, but it was also due to highly sophisticated tactics developed by the Allies (actually the British and Commonwealth troops) in what was to become known as Combined Operations, so familiar today. A critical part of this was, of course, the most dramatic development of artillery. Napoleon would have recognised the artillery of 1914 - we would recognise that of 1918 and the tactics that brought infantry, cavalry, artillery and the Royal Air Force all working together.

So as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Armistice, appropriately on a Sunday on 11th November, and as the Gunners lay a wreath the size of the original wreath from the end of WW1 (carried by six soldiers I am told) at the Gunner Memorial at Hyde Park to commemorate the more than 49,000 Gunners killed in that war, we should remember that the War was won, despite it looking desperate in the Spring. Perhaps there is a metaphor there for next year.

2018 is also the 20th Anniversary of the Association. Congratulations! I wish you all a very happy birthday, and as I write, I know a number of you will have been to Germany for a reunion there - I am sorry I couldn't

join you, but instead I had the privilege of attending the Alamein Dinner with, amongst others, Leslie Gosling (3 RHA, 1942 onwards) who is 103, still sprightly and still could give the order 'Fire' at 2140 hrs to a packed Dining Room. I also had the great pleasure of hosting Gen Sir Martin Farndale's grandson to his first taste of the Royal Regiment.

As we approach Christmas and New Year, another great cause for celebration, can I wish you all a joyous holiday and good luck for the next year. I very much hope to see you all at the next Reunion Dinner on 8 June 2019.

An advertisement for the website www.artyclerkassn.org. The top part features the text 'YOUR WEBSITE NEEDS YOU!' in large, bold, black letters. Below this is the URL 'https://www.artyclerkassn.org' in red. The background is a faded, pixelated image of a soldier's face wearing a helmet. Below the URL are several screenshots of the website's content, including a 'The Crossed Quills' page, a 'Standard Bearer' page, and a 'The Royal Artillery Clerks' Association Standard Bearer - Mr Andrew Jones former SgtAC' page. There are also several green checkmarks in circular icons.

## 85th Artillery Clerks' Association Reunion and Dinner Saturday 8th June 2019

The 85th Artillery Clerks' Association Reunion and Dinner will take place at the Royal Artillery Central Sergeant's Mess, Larkhill on Saturday 8th June 2019. Further details can be found by visiting our website at [www.artyclerkassn.org](http://www.artyclerkassn.org) or on the calling letter which is enclosed with this edition of 'The Crossed Quills'.

## Report by Association Chairman - Lt Col Joe Falzon OSJ BEM



Once again we find ourselves focusing on another edition of Crossed Quills as the editorial team gets the production of our 22nd issue underway. It is a credit to Andy Tibble, his tact and persuasive powers, that his former contacts at RMA Sandhurst continue to print our magazine year on year.

Of course, our Association is now in its twenty first year, so perhaps it is a good opportunity to look back and reflect on what we have accomplished together (or didn't) over the past 20 years. And while we pause to consider our successes, failures and things we wish we hadn't done, it is also a good time to plan for the year ahead.

We can look back on successive memorable Annual Reunion Weekends (who can ever forget the Marty Hester spectacular earlier this year) which in the main have attracted the cream of Gunner senior officers as our guests, a steady increase in membership, an excellent website and a quality magazine. Coupled with our less lauded activities, representational as well as welfare related, we can justifiably be proud of our Association as it comes of age.

Over the years we have been really very fortunate to benefit from supportive Honorary Presidents, dedicated Committee Members and a reliable Standard Bearer. We must not forget that in the past year or so 34 (Seringapatam) Battery have stepped up to the mark as our affiliated battery. I would like to thank everyone, on your behalf, for their individual and collective immeasurable contributions.

The icing on the cake came in October with the Reunion weekend arranged by Ron Holmes in Germany. It was a very relaxed, enjoyable occasion - full report and photographs can be found towards the end of this edition.

So, as we celebrate another successful year for the Association, let us pledge to continue to improve and expand our membership base, to keep in touch, to support Association events and to help the Committee chart our future.

I wish you and your families a Christmas full of joy, a healthy and prosperous New Year.

With every best wishes.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Falzon". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

## Report by Association Secretary - Andy Tibble MVO MSM (former WO1(SSM))



Once again this has been another busy year which has passed so quickly since the production of the last edition of 'The Crossed Quills'. The Association once again has been actively represented by our Standard Bearer, Mr Andrew Jones at various events throughout the UK during the last 12 months. Further details can be read

later on in the magazine. On behalf of the Committee and members I would once again like to thank Andrew for his continued commitment in representing the

Association at so many venues throughout the year. We had a most excellent Reunion Dinner which was held at the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Central Mess, Larkhill on Saturday 9th June 2018 under the auspices of Mr Roy Deal. The Association was proud to welcome the Master Gunner St James Park, Lieutenant General Sir Andrew Gregory KBE CB as our Guest of Honour and the Battery Sergeant Major 34 (Seringapatam) Battery, WO2 (BSM) Taff Evans and Ms Sarah Davies from the Royal Artillery Association as our guests. On behalf of those members who attended, I would like to say a big thank you to Roy for all of the hard work that he put into this dinner, making this a most memorable evening and a most enjoyable weekend. Further details regarding the 84th Artillery

Clerks' Association and Reunion Dinner that took place at Larkhill on Saturday 9th June 2018 can be read later in this edition of 'The Crossed Quills'.

All Area Secretary's are asked to engage with all members of the Association who currently live within their areas of responsibility. The aim of this exercise is to re-engage with our members and also to encourage them to attend future dinners or at least to get some feedback from them as to why they are no longer participating. The Committee can then address these issues in order to improve attendance levels. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our Area Secretary's for their continued support over the past year.

The 85th Artillery Clerks' Reunion will take place over the weekend of the 7th, 8th and 9th June 2019 at Larkhill. The calling letter for this reunion weekend is enclosed with your edition of 'The Crossed Quills'. This is the only opportunity for all members of the Artillery Clerks' Association to meet up over a weekend in the UK and therefore, it would be good to seek the support of all members in supporting this event each year. Should any members have any concern regarding transportation to/from the reunion, this should be included on your Reunion return when sending them back to Roy, so that we can contact you directly to possibly provide any assistance where possible, such as car sharing or even arranging for a group of members to travel by mini bus to the event. I can appreciate that this might be slightly more difficult for those travelling from Germany to the UK. If you wish to attend, however, have transport issues, then you should speak to Ron Holmes or myself as soon as possible as we may be able to come up with a possible solution to ensure that you are able to attend. Our Germany Reunion Secretary, Ron Holmes organised a very successful Reunion Weekend in Germany over the weekend of 19th, 20th & 21st October 2018. Further details can be read later on in the Crossed Quills.

Once again 'Crossed Quills' continues to grow in size! I would like to take this opportunity in thanking those Association members who have contributed to this edition by forwarding articles and photographs for inclusion into this edition. Donations for this year's magazine have been received from the Committee members, and Lt Col Russ Lee. Many thanks for your contribution. I would be most grateful if you could all look through your individual archives to see if you have something of interest, old photographs that you would like to be published in next years' edition. These articles, with photographs should reach me by no later than Friday 30th August 2019. Please remember to forward all articles in typed script where possible, including a CD-ROM with the articles on, along with

any original photographs that you may have. The photographs will be returned back to you once they have been scanned onto the system. Issue 23 of the Crossed Quills is due to be published by the end of December 2019.

Our current membership stands at 202. There are currently 162 Potential New members on the Wanted List who were Artillery Clerks', but have not yet joined the Association. I am sure that there are Potential Members on the Wanted List that you know of their whereabouts. I would ask all Members of the Association to make a consolidated effort this year to try and encourage them to join the Association. Recruiting has currently slowed down and I urge you all to try and motivate either a formerly appointed Artillery Clerk or former Junior Rank Clerk's in the Gunners who has subsequently been promoted to Sgt or above within the AGC. A copy of the Application for Membership is enclosed within this edition of the Crossed Quills. Further copies can be obtained from the Secretary. I recently wrote to all Area Secretary's regarding the importance of making and keeping in contact with those members within their areas of responsibility as well as encouraging them to see if they could trace those members on the wanted list down for possible recruitment into the Association. I have since received some feedback from some Area Secretary's in response to letters that they have sent to members in their areas. Thank you to those of you have replied. For those of you who have not come back to me, grateful if you could do so as soon as possible please.

As you know, Leo Lyall our Webmaster has dedicated a lot of time and hard work to make sure that the Artillery Clerks' Association website is highly presented and very informative. I have received a lot of feedback about our new look website and would like to thank Leo for all of his hard work. Unfortunately, as you are all aware a lot of our members tend to visit Facebook in particular our 'Crossed Quills' page to leave messages etc. This is clearly a good way for our members to communicate and keep each other up to date on events. I would, however, like to urge you all please to visit the Artillery Clerks' Association website at regular intervals please to see what messages have been placed on the message board and also to see details of forthcoming events both as an Association but also within the RAA. Please remember this is our website so we need to support it as well. Your support would be gratefully appreciated.

Due to membership being spread over the Globe and not having in my possession everyone's e-mail address (or up to date one) may I please ask you all to make a point of reading the Notice Board on the Association Website [www.artyclerkassn.org](http://www.artyclerkassn.org). There is no other way I can get details of promotions, deaths, etc. to you in a

timely fashion. In return may I please ask you to keep me up to date with any news, promotions, deaths, award of medals, change of address including e-mail, etc.

I would like to take this opportunity in wishing every member a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

See you at Larkhill, if not sooner. Ubique.

Andy

## Artillery Clerks' Association Ties

The Association tie is of a silk/polyester Gunner zig zag design depicting the crossed quills and the 'AC' in gold. Please send a cheque to the value of £20.00 made payable to The Artillery Clerks' Association to:  
 Mr Roy Deal MBE,  
 34 Birchwood Drive,  
 Durrington,  
 Salisbury,  
 Wiltshire SP4 8ER.



## Assistant Secretary's Report by Roy Deal MBE (former WO1(SSM))



The association ties are available from Roy Deal for £20 each. Please wear your tie with pride on the Friday evening and at social gatherings, we are an elite association and proud to be so. For those who have managed to hang onto the older versions and new members – join us and buy the new high-quality version for the 2019 Reunion.

If anyone has any ideas about items they would like the committee to procure and sell to celebrate our next significant 25th anniversary please send in your ideas for consideration and discussion to Andy or Joe. I continue to update the contact list so if you have moved, got a new e email address or telephone number please let me or Andy know.

**YOUR WEBSITE  
 NEEDS YOU!**

<https://www.artyclerkassn.org>

Position	Name	Phone
Chairman	Colin Wood (R. Royal Artillery)	01262 81000
Secretary	Mr R. W. (R. Royal Artillery)	01262 81000
Assistant Secretary	Mr S. (R. Royal Artillery)	01262 81000
Treasurer	Major Robert Collier (R. Royal Artillery)	01262 81000
Public Officer	Mr S. (R. Royal Artillery)	01262 81000
Membership Secretary	Mr S. (R. Royal Artillery)	01262 81000
Organiser	Mr S. (R. Royal Artillery)	01262 81000

## Association Committee 2018 - 2019

Honorary President	Lt Gen Richard Nugee CBE
Chairman	Lt Col Joe Falzon OSJ BEM
Secretary	Andy Tibble MVO MSM - former WO1(SSM)
Assistant Secretary	Roy Deal MBE - former WO1(SSM)
Reunion Secretary	Roy Deal MBE - former WO1 (SSM)
Treasurer	Maj (Retd) Paul Corker
Standard Bearer	Andrew Jones - former Sgt(AC))
Association Padre	Rev Dennis Brett - former WO2(QMS(AC))
Welfare Secretary	Dennis Norris - former WO2(QMS(AC))
Webmaster	Leo Lyall - former SSgt
Historical Secretary	Stephen Read - former WO2(QMS(AC))

## Regional Secretaries

North	Brian Morgan – former WO2(QMS(AC))
North West	Dennis Norris – former WO2(QMS(AC))
Midlands	Des Riley – former WO1(SSM)
East	Maj (Retd) Dave Cussell
South	Paddy Butler – former WO1(SSM)
West	Roy Deal MBE – former WO1(SSM)
London Area	Andrew Jones – former Sgt(AC)
Scotland	WO2 (SQMS) Tam Millsip
Wales	Andy Tibble MVO MSM – former WO1(SSM)
Northern Ireland	Andy Tibble MVO MSM – former WO1(SSM)
Germany	Mr Ron Holmes MSM former WO1(SSM)
Rest of the World	Andy Tibble MVO MSM – former WO1(SSM)

## Contact with Area Secretaries

The duties of Area Secretaries referred to as Regional Representatives in the Association Charter are as follows:

- The Recruitment of new members.
- Maintaining an area membership list.
- Coordinating travel to Reunions and other Association activities

Area Secretaries should also be keeping an active eye on the health and well being of members

in their area of responsibility and report anything untoward to the Secretary, Andy Tibble.

All members are encouraged to establish contact and 'touch base' with their Area Secretary, at least yearly, as follows:

### The North West -

Cumbria, Lancashire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester and Cheshire. Contact Dennis Norris at [dn001k3794@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:dn001k3794@blueyonder.co.uk)

**The North** – Durham, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, Cleveland, North, West and South Yorkshire and Humberside. Contact Brian Morgan at [morgan\\_45@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:morgan_45@hotmail.co.uk)

### The Midlands –

Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, West Midlands, Leicestershire, Hereford and Worcestershire and Warwickshire. Contact Des Riley at [desriley@shy.com](mailto:desriley@shy.com)

**The East** – Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Essex, Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. Contact Dave Cussell at [dave.cussell@gmail.com](mailto:dave.cussell@gmail.com)

**The South** – Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Surrey, West Sussex, East Sussex and Kent. Contact Paddy Butler at [paddy.vysk@gmail.com](mailto:paddy.vysk@gmail.com)

**The West** – Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Avon and Wiltshire. Contact Roy Deal MBE at [roydeal@hotmail.com](mailto:roydeal@hotmail.com)

### The London Area.

Contact Andrew Jones at [ajones@bradfordswissport.com](mailto:ajones@bradfordswissport.com)

**Scotland.** Contact Tam Millsip at 1UKXX-G1-SPS-PATWO-Stirling@mod.uk

**Germany.** Contact Ron Holmes at [ronandkadja@aol.com](mailto:ronandkadja@aol.com)

### Wales/N Ireland & Rest of the World.

Contact the Association Secretary, Andy Tibble at [andytibble@btinternet.com](mailto:andytibble@btinternet.com).

# Treasurer's Report by Major (Retd) Paul Corker



## General

May I please convey my sincerest best wishes to all members and their families at the beginning of this report. I was saddened that due to external necessities I missed the 2018 function. The sale of my house and the purchase of our new home meant I had to be in Southport for that week. I have

said to Julia that this will be my very last move. As you can all appreciate: solicitors etc, are not easy at the best of times but to cut a long story short Julia and I are now in our new home. Health is good, my cholesterol levels now read 3.2, so all is well. I will catch up with you all next year.

I congratulate Roy on his hard work and attention to detail at this year's reunion. In my absence, he kept me fully informed of all the expenses incurred during this year's function and I am glad to say that all were paid on time. I must thank Andy for giving my report to the AGM and I will buy him a beer when I see him next.

Under guidance from the committee, I continue to ensure that the fund has long-term sustainability to meet the ever changing needs of the association. The team continues to produce an excellent service to

all our members and I do hope that Ron's invitation to Germany is met with great support. I must thank Joe and Andy for their support in making my life as Treasurer that little bit easier. Thank you also goes to Leo for his work on the 'website' which includes a must read by all members. My main effort is to ensure that HMRC pays the outstanding 'Gift Aid' income to us as soon as possible. I will give an update at the 2019 AGM.

**Just some parish notes.** Please check your bank statements before January 2019 and where necessary, **change your annual subscription to £15.** Pay subscriptions by 'direct mandate and if not already done so complete the 'Gift Aid' declaration. Your support is extremely valuable to me and I once again personally thank all members. I report that the fund is 'fit for purpose' and on behalf of all members I will continue to work hard to ensure it remains so.

## Main Action Areas

Outstanding Subscriptions	- £2,400 (this is for all members)
Mandate	- 35 Members not paying by Direct Mandate
Gift Aid	- 30 Members failed to completed Declaration Form

## Statement of Account – 3rd September 2018

### ASSETS

Current Bank Account	£ 2,157.60
Deposit Account	£ 2,006.66
Shop Stock	£ 430.34

**Total Assets (A) £ 4,594.60**

**AVAILABLE CASH (A – B) £ 4,594.60**

### LIABILITIES

Function	£0.00
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**Total Liabilities (B) £0.00**

## Summary

The fund has continued to support the needs of its members and is financially strong. Ongoing issues: to reclaim money owed by the HMRC for Gift Aid, to chase outstanding subscriptions totaling £2,400 and to ensure all members change their annual subscription to £15. All invoices for the 2018 reunion have been settled. The reunion fund does see a zero balance however, the General Purpose Fund has the strength to support future events, if called upon. There is no doubt that that the fund is well established and managed to meet any future challenges.

## Standard Bearer's Report by Andrew Jones (former Sgt (AC))



### Gunner Sunday – Another Great Regimental Family Gathering

The annual Gunner Sunday Parade and Service was held on Sunday 29 April 2018 at the Royal Hospital Chelsea. The slightly unseasonal weather did not stop the largest gathering of serving

and retired Gunners and their families since the event came into being, joining our artillery In Pensioners at the Royal Hospital. It was an impressive show of support to the Regiment. The Royal Artillery Clerks' Standard Bearer joined pensioners on parade where they were inspected by the Regimental Colonel, Col John Catto, accompanied by Brigadier Mark Pountain, attending his first event as the new Chairman of the Royal Artillery Association. Following the parade, The Royal Artillery Clerks' Standard Bearer and the assembled crowd were invited in to the chapel for the Sunday service and then retired to the Pensioners' Club for welcome refreshments and a chance to meet up with our In-Pensioners.



*Lt Col (Ret'd) Russ Lee and Mr Andrew Jones (Standard Bearer) at the Royal Hospital Chelsea (Founders Day)*

For those member of the Royal Artillery Clerks' Association timings for 1st December 2019 are as follows:

- 1000hrs:** Assemble and meet in the Octagon Colonnade by the chapel.
- 1030hrs:** Latest arrival time.
- 1040hrs:** Pensioners and RAA Standard Bearers form up.
- 1100hrs:** Parade finishes and chapel service begins.

After the service the club will be open to meet and chat to the pensioners over a drink.

Dress: Suits or blazer with Gunner/Regimental tie. Only Standard Bearers should wear medals.



*Mr Andrew Jones (Standard Bearer) at The Royal Regiment of Artillery Ceremony of Remembrance at the Royal Artillery Memorial Hyde Park Corner on Sunday 11th November 2018*

# Welfare Secretary's Report by Dennis Norris (former WO2 (QMS(AC)))



As Welfare Secretary I am pleased to report that all welfare cases ongoing are currently at a satisfactory state with individuals receiving the appropriate support of the Association.

There have been members of the Association who have asked for their membership to lapse due to them no

longer being fit and able to attend the annual Dinner and I would ask that members think carefully before making this decision as membership of the association is not just reliant on the annual Dinner attendance, but a link to your comrades, access to any welfare support and advice plus access to Crossed Quills to keep in touch with what is happening in the world of the Artillery Clerk – including articles and photographs of the annual Dinner.

As always, a reminder that the committee will consider all calls for welfare support for any Association Member submitted to myself or any other committee member – contact details are available on the website and in Crossed Quills and if you are more social media savvy, you can also make contact through the Crossed Quills Facebook group.

An increasing number of Military Veterans are suffering from mental health issues relating back to their service days. The condition, commonly known as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is now a recognised condition and there are avenues of help available to Veterans from the NHS.

Symptoms can include:

- being constantly anxious
- being unable to relax
- vividly re-experiencing a traumatic event
- avoiding anything that might trigger distressing memories or feelings
- becoming socially isolated

PTSD can lead to problems in relationships and at work, including irritability, anger and substance misuse, particularly alcohol.

While some symptoms, such as nightmares, are normal in the weeks following a traumatic event, symptoms that last longer than this can indicate a problem. Should this happen to you, it's important to seek the advice of your GP as soon as possible.

If you have not already done so, register with a GP, tell them you've served and are a veteran, and bring to their attention any health problems relating to your time in the armed forces.

## **NHS mental health services for veterans**

Mental illness is common and can affect anyone, including serving and ex-members of the armed forces and their families.

While some people cope by getting support from their family and friends, or by getting help with other issues in their lives, others need clinical care and treatment, which could be from the NHS, support groups or charities.

Although it's completely normal to experience anxiety or depression after traumatic events, this can be tough to deal with. Furthermore, the culture of the armed forces can make seeking help for a mental health problem appear difficult.

Some people may not experience some of these symptoms until a few years after leaving the armed forces. They may also delay seeking help for a number of reasons, such as thinking that they can cope, fear of criticism or feeling that NHS therapists will not understand.

## **NHS support and treatment**

If you think you, or your partner or spouse, may be experiencing mental health difficulties, you can get expert help from the NHS Veterans' Mental Health Transition, Intervention and Liaison Service (TILS) or the NHS Veterans' Mental Health Complex Treatment Service (CTS).

Both of these services are available across England and are provided by specialists in mental health who have an expert understanding of the armed forces. They will also help to manage your care and support across other organisations.

Families and carers can find it hard to cope when their loved ones are not well so, where appropriate, help may be provided to them too.

## **NHS Veterans' Mental Health Transition, Intervention and Liaison Service (TILS)**

This is a dedicated local-community-based service for veterans and those transitioning out of the armed forces with a discharge date.

The service provides a range of treatment, from recognising the early signs of mental health problems

and providing access to early support, to therapeutic treatment for complex mental health difficulties and psychological trauma.

Where appropriate, help is also provided for other needs that may affect mental health and wellbeing – for example, with housing, finances, employment, social support and reducing alcohol consumption.

### **NHS Veterans' Mental Health Complex Treatment Service (CTS)**

This is an enhanced local-community-based service for ex-service personnel who have military-related complex mental health problems that have not improved with earlier care and treatment.

The service provides intensive care and treatment including, but not limited to, support for drug and alcohol misuse, physical health, employment, housing, relationships and finances, as well as occupational and trauma-focused therapies.

Accessing NHS mental health care for veterans To access these services, you need to go through the TILS. This can be done by contacting the service directly, or by asking your GP or a military charity to refer you.

To contact the service directly:

- in the north of England, call 0191 441 5974 or email [vwals@nhs.net](mailto:vwals@nhs.net)
- in the Midlands or east of England, call 0300 323 0137 or email [mevs.mhm@nhs.net](mailto:mevs.mhm@nhs.net)
- in London or the south east of England, call 020 3317 6818 or email [cim-tr.veteranstilservice-lse@nhs.net](mailto:cim-tr.veteranstilservice-lse@nhs.net)
- in the south west of England, call 0300 365 0300 or email [sc.veterans@nhs.net](mailto:sc.veterans@nhs.net)

To access these services you must:

- be a resident in England
- have served in the UK armed forces for a full day
- be registered with a GP practice in England or be willing to register with a GP
- be able to provide your military service number or another acceptable form of proof of eligibility

Upon receipt of referral, patients will be offered an initial face-to-face assessment within 2 weeks and, where appropriate, a first clinical appointment 2 weeks after that.

## **ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND (ABF) The Soldiers Charity**

We are The Soldiers' Charity. We give lifetime support to serving and retired soldiers and their families. They risk so much for us, but for them, it's just doing their job. In return, we provide financial assistance when they are in real need. That's what we've been here to offer for 70 years.

The grants we give break down into seven broad areas. You can read about each of these here.

**Annuities:** to help supplement the incomes of older veterans or their widows living alone on basic pensions.

**Care home fees:** modest top-up grants to help with the cost for older veterans or their widows, where local authority grants are insufficient.

**Bursaries:** to help with education and training and include: Funding for training colleges that help retrain soldiers with disabilities and training course fees and essential equipment for individual soldiers Support for ex-soldiers taking higher education courses to start on new careers after leaving the Army. Help with funding for continuing education for the children of soldiers who have died or been severely disabled in service.

**Holiday schemes:** for families under stress. Each year, more than 200 families benefit from short breaks at Pontins and Warner holiday resorts. An annual grant to the Guild of St Helena allows service children with special needs to have a holiday.

**Special Funds:** We administer special funds to assist soldiers who have been injured while on active service in Northern Ireland, The Falklands Campaign or The Gulf War. Dependents of those killed in these campaigns may also qualify for help from the funds. The George Purse Trust provides grants to those who live in South Wales and are in need of respite care.

**General Needs:** Grants can be made for a wide variety of purposes, as long as there is a clear need which cannot be met from other sources e.g. statutory grants and benefits, local funds etc. One in five of these grants are made towards mobility aids e.g. wheelchairs, stair-lifts, special beds etc.

**Current Operations Fund:** Launched in 2007 by the ABF the Current Operations Fund supports soldiers injured or families of those killed as a result of their Service during the current operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Fund was set up as a direct response to the mounting numbers of serving soldiers and their families in great need who require immediate help. The grants cover everything from retraining a disabled soldier for a new career to providing holiday funds for a war widow and her children.

# Webmaster's Report by Leon (Leo) Lyall (former SSgt)



It is amazing that two years have gone by now since I took over as the Association webmaster. The new website is looking much brighter, is more secure, has more features, and has incorporated the necessary changes to ensure that it is mobile friendly too.



There hasn't been an awful lot of work carried out on the website this year, just fits-and-spurts of changes. The majority of work was to change all of the sites pages to make them mobile

friendly, tested against most of the main brands of mobile phone and handheld devices such as Apple iPad, Apple iPhone, Samsung, Blackberry, Nokia, etc.

This is some of the new content added in the past year:

- The Treasurer now has a dedicated webpage covering the details and forms regarding financial aspects of the Association such as subscription fees, Gift Aid, and payment methods.
- An area was added to the website to provide members with help, advice and information, offers for veterans, memberships, and more. This area is called Interests & Ideas.
- The Standard Bearer area was upgraded and made more readable with more pictures and a rundown of events attended, broken down by year.
- A new logo design was created by me based on AC tie-pin design presenting a new corporate image to the website.

The Reunion area was upgraded this year with a new page called Reunion Weekend. This page holds details that appear on the annual calling notice and gives members a perpetual reminder should they not have their letter at hand. Along with this there is now a new method of booking the Reunion Weekend electronically; details have also been on the homepage since the "Calling Notice" was published with Crossed Quills. The method enables members to send all of the necessary booking details direct to the Reunion Secretary having already followed the instructions for making payment electronically to the Association, as well as a form to send in Apologies.

The General Data Protection Regulations were brought in in June this year and the Association website was amended to either take out or limit the data held regarding members personal details. All members were contacted accordingly by the Association Secretary to request the use of personal data by the Association. The website now has restricted personal details as agreed by members and meets the criteria detailed in the GDPR. Each webpage footer area contains links to GDPR documents in:

- Data Protection,
- Privacy, and,
- Terms and Conditions.

About a year ago tracking code was added to each page on our website. This was so they could be tracked by an online company called Statcounter.com to help the webmaster get an idea the average views the website is getting.



The graph shown provides a snapshot of our website activity between January and September this year where red indicates visits and pink unique/new visits. However, the revisits are a little misleading due to peaks in activity by the webmaster updating pages on the website. In all we have an average of 132 monthly visits of which about an average of 75 are new visits.

All members should note that our website is now secure and starts with the HTTPS:// in the address bar of the Web Browser when you type it in. A small padlock icon will appear in the address bar once the browser has found the website. If you click on that padlock it should provide a small window that provides details of the certificate issued for our website. The address to type in is <https://www.artyclerkassn.org>

# YOUR WEBSITE NEEDS YOU!

<https://www.artyclerkassn.org>

The screenshot displays the website for the Royal Artillery Clerks' Association. It features a navigation menu on the left with the following items: HOME, ASSOCIATION, MEMBERSHIP, CHARTER, AREA SECRETARIES, FORECAST OF EVENTS, INTERESTS & IDEAS, MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION, CROSSED QUILLS, and MESSAGE BOARD. The main content area is divided into three sections: 'Artillery Clerks' with a banner and a row of 'The Crossed Quills' magazine covers; 'Treasurer' with a banner and an image of currency; and 'Standard Bearer' with a banner and a list of past bearers (2016-2018). Below the 'Standard Bearer' section, there is a detailed profile for Mr Andrew Jones (former Sgt(AC)), including a photo and text describing his role and the history of the Standard Bearer position.

**Artillery Clerks'**

**The Crossed Quills**

**Treasurer**

**Standard Bearer**

**The Royal Artillery Clerks' Association Standard Bearer - Mr Andrew Jones (former Sgt(AC))**

Andrew Jones represents the Artillery Clerks' Association at various parades and occasions throughout the year, proudly presenting the Association Standard.

Andrew has been the Standard Bearer for the Association since it was commissioned in 2000. The Standard was paraded for the first time at the St Barbara's Day parade in Larkhill on Sunday 3rd December 2000.

The Standard has been dedicated at St Barbara's Day without fail since 2000 but has also represented the Association at other events. To name a few, the 'Farewell to Woolwich' celebrations at Woolwich in May 2007, the 'Festival of Remembrance' celebrations in November 2010 at the Albert Hall, with regular attendance at the 'Royal Artillery Parade' at Esher and 'Gunner Sunday (Royal Hospital Chelsea)'.

# Historical Secretary's Report by Stephen Read (former WO1 (SMAC))



## The Great War

As the nation reaches the 100th Anniversary of the end of WW1 it is interesting to be able to put some names to the thousands of Artillery Clerks that served in that conflict supporting Royal Artillery Regiments and Headquarters at all levels, in all theatres of operation:

Gnr William Lennan Luck- In a recent email, a Mrs Kathy Gilbert, asked if the Association had any information on her Great Grandfather, William Lennan Luck. William enlisted in Feb 1915 as a Gunner in the Royal Garrison Artillery and was demobbed in June 1919, having served in Egypt as an Artillery Clerk.

Sgt R J Courtney- A search on the internet returned details of a 9263 Sgt R J Courtney serving in 2 Division who was promoted to acting Sergeant Major Artillery Clerk in June 1916. I have not been able to find any details of what happened to him but since he does not appear on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission register let us hope that he survived the War.

Sgt R Baillie - The National Archive website details even earlier references to Artillery Clerks. For instance I found one Sgt R Baillie who worked in the Department of the Military Secretary and was promoted to Warrant Officer in 1911. It is reasonable to assume that he went onto service in WW1.

A search on the National Archive website returned details of the Medal cards of a further 250 Artillery Clerks, from the rank of Gunner to WO1.

A final item found in the National Archive indicates that, just like today, some Artillery Clerks fell on hard times:

Charles Baillie - In Feb 1911 a notice was placed in the correspondence of the Soldiers & Sailors Help Society stating that 'Charles Rawlins, ex-QMS Artillery Clerk, wants work'. I wonder if Charles rejoined the colours at the start of the War?

If any Association members are aware of the details of any other Artillery Clerks that serviced in the Great War please let me know their details.

## Artillery Clerks family tree

A continuing request, for those members that have yet to make contact regarding the AC family tree; please drop me an email with details of where and when you serviced and what ranks you held. If you have a Goglemail account I will give you access to the data I have received to date.

## South Area Secretary Report by Paddy Butler (former WO1 (SSM))



Just a quick update up on what I have been up to as Association representative for the South of England. Part of my role as the regional representative for the South of England is to act as a conduit for the Association Committee and if any Association Members are in need of any kind of assistance, or if I become aware of any members in the South requiring

help, support or assistance then I would make contact with the Committee or other relevant agencies to alert them and put in place any support that may be required. I would like to take this opportunity to reach out to the Members of the Association that live in the South and ask you to please confirm your details with me. This will ensure that we hold your correct details so please email me your details or even just make contact with me via my email [paddy.vysk@gmail.com](mailto:paddy.vysk@gmail.com). It was my intention to hold a function outside of the re-union dinner in our area this year. However, there was no uptake on this. If members wish me to organise a function within our region, I am more than happy to do so. At present Andy Tibble and I meet up on a regular basis when our diaries permits for us to have a social few beers within the Sandhurst area. Andy & I are willing to travel if members fancy a bite to eat/beer every three months or so within our region. Please let me know if this is viable.

I left the Army in April this year and have secured a job with The Forces Pension Society as their Deputy Head of Membership, so this is my first report as a proper civvie and fully fledged commuter to London like Andy Tibble. Our chairman is Lt Gen Sir Gerry Berragan and I managed to bump in to him at our AGM in Lambeth Palace earlier in the year. He wishes to pass on his regards to any members that worked with him during his career. The CEO is John Pitt-Brook a former civil

servant and personal friend of Gen Sir Freddie Viggers, from their time working in MOD Main Building. The Society's magazine "Pennant" has an article on Gen Freddie called "A Glass Half Full" from the November 2015 publication. I am happy to copy this article for any interested parties. Also if any members are in the Vauxhall area of London, please look me up for a coffee and a chat especially if you are on route to The Oval for any cricket as it's just around the corner.

So as you can see I haven't moved too far from the green machine. I live in Sandhurst, just around the corner from Andy Tibble. We clerks don't travel far! I'm happy to remain your Secretary if you wish. I have not received any correspondence from members since my last report and it is still my intention not to hound people via e-mail, so if people require any assistance please drop me a line. Unfortunately I was unable to attend the 2018 Reunion and I hope to remedy this in 2019. From the photos that I saw it looked as if those that attended had a great time. I would like to thank all those who organised this memorable event.

It now just leaves me to wish All Members of the Association to have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and I look forward to seeing you either at a local Function or the Annual Reunion in 2019. My Best Regards to You All, Ubique.

## North Area Secretary Report by Brian Morgan (former WO2)



Greetings brother Artillery Clerks,

A little catch up on what I have been up to as Association representative for the North of England. I was able to attend the 84th Artillery Clerks Reunion and Association Dinner

in Larkhill in June this year and although I wasn't able to make it down to join the stalwarts who met in the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess on the Friday night, I none the less had a thoroughly enjoyable time and really enjoyed a splendid dinner and great company. It goes without saying but these events don't just happen and thank you very much Roy, Andy and all involved in organising such a fabulous Reunion and Dinner. A little company on the journey south wouldn't go a miss, the journey from Yorkshire gets no easier and I've lost count of the number of times I've followed the exact same route when travelling down from Topcliffe

to Larkhill on numerous Regimental Firing Camps to Salisbury Plain.

If I could take this opportunity to reach out to any Association members living in the North whose details I may not have this may be because I do not hold the correct details or you may have changed address, please email me your details to [morgan\\_45@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:morgan_45@hotmail.co.uk).

It has been another busy year in one way and another for me, apart from my position as North Area Secretary for the Artillery Clerks Association I am also actively involved with Purple Warriors as a paddler but also on the Committee as their Northern Representative, I am also the secretary for a group of former members of 7th Parachute Regiment RHA who live in the North East and North Yorkshire and who meet up for get togethers at different venues throughout the year.

Working full time can be such a drag as it so interferes with your social life. It was the wedding of one of my daughters in July and if I wasn't busy enough I agreed at short notice to go to Szeged in Hungary with Purple Warriors to compete in the 11th IDBF World Club Crews Championships. I had initially said I couldn't go due to the date the team were leaving for the Championships clashing with my daughter's wedding. However, I was persuaded to go when I was informed someone had, had to drop out and I could fly-out and join the team in Szeged the day after the wedding (as you can imagine that went down well with the wife, not!) The wedding went off without a hitch and it was a brilliant day, the next morning I left for Manchester airport and a flight to Budapest, I arrived in Szeged and joined up with the rest of the Purple Warriors late on the Sunday evening 15th July.

The next day was the first opportunity to train on the Olympic course where the competition was taking place. There were 140 crews from 30 countries taking part in the Championships and the Opening Ceremony saw all the Crews parading through the city centre behind their national flags. The next four days were competition racing and we soon found out that we were racing against some of the fittest and fastest crews in the World. It was clear from the standard of racing that we were going to be unlikely to be winning any medals against this standard opposition but continued to compete and give a good account of ourselves (the only injured and impaired crew in the Championships).

The IDBF Committee clearly aware of the nature and make up of the team i.e. injured and impaired former service personnel and wanting to promote the sport and encourage the involvement of disabled and impaired crews invited us to take part in a separate competition on day four of the Championships as a demonstration

of an impaired crew competing against able bodied crews. We raced against three teams who were made up of breast cancer survivors and two all-female under 24-year-old crews from University's in USA over three races and although we were close we just couldn't overhaul the 2 University crews we finished third in all three races.

The whole of the Championships was televised as Dragon Boat racing is very popular in Hungary and after four days of racing all the other crews and teams had become aware who and what Purple Warriors were and what we were all about. The organising committee awarded medals to all the teams that had competed in our demonstration event and it was unbelievable when Purple Warriors were brought on to the podium on our own to a standing ovation from the spectators

and other crews to be awarded Gold Medals as the only impaired team in the Championships. It was a very humbling experience and the reception we all received particularly from the US and Canadians who have a totally different attitude and respect for Veterans and former service personnel was overwhelming.

As Summer slips into Autumn once again and the dark nights start to draw in I wish you all well, seasons greetings and best wishes for 2019 and I look forward to meeting up with everyone again at the next Reunion.  
Ubique



Dragon Boat racing team



# Artillery Clerks' Association Charter

## General

1. The Association, entitled the "Artillery Clerks' Association" was formed at Woolwich on Saturday 7th March 1998. This Charter is being adopted to guide its activities. The Charter may be changed at any time by the Committee to reflect the wishes of the Association members.
2. The Aim and Object of the Artillery Clerks' Association is to promote comradeship amongst its members, both serving and retired and to provide a focal point for all members of the Association. The Association is essentially an old comrades association of former Artillery Clerks, either serving or retired.
3. The Artillery Clerks' Association is affiliated to and is a Branch of the Royal Artillery Association (RAA). All members of the Royal Artillery Association will be granted life membership of the RAA on acceptance.

## Eligibility

4. **Full Members.** Full membership of the Association is open to any former Artillery Clerk in the rank range from Sergeant to Warrant Officer Class 1, either serving or retired. Membership may also be granted, with the recommendation of a former Artillery Clerk or member of the Association, to clerks who served in the Royal Artillery in the rank range from Gunner to Bombardier, and have subsequently been promoted to Sergeant in the Adjutant General's Corps.
5. **Honorary Membership.** Honorary Membership of the Association is specially designed to cover the widows and relatives of deceased Artillery Clerks. Other special cases of honorary membership will be considered on merit by the Committee and voted upon by the Committee and voted upon by the members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Honorary members may not vote on matters voted upon at the AGM.
6. **Authorization.** Membership of the Association may be sought by anyone under these rules. In the event of there being some doubt regarding application, the Artillery Clerks' Association Committee will arbitrate. The Association Committee has the right to refuse any application for membership, or cancel any existing membership, for example, for disciplinary reasons.

## Purpose

7. The specific purpose of the Association is to provide:
  - a. A focal point for comradeship, largely through periodic reunion of:
    - (1) A formal Annual Reunion Dinner.
    - (2) An informal Dinner to be held at a frequency and location to be decided by the Committee, to include wives, girlfriends and widows.
    - (3) A very limited welfare service. This essentially means that the Artillery Clerks' Association, in promoting contacts between members, provides a network through which help can be given to any member. The focus for this activity within the Association is the Secretary.

## Organisation

8. The affairs of the Artillery Clerks' Association will be overseen by the Artillery Clerks' Association Committee. The Committee will meet at intervals decided upon by the Chairman, and will comprise of:
  - a. President (Honorary).
  - b. Chairman.

c. Secretary. Responsibilities cover:

- (1) Association Membership.
- (2) Correspondence.
- (3) Providing a focus for the Association's welfare work and links to the RAA.
- (4) Production of a periodic newsletter.
- (5) Coordinating the activities of the Area Representatives.

d. Treasurer. Responsibilities cover:

- (1) Maintenance of a bank account entitled the "Artillery Clerks' Association".
- (2) Accounting for all the finances of the Artillery Clerks' Association.
- (3) Presenting a Statement of Account to the Committee (as and when required) and annually at the AGM

e. Regional Representatives. Responsibilities cover:

- (1) The recruitment of new members.
- (2) Maintaining an area membership list.
- (3) Coordinating travel to Reunions and other Association activities.

Areas covered are:

- (1) Northern Ireland.
- (2) Scotland.
- (3) Wales.
- (4) The North West consisting of Cumbria, Lancashire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester and Cheshire.
- (5) The North consisting of Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, Durham, Cleveland, North, West and South Yorkshire and Humberside.
- (6) The Midlands consisting of Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, West Midlands, Leicestershire, Hereford and Worcestershire and Warwickshire.
- (7) The East consisting of Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Essex, Northamptonshire, Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk.
- (8) London Area
- (9) The South consisting of Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Surrey, West Sussex, East Sussex and Kent.
- (10) The West consisting of Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Avon and Wiltshire.
- (11) Germany.
- (12) The Rest of the World.

9. Additional members of the Committee may be appointed by the Chairman as required, for example, Reunion Secretary and Assistant Secretary.

## **Fees**

10. Membership fees are to be determined by the Committee. There is to be a fee to join the Association and the annual renewal fee.

11. Fees are to cover the costs of administration, including telephone calls, postage and stationery.

12. Reunions are to be self-financing, that is, those attending are to meet the full cost of all activities of the Reunion.

# Artillery Clerks Association - Members list as at 31st December 2018

Sparky Allen	Joe Falzon	Tommy McCarthy	Phil Spencer
Dave Allen	Jim Findlay	John McDermott	Mark Spring
Alf Alvin	Graham Flint	George McLachlan	Trevor Spurr
Richard Ancliffe	Alan Foot	Martin Meek	Will Stirman
Al Artley	Peter Gauci	Tony Meek	David Stotan
Alan Ashcroft	Martin Geddes	Eddie Mills	Dave Straw
Robbie Astick	Ian Grant	Tam Millsip	Andy Sykes
Brian Bailey	Mick Grenham	James McNamard	Ritchie Syme
Pip Bailey	John Haddock	Jim Mutch	Alex Taylor
Derek Baldry	Colin Haine	Hauke Michelson	Mark Testi
Brian Bassett	Ted Hall	Brian Morgan	Mark Thorington
Brian Bayliss	Dave Hamilton	Ian Morris	Charlie Thompson
Steve Beard	Graham Hampton	Andy Moss	Andy Tibble
Taff Bellis	Gary Harland	Tony Mott	Gordon Timmis
Chris Berry	Adrian Harrison	George Mould	Trig Tregower
Jon Bevan	Chris Harvey	Paul Mudd	Frank Trimby
Martin Birch	Steve Hawke	Richard Nichol	Steve Truslove
Dave Boulton	Phil Hayes	Dennis Norris	Mel Turpie
Peter Bradburn	Phil Headford	Richard Nugee	Dave Tyler
Denis Brett	Martin Hedges	Tony Nuttall	Gary Tyson
Graham Brown	Marty Hester	Andy O'Neill	Dave Vesty
David Brown	Alan Hill	Pete Oxley	Freddie Viggers
Phil Buckingham	Geordie Himlin	Steve Paton	William Wallace
Titch Buckley	Trev Hind	Jim Peggie	Daz Ward
Budgie Burgess	Joe Hoggins	Roy Penhallurick	Ken Ward
Martin Butler	Vic Holdaway	Nick Perkovic	Ron Waterfield
Paddy Butler	Ron Holmes	Paul Perry	Andy West
Steve Callaghan	Richard Horner	Joe Phelps	Ronnie Whelan
Iain Campbell	Stu Hunt	Alan Phillips	Geoff Whitby
Merv Chadwick	Mick Hutchinson	Chris Piper	Wills Williams
Rob Clarke	Geoff Hyatt	Eddie Platts	Jeff Williams
Lawrence Collingwood	Dick Jeavons	Jim Pottle	Ian Williams
Tony Coombes	Mick Johnston	Garry Prottey	Mick Williams
Terry Cooper	Andrew Jones	Steve Prowse	Alan Witts
Ian Constantine	Ted Jones	Derek Ralphs	Chris Wood
Paul Corker	Steve Jones	Steve Read	Al Wood
Stan Cornwell	Derek Kelsey	John Reynolds	Woody Woodford
Mike Cottrell	Trevor Kemish	Howard Richardson	Robert Worley
Bob Cowan	Clive Knaggs	Neil Ridout	Den Wright
Dennis Crawford	Ralph Lalabalavu	Des Riley	Bill Young
Kev Crump	Andy Lamb	Jim Roast	
Peter Currie	Dave Larcombe	Brian Rose	Membership stands at 202
Dave Cussell	Russ Lee	Ken Russell	
Colin Davidson	Ray Lewis	Alan Sawdon	
Paul Davies	John Lindley	Vince Scott	
Steve Davies	Harry Lomax	Steve Seymour	
Roy Deal	Alan Lowthian	Chris Shuter	
Pete Deverall	Leon Lyall	Sid Siddall	
John Dewberry	Peter Lynch	Dougie Silver	
Jim Doran	Dave Manchester	Tony Skinner	
Paddy Ennis	Adam Martin	Bob Smith	
Roger Essex	Tony Martin	Dave Smith	
Sid Evans	Tim Mathews	Brian Smith	
Ted Fairbrass	Ken May	Snowy Snowdon	

# WANTED

## for membership of the Association

# WHOS ABSENT?

John Adams  
Ron Allen  
Peter Allwright  
Jimmy Anderson  
Ron Anson  
Dave Askham  
Bob Barber  
Gary Barker  
Baz Barry  
Ron Baynes  
James Bond  
Dave Boswell  
Adrian Boxall  
Ron Bristo  
Dave Brookes  
Alan Broomhead  
Tom Browne  
Dave Burfitt  
Paul Buxton  
Tom Carmichael  
Stuart Carnegie  
Fred Carroll  
Jeff Carter  
Mick Carter  
Les Carton  
Chris Chamberlain  
Bill Charlsworth  
Dick Cliffe  
M Collinge  
Andy Collins  
S Cornwell  
Fred Cullingford  
Alan Cosgrove  
Sandy Cran  
Keith Creswell  
Harold Deacon  
John DeMaria  
Pat DeMaria  
Jim Diamond  
Derek Donovan  
P Drury  
Mick Dunn  
Dave Dunn  
Mel Durrant  
Roger Escott  
Karl Ezard  
Steve Edgeley  
Paul Evans  
Paul Fairbank  
TH Fairweather  
PE Field

Clif Fields  
Dick Finch  
Dave Fisher  
Keith Garbett  
Derek Gauci  
Les Gillard  
Chris Gluning  
Paul Green  
Mike Greening  
John Haddow  
CJ Hamley  
Bob Hagen  
Brian Harrington  
Terry Hart  
Ted Harvey  
Adrian Hawker  
Bill Heaven  
Andy Holder  
John Hopkins  
Mick Hopkins  
Steve Hoyle  
Eric Hubbard  
Pete Hubbard  
Derek Hughes  
Tony Hunt  
Tab Hunter  
Jim Hutch  
Pete Hutchinson  
Brian Hyland  
Alan Jeffery  
Chris Jones  
Steve Jones  
Bob Kindness  
Jack Knott  
Steve Jukes  
Kev Keast  
Trevor Kemish  
Dick Kibble  
Alan King  
Roy Kinsley  
Dave Langstaff  
Steve Lee  
Mark Lindsay-Smith  
Derick Lund  
Mick Lynch  
C McCusker  
Steve McKenna  
Alistair McKenzie  
Maurice Metcalfe  
Eric Miller  
Ken Moore

Pete Murphy  
John Nicholas  
Bill Ogilvie  
Gil O'Mallo  
John Osman  
Dave Parkinson  
Bill Pattison  
Ken Peacock  
Duncan Pettit  
Peter Petts  
Clem Pooke  
Nick Powell  
John Pratt  
Len Price  
Mick Price  
Fred Pulfer  
Mick Regan  
Ron Reid  
Graham Roberts  
Dave Robertson  
P Robinson  
Tom Rooney  
Jim Rostron  
Dick Scatcherd  
Mick Scaife  
Dave Scott  
Syd Simpson  
Martin Smith  
Alex Stelfox  
Colin Stephenson  
Bill Tasker  
Jock Stewart  
Joe Stockhill  
Trevor Stokes  
Dave Stoneham  
Paul Stratton  
Roy Swann  
Bernie Swift  
Derek Taylor  
Tom Taylor  
Graham Telford  
Bob Thompson  
Harry Thompson  
Frank Thorne  
Jimmy Treanor  
Dave Townley  
John Turner  
Harry Waldron  
RVM Walker  
Bob Walkinshaw  
Nigel Waring

LS Warren  
Kev Watkins  
Fred Westwell  
Chalky White  
Chris Williams  
TC Williams  
Tony Wilson  
Brian Wolstenholme  
Malcolm Wynn

162 Potential New Members

Plus any member of the AGC(SPS) who served in the Gunners as a clerk and has subsequently been promoted to Sgt or above.

# Is it You?

# Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Central Sgts' Mess Larkhill, Saturday 9th June 2018

## Opening Remarks by the Chairman

The Chairman, Lt Col Joe Falzon OSJ BEM opened the AGM by welcoming everyone to Larkhill and to the Central Royal Artillery Sergeants' Mess. He extended a special warm welcome to those Members who had travelled long distances to get to the Reunion (Ron Holmes, Peter Gauci and Bill Young) and those who were attending after a long absence.

The Chairman reminded everyone present that the AGM was a unique opportunity for the views and proposals from Members to be discussed. He urged everyone to contribute as much as possible.

## Apologies for Absence

There were 25 apologies for absence, the majority of which were listed in the Reunion Dinner Menu Card.

## Approval of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 10th June 2017

The Chairman said that the Minutes had been circulated in advance via Crossed Quills (Issue 20) and that it was not intended to read them at the meeting.

*A proposal by Dave Cussell and seconded by Richard Horner to confirm that the Minutes were a true and accurate record was CARRIED Unanimously.*

## Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 10th June 2017

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the AGM held on Saturday 10th June 2017.

## Chairman's Report

The Chairman once again thanked everyone for supporting the Reunion weekend – it was a great pleasure to see that the attendance is fairly similar to the past two years with 38 or so sitting down to dinner.

He appreciated that everyone is busy these days and noted that some Members had travelled long distances despite some major disruptions on the trains up and down the country.

He added that the evening was a celebration of the 20th Anniversary since the formation of the Association in 1998. He thought it appropriate that the Members celebrate this milestone together. It was also an opportunity to remember and raise a glass to absent

friends, who collectively and individually had made an impact on our lives and on the Association.

The Chairman said that it was a great honour to have the company of the former Honorary President Lieutenant General Sir Freddie Viggers, and his successor and current Honorary President Lieutenant General Richard Nugee – the current Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (People), together with the principal Guest of Honour, the Master Gunner, Lieutenant General Sir Andrew Gregory.

He also publicly thanked all the Committee Members for the huge amount of work they do throughout the year. The combined contribution of Andy Tibble, Roy Deal, Paul Corker, Dennis Norris and Leo Lyall (as our webmaster) is immeasurable. These dedicated individuals keep the Association alive and thriving. He said that he was also indebted to the support given by the Regional Secretaries, Andrew Jones (Standard Bearer), Steve Read (Historical Secretary), Ron Holmes (our man in Germany) and Terry Cooper who has continued relentlessly to seek out potential new members for the Association.

The Chairman was pleased that the Reunion Secretary had forged a new relationship with 34 Battery over the past few months; nothing has been too much trouble for them in all sorts of support and help – not least the equipment demonstration they laid on for the Association that afternoon.

Finally, the Chairman recorded his thanks to the Royal British Legion – reminding the Members that for several years the RBL has paid for some major mailings – for example, the Crossed Quills in January and very recently the mailing of our letters to Members regarding the introduction of GDPR.

## Secretary's Report

The Secretary, Mr Andy Tibble MVO MSM made the following comments:

- **Membership**

The membership of The Artillery Clerks' Association currently stands at 206. Last year the total stood at 206.

- **New Members**

Nothing to report.

- **Deaths**

Nothing to report.

- **Honours & Awards.**

Nothing to report.

- **Promotions.**

Nothing to report.

- **Membership – Wanted List.**

The Secretary explained that there are currently 168 potential members listed on “The Wanted List” who were former ‘Artillery Clerks.’ He urged everyone to look through the list which was published in the recent ‘Crossed Quills’ to see if they recognise anyone who might be living nearby, and then to try to encourage them to join the Association.

- **Change in personal details**

The Secretary asked to be kept informed of any changes of rank, address, telephone numbers, email addresses, awards etc, etc. All members present were asked to send their current email addresses to the Secretary.

- **Crossed Quills**

Items for Crossed Quills Issue No 22 are to be forwarded to the Secretary by Sunday 2nd September 2018. The Secretary urged members to put pen to paper and to send in articles that they would like published along with any photographs that they may have. All photographs would be returned as soon as possible on receipt.

- **Recruitment**

Attention of all Members was drawn to the importance of recruiting new members.

- **Standard Bearer**

The Secretary informed those present that our Standard Bearer, Andrew Jones had been very busy over the past 12 months representing the Association at the following events:

**12th November 2017** – RA Ceremony of Remembrance at Hyde Park Corner.

**3rd December 2017** – St Barbara’s Day Service, Larkhill

**29th April 2018** – Gunner Sunday (Royal Hospital Chelsea)

Due to attend:

**2nd December 2018** – St Barbara’s Day Service, Larkhill

- **Area Secretary’s**

The Secretary mentioned that all Area Secretary’s had been asked to engage with members of the Association

who currently live within their areas of responsibility. The aim of this exercise is to re-engage with our members and to encourage them to attend future dinners or at least to get some feedback from them as to why they are no longer participating. The Committee can then address these issues in order to improve attendance levels.

The Secretary went on to thank all the Area Secretary’s for their continued support.

- **St Barbara’s Day Service**

St Barbara’s Day Service will be held at Larkhill in the Church of St Alban the Martyr on Sunday 2nd December 2018. The Service will be followed by lunch in the Sgts’ Mess. Further details will follow in due course, however, all members, especially those living close to Larkhill were encouraged to attend. The Secretary urged anyone who was considering attending to inform him as soon as possible so that he could reserve places at the Service and in the WO’s & Sgt’s Mess for lunch afterwards. He pointed out that availability for lunch is always very limited.

**Assistant Secretary’s Report**

The Assistant Secretary, Mr Roy Deal MBE, informed those present that those members wishing to place an order for ties should contact him direct on either [roydeal@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:roydeal@hotmail.co.uk) or [Roy.deal288@mod.gov.uk](mailto:Roy.deal288@mod.gov.uk)

**Stock held:** Ties: 15 ties at £20.00 each.

He went onto to inform those present that the Committee will look at and consider whether we should commission an item to celebrate our 25th Anniversary

**Treasurer’s Report**

In the absence of The Treasurer, Major Paul Corker, the Secretary, Mr Andy Tibble passed to those present the following comments:

**LIQUIDITY STATE AS AT SATURDAY 9th JUNE 2018**

<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash	£ 00.00
Current Bank Balance	£ 3205.95
Deposit Bank Balance	£ 2004.66
Shop Stock	£ 430.24
<b>TOTAL ASSETS (A)</b>	<b>£ 5640.85</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
Function	£ 1575.50 (To be confirmed)
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES (B)</b>	<b>£ 1575.50 (To be confirmed)</b>
<b>AVAILABLE CASH (A-B)</b>	<b>£ 4065.35</b>

He particularly emphasised that:

- **Subscriptions.** Non-payment: up to year 2018 was £485.00 and for 2017 is £400.00. For 2018, 27 members paid only £5:00. This total is reducing as members change their direct debits. Total debtors on the books as at 2018 are £2,400.00.
- **Debtors.** Subscriptions are £10.00 annually and should be paid on or close to the 1st January. Outstanding subscriptions total £2400.00 as of 9th June 2018. 35 members have not paid their 2018 subscriptions. As directed, I have issued a letter to members requesting their payment.
- **Mandate.** All members are urged to pay by mandate. If all personnel paid subscription by the mandate system then this would ease and simplify the administration burden.
- **Gift Aid.** Excellent source of income to the fund. £2374.81 to date. Our take continues to be £2.50 for every £10.00 individuals contribute. For the Association to claim our Gift Aid then members must complete the declaration. I urge the 30 members to put pen to paper. Due to the change in HMRC departments, I have been requested to re-submit our application for charity status. With the assistance of Andy, I am well on the way to completing this.
- **Suspensions.** In accordance with the Association's policy on suspension, the Treasurer has written to all members who have not paid their subscriptions for a period of 3 years. There are currently 45 members shown as 'suspended'. There could be a possible further 9 suspensions in 2018. Letters have been posted in May 2018.
- **2017 Income and Expenditure Report (As at 31st December 2017) submitted to the RAA)**

A copy of the report which was submitted to the RAA, signed by the Chairman and Secretary was available at the AGM for members to examine. In summary, the declared end state was:

<b>Income</b>	<b>£1811.68</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£1848.62</b>
<b>GPF</b>	<b>£-36.94 Excess of income over expenditure</b>

- **Insurance.** The insurance for the fund is valid until 31 Mar 19 It is placed with Towergate Wilsons. The cost this year was £331.80. This includes personal accident cover for the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Reunion Secretary, Standard Bearer and Regional Secretaries.

- **Shop.** There are 18 Association Ties in stock @ £20.00 each. There are 2 sets of cuff links and lapel pins @ £28:50 each. Total value of stock = £430.24
- **RAA Draw Tickets.** Annually we support the RAA Draw by purchasing tickets. Each member has been allocated a ticket with the remainder held by the Association. The draw will take place on the 8th August 2018 at Larkhill.
- **Conclusion.** The Treasurer urged all members to change their Standing Orders to £10.00. The Treasurer will be chasing outstanding subscription and those who have been paying £5.00 from 2013.

*Dennis Norris proposed and Des Riley seconded that the Treasurer's Report is accepted. This proposal was put to the vote and CARRIED unanimously.*

### **Welfare Secretary's Report.**

The Welfare Secretary, Mr Dennis Norris informed those present that all welfare cases ongoing are currently at a satisfactory state with individuals receiving the appropriate support of the Association.

There have been members of the Association who have asked for their membership to lapse due to them no longer being fit and able to attend the annual Dinner and I would ask that members think carefully before making this decision, as membership of the Association is not just reliant on the annual Dinner attendance, but a link to your comrades, access to any welfare support and advice plus access to the Crossed Quills to keep in touch with what is happening in the world of the Artillery Clerk – including articles and photographs of the annual dinner.

As always, a reminder that the Committee will consider all calls for welfare support from any Association Member submitted to myself or any other members – contact details are available on the website and in the Crossed Quills and if you are more social media savvy, you can also make contact through the Crossed Quills Facebook group.

### **Historical Secretary's Report.**

The Historical Secretary, Mr Stephen Read made the following comments:

Progress continues of the Family tree with details of 511 individuals now recorded who served in 141 different units. An updated version will be published at the end of July. I have recently been working my way through the Gunner Magazine archive for 1993 and 1994. The last entry I can see for a RA Clerk is in the January 1994 edition:

LBdr I J Williams promoted to Bombardier (Clerk) in 39 Regt RA seniority date 17 Jun 1993

It is unclear why this was published as it is after the date the All Arms Clerks transferred to the AGC and it is very unusual to see promotion to Bombardier Clerk recorded in Gunner. Does anyone know whether the Clerks that stayed in the Royal Regiment continued to be posted within the Regiment as Clerks?

A number of items of historical interest have been picked up by the Facebook group, Terry Cooper in particular, and I will work my way through these over time.

Can I make members aware of a book on the history of Royal Artillery Junior Leaders that has been published by an ex Clerk, Andy Lamb. It includes a section about Andy's training as a Clerk at Bramcote which might make an interesting article for a future Cross Quills.

The book is available on Amazon: [https://www.amazon.co.uk/Junior-Gunners-Andy-Lamb/dp/1976981824/ref=tmm\\_pap\\_swatch\\_0?\\_encoding=UTF8&qid=1517909022&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Junior-Gunners-Andy-Lamb/dp/1976981824/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=1517909022&sr=8-1)

## Webmaster's Report

The Webmaster, Mr Leon Lyall made the following comments:

Since the last report the website has had an overall to make it mobile friendly. Many hours of painstaking work was carried out to amend each page, add in the necessary code, and ensure thorough testing. Each page has been checked against the main mobile devices and their various versions such as Apple iPad, Apple iPhone, Samsung, Blackberry, Nokia, etc. There are probably other mobile devices out there that I didn't test against but in essence the main runners have been tested and the results were good.

The Reunion area was upgraded this year with a new page called Reunion Weekend. This page holds details that appear on the annual calling notice and gives members a perpetual reminder should they not have their letter at hand. Along with this there is now a new method of booking the Reunion Weekend electronically; details have also been on the homepage since the "Calling Notice" was published with Crossed Quills. The method enables members to send all of the necessary booking details direct to the Reunion Secretary having already followed the instructions for making payment electronically to the Association, as well as a form to send in Apologies.

Going off the design for the AC tie-pin and cuff-links I put together a replica as the new logo for the website (see image above). This logo still promotes the gold AC crossed quills on a green background, surrounded by a red circular enclosure and the words "Artillery Clerks Association". I think this new logo presents a more crisp and professional look to the website. A new area, "Interests & Ideas", has been added to the website this year. This area does exactly what it says, intending to provide items that may be of interest to Association members. Any new items from members are welcome and will be added accordingly.

As a reminder, the website is now secure, and all members are advised to only use the website with the prefix HTTPS. When the website is loaded it should present in the menu bar at the top of the browser as "Secure". The full path is <https://www.artyclerkassn.org/index.html>



The new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) have just come into effect on the 25th May this year and have an effect on how we, the Association hold, use, and present your personal data/details. All members now have greater rights on the manipulation of the details held and presented in the public domain by the Association. The website has been updated extensively to try and capture the personal details held and provide an alternative to items such as personal email addresses, home addresses, and telephone numbers. All members should now have been contacted by the Association seeking permission to use personal details as per the GDPR.

The footer has been modified and is now where the Association policy documents can be located: Data Protection, Terms of Use, and Privacy Statement. Members should have read through these documents by now to familiarise themselves with the process how the Association collects, holds, processes, and protects their personal data.

As per usual on these updates I appeal to members to provide input to the Association website. I am your webmaster upholding the standards of the Association on your website. You, as an Association member, have responsibility for a proportion of the data, as I'm sure every member can find something on the website concerning them. Therefore, members should be more engaged in its content and provide feedback, updates, and new data where necessary to the Webmaster to ensure its continued future enhancement and development.

### Germany Secretary's Report.

The German Secretary, Mr Ron Holmes MSM informed those present that he was intending to organize a small dinner in Senne, Bielefeld in early October 2018 for the Artillery Clerks' and partners. There are some reasonable priced Bed & Breakfast in the local area for those that wish to make it over from the UK. Further details will follow in due course.

(Secretary's Note: It was agreed after the AGM that the next Dinner in Germany will be held on Saturday 20th October 2018)

### Reunion Secretary's Report

The Reunion Secretary, Roy Deal, gave a comprehensive briefing on the format of the Reunion Dinner and the evening.

### Election or re-election of Committee

The Secretary stated the following elections or re-elections are as follows:

- Election of Area Secretary Midlands (Mr Des Riley)  
Vice: Mr Steve Callaghan
- Election or Re-election of the Committee for 2018/2019

Chairman	Lt Col (Retd) Joe Falzon OSJ BEM
Secretary	Mr Andy Tibble MVO MSM
Assistant Secretary	Mr Roy Deal MBE
Treasurer	Maj (Retd) Paul Corker
Reunion Secretary	Mr Roy Deal MBE
Welfare Secretary	Mr Dennis Norris
Historical Secretary	Mr Stephen Read
Webmaster	Mr Leon Lyall

*Ron Holmes proposed and Richard Horner seconded this proposal. The proposal was put to the vote and was CARRIED unanimously.*

### Any other Business

The Chairman, Lt Col Joe Falzon OSJ BEM made the following comments:

The Chairman referred to the Grand Pilgrimage event which was being organised by The Royal British Legion in early August 2018 – now with a confirmed participation of over 1000 Standard Bearers. He regretted that it has not been possible for Andrew Jones to attend due to his heavy work commitment. Nonetheless, Peter Gauci will be attending to represent the Malta RBL Branch and it was hoped that he will be able to report on this event in the next edition of Crossed Quills.

The Secretary, Mr Andy Tibble MVO MSM made the following comments:

### General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

The Secretary explained to those present that on the 25th May 2018 the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force. One of the elements of this regulation is the need for The Artillery Clerks Association to have clear and explicit consent from you to enable us to continue to communicate with you by email/post and, that you can continue to receive important notifications of Association events and announcements by email/post.

The Secretary went onto to explain that the Artillery Clerks' Association Policy had now been added to our website which all members were encouraged to read. The Secretary went onto say that he had now written either by email or by post to all members of the Association and has received a response to date from 50% of our membership. A master register of these returns will be maintained by the Secretary.

Both the Chairman and Secretary went onto say that we take your privacy and the security of your data very seriously and never share your details with third parties without your consent.

**Membership Criteria.** The Secretary reminded all of those present what the criteria was for becoming a member of the Artillery Clerks' Association by reading out the entry contained in the Association Charter. He also mentioned that any amendments to this Charter would have to be discussed and ratified at a future AGM.

**Format/Costings for future Reunion Dinners.** The Chairman and Secretary pointed out that over the past 2 -3 years the running costs of Reunion Dinners have been increased whilst numbers attending had been static. This leaves a shortfall in the region of £500 (not including voluntary donations) for this years Reunion Dinner. The forecast for future dinner was that there will continue to be an excess of expenditure over income of roughly £500..

It was proposed that the sum not to exceed £500.00 be transferred from GPF to defray the cost of this of the 2018 Reunion Dinner. (Secretary's Note: Please note that in July 2018 the Chairman authorised the transfer of £398.06 from the GPF to offset the 2018 Reunion Dinner costs).

*Mick Hutchinson proposed and Dave Cussell seconded this proposal. The proposal was put to the vote and was CARRIED unanimously.*

**Membership Subscriptions.** The Chairman introduced this item and pointed out that the progressive increase in costs, such as postage, insurance, website etc. in running the Association, coupled with a forecasted shortfall each year for the Reunion Dinners needed to be addressed. In a lively discussion a number of options were discussed to help identify a sustainable solution.

A proposal that Membership Subscriptions should be increased from £10.00 to £15.00 per member with effect from 1st January 2019 gathered traction from the floor and was out to the vote by the Chairman.

*Ron Holmes proposed and Mick Grenham seconded this proposal which was CARRIED unanimously.*

## Date of Next Meeting

The next AGM will take place at Larkhill on Saturday 8th June 2019.

Andy Tibble  
Secretary

# YOUR WEBSITE NEEDS YOU!

<https://www.artyclerkassn.org>



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- MEMBERSHIP
- CHARTER
- AREA SECRETARIES
- FORECAST OF EVENTS
- INTERESTS & IDEAS
- MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
- CROSSED QUILLS
- MESSAGE BOARD
- SILENT QUILLS
- STANDARD
- REUNION WEEKEND
- REUNION GALLERY
- HISTORY
- SHOP

[Direct Debit Mandate Form](#)

[Gift Aid Declaration Form](#)

## THE ARTILLERY CLERKS' ASSOCIATION TREASURER

Voluntary membership to any organisation carries with it individual obligations and responsibilities. These range from commitment of time and resources by active members to simply adhering to minimum membership guiding principles by all enrolled members. To this end, the financial well-being of our Association relies on the payment of the annual subscriptions on time.

**Subscriptions:** The annual subscription is £15 with effect from 1st January 2019 and should be paid on or close to the 1st January.

There are still 27 members who have been paying £5.00 from 2013 at the time of the last increase to £10.00. This total is reducing as members change their payment methods. Outstanding subscriptions total £2400.00 as of 9th June 2018. There are 35 members who have not paid their 2018 subscriptions. The Treasurer is doing his utmost to chase these outstanding subscriptions and has contacted those members by letter requesting their payment.

In accordance with the Association's policy on suspension, the Treasurer has written to all members who have not paid their subscriptions for a period of 3 years. There are currently 45 members shown as 'suspended'. There could be a possible further 9 suspensions in 2018. Letters were posted in May 2018.

**Direct Debit:** All members are urged to pay subscriptions by the preferred route of **Direct Debit mandate**. The administrative burden of the Treasurer would be significantly eased and simplified if all personnel paid their subscription by the Direct Debit mandate system. Those paying by Direct Debit should see an automatic £15 taken from their bank account by the Association on or close to the 1st January 2019.

A Direct Debit can only be set up by the organisation to which you're making the payment. Normally, you sign a mandate that gives the company permission to take funds from your account in an agreed way - like a monthly gym membership or your mobile phone bill. It normally confirms who's receiving the payment, the account to be debited, the amount and the dates of the payment. The Direct Debit Guarantee scheme protects payees so that any amount debited in error is returned immediately.

**Standing Order:** This method of payment requires members to manually setup an instruction with their bank to make the annual subscription payment to the Association. Once set up with your bank you can then enjoy peace of mind that your annual subscription will be paid on time, in one convenient payment. The onus is on members that are paying by Standing Order to change the amount they have instructed their bank to pay to £15 with effect 1st January 2019.



# 84th Artillery Clerks' Reunion and Association Dinner

## Saturday 9th June 2018 - Royal Artillery Sergeants' Mess, Larkhill

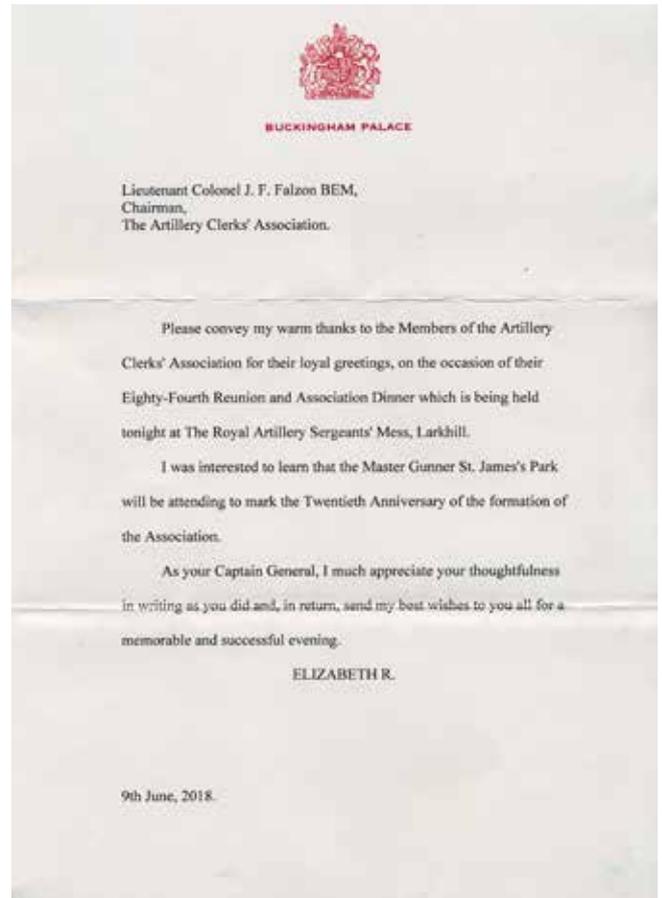
The Association held our 20th Association dinner and 84th Reunion in the RA Sergeants Mess Larkhill over the weekend 8 – 10 June 2018. We are very fortunate as an Association to have secured the permanent affiliation of 34 (Seringapatam) Bty RA, 14th Regiment Royal Artillery, who hosted us throughout the weekend.

In true style we met in the Mess on Friday evening and were hosted by the BC, BK, BSM and a good showing of 34 Bty SNCOs. Many a sandbag was drawn up and conversations ensued about how hard it was in our times, and I heard many times the phrase "it was never like that in our time". A great night was had by all and I think we were all saved by an early closure of the bar.

Bright and bushy tailed we met the BSM and his team on Saturday for an equipment display on the 34 Bty Gun Park, where once again sandbags were drawn up and we all had the opportunity to view and climb over the equipment (those who could) now in use within the Battery. This was a great opportunity to see the new technologies and perhaps the not so new (AFV432 now called the Bulldog) and discuss how things have developed in the Royal Regiment.

Our dinner night followed a well-tested format with 36 Association Members sitting down. We adopted a wet weather programme for the photograph by using the chesterfield room, a break from the norm. Our guests the Master Gunner St James Park, Lt Gen Sir Andrew Gregory KBE CB, the BSM 34 Bty WO2 (BSM) Taff Evans and Ms Sarah Davies from the RAA were wined and dined in the standards we as Artillery Clerks continue to deliver.

An Association were fortunate enough to entertain no less than 3 Lt Gen's, throughout the evening with the continued support from Lt Gen Richard Nugee our Honorary President and Lt Gen Sir Freddie Viggers our long-time supporter. It would be re-miss of me not to mention the important part that Marty Hester played as Mr Vice by ensuring we had the opportunity to rehearse the Loyal toast (a moment you had to be there to appreciate). I am sure many will confirm we had a great weekend drinking, eating and meeting new and old friends and I look forward to seeing many of you next year.



*Mr Harry Lomax, Mr Terry Cooper, Mr Clive Nutall & Mr Dave Allen*



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1. Mr Robbie Astick, Mr Mick Hutchinson & member from 34 (Seringsapatam) Battery
2. Members of 34 (Seringsapatam) Battery
3. Mr Mick Grenham, Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary), Maj (Ret'd) Ian Constantine & Lt Col (Ret'd) Joe Falzon (Chairman)
4. Mr Terry Cooper, Mr Mick Granham & Mr Bill Young
5. Group photograph of the Artillery Clerks' Association members and members of 34 (Seringsapatam) Battery attending on Friday evening.



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6. Group photograph of members of the Artillery Clerks' Association and 34 (Serिंगapatam) Battery attending the equipment display on the Saturday morning.
7. Mr Roy Deal (Reunion Secretary), Mr Mick Grenham and Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary) undergoing small arms training!
8. Maj (Retd) Ian Constantine and members of 34 (Serिंगapatam) Battery
9. Mr Roy Deal (Reunion Secretary) and Mr Clive Nuttall.
10. Mr Clive Nuttall, Mr Dave Allen,
11. Equipment Display by 34 (Serिंगapatam) Battery



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12. Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary), Lt Col (Ret'd) Joe Falzon (Chairman) & Mr Roy Deal (Reunion Secretary) chairing the AGM

13. Lt Gen Sir Freddie Viggers, Lt Col (Ret'd) Joe Falzon (Chairman) and WO2 (BSM) Taff Evans

14. Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary), Lt Gen Richard Nugee (Honorary President), Lt Gen Sir Andrew Gregory the Master Gunner St James Park (Guest of Honour), Lt Col (Ret'd) Joe Falzon (Chairman) & Lt Col (Ret'd) Richard Horner

15. Mr Roy Deal (Reunion Secretary) & Lt Gen Sir Andrew Gregory the Master Gunner St James Park (Guest of Honour)

16. Maj (Ret'd) Dave Cussell, Mr Geoff Hyatt, Mr Dave Manchester Mr Mick Hutchinson, Mr Terry Cooper & Mr Bill Young

17. Mr Dennis Norris, Lt Gen Sir Andrew Gregory the Master Gunner St James Park (Guest of Honour) & WO2 (TSM) Chris Norris



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18. Mr Brian Morgan, Mr Clive Nuttall and Mr Harry Lomax  
 19. Left: Mr Bill Young, Right: Mr Mick Grenham, Mr Dave Manchester  
 20. Mr Geoff Hyatt, Mr Andrew Jones (Standard Bearer) & WO2 (SQMS) Colin Haine  
 21. The Sandhurst Band  
 22. Mr Leo Lyall (Webmaster), WO2 (BSM) Taff Evans, Mr Roy Deal (Reunion Secretary)  
 23. WO2 (BSM) Taff Evans, Mr Roy Deal (Reunion Secretary), Lt Gen Sir Andrew Gregory the Master Gunner St James Park (Guest of Honour), Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary), Ms Sarah Davies (Guest), Lt Col (Ret'd) Russ Lee & Mr Marty Hester (Mr Vice)



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**25**



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**28**

- 24. Lt Gen Richard Nugee (Honorary President) & Lt Col (Ret'd) Richard Horner
- 25. Mr Robbie Astick, Mr Mick Hutchinson, Mr Terry Cooper and Lt Gen Sir Andrew Gregory the Master Gunner St James Park (Guest of Honour)
- 26. Lt Gen Sir Freddie Viggers, Lt Gen Richard Nugee and Lt Col (Ret'd) Richard Horner
- 27. Mr Dennis Norris, Lt Gen Sir Andrew Gregory the Master Gunner St James Park (Guest of Honour) and WO2 (TSM) Chris Norris
- 28. Ms Sarah Davies (Guest), Lt Col (Ret'd) Joe Falzon (Chairman) and WO2 (BSM) Taff Evans

# Reunion Secretary's Germany Report by Ron Holmes MSM (former WO1(SSM))

The Royal Artillery Clerks' Association Germany reunion weekend took place on the 16th October 2018 in the Sgts' Mess, Catterick Bks in Bielefeld. Having contacted a fellow Gunner, WO1 (RSM) Si Nicholson, he allowed us the privilege to hold the re-union in his Station Mess. The venue was set for the last formal AC dinner in BFG before this last bastion of the old BAOR and BFG days begins to finally close and disappear in 2019. The days of free accommodation and fine Mess standards at a very reasonable cost are now coming to an end or as the RSM aptly put it; "The days of the Raj are finally over".

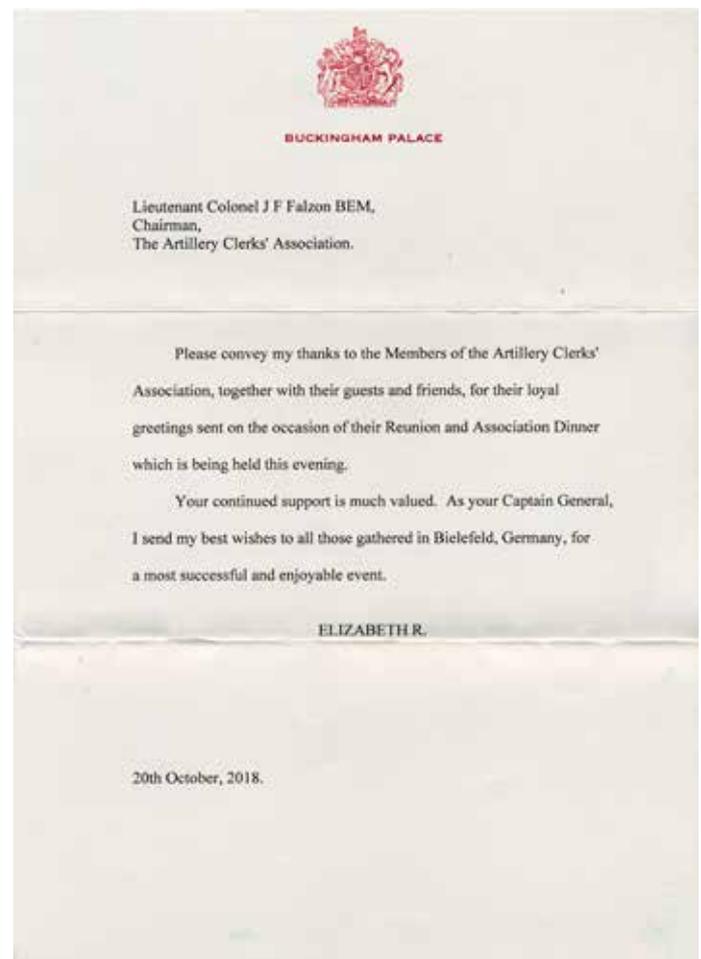
The weekend started with a few of us arriving Friday evening, having a traditional weekend warmer in the Mess bar which was much enjoyed as you can see in the pictures provided. The Mess Manager, Brian Smout and his staff provided excellent service and prepared a fantastic Regimental dinner venue in the Sgts' Mess Campaign Room for 36 places for our members, partners and guests closely connected with the Gunners on Saturday night. The RSM can be rightly proud of his staff and the Mess.

Robbie Astick as Mr vice gave the Gunner Prayer before we all sat down for a first class three course menu based on a sumptuous Beef Wellington. Joe, read the loyal message after we toasted our Captain General, the Queen. Our honoured guest Brigadier Richard Clements, Commander BFG and ex CO 39 Regt RA gave us a succinct update on BFG matters and the state of the nation for the Royal Artillery which was well received by all. I called for a toast to absent friends and of course made mention to those who sent their apologies (listed on the menu card). As in keeping with AC tradition we toasted absent friends again at the bar with a bottle of Artilleriefuehrer which went down very well. A point worth noting, we had a bar extension until 2359 hrs which is not something to be sniffed at as nowadays it must be sanctioned at 2 Star level (due to the Land Army drinking regulations). The days of having a lockin and a tip to the bar staff are gone.

The weekend was certainly a turn up for the books as it was originally planned to simply have an evening in a local restaurant. Whilst chasing up the local ACs to fix a date and venue, it was WO1 (SSM) Andy Moss who is still serving in HQ BFG who put me in touch with the RSM Si Nicholson with the idea to ask if we could use the mess. What a bonus, then to find out that the RSM, COS and Commander were all Gunners. Having the

mess and all the facilities was the cherry on the cake and obviously encouraged the numbers we had attend. I thank all those that made the effort to be there to make it such a special night. I am also mindful of those that could not make it due to circumstances beyond that prevented them from attending and missing a superb weekend.

We now know that Sennelager and the NATO Sgt's Mess will now stay open for the foreseeable future. I can confirm we will be having our next dinner in Sennelager next October. It may not be as grand as we have just had but it certainly will be an eventful trip down memory lane as we had in 2014 along the Sennelager strip Friday and Saturday night. I look forward to seeing you all in Larkhill in June 2019. Hopefully I have piqued your interest enough to encourage you to also come to Sennelager next year. Ubique

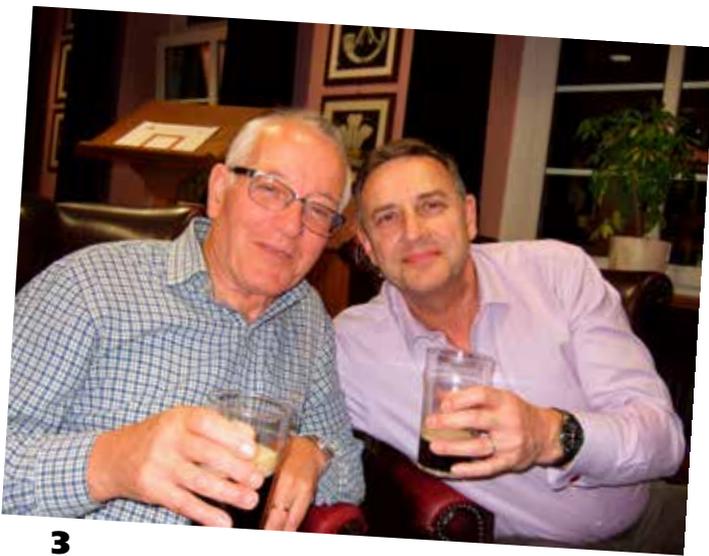




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1. Steve Seymour, Ron Holmes, Jamie Jaimison, Clive Nuttall and Dennis Norris
2. Ron Holmes, Hauke Michelson and Jamie Jaimison
3. Joe Falzon and Ron Holmes
4. Joe Falzon and Robbie Astick
5. Top table jinks
6. Ron Holmes, Andy Moss and Hauke Michelson



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7. WO1 (RSM) Si Nicholson, Brig Richard Clements and Joe Falzon

8. Guests, Dickie Davies QM 26 Regt RA, Julie, Lt Col Retd RA Mick McCarthy SO1 G1 BFG and Carole McCarthy

9. Jamie Jamieson, Ian and Caroline Constantine

10. Rob Clarke, Kerstin and Jamie Jamieson

11. Dennis Norris and Pete Deverall

12. Daz Ward and Clive Nuttall



**13**



**14**



**15**



**16**

13. Roy Deal with new shirt bought 5 mins before dinner and Margaret Deal

14. Group photo

15. Joe Falzon and Tim Mathews

16. Hauke Michelson presenting the Bundeswehr Gold Medal to Joe Falzon to mark his 10 years as an AC

# The Battle for Imphal – 1944

## by Association Chairman Lt Col Joe Falzon OSJ BEM

Imphal was the defining moment in the Burma Campaign; the first Japanese defeat since they had ejected the British from Burma two years previously. It was fought in the eastern reaches of Assam in some of the most rugged and inhospitable terrain on earth. It was not a single battle, but a series of ferocious battles fought between February and July 1944 over hundreds of square miles of hilly country centred on the Imphal Plain: Sinzweya-Imphal-Kohima.

A key factor in British success at Imphal was the genius of Lieutenant General William (“Uncle Bill”) Slim and his 14th Army. Starting with Imphal they were to inflict upon the Japanese their most decisive land defeat during the whole of the war. Mutaguchi’s 15th Army of 80,000 troops had moved quickly over the mountains of Northeast India to surround and destroy Slim’s forces so as to remove the threat they posed to the Japanese in Burma. Slim, meanwhile recognised the need to seek a conclusive battle to inflict such losses on the Japanese that they would be unable to prevent the British reconquest of Burma.



Japanese operations began with a feint on the Arakan coastline in February 1944 to draw off Slim’s reserves from Imphal. But the ruse failed as the 5th and 7th Indian Divisions stood firm and fought desperate defensive battles in the rugged terrain of the Ngakyedauk, Buthidaung and Sinzweya features. Unable to overcome the defenders, the Japanese battered themselves into exhaustion and finally broke off the attacks.

Nevertheless, this failure did not prevent the Japanese trying similar tactics against Imphal in March 1944. Once again, Mutaguchi’s assaults were slowly but bloodily repulsed. In a series of hard-fought actions, the Japanese were forced behind the Chindwin in late June and July, leaving 65,000 dead behind them – few



Japanese chose to surrender. At the same time the second Chindit expedition harried the Japanese rear in northern Burma.

Imphal-Kohima has been likened to Stalingrad in terms of the intensity of the fighting, the desperate determination of attacker and defender, the primitive conditions and the triumph of human spirit in the midst of cruel adversity. In particular, the extraordinary defence of Kohima by the 4th Royal West Kents who, as part of an assorted garrison of 1,500 troops held off, and eventually repulsed, a 15,000 strong Japanese division in two weeks of intense close quarter fighting. During these bitter months, the 14th Army devised new tactics with the use of fighter-ground attack and aerial resupply. But, by far the most important ingredient in success was the Army’s strength of fighting spirit, the sheer guts and determination of the “Forgotten Army” in the bloody hillside battles of Sinzweya, Imphal and Kohima – 74 years ago.

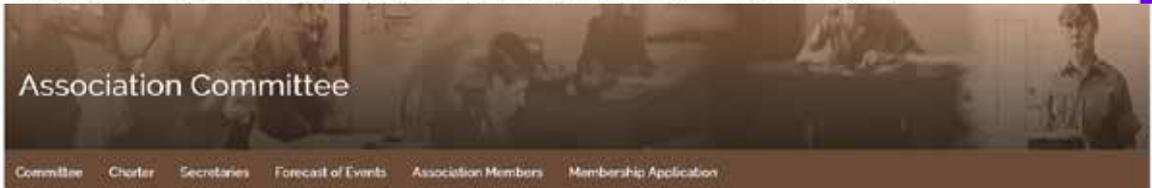




HOME  
ASSOCIATION  
MEMBERSHIP

The Welfare section of the Association is managed by the Welfare Secretary, Mr Dennis Norris.

Through comradeship and friendship, the aim of the Association is to support members in ill health or infirmity wherever possible. As we get older and some of us become more infirm that comradeship and friendship can be worth more than any financial support that can be obtained. This can be seen through social

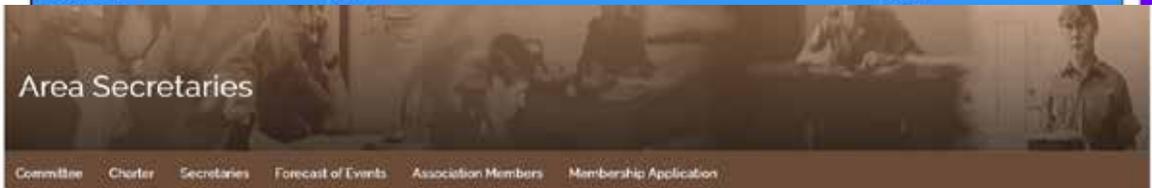


## Association Committee

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## Committee Members



## Area Secretaries

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## Area Secretaries



## Treasurer

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## THE ARTILLERY CLERKS' ASSOCIATION TREASURER



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STANDARD  
REUNION WEEKEND  
REUNION GALLERY  
HISTORY  
SHOP

## Shop

Association Ties are available for purchase at £20.00 each. Email the [ac-shop@artyclerkassn.org](mailto:ac-shop@artyclerkassn.org) requesting the purchase of a tie and you will receive further details for further details how to place an order.

### Association Tie



The Association Tie is silk/polyester with the Gunner zig zag design depicting, in gold, the AC' crossed quills.



# The Royal British Legion



## LIVE ON

## THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

TO THE MEMORY OF THE FALLEN AND THE FUTURE OF THE LIVING  
The Royal British Legion provides lifelong support for the Armed Forces community - serving men and women, veterans, and their families.

### GET SUPPORT



AND FAMILIES



### VETERANS AND FAMILIES

we're lifelong support for members of the Royal Navy, British Army, Royal Air Force and RAF. We want to make sure that our Armed Forces are always here to support them with dignity.



CAMPAIGN



CARE HOMES

DEMENTIA CARE

ADVISAL SERVICES



BREAK CENTRES

VETERANS MEDICAL FUND

FINANCES



HOUSEHOLD REPAIRATION

CARE HOMES

HANDY MAN

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Here are lists of events throughout the year including commemorative and fundraising events, fundraising activities and those that are just plain fun.

Search activities [input] Category [dropdown] Date [dropdown]

**Christmas Celebration**  
Monday, 8 December 2016  
Start the festive season with the region's annual Christmas celebration, concert at London's great Guildhall.

**Virgin Money London Marathon 2017**  
London, 23 April 2017

**Belconnen Triathlon & Triathlon 2017**  
Belconnen, 29 April 2017

**London to Paris**  
London to Paris, 29 June 2017

**Rudolfers Ride 2017**  
London, 23 July 2017

**Triathlon to Paris**  
London, 31 August 2017

**Triathlon to Paris 24 hours**  
London, 2 September 2017

The Royal British Legion supports serving members of the Armed Forces, veterans and their families.

If you need help, call our Contact Centre helpline on **0808 802 8080** from **8am to 8pm, 7 days a week** (calls are free from UK landlines and main mobile networks) for all enquiries.

From overseas: **+44 (0)20 3376 8080** (full rate)

Or send us an email at [info@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:info@britishlegion.org.uk).

The Royal British Legion's Head Office and postal address is:  
199 Borough High Street  
London SE1 1AA

# YOUR WEBSITE NEEDS YOU!

<https://www.artyclerkassn.org>

The screenshot displays the website for the Royal Artillery Clerks' Association. At the top, there is a banner for 'Artillery Clerks' with a red and blue zigzag pattern. Below this, a row of book covers for 'The Crossed Quills' is visible. The main content area is divided into three sections: 'Treasurer' (featuring banknotes and coins), 'Standard Bearer' (featuring a row of blue standards), and a news article titled 'The Royal Artillery Clerks' Association Standard Bearer - Mr Andrew Jones (former Sgt(AC))'. The article text includes: 'Andrew Jones represents the Artillery Clerks' Association at various parades and occasions throughout the year, proudly presenting the Association Standard. Andrew has been the Standard Bearer for the Association since it was commissioned in 2000. The Standard was paraded for the first time at the St Barbara's Day parade in Larkhill on Sunday 3rd December 2000. The Standard has been dedicated at St Barbara's Day without fail since 2000 but has also represented the Association at other events, to name a few, the 'Farewell to Woolwich' celebrations at Woolwich in May 2007, the 'Festival of Remembrance' celebrations in November 2010 at the Albert Hall, with regular attendance at the 'Royal Artillery Parade' at Esher and 'Gunner Sunday (Royal Hospital Chelsea)'.

Navigation menus are located on the left and bottom of the page. The left menu includes: HOME, ASSOCIATION, MEMBERSHIP, CHARTER, AREA SECRETARIES, FORECAST OF EVENTS, INTERESTS & IDEAS, MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION, CROSSED QUILLS, MESSAGE BOARD. The bottom menu includes: HOME, ASSOCIATION, MEMBERSHIP, CHARTER, AREA SECRETARIES, FORECAST OF EVENTS, INTERESTS & IDEAS, MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION, CROSSED QUILLS, MESSAGE BOARD.

84th Artillery Clerks' Reunion and Association Dinner  
 Royal Artillery Warrant & Officers' & Sergeant's Mess, Royal Artillery Barracks, Larkhill  
 Saturday 9th June 2018



**Rear Row:** Left to front Mr RJ Holmes MSM, Mr LJ Lyall, Mr R Astick, Mr WM Wallace, Mr D Norris, WO2 (TSM) C Norris, Mr M Hester, Maj DJ Cussell  
**Middle Row:** Left to Right Maj (Retd) PA Headford BEM, Mr GO Hyatt, Mr DA Riley, Mr AJ Jones (Standard Bearer), Mr JM Hutchinson, Mr SV Read, Mr MI Grenham, Mr TC Cooper, Mr DC Manchester, Mr DG Allen, Mr B Morgan, Mr P Gauci, Mr SR Seymour, Mr B Young, WO2 (SQMS) CP Haine, Mr HE Lomax, Mr C Nuttall  
**Front Row:** Left to Right Mr RH Deal MBE (Reunion Secretary), Capt (Retd) RA Jeavons, Lt Col (Retd) RH Horner MBE, Ms Sarah Davies (Guest), Lt Gen Sir Freddie Viggers KCB CMG MBE DL, Lt Gen Sir Andrew Gregory KBE CB the Master Gunner St James Park (Guest of Honour), Lt Col (Retd) JF Falzon OSJ BEM (Chairman), Lt Gen RE Nugge CBE (Honorary President), Mr Andy Tibble MVO MSM (Secretary), WO2 (BSM) T Evans (Guest), Lt Col (Retd) R Lee MBE, Maj (Retd) IF Constantine



## RAA FORECAST OF EVENTS



**2019**

15 February	RA Gold Cup	Sandown Park
20 March	NEC Meeting	Larkhill
28 April	Gunner Sunday	Royal Hospital Chelsea
17-19 May	RA Assembly*	Blackpool
18 May	NEC Meeting	Blackpool
6 July	RA Service of Remembrance*	NMA, Alrewas
1 October	RAA NEC Meeting	Larkhill
7 November	Field of Remembrance	Westminster Abbey
10 November	RA Ceremony of Remembrance*	Hyde Park Corner
1 December	St Barbara's Day*	Larkhill Garrison Church

