

The Crossed Quills

The Magazine of the Artillery Clerks' Association

75 VJ Day



LEST WE FORGET

Edition 24
December 2020



RAA Forecast of Events 2020 - 2021



2020		
06 December	St Barbara's Day	Larkhill Garrison Church
2021		
12 February	RA Gold Cup	Sandown Park
17 March	RAA NEC Meeting	Larkhill
25 April	Gunner Sunday	Royal Hospital Chelsea
21 – 23 May	RA Assembly	Blackpool
22 May	RAA NEC Meeting	Blackpool
12 June	Artillery Clerks' Association Reunion and Dinner	Larkhill
21 June	Armed Forces Day	National
3 July	NMA Service	Alrewas, Staffordshire
6 October	RAA NEC Meeting	Larkhill
11 November	Field of Remembrance	Westminster Abbey
14 November	RA Ceremony of Remembrance	Hyde Park Corner
5 December	St Barbara's Day	Larkhill Garrison Church



Foreword by Association President

Lt Gen Richard Nugee CB CVO CBE

There has been so much discussion about this 'unprecedented and extraordinary' year that it is difficult to know where to start. Perhaps the most important place though is to wish each and every one of you to 'stay safe' and see this virus through. I am led to believe that we have lost none of our Association to the virus to date - long may that continue. And I was amused by a joke that was going round during lockdown - in WW2 'doing our bit' was fighting for the nation, and in this epidemic, 'doing our bit' is staying at home! Actually, for the sort of active and public-spirited people in the Association, I actually wonder which is more difficult to get your head around...

One of the casualties of the virus was the splendid 75th anniversaries planned for VE Day and VJ Day. It was a great shame that one of the last outings of those who had fought in WW2 and survived was so subdued compared to what had been planned. But in a sense, more powerful was the superb efforts, that united the nation, of Captain Sir Tom. His is the spirit of old soldiers everywhere, and was a living example of the men and women who fought in the War, far more so than a party to celebrate (although that would have been fun!). As Admiral of the RA Yacht Club I was recently fortunate

enough to sail with the architect (a Gunner) of the D Day celebrations last year. That was a party!

In Defence, the year has been dominated by two things - reaction to the virus and the Integrated Review and Spending Review. On the first, Defence deployed thousands of troops to support the NHS with the logistics of distributing PPE, building the Nightingale hospitals, a remarkable achievement, and then running many of the testing centres all over the country. What is less well known is that one of our Logistic Brigades deployed to NHS (England) to help them with the planning that needed to happen. And the Army offered mentorship to senior NHS executives - I have been fortunate enough to mentor a director in one of the Trusts. And you might have seen that we are now gearing up to support the huge vaccination programme, as soon as a vaccine is tested and confirmed.

The Integrated Review is the first time we have openly talked about the 5 domains of modern warfare (Air, Land, Maritime, Cyber and Space) and is a huge rubik's cube of finding the ability to develop new and much needed technology in all 5 domains, at the same time as being prepared for more traditional threats. By the time you read this, I am sure that all will have been revealed - but as I write in the Autumn, the sense of 'don't believe everything you read in the papers' is at the front of many people's minds.

Artillery Clerks are the HR experts of the Royal Regiment. And as I am sure you are aware, HR departments have been wrestling for months now with what the long term consequences of working from home are going to be. Some who can work from home seem to enjoy the freedom and can't see why they would want to sacrifice that for commuting, others have too many distractions in small houses, and some don't like being on their own. It has been a huge debate in the MOD, as we make sure that anyone coming back into the office is safe, and that it is worth coming back in for. I would like to think that, if we had still been operating when the pandemic hit, the Artillery Clerks would be leading the debates - perhaps you are, in whatever role you have now.

There have been many cries for pressing the 'reset' button on 2020. As we move towards Christmas and the end of the year, perhaps instead we should take stock of the most extraordinary year, be thankful we are safe and remember that as soldiers, we always look forward to the next challenge rather than dwell on the past! Let's hope we can find a way of having a great dinner next year, if necessary socially distanced. We need a celebration!

Lt Gen Richard Nugee CB CVO
CBE



Report by Association Chairman

Lt Col Joe Falzon OSJ BEM

drumbeat of anxiety. Climate change, war and conflict, sporadic terrorist attacks, poverty, natural disasters, trade wars; our world, at times, feels dark and lonely, and this despite the many, many positive news stories that exist but that rarely get attention.

Thank goodness, one “good news” story bucked the trend and dominated the media – Captain Sir Tom Moore captured the imagination and won the hearts of everyone in the nation with his amazing fundraising efforts. The veteran raised more than £32million for the NHS charities. He is living proof what we can achieve if we all pull together!! It is also worth remembering his simple message on his 100th birthday – “The sun will shine again, and the clouds will go away”.

In these uncharted times, we have all had to change our way of life and made the well-being and safety of our families our #1 priority. The Association adapted to the times to keep the members in touch with each other by using

MS Teams technology (thank you Leo) – we can now safely catch up with each other from the comfort of our homes. After the successful AGM and EGM in the middle of the pandemic we continued with regular weekly opportunities for members to touch base and stay in touch. So, once again, I am delighted to introduce our latest edition of the Crossed Quills. The format is slightly different this year as we do not have the usual updates and photographs of the Annual Reunion in Larkhill. However, Andy Tibble has enlisted the help of member contributors who have submitted several interesting articles and photographs. I know that he has worked tirelessly to make this edition engaging to record this difficult and unusual year.

Finally, I want to thank once again all my colleagues on the Committee. Our commitment over the year required help and support from all quarters, and I am proud to work with such a great team that cares so much about our Association.

For many people, and that includes our members, these are fearful times, to be sure. At the time of writing, some 3.55 million people worldwide have been infected by COVID-19 and nearly a three quarter of a million have perished.

Yet this pandemic and the fear, dread, and anxiety that it has induced has not occurred in isolation. For years, we have existed under the constant feeling that things are getting worse; that we are unwittingly failing each other and our planet. This is not helped by a daily news cycle that reads like an ever-escalating



Report by Association Secretary

Andy Tibble MVO MSM (former WO1(SSM))

This has been an extraordinary year which has passed so quickly since the production of the last edition of ‘The Crossed Quills’. It has been a very unusual year for the Association where we saw the world being infected by COVID-19 which sadly resulted in our Reunion Weekend in June 2020 being cancelled due to the

restrictions. This also meant that the various events that our Standard Bearer, Mr Andrew Jones would have normally attended being cancelled. On behalf of the Committee and members I would once again like to thank Andrew for his continued commitment in representing the Association.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 we had to cancel the Reunion Dinner which was due to be held at the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Central Mess, Larkhill on Saturday 13th June 2020. We did, however, hold a virtual Annual General Meeting on MS Teams on the afternoon of Saturday 13th June 2020 followed by an Extraordinary General Meeting on MS Teams on Sunday 26th July 2020. Both meetings were a great success thanks to our Webmaster, Leo Lyall who put a lot of time and effort into making sure that we had no issues on the day and also for advising our members in the use of MS teams. The Association has continued to use MS Teams since these meetings as a tool to keep all of our members in regular contact. Every Sunday evening at 1900 hours, those members registered through Leo Lyall have access to join our weekly meeting on MS Teams where we come together for a catchup. If you are not registered and would like to join us on a Sunday evening, please let Leo or myself know.

The 86th Artillery Clerks' Reunion will take place over the weekend of the 11th, 12th and 13th June 2021 at Larkhill. The calling letter for this reunion weekend is enclosed with this edition of 'The Crossed Quills' and can also be found on the Artillery Clerks' Association website. This is the only opportunity for all members of the Artillery Clerks' Association to meet up over a weekend in the UK. It would be great to see many of our members able to support this event after such a long absence since we met physically. 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.

All Area Secretary's are once again asked to try and 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.

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, Steve Callaghan, Clive Nuttall, Dick Jeavons, and Richard Horner. 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 Tuesday 31st August 2021. 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 2021.

Our current membership stands at 196. There are currently 149 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.

As you know, Leo Lyall our Webmaster has continued to dedicate a lot of time and hard work to make sure that the Artillery Clerks' Association website is highly presented and very informative. I have continued to receive a lot of feedback about our 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 once again 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. 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.



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 who have joined us why not buy the new high-quality version for the 2020 Reunion. If anyone has any ideas about items they would like the Committee to procure and sell to celebrate our next significant 25th anniversary in 2023, please send in your ideas for consideration and discussion to Andy or Joe.

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.



Association Committee 2020 - 2021

Honorary President	Lt Gen Richard Nugee CB CVO 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
Welfare Secretary	Dennis Norris - former WO2(QMS(AC))
Webmaster	Leo Lyall - former SSgt
Historical Secretary	Stephen Read - former WO2(SMAC)
Standard Bearer	Andrew Jones - former Sgt(AC)
Association Padre	Rev Dennis Brett - former WO2(QMS(AC))

Regional Secretaries

North	Brian Morgan – former WO2(SQMS)
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	Andy Tibble MVO MSM – former WO1(SSM)
Wales	Andy Tibble MVO MSM – former WO1(SSM)
Northern Ireland	Andy Tibble MVO MSM – former WO1(SSM)
Germany	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 Area Representatives in the Governing Regulations of the ACA 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

The North – Durham, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, Cleveland, North, West and South Yorkshire and Humberside. Contact Brian Morgan at 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

The East – Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Essex, Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. Contact Dave Cussell at 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

The West – Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Avon and Wiltshire. Contact Roy Deal MBE at roydeal@hotmail.com

The London Area.

Contact Andrew Jones at

Scotland. Contact Andy Tibble at andytibble@btinternet.com.

Germany. Contact Ron Holmes at ronandkadjia@aol.com

Wales/N Ireland & Rest of the World.

Contact the Association Secretary, Andy Tibble at andytibble@btinternet.com.



Treasurer's Report

by Major (Retd) Paul Corker

General. As we head to another stage of uncertainty regarding COVID 19; with no ending in sight, I convey my sincerest best wishes to you and your families and wish that you all remain safe and positive in these troublesome times. Another year with no reunion weekend for me but let us hope that 2021 will see us all enjoying each other's company in June at Larkhill. One positive note is that I have been able to get on with my garden and Julia as a result of my hard work has held (within the restrictions) garden viewing tea parties which she has thoroughly grasped to my bewilderment and support. My health has been up and down with diabetes now proving a hard nut to crack but my diet is so much better. The odd beer after a good game of golf keeps me cheered. My medical MOT is long overdue but that is just one issue I am coping with. That said, these times must mean that we all must remain flexible and confident that we all will come through this awful time in our lives.

With no dinner this year, I think the 'virtual' AGM and EGM were great successes. Leo you have my sincere thanks for taking me through the necessary training modules to ensure I could deliver my reports and input when and where they were needed. It has also been a positive agenda to hold meetings on a Sunday with

follow members; this has just been a catch up but absolutely necessary during 'lock down'. We have clearly demonstrated that no matter what life throws at our Association we will remain positive and resolute in true adversity.

The Committee has continued to give me clear direction to ensure that the fund has long-term sustainability and a solid platform to meet the ever changing needs of the Association. The entire professional team continues to produce an excellent service to you our members and I thank everyone for giving up their own time to produce a high class facility that must be admired by our fellow branches. We certainly set standards that others must follow. The website continues to go from strength to strength and Leo must take all the plaudits for this outstanding resource. Due to COVID 19 my main effort to ensure that HMRC pays the outstanding 'Gift Aid' income to the Association as soon as possible has been somewhat derailed however, this remains the top of my action list. I will give an update at the 2021 AGM.

Just some parish notes. As I previously alluded to, the website is a fantastic platform that we all should embrace and use

to improve what we do as an Association. With this in mind, my intent is to list those members who for some reason are not paying the correct subscription of £15, those who have not forwarded to me their gift aid declaration form and members who have not set up a direct payment with their banks. This will be updated regularly and hopefully will ensure outstanding action if readily remedied. Members who are outstanding with their subscriptions will be contacted by me privately.

To recap, Please check your bank statements before January 2021 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 form which can be found on the website. I value your support; your assistance in helping me is extremely rewarding and all of our combined efforts ensure that the fund is 'fit for purpose'.

Main Action Areas

Outstanding subscriptions - £1,200.00 (this is for all members)

Mandate - 11 Members not paying by Direct Mandate

Gift Aid - 25 Members have not submitted the Declaration Form.

Statement of Account - 21st September 2020

ASSETS

Current Bank Account	£3,593.62
Deposit Account	£2,012.91
Shop Stock	£300.00

Total Assets (A) £5906.53

AVAILABLE CASH (A-B) £5822.53

LIABILITIES

Function £84.00

Total Liabilities (B) £84.00

Summary. The fund continues to be financially sound and has the strength to support the needs of its members when required. My ongoing issues: to reclaim money owed by the HMRC regarding Gift Aid, to clear outstanding subscriptions totalling £1,200 and to ensure all members change their annual subscription to £15. There are no outstanding invoices; therefore this statement is a true reflection of the worth of the fund. The reunion fund does show £84 which is money paid by a member for the 2020 dinner and he decided to leave it there for the 2021 event. The General Purpose Fund has the strength to support future events, should you the members decide that. The fund is on a strong financial footing and continues to be ready to meet unknown challenges should it be called upon.

See you all in Larkhill in June.

Standard Bearer's Report

by Andrew Jones (former Sgt (AC))

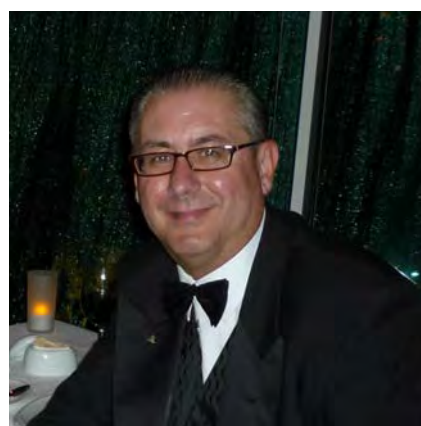


Due to COVID 19, this year has been very quiet for the standard bearer.

The Gunner Sunday in April 2020 was cancelled.

The only event I have attended was the funeral of Mr Alan Lothian. This took place at Eltham crematorium in South London on Thursday 26th August 2020.

I am disappointed that the Royal Artillery Remembrance Day in London and the St Barbara's Church Parade and Service in Larkhill have been disrupted by COVID-19.



Welfare Secretary's Report

by Dennis Norris (former WO2 (QMS(AC)))

would have thought at the New Year's Eve parties that social media platforms, including Zoom and Microsoft Teams, would become so familiar to us all as we increasingly become physically separated and look to technology to provide that face to face contact.

Below is an article gleaned from the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund (RACF) that is something we all probably paid into during our service and is there to help when required. Please stay safe everyone and encourage family and friends to do the same.

Dennis Norris

The Royal Artillery Charitable Fund has been around a while and is there for every Gunner – both

serving and veterans. But do you really know what it's for and how it can help? Here are the top 10 things you should know about the RACF.

1. The RACF was formed in 1839.

The earliest Gunner Welfare Charity for NCOs and men was a friendly society formed in 1839 in Woolwich. It was formed by a group of Gunner officers who were concerned for soldiers' wives left behind when their husbands went on foreign service. The RACF was set up to support all officers and soldiers and their dependants, whether serving or retired, divorced or widowed. It is there to help all members of the Gunner Community – whatever

As I write this report, it looks like the country is hurtling towards another Covid-19 National lockdown. Some regions, including where I personally live in the North West are already under restrictions and it would be fair to say "it has been a funny old year!".

Now more than ever we need to look towards our family, friends and comrades for support and sustenance during these difficult and unprecedented times. Who

the cause and at any time in their lives. We can help financially or be supportive in connecting Gunners with other parts of our community. Since the 1950s, the RACF has been the major benevolence charity for the Gunners and has helped many retired and serving soldiers and their descendants in need. Anyone associated with a Gunner (such as a wife, ex-wife and child) can apply to the fund. There are no limits on the number of applications, providing each addresses a different need. Each case is awarded on its own merits and the RACF tries to assist everyone it can, within reason.

2. Is there an age limit the RACF can help?

No. The youngest person the fund has helped is a 9-month-old baby. The eldest Gunner the fund has helped was 105 years old.

3. The RACF isn't just for financial support.

We offer lots of different types of support. We will help with anything that we consider to be a need, such as funeral grants, priority debt, mobility support and the provision of domestic goods to name but a few. As well as the financial support provided, the emotional support of just knowing that you belong to the extended Gunner family should not be underestimated. The RACF can also put you in touch with the Royal Artillery Association who is there to offer emotional support and can often be the first point of call for a veteran who is missing some comradeship.

4. The RACF can help with community projects.

Many people within the Gunner community don't realise that we can help with community projects. We have recently provided a defibrillator for the

Fargo ammunition compound on the edge of Salisbury. We also contributed to the new Thorney Island Community Centre. It's always worth asking us to see if we can help. Ring us on 01980 634309 and find out how we might be able to support your schools and local community.

5. The RACF is not just for veterans

Sometimes, there is a misconception that the RACF can only be used by veterans, which is not the case. You are eligible to apply for an RACF grant if you or your dependant has served in the Royal Artillery for a minimum of 24 hours, and you are in need of support. If you are not sure whether you are eligible, check in with your welfare officer (if you are serving), or if you are a former Gunner and you need some help financially, contact SSAFA Forces line on 0800 7314 880 or The Royal Artillery Charitable Fund on 01980 634309. The RACF also supports the serving regiment by giving £65,000 every year to Gunner Sport, which is shared out across different sport disciplines.

6. The RACF helps competitor at the Invictus Games

There are many sporting projects which have received funding but one that everyone recognises is The Invictus Games. Allan Izzard is one of the sportspeople who has received help from the RACF. He says:

"I did an archery taster session with H4H and then joined a local club, but I needed my own equipment which is what the RACF has helped with. When I tried to speak to other organisations for support, it was a nightmare. And then I remembered the RACF and applied. From initial email to getting the equipment was 3.5 weeks and the experience of applying was brilliant. I got to trials

for the Invictus Games in 2018, and I've just been selected to take part in the Warrior Games this coming June."

7. The RACF helps over 1,000 cases every year

The number of applications/funds are as follows:

In 2017, we helped 1,129 cases totalling £636,392

In 2018, we helped 1,086 cases totalling £647,187

In 2019, we helped 949 cases totalling £675,162

The number of applications has reduced for several reasons. There are fewer Gunners than there were 20 years ago, but there has also been a misconception that the RACF is for veterans, which isn't the case. We are working on getting that information out.

8. The RACF can help with more than you realise

There is not much the fund can't help with. We can help with domestic help such as getting a new fridge or washing machine, and support for projects in schools and the local community. We cannot help with ongoing costs such as private medical costs and legal fees but we can help with care home fees and annual grants for single pensioners who are eligible. We do have maximum grants for funerals, care home fees and annuities but it's worth checking with us first. As a rule we do not accept retrospective requests so it is worth phoning for advice before committing yourselves to unaffordable costs.

9. The RACF works with other organisations to offer help

Our grants are awarded based on any service with the Gunners, so even if you have served in another Regiment and applied to them for support, you are still eligible to apply to the RACF. We

work together with SSAFA, the Royal British Legion and other military charities. We are able to sometimes share the financial requirement to ensure the best result for the person who has applied.

10. The RACF has access to 163 Royal Artillery War Memorial Homes throughout the UK

The Royal Artillery Charitable Fund handed occupation and maintenance control of 163 RA War Memorial Homes to Haig Homes, but we are able to support RA Veterans should they wish to occupy one. We also administer 4 RA Cottage Homes at Colchester and Bath. Our aim is to support Gunners throughout their lives. The RACF supports all its Gunner veterans who are residents in the Royal Hospital Chelsea engaging with them throughout the year and remembering them at Christmas.

Still not sure if the RACF can help?

We're here to support you, so please reach out to us if you need some help. If you are serving, speak to your Army Welfare Officer and if on sick leave your PRU (Personnel Recovery Unit). You can also apply now through the [website](#), email us at rarhq-racf-welfare-mailbox@mod.uk or ring us on **01980 634309**.

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.

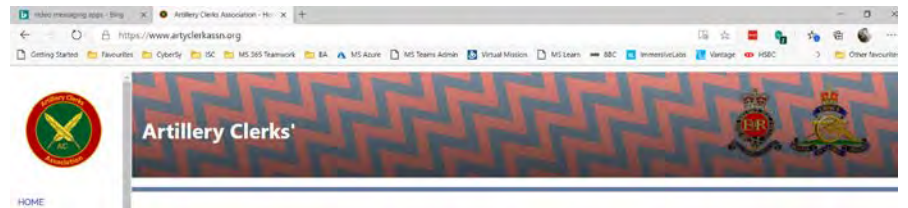


The Army's National Charity



Webmaster's Report

by Leon (Leo) Lyall (former SSgt)



I'd like to kick off this year's report with a reminder to all members that the Association website is secure and has been for over two years now. It has an SSL certificate which is up-to-date and the address to use to access the website is: <https://www.artyclerkassn.org>. The use of the https in front of the website address ensures the use of the secure connection.

The Association Microsoft Teams Site

The global pandemic this year has forced fundamental changes in the UK, especially to business practice and social norms. As the UK was shut down earlier in the year and people were forced to stay in, an online revolution took over. People, stuck indoors for weeks-on-end, had to find outlets to the outside world and IT provided the means. It seems the absolute norm now to have online meetings either business or social. People are Zooming, Skyping or on Facebook Messenger, WhatsApp and many more.

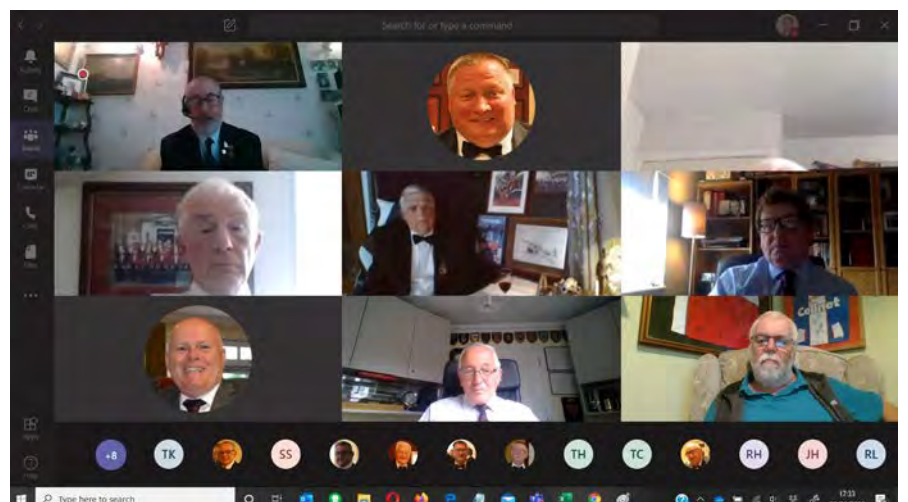
The Association was not immune to the social lockdown event with our very own Larkhill Reunion Weekend cancelled which of course includes the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Other means of holding the AGM were looked at. It was decided to join the revolution and try online

meeting. Initially the Committee held a few meetings on Zoom but this was seen as too unsecure. To that end the Association Microsoft (MS) Teams site was set up.

In June, after a build-up of staged meetings, this year's AGM was held online. The Association MS Teams site proved to work effectively and all agenda points were provided to those members that attended along with points raised, motions carried and a raft of other business at the end. There was one point that couldn't be resolved on the day and therefore an Extraordinary General Meeting was organised for another MS Teams online meeting for July. Here is a link to the online gallery on the Association website: <https://www.artyclerkassn.org/webpages/reunion2020-AGM.htm>.

Joining the Association MS Teams site is easy so long as you follow the simple instructions.

First members need to email the webmaster via ArtyClerks.Webmaster@gmail.com. Once your email address you want to use is provided, I will set up an account in the software. You will receive an email invitation to join. You need to click the link in the email and sign up to Microsoft. Once you have been accepted you will be able to sign into the Association Team site. It is advisable to download the software to your pc/laptop to enjoy the full MS Teams experience; using your phone or an iPad is not advised. Follow the link here to our MS Teams webpage where there are details and instructions: <https://www.artyclerkassn.org/webpages/ac-ms-teams.htm>. The link to MS Teams download site should be provided to members after they have signed up to MS Teams but if not here is a link: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/microsoft-365/microsoft-teams/download-app>. MS Teams is easy to use and there



is training provided by Microsoft within the application. However, there is also training available online at: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/microsoft-365/microsoft-teams/download-app>.

The Association Website

The website has been at its peak for content for well over a year now and has seen little change. Maintenance is required on the Home page for the notices, X-Quills gets a new edition once a year, Silent Quills is updated at obvious times, the Standard Bearers page reflects X-Quills, and the Reunion pages and Gallery are updated post-reunion. It's all about content for the website and there has not been much passed to me for addition so the mainstay of the last year has been basic maintenance.

There has recently been an addition to the website of a page dedicated to the new Microsoft Teams site. I have already provided a brief about the Team site above, but this new webpage provides direction for members how to sign up to Microsoft, the process for joining the Association Team site, and Microsoft's MS Teams online information and training. The webpage can be located at <https://www.artyclerkassn.org/webpages/ac-ms-teams.htm>.

The Association Newsletter

A purge was carried out on the email addresses held by the Association and those located in the Mailchimp application that is used for the newsletter. There were a few addresses that were incorrect, not working, or just spurious. These have been rectified and additions that the Secretary managed to obtain have been added. From our total membership of 200 members there are now 142 working address of subscribed audience. There

are several members who have provided their military email addresses. These addresses should not be used for this kind of activity and postings take place and roles change; these addresses become useless. Could those members who have provided military email addresses provide new, civilian email addresses to the Secretary and the Webmaster as soon as possible?

There have been two newsletters published to the Association membership since the last report. These have been the Spring edition and a special AGM newsletter. In all these are a welcome addition to the flow of information from the Association to its members from what I can deduct from general feedback.

This year a newsletter has been published quarterly and there has been two extra editions to provide information and guidance to members regarding the AGM and EGM which were held online via the Association MS Teams site.

Facebook

On 24th June this year the Association Facebook page known as Crossed Quills was changed from a public to a private group. Andy Tibble spent time going through the list of people associated with the page and reduced the list down to those that are members of the Artillery Clerks' Association. It is now a closed group to ensure a more controlled and directed passage

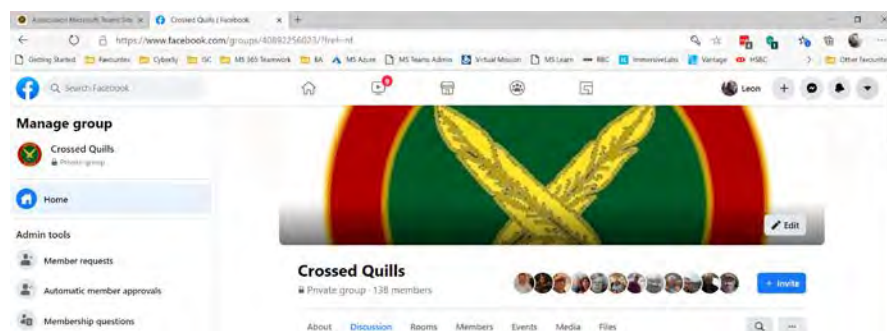
of relevant information to the membership on a need-to-know basis. Andy and me are admins of the page and will control future admissions to the group.

The Association Facebook (Crossed Quills) page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/40892256023/?fref=nf>

Security

Security on the Internet should always be at the forefront of your mind. All members should be using anti-virus (AV) software as standard on their devices to connect to the Internet. Anti-virus software is now available with next-generation technology which uses more sophisticated means to detect malicious software (malware) before it does any damage. Once connected further protection can be attained by connecting to a Virtual Private Network (VPN). Members should install a VPN and connect to it as a means of deterring attackers to gain access to your machine. Bear in mind that some AV vendors packages include a VPN as standard so check before you buy.

VPN software provides a means of faking your access to the public world of the Internet as if your PC/laptop, etc., is on a private network. A 'tunnelled' connection is created between your machine and the target location which is usually encrypted but that depends on the VPN software you have.



Here are some of the best VPN software on the market this year. These are usually paid on a subscription of about £5 per month. However, you will find these companies having integrated VPN technology on some of their AV software packages. Investigate thoroughly before you buy:

ExpressVPN: <https://www.expressvpn.com/>

NordVPN: <https://nordvpn.com/>

CyberGhost: <https://www.cyberghostvpn.com/>

SurfShark: <https://surfshark.com/>

IPVanish: <https://www.ipvanish.com/>

Anti-virus software is provided by many companies such as McAfee, Norton, Kaspersky. The usual AV software will go on the offensive in your operating system trying to protect against known malware. The software needs to be updated regularly to obtain up-to-date details about current viruses out there in the wild on the Internet. However, they are only effective against known viruses but there are thousands of new viruses released on the Internet all the time. It is difficult for AV companies to keep up-to-speed. The future is looking bright for AV defence with companies developing next-generation technologies to combat the online threat. These technologies use a combination of artificial intelligence, behavioural detection, machine learning algorithms, and exploit mitigation, so known and unknown threats can be anticipated and immediately prevented. Soon, you will buy standard AV software that is already providing next-generation protection.

Here are some of the best AV software on the market this year:

Bitdefender: <https://www.bitdefender.co.uk/>

Norton: <https://uk.norton.com/>

Kaspersky: <https://www.kaspersky.co.uk/>

Trend Micro: <https://www.trendmicro.com/>

Webroot: <https://www.webroot.com/gb/en>

Security Tips

Here a few online security tips to tighten up your online presence and save your accounts from the bad guys online:

- **Always log out** of your online accounts properly and ensure you get the logout page. Leaving the account logged on, even after you have closed the browser page means that the account is still running and open to online attack.
- **Be careful what you click on.** If you don't recognise that email or that link don't deal with it, delete it:

- Be careful of links within emails ensuring they are going to the right place.
- Hover over the link to see what the link is pointing at.
- If your email is from a company check the details provided are correct. Look for spelling mistakes in the email. Check the email address is not spoof (as shown below).
- If you are suspicious about the email contact the company direct. They will no doubt have information about spoof emails and what to look out for.

- Attached documents can be loaded with malware. Again, make sure the mail is from a legitimate source before you open the attachment.
- Never reply to an email requesting you clarify your details. Any company you deal with already holds details about you (securely, you hope!) so you do not need to divulge them – especially online.

• **Sever your Internet connection** when you are not using it. If your pc/laptop/iPad is not connected to the Internet, you have cut off the main means malware attack.

• **Change your passwords** regularly and/or use a password vault. I use LastPass but many of the AV software packages provide vaults. Check out your AV software package to see if it provides a password vault or keychain.

LastPass... | by LogMeIn

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Notice the trenching tool against back of 432, not many trees available on the prairie!

Once upon a time in Suffield - September – October 1974 with Scots Guard Battle group which included the Inniskilling Dragoon Guards.

At that time the Battery Commander was Major PRF Bonnet (later Major General Peter Robert Frank Bonnet MBE Colonel Commandant Royal Regiment of Artillery at some stage) and also of course Lt Freddie Viggers A Troop Commander (later Lieutenant General Sir Frederick Richard Viggers, KCB, CMG, MBE, DL Adjutant General) and just to round this off my next Battery Commander was Major AGH Harley (later General Alex George Hamilton Harley KBE, CBE Master Gunner).

Anyway back to BATUS of course many Battery Clerks will have been over to have fun in Canada When we were out either up on Soltau/Munsterlager and then BATUS I was always on the BCs Crew and spend many a fun time in the back of the 432 with the BC, learning how to write plans and send fire order etc etc.

BATUS at that time of the year the weather very cool in the mornings to say the least and we had canvas against the side of 432 for us all to sleep under BC one end and a Gnr X at the other. Yes and poor old Gnr X had to get up first get brew/ hot water etc for BC and the rest of us.

Bdr Battery CC 38(Seringapatam) Bty 40 Field Regiment

by Clive Nuttall (former WO2 (QMS(AC))

So off went charging round the prairie in an orderly manner side by side with CO Scots Guards (who was a firm leader of his men) At the same time Skins wandered round being tankies !



Remember the Parka and and the great wide open spaces of Suffield.



Then of course we were doing fire and movement etc etc during this time it seemed that one of our OPs had given orders that could have been better and when we had incoming closer than was comfortable we reversed back quickly !!!



Of course the barracks at Camp Crowfoot were not exactly luxury but ok !



All in all it was a good trip especially the R&R after but that's another story.



Historical Secretary's Report

by Stephen Read (former WO1 (SMAC))

As the years pass and our number naturally diminish the memories that we have of our service as Artillery Clerks will fade away. Before time takes its inevitable toll can I encourage all members to jot down their recollections of being an Artillery Clerk so that future generations may understand what motivated us to serve with the Royal Regiment and provide a service to our officers and soldiers. Please send your contributions to me by email or post them to the Association Facebook site.

From a personal perspective, as a junior clerk I was motivated by the example of older and more senior clerks. For example my first Battery Clerk in J (Sidi Rezegh)

Battery, Stan Slater, or my first Chief Clerk in 3 RHA, Harry Lomax, actively encouraged me to provide the best service that I could to those that I served. I became a junior Docs Clerk in 3 RHA and then the Part 2 Orders Clerk in J Anti Tank Bty in Paderborn where I sought to ensure that the soldiers around me were administered to the best of my ability, putting them onto the highest pay band open to them as soon as they were eligible. This is not to say that all of the lessons I learnt were about work! After an RHQ trip into Devizes to celebrate a successful docs inspection, and the consumption of a pint or 2 of 6X, on my return to camp I found that the BONCO had not lowered the J Battery flag. Being a conscientious your clerk I lowered the flag only to put it some where so safe that I couldn't find it again the following morning. The BSM was not impressed! Or being thankful for the 3 story wooden trays, across the front of my desk

in the Docs Office, that hid me from the view of the Assistant Chief Clerk (Colin Davidson) when an afternoon doze was required.

This ethic to do the very best we can for others has, I am sure, stayed of us through our post Army working lives. Currently I am employed as a civil servant in the Personnel Directorate in Army HQ and it is interesting to see that in 2020 the drivers of Army administration are changing with greater responsibility being given to the soldiers themselves through the development of online processes that they can access through their smart phones, tablets and laptops etc. Only time will tell if this approach will ultimately prove to be a success, catering for the needs and capabilities of all soldiers. May be the personal service that we provided as Artillery Clerks is no longer required by 21st Century soldiers; personally I remain unconvinced.



South Area Secretary Report

by Paddy Butler (former WO1 (SSM))

Just a quick update up on what I have been up to as Association Secretary for the South of England area. 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.

To craft a foreword to such a worldly experienced membership and include comments such as "we are living in extraordinary times" during 2020 may seem trite given what many of you have lived through within your military life and post career.

As ever out of darkness comes opportunity which lead us to the

weekly MS Teams meetings. So nice to see smiley faces on the “big screen”. Having a virtual AGM was a first but also showed our resourcefulness in that the “show must go on”. Obviously meeting socially at Larkhill would have been the preferred option. We look forward to next June where something approaching normality will have returned and we can meet without so-called social distancing.

This edition of “Cross Quills” will turn out to be rather more unusual from that original envisaged for quite different reasons, I’m sure.

I recently took a look at Samuel Pepys’ diary to see what happened during the Great Plague of 1665. I was surprised to find that although Pepys reported regularly on the grim statistics and was acutely alive to both the desperate plight of his fellow citizens, and indeed the threat to himself, business for him continued much as usual.

He was in effect working from home, having removed to Greenwich (not Woolwich). But he nevertheless still made regular trips to London. As Clerk to the Navy (just goes to show you the high positions that military clerks ascend), he had much to keep him occupied. Britain remained at war with the Dutch throughout the plague crisis, and even fought several major engagements whilst the plague raged.

However, two things shine out despite the desperate times; Pepys’ delight in hard work and a job well done, together with his irrepressible joie de vivre, which kept him afloat during some very dark times indeed. There is something there for all of us.

I’m still working at The Forces Pension Society as their Deputy Head of Membership. This affords me to keep ties with the Services

and you will be pleased to know that we are Royal Regiment heavy at Vauxhall. Our chairman is Lt Gen Sir Gerry Berragan. He always requests me to pass on his very good wishes to any members that worked with him during his career. The Chief Executive is Maj Gen Neil Marshall, former CO and current Honorary Colonel of 1 RHA. He has also served with 7 RHA, 19 Regt RA & 39 Regt RA. Every month we look forward to receiving Gunner magazine which keeps us informed on the current state of nation of the Royal Regiment. He also looks forward to reading **Cross Quills** which I present to him annually since his arrival in 2018. He still resides within the Salisbury area and loves listening to **The Guns** firing on the Plain every now and then and is also available for dinner nights if invited. Maj Gen Bill Moore, former CO of 7 RHA and previously of 4th Regt RA during the Falklands campaign is a member of our Council. He also requested to pass on his good wishes to members of the Association that know him.

We also recruited this year former WO2 Colin Thomas as a Pension Adviser. Colin served 35 years, 22 in the Royal Regiment and 13 on the LSL. His funniest moment in Service was, seeing a grumpy Gun Number 1 attending to nature from the top of a 433 Abbott (SPG) straight onto a farmer’s electric fence. He wasn’t sure who to help first – him or his crew, who were rolling around on the floor laughing uncontrollably.

On 8th September we held our virtual AGM and the guest speaker was our very own General Richard.

I still reside in Sandhurst, just around the corner from Andy Tibble and Clive Nutall in Yateley. 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.

Fortunately I will be able to attend the 2021 Reunion and am looking forward to meeting you all there.

It now just leaves me to wish All Members of the Association, to have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year for 2021. Keep safe, calm and carry on.

My Best Regards to You All,
Ubique.



ARMY ORDER 54 OF 1903

Pay and Promotion of Clerks, Royal Artillery

EDWARD R.I.

A.O.54 **WHEREAS** We deem it expedient to amend the regulations relating **18**
April to the pay and promotion of soldiers employed as clerks in Our Royal Artillery; **Artillery**
1903 **3038**

OUR WILL AND PLEASURE is that all soldiers who may hereafter be permanently employed as clerks in Our Royal Artillery shall form a section to be called the Artillery Clerks' Section, and shall, from the 1st April 1903, be paid and promoted as follows:

	Rank	Pay	Class for
Allowances.			
1 ST DIVISION			
On Promotion from the 2 nd Division	Warrant Officer	s. d. 5 6	16
2 ND DIVISION			
On promotion from 3 rd Division.	Company Sergeant Major	4 0	17
After 3 year's service with pay at 4s per day.	Quarter Master Sergeant	4 6	16
After 3 year's service with pay at 4s 6d per day.	Quarter Master Sergeant	5 0	16
3 RD DIVISION			
On appointment	Acting Bombardier	2 0	20
After one year's service in the division	Bombardier	2 6	20
After 2 year's service with pay at 2s 6d a-day.	Corporal	3 0	20
After 2 year's service with pay at 3s a-day.	Sergeant	3 6	19

No increase of rank or pay under this article shall be allowed, unless specially recommended by the officer under whom the non-commissioned officer is serving.

Given at Our Court at St. James's this 21st
day of March, 1903, in the 3rd year of Our
Reign.

By His Majesty's Command,

Sr. JOHN BRODRICK

(Extract by kind permission of the Royal Artillery Institution)

Governing Regulations of the Artillery Clerks' Association

Version 4 (As at 21st October 2020)

PART ONE - ADMINISTRATION

Introduction

1. As part of the 2020 reform of the Artillery Clerks' Association's Charter, supporting Governing Regulations have been introduced to enshrine the fundamental structures, roles, responsibilities and principles for the governance and operations of the Association.
2. They also provide the framework for the Chairman and Secretary of the Association to comply with and implement Committee decisions.
3. This document has been checked to ensure it conforms to the current Equality and Diversity legislation.

Ethical Principles

4. Association business shall be conducted with regularity and propriety.

The Honorary President

5. The Honorary President of the Association is nominated by the Association Committee and elected by the Full Members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) to serve an indefinite term. The Honorary President is not a member of the Association Committee but works closely with Committee Members to ensure efficient management of the Association.

The Association Committee and Regional Representatives

6. The Association Committee is the governing body of the Association and is charged to conduct the affairs of the Association for the good and benefit of all Members, in good faith and for a proper purpose. The responsibilities of the Association Committee are set out in Clause 15 of the Charter.
7. All members of the Association Committee are volunteers, who receive no remuneration apart from minimal personal expenses, authorised as necessary by the Association Chairman, for their work on behalf of the Association.

8. Composition of Committee

- a. The composition of the Association Committee is set out in Clause 16 of the Charter.
- b. Co-opted Members of Committee. The Committee may co-opt additional temporary Committee Members or appoint project officers to perform specific tasks (for example, the duties of Germany Reunion Secretary) which cannot be undertaken by the Committee itself.

9. Regional Representatives

- a. Regional Representatives are appointed by the Association Committee for an indefinite period to cover the following geographical areas:
 - (1) Northern Ireland and the Republic of 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 – covered by the Association Secretary.

Meetings

10. Meetings of the Association Committee, chaired by the Association Chairman or in his absence by the Association Secretary, are to be convened by the Association Chairman or Association Secretary on an “as required” basis. There shall be a quorum when at least four of those with voting rights are present. Decisions at meetings shall be determined by a majority vote with the Chairman of the meeting having the casting vote in the event of a tied vote.

Responsibilities and Duties of the Association Committee

11. The Association Committee is responsible to the Honorary President and membership for the efficient day to day management and administration of the Association.

12. The Association Chairman

- a. To maintain contact between the Honorary President, the Association Committee and the Members.
- b. Fostering ‘esprit de corps’ by perpetuating the ties of comradeship, friendship and mutual support throughout the Association.
- c. To preserving the traditions of the Association.
- d. Vet and authorise personal expenses applications presented by members of the Association Committee.

13. The Association Secretary

- a. Maintenance of an up-to-date Register of Members to enable the Association to keep Members fully informed of all its activities and to enable Members to contact one another.
- b. Custodian of the Association’s correspondence.
- c. Compilation and circulation of the Association Magazine – Crossed Quills.
- d. Coordinating the activities of the Area Representatives.

e. Carrying out such administrative work as the Association Committee may delegate.

f. Act as the Association Data Protection Officer, responsible for ensuring that the General Data Protection Regulations policy for the Association is current and adhered to.

g. Providing a focus for the Association’s links to the Royal Artillery Association (RAA) and Royal Artillery Charitable Fund (RACF).

14. The Assistant Secretary

a. To stand-in or assist the Association Secretary as and when required.

15. The Association Treasurer

a. The responsibilities and duties of the Association Treasurer are set out separately in Part 2 – Financial Regulations.

16. The Welfare Secretary

a. To assist present and past members of the Association, and their dependants, who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress.

17. The Reunion Secretary

a. Organisation of the annual Reunion weekend.

18. The Webmaster

a. Maintaining a website as a medium for electronic dissemination of information about any aspect of the Association’s activities as well as maintaining the Association’s Facebook page ‘Crossed Quills’.

19. The Historical Secretary

a. Encouragement of and support for the collection and preservation of memorabilia and other material that may contribute to the development of the Association’s history archive.

20. The Regional Representatives

- a. The Recruitment of new Members.
- b. Maintaining an Area Membership list.
- c. Coordinating travel to Reunion and other Association activities.

Provision for Winding Up

21. In the event of the Association being wound up or dissolved, any balance remaining in its Fund after the settlement of all outstanding liabilities and debts, together with any other assets belonging to the Association, shall - at the discretion of the Association Committee - be donated to the RAA and/or the RACF, as appropriate.

PART TWO - FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Introduction

1. These Financial Regulations govern the conduct of financial management by the Association and may only be amended or varied by resolution of the Association Committee and ratified by the Full Members at an AGM or EGM.

2. The Association Treasurer is responsible for the effective supervision and management of Association finances. The purpose of these Regulations is to provide sound arrangements for internal financial management, accounting and control, and to promote compliance with the Association's legal and financial obligations, including the management of risk.

Source of funds

3. The funds of the Association may be derived from joining fees, annual subscriptions, donations, fund-raising activities, grants, interest and any other sources approved by the Association Committee.

Management of funds

4. The Association must open an account with a financial institution from which all expenditure of the Association is made and into which all the Association's revenue is deposited.

5. Subject to any restrictions imposed by the Full Members at an AGM or EGM of the Association, the Association Committee may approve expenditure on behalf of the Association.

6. The Association Committee may authorise the Treasurer to expend funds on behalf of the Association (including by electronic funds transfer) up to a specified limit without requiring approval from the Association Committee for each item on which the funds are expended.

7. The Association Treasurer has delegated authority to sign all cheques, drafts, bills of exchange, promissory notes and other negotiable instruments.

8. All Association income must be paid promptly into the Artillery Clerks' Association bank account and be accounted for properly. All Association expenditure must be paid from the Artillery Clerks' Association bank account and be accounted for properly with supporting statements and/or invoices.

9. With the approval of the Association Committee, the Association Treasurer may maintain a cash float provided that all money paid from or paid into the float is accurately recorded at the time of the transaction.

10. The Treasurer, at the end of every month is to balance the account journal to the bank statements received from the nominated bank and report any discrepancies to the Association Secretary.

11. The Treasurer is to annually close the accounts as at 31st December and open them on the 1st January.

12. The Treasurer is to maintain the Association's Subscription Register and regularly update the Secretary of all issues that warrant the committee's attention.

Responsibilities and Duties of the Association Treasurer

13. The Association Treasurer is accountable to the Association Committee and membership.

14. Maintenance of a bank account entitled "The Artillery Clerks' Association"

15. Ensure that monies received are paid into the Association as soon as practicable after receipt.

16. Ensure that shop stock is correctly entered into the accounts so that financial reports are a true reflection of all assets held.

17. Make any payments authorised by the Association Committee or by the Full Members at an AGM or EGM of the Association.

18. Accounting for all the finances of the Association in compliance with these Financial Regulations.

19. Prepare and present a Statement of Account to the Association Committee (as and when required) and annually for the approval by Full Members at the AGM.

20. Coordinating the Association Insurance policy.

21. Ensure that at least one other Committee member has access to the accounts and financial records of the Association.

Financial records

22. The Association Treasurer is to maintain financial records that:

- a. Correctly record and explain all transactions, financial position and performance.
- b. Ensure the prompt production of income and expenditure information, statement of balances, or record of receipts and payments and additional management information as requested by the Association Committee from time to time.
- c. Correctly record and explain its transactions, financial position and performance.
- d. Enable financial statements to be prepared as and when required.

23. The Association Treasurer is to ensure that Association financial records are retained for 7 years after the transactions covered by the records are completed.

Financial statements.

24. The Association Treasurer is responsible for:

- a. The preparation of the financial statements.
- b. If required, the review or auditing of the financial statements.
- c. The certification of the financial statements by the Association Committee.
- d. The submission of the financial statements to the AGM of the Association.
- e. The lodgement of the financial statements and accompanying reports, certificates, statements and fees to the Royal Artillery Association (RAA).

Insurance

25. The Association Treasurer shall:

- a. Effect all insurances and negotiate all claims on the Association's behalf.
- b. Keep a record of all insurances effected by the Association.
- c. Be notified of any loss liability or damage or of any event likely to lead to a claim.

- d. Ensure that the members of the Association Committee are included in a suitable form of security or fidelity guarantee insurance.

Shop Stock

26. The Association Treasurer shall:

- a. Obtain stock sheets and prices from the Reunion Secretary.
- b. Ensure that the correct prices for stock are entered into the Account Journal.
- c. Ensure that the accounts submitted to the AGM and the RAA contain the correct worth of stock held within the Association.

Suspensions

27. The Association Treasurer shall:

- a. In accordance with Clause 10 of the Charter monitor all subscriptions paid annually. Should members fail to pay subscriptions for 3 consecutive years then the Treasurer is to inform those individuals that should their arrears remain to be unpaid then they will be suspended.
- b. Inform the Association Secretary of all members who have been suspended.



Charter of the Artillery Clerks' Association

Edition Number 2 dated 23rd June 2020

Adopted by the Association Members on 26th July 2020



Guide to Major Amendments within Edition 2

1. The original Charter was written on the formation of the Association in 1998.
2. This edition has been extensively rewritten to take account of the recommendations emanating from the 2020 Annual General Meeting held on 6th June 2020, and the desire by the membership for a full review to make the Charter fit for purpose.
3. You should read the whole document carefully noting the following paragraphs in particular
 - a. Paragraphs 3 – 5. The Charter.
 - b. Paragraphs 7 – 14. The changes to the definitions Membership, Benefits, Suspensions, Cancellations and Fees.
 - c. Paragraph 15 – 16. The membership of the Association Committee.
 - d. Paragraph 17 – 18. The conduct of Association Meetings, quoracy and minutes.
 - e. Paragraph 19 – 20. Data Protection

TITLE

1. The Association shall be called The Artillery Clerks' Association, hereafter referred to as "the Association".

AIM

2. The aim of the Association is to provide a focal point for all members; to promote and celebrate a common bond through comradeship amongst its members, both serving and retired, so that they can maintain close links with each other.

CHARTER

3. The Charter for the Association is to be maintained by the Secretary and is to be published in the Annual Magazine and on the Website.
4. The Charter is to be reviewed every three years or whenever there is a major change in policy affecting the Association.
5. The members are to ratify the Charter and any amendments which are made to it, as approved by the Association Committee, at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) or Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM). Once approved the Secretary is to promulgate the changes to members through the medium of the Annual Magazine and the Website.

AFFILIATIONS

The Artillery Clerks' Association is affiliated to and is a Branch of the Royal Artillery Association (RAA). All members of the Association will be granted membership of the RAA on acceptance.

MEMBERSHIP

7. **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. Full membership may also be granted, subject to approval by the Association Committee and the ratification of the membership at an AGM or EGM, 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.
8. **Honorary Membership.** The prescribed conditions for Honorary membership of the Association are:

- a. Widow or relative of a deceased Full member of the Association.
- b. Incumbent and former Honorary Presidents of the Association.
- c. Former clerks who served in the Royal Artillery in the rank of Bombardier.

Nominations for Honorary membership shall be considered by the Association Committee and then

submitted with due notice for ratification by a majority vote by those members present and entitled to vote at an AGM or EGM.

There shall be a maximum of twelve Honorary members (not including incumbent or former Honorary Presidents of the Association). Honorary members may not vote on matters voted upon at an AGM or EGM.

Honorary Membership will initially be approved for a period of three years. Thereafter the roll would be reviewed or revised as necessary by the Association Committee and reaffirmed annually by the membership at an AGM or EGM.

9. **Authorization.** Full and Honorary membership of the Association may be sought by anyone under these rules. In the event of there being some doubt regarding application, the Association Committee will arbitrate. The Association Committee has the right to refuse any application for Full or Honorary membership, or cancel or suspend any existing membership, for example, for disciplinary reasons or failing to pay the annual membership fee.

10. **Suspensions and Cancellations.** The Association Committee is to place those members with annual membership fees in arrears of three consecutive years on the Suspensions List maintained by the Treasurer. A Membership Suspension that is not reinstated within a further three-year period will result in the Cancellation of the Membership.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

The Association is to provide a focal point for comradeship, largely through the organisation of:

- a. A formal Annual Reunion Dinner.
- b. Informal "Get Togethers" to be held at a frequency and location to be decided by the Association Committee, to include wives, partners, and widows.
- c. A limited welfare referral 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 or widow. The focus for this activity within the Association are the Secretary and the Welfare Secretary.
- d. An Association Magazine (The Crossed Quills) is to be produced annually in January or February and should include a resume of the previous year's

events. The Magazine should be circulated to members by email or post, and on the Association Website.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

12. The Membership fee is determined by the AGM and is payable by all members on the first day of each calendar year.

13. There is to be a fee to join the Association which equates to the extant membership fee irrespective of the month of joining.

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

MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

15. The affairs of the Association are to be conducted by the Association Committee. The Association Committee is responsible for maintaining the Charter of the Association and for the formulation and approval of all policy concerning the Association. It will also be responsible for issuing directives to the members concerning the implementation of policy and the management of the Association.

16. The Association Committee is composed of:

- a. The Chairman of the Association.
- b. The Secretary.
- c. The Assistant Secretary.
- d. The Treasurer.
- e. The Reunion Secretary.
- f. The Welfare Secretary.
- g. The Historical Secretary.
- h. Webmaster.
- i. The Regional Representatives approved by the members.

ASSOCIATION MEETINGS.

17. All the following meetings of the Association may be held by virtual means with a live link:

- a. The Association AGM, chaired by the Chairman or in his absence by the Secretary, is

to be held each calendar year.

(1) All Full members are entitled to attend with the right to speak during any discussion and vote on any resolution. Honorary members may attend as observers only.

(2) The following shall be the business of the AGM and included in the agenda:

a. Adoption of the accounts for the previous year.

b. Consideration of any resolutions proposing amendments to the Charter, raised in advance by the Association Committee or individual Full members.

c. Consideration of issues of general policy raised in advance by the Association Committee or individual Full members.

d. Elections of Association Committee members.

e. Nominations for Honorary membership recommended by the Association Committee.

f. Annual review of Honorary members up to a maximum of twelve.

(3) The quorum for an AGM shall be fifteen Full members, including Association Committee members, either present or available via live link. A resolution agreed by a majority of Full members attending an AGM duly convened and held shall be deemed valid and effective.

b. Any EGM convened by the Association Committee as and when necessary chaired by the Chairman and in his absence by the Secretary:

(1) All Full members are entitled to attend with the right to speak during any discussion and vote on any resolution. Honorary members may attend as observers only.

(2) The Agenda will be determined by the Chairman and the Secretary.

(3) The quorum for an EGM shall be fifteen Full members, including Association Committee members, either present or available via live link. A resolution agreed by a majority of Full members attending an EGM duly convened and held shall be deemed valid and effective.

c. Association Committee

Meetings (ACM), chaired by the Chairman or in his absence by the Secretary, are to be convened by the Chairman or Secretary on an 'as required' basis.

(1) All Association Committee members are entitled to attend with the right to speak during any discussion and vote on any resolution.

(2) The Agenda is to be determined by the Chairman and the Secretary.

(3) The quorum for an ACM shall be four. A resolution agreed by a majority of Association Committee members present at an ACM duly convened and held shall be deemed valid and effective.

18. **Agenda and Minutes.**

a. Agendas are to be issued for the AGM, EGM and ACMs by the Secretary three weeks prior to the meeting.

b. Formal Minutes are to be taken at all meetings. The Minutes of the AGM and any EGM are to be made available to members via the Association Magazine and the Association Website.

DATA PROTECTION

19. Data held on the Association database will be subject to the conditions of use laid down by the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018 which supplements the European Union General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2018. No information about individual members will be passed to any outside individual, organisation, or body without the individual member's permission. A list of members, less contact details, may be held on the Association website.

20. The Secretary is to be the Association Data Protection Officer and is responsible for ensuring that the GDPR policy for the Association is current and adhered to.

The Royal British Legion

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**.

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



LIVE ON

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



CURRENTLY SERVING AND FAMILIES

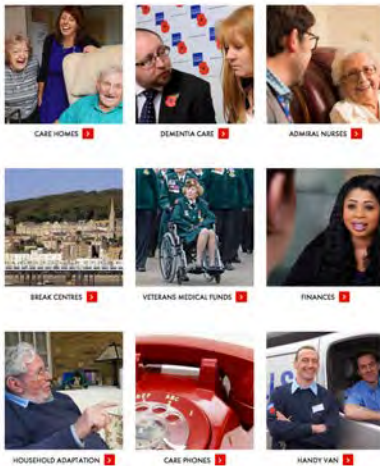


VETERANS AND FAMILIES



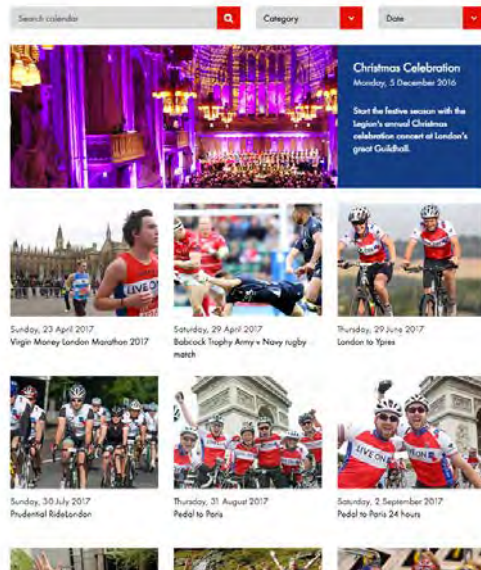
VETERANS AND FAMILIES

The Legion provides lifelong support for members of the Royal Navy, British Army, Royal Air Force and their families. We want to make sure that our beneficiaries can able to live in comfort and with dignity.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

There are lots of events throughout the year including commemorative and Remembrance events, fundraising activities and those that are just plain fun.



Artillery Clerks' Association Membership List as at 31st December 2020

Sparky Allen	Sid Evans	John McDermott	Snowy Snowdon
Dave Allen	Ted Fairbrass	George McLachlan	Phil Spencer
Alf Alvin	Joe Falzon	Martin Meek	Mark Spring
Richard Ancliffe	Jim Findlay	Tony Meek	Trevor Spurr
Al Artley	Graham Flint	Eddie Mills	Will Stirman
Alan Ashcroft	Alan Foot	Tam Millsip	David Stotan
Robbie Astick	Peter Gauci	James McNamara	Dave Straw
Brian Bailey	Martin Geddes	Jim Mutch	Andy Sykes
Pip Bailey	Ian Grant	Hauke Michelson	Phil Syddall
Derek Baldry	Mick Grenham	Brian Morgan	Ritchie Syme
Brian Bayliss	John Haddock	Ian Morris	Alex Taylor
Steve Beard	Colin Haine	Andy Moss	Mark Testi
Taff Bellis	Ted Hall	Tony Mott	Mark Thorington
Chris Berry	Dave Hamilton	George Mould	Charlie Thompson
Jon Bevan	Gary Harland	Paul Mudd	Andy Tibble
Martin Birch	Adrian Harrison	Richard Nichol	Gordon Timmis
Dave Boulton	Chris Harvey	Dennis Norris	Trig Tregower
Peter Bradburn	Steve Hawke	Richard Nugee	Steve Truslove
Denis Brett	Phil Hayes	Tony Nuttall	Mel Turpie
Graham Brown	Phil Headford	Andy O'Neill	Dave Tyler
David Brown	Martin Hedges	Pete Oxley	Gary Tyson
Phil Buckingham	Marty Hester	Steve Paton	Dave Vesty
Titch Buckley	Alan Hill	Jim Peggie	Freddie Viggers
Budgie Burgess	Geordie Himlin	Roy Penhallurick	William Wallace
Martin Butler	Trev Hind	Nick Perkovic	Daz Ward
Paddy Butler	Joe Hoggins	Paul Perry	Andy West
Steve Callaghan	Vic Holdaway	Duncan Pettit	Ronnie Whelan
Iain Campbell	Ron Holmes	Joe Phelps	Geoff Whitby
Merv Chadwick	Richard Horner	Alan Phillips	Wills Williams
Rob Clarke	Stu Hunt	Chris Piper	Ian Williams
Lawrence Collingwood	Mick Hutchinson	Eddie Platts	Mick Williams
Tony Coombes	Geoff Hyatt	Jim Pottle	Alan Witts
Terry Cooper	Dick Jeavons	Garry Prottey	Chris Wood
Ian Constantine	Mick Johnston	Steve Prowse	Al Wood
Sid Copeland	Andrew Jones	Derek Ralphs	Robert Worley
Paul Corker	Ted Jones	Steve Read	Den Wright
Stan Cornwell	Derek Kelsey	Michael Regan	Bill Young
Mike Cottrell	Trevor Kemish	John Reynolds	
Bob Cowan	Clive Knaggs	Howard Richardson	Membership stands at
Dennis Crawford	Ralph Lalabalavu	Robert Richardson	196
Kev Crump	Dave Larcombe	Neil Ridout	
Peter Currie	Russ Lee	Des Riley	
Dave Cussell	Ray Lewis	Jim Roast	
Colin Davidson	John Lindley	Ken Russell	
Paul Davies	Harry Lomax	Alan Sawdon	
Steve Davies	Jason Lloyd	Vince Scott	
Roy Deal	Leon Lyall	Steve Seymour	
John Dewberry	Dave Manchester	Chris Shuter	
Ray Dickinson	Adam Martin	Sid Siddall	
Brian Dobson	Tony Martin	Dougie Silver	
Jim Doran	Tim Mathews	Tony Skinner	
Paddy Ennis	Ken May	Bob Smith	
Roger Essex	Tommy McCarthy	Dave Smith	

WANTED

For membership of the Association

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
Tom Browne
Dave Burfitt
Paul Buxton
Tom Carmichael
Stuart Carnegie
Jeff Carter
Mick Carter
Les Carton
Chris Chamberlain
Bill Charlsworth
Dick Cliffe
M Collinge
Andy Collins
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
Cliff Fields
Dick Finch
Dave Fisher
Derek Gauci

Les Gillard
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
Pete Hutchinson
Brian Hyland
Alan Jeffery
Chris Jones
Steve Jones
Bob Kindness
Jack Knott
Steve Jukes
Kev Keast
Dick Kibble
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
Peter Petts
Clem Pooke
Nick Powell

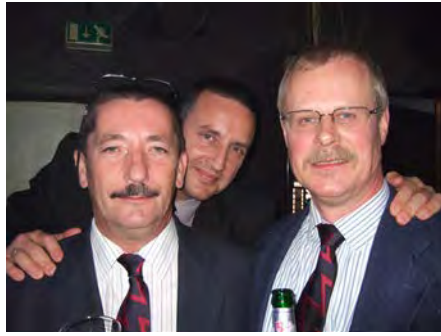
John Pratt
Len Price
Mick Price
Richie Pryor
Fred Pulfer
Ron Reid
Graham Roberts
Dave Robertson
P Robinson
Tom Rooney
Jim Rostron
Dick Scatcherd
Mick Scaife
Syd Simpson
Martin Smith
Alex Stelfox
Colin Stephenson
Bill Tasker
Jock Stewart
Joe Stockhill
Trevor Stokes
Dave Stoneham
Paul Stratton
Roy Swann
Bernie Swift
Derek Taylor
Tom Taylor
Graham Telford
Bob Thompson
Harry Thompson
Frank Thorne
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

149 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.

(As at 21st September
2020)



Minutes of the Virtual Annual General Meeting held on MS Teams on Saturday 6th June 2020

1. Opening Remarks by the Chairman

The Chairman, Lt Col Joe Falzon OSJ BEM opened the AGM by welcoming all members present to the first virtual AGM for the Association. He said that in normal times he would have asked if everyone was settled in their accommodation in Larkhill!

The Chairman wished everyone an enjoyable evening together. He said that the AGM will finish with the usual Loyal Toast and a toast to absent friends.

He invited everyone to observe the protocols which had been circulated in advance as this will ensure that the business of the AGM would be completed without technological interruptions.

Finally, he urged the members to make the most of this opportunity and to contribute as much as possible to all debates.

2. Apologies for Absence

There were 4 apologies for absence.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 8th June 2019

The Chairman said that the Minutes had been circulated in advance via Crossed Quills (Issue 23) and that it was not intended to read them at the meeting.

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

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 8th June 2019

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the AGM held on Saturday 8th June 2019.

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman, once again, thanked all the members for joining the virtual AGM. He noticed that several members present had joined the series of pre-AGM virtual meetings held on Sundays and Wednesdays; he added that he was pleased that other members were joining for the first time.

The Chairman said that these are unusual times and COVID-19 has clearly impacted our lives one way or another. He wished all members, their loved ones, and friends a safe passage through this difficult period. He added that it has been challenging navigating through all the restrictions; but hopefully the return to some form of normality was in sight. He added that the AGM will follow the usual format and that activity and financial reports will be presented by individual Committee members.

The Chairman said that since being elected as the National Vice Chairman of the Royal British Legion he had enjoyed meeting many amazing veterans from the 2nd World War and conflicts since. He added that in recognition of D-Day 76, he had arranged with Leo and Andy to post a link on our website and FB page to the Friends of Normandy Trust website which includes a short service of commemoration to mark this anniversary. He recommended that everyone should find time to watch the video later, if they had not already done so

The Chairman reported that, in the past year he had not been able to meet up with the Honorary President in person, but that he had kept General Richard up to speed with the health and well-being of the Association with regular updates by e-mail. The Chairman then read out the following message he had received from the General:

I am very sorry that I can't join you this evening for the AGM - it is my wife's birthday and the family have planned a big evening for her, or as big as we can make it in the current circumstances. Like many of you I am sure, Lockdown has its ups and downs. It is wonderful to have the whole family together, but I miss meeting people for real.

As we all learn to adapt to the changed environment, it is more important than ever to look after and care for each other, even if virtually. So, I very much hope you have an excellent meeting and I very much look forward to being able to meet you all in person as soon as we can. Thank you to the committee for arranging this virtual meeting and I wish you all very well."

All the best

General Richard

The Chairman concluded by publicly thanking all the Committee Members for all the work they do which is often taken for granted. He especially thanked Andy Tibble, Leo Lyall, Paul Corker, Roy Deal and Dennis Norris for their combined hard work and energy. He said that all members owe the Committee a huge amount of gratitude for the annual effort to publish and circulate "The Crossed Quills", for keeping our website fresh and relevant, for controlling and managing our finances, for keeping the Germany Get Togethers and Historical records and archives going, for representing our Association on parade, for monitoring the welfare and wellbeing of our members and for planning our Reunion Dinners. These are all duties and roles which need to be acknowledged in a public way.

The Chairman concluded by thanking everyone for their continued support.

6. 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 200. Last year the total stood at 200.

• New Members

Former SSgt (AC) Duncan Pettit who joined us on the 30th January 2020. Duncan lives in Ipswich.

Former Sgt (AC) Phil Sydall who joined us on the 29th May 2020. Phil lives in Bolton.

• Members Leaving

WO1 (SSM) Woody Woodford has decided to leave the Association with effect from the 1st June 2020.

• Deaths

Former WO2 (QMS(AC)) Pete Deverall – 19th May 2020 - Aged 68.

• Honours & Awards.

Our Honorary President, Lt Gen Richard Nugee was awarded the CB (Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath) in the 2020 New Year's Honours List.

• Promotions.

Nothing to report.

• Membership – Wanted List.

The Secretary explained that there are currently 159 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 24 are to be forwarded to the Secretary by Tuesday 6th September 2020. 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 busy over the past 12 months representing the Association at the following events:

Sunday 10th November 2019 – RA Ceremony of Remembrance at Hyde Park Corner.

Sunday 1st December 2019 – St Barbara's Day Service, Larkhill

Due to attend but was cancelled due to the Coronavirus:

Sunday 26th April 2020 – Gunner Sunday (Royal Hospital Chelsea)

Saturday 4th July 2020 – National Memorial Arboretum Service

Due to attend:

Sunday 8th November 2020 – RA Ceremony of Remembrance at Hyde Park Corner.

Sunday 6th December 2020 – 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 6th December 2020. The Service will be followed by lunch in the Officers' 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.

• **Artillery Clerks' Association Website**

The Secretary mentioned to those present that the Artillery Clerks' Association Website was constantly being kept updated by the Webmaster and that it contained a lot of useful information and links that is for the good and benefit of our members. He urged all members to visit the website on a regular basis as well as the Crossed Quills on Facebook. The Secretary went onto thank Mr Leo Lyall, Webmaster for all the hard work that he had done to ensure that we have an excellent website which he continues to maintain.

• **Royal Artillery Association Gunner Lottery**

The Secretary mentioned to those present that the Royal Artillery Association had replaced the RAA Annual Grand Draw by introducing the RAA Gunner Lottery which is drawn every month. Further details on how to join this lottery can be obtained by visiting the Artillery Clerks' Association website.

7. 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 or Roy.deal288@mod.gov.uk

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

He went onto to inform those present that the Committee are still looking for ideas about items members 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 the Secretary or Chairman.

8. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Major Paul Corker, made the following comments:

LIQUIDITY STATE AS AT SATURDAY 6th JUNE 2020

ASSETS	
Cash	£ 00:00
Current Bank Balance	£ 3730:12
Deposit Bank Balance	£ 2012:37
Shop Stock	£ 300.00
TOTAL ASSETS (A)	£ 6042.49
LIABILITIES	
Function	£ 84.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES (B)	£ 84.00
AVAILABLE CASH (A-B)	£ 5958.49

He particularly emphasised that:

- **Subscriptions.** Total outstanding subscriptions is £1,540. Only 9 from 2020.

- **Mandate.** 11 members are not paying by the Standing Order Mandate. Members are continuously encouraged to subscribe by this method.

- **Gift Aid.** The Fund has received a total of £2,374:81 from the Inland Revenue. There are 25 members who are yet to join the gift aid scheme. Annual income will now be approximately £300:00 from 2013. HMRC have not paid the Association since 2013 and I am working with them to rectify this. Meeting to be re-scheduled for late 2020.

- **Suspensions.** In accordance with the Association's policy on suspension, I have written to all members who have not paid their subscriptions for a period of 3 years. There are currently 58 members shown as 'suspended'. There are a possible 3 for 2020.

- **Shop.** Stock held is £300.00. 15 ties at £20 each.

- **Treasurer's Updates.** All members are reminded of their subscriptions within the Crossed Quills

and at the AGM. They are also invited to join the mandate system and gift aid.

• 2019 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT (As at 31 Dec 19 submitted to the RAA)

I have a copy of the report, which was submitted to the RAA, signed by the Chairman and Secretary. I will go into more detail if required but the end state was:

Income £1746.98
Expenditure £1030.68
GPF £+706.30 (Excess of Income over Expenditure)

- **Insurance.** The insurance for the fund is valid until 31 Mar 21. It is with the firm 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.** Shop stock consists of 15 ties @ £20:00, therefore totaling £300.00. There are no cuff links and lapel pins remaining.

- **RAA Draw Tickets.** This has been replaced by the RAA Gunner Lottery.

- **Conclusion.** Members are requested to change their Standing Orders to £15. Treasurer chasing outstanding subscriptions and those who have been paying £5 from 2013 and now the change to £15.

Des Riley proposed and Michael Regan seconded that the `Treasurer's Report is accepted. This proposal was put to the vote and CARRIED unanimously.

9. 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.

He went onto to say that it had been a difficult year for many of us with the outbreak of COVID-19 and the lockdown measures put in place in late March. As Welfare Secretary it would be remiss of me not to mention and reiterate the message from the Government for everybody to stay alert and to stay safe using the social distancing guidelines.

We have all probably become more computer savvy

in order to keep in touch with family and friends. The use of platforms such as Zoom, WhatsApp, Facebook, Skype and of course Microsoft Teams has allowed safe contact and it has become the new normal, for myself at least, to spend an evening in front of a screen (and not the TV) taking part in quizzes and catching up with sons, daughters, brothers, sisters and grandchildren with a beer or favourite tippie in hand. That face to face contact is important to keep the family bonds strong and to keep in touch.

It is also important to keep in touch with friends and colleagues during these difficult times. Many of us are working from home or isolated due to medical conditions and social media is a great platform to keep in touch, but for those who do not use social media, a telephone call is a great way to renew and strengthen friendships and supporting each other. As always, if anyone is aware of an Association member who needs support, please let me or one of the committee members know and we can investigate and support where we can through the veteran services available.

During a recent newsletter, I copied the up to date information from the Veterans Services website regarding the changes made due to COVID-19 and I have copied them into my report to reiterate the main points:

Coronavirus: changes to Veterans UK Services

Due to COVID-19 precautions, all Veterans UK services are operating via remote working and this has meant we have had to change several of their services.

Please be reassured that all Armed Forces Pensions, War Pensions and Armed Forces Compensation Scheme regular payments will continue to be made as usual into your nominated account. They are also maintaining urgent welfare support for veterans.

Changes to services are as follows:

Veterans UK Helpline

Unfortunately, they are currently unable to offer a telephone service from the Veterans UK helpline and they apologise for the inconvenience this may cause. Urgent enquiries, including requests for welfare support and for anyone experiencing payment problems, can be sent via email to Veterans-UK@mod.gov.uk. A reply or call back will be provided as quickly as they can but please be aware their reply times may be longer. Urgent emotional support is still available from the Samaritans by calling their helpline 0808 1914 2 18 and pressing option 1.

Veterans Welfare Service Support, Defence Transition Services, and Integrated Personal Commissioning for Veterans

To protect staff and veterans, they have decided to suspend, except in the most exceptional circumstances, all face to face meetings with clients. However, advice, information and support are still available via email and telephone call back. Please email Veterans-UK@mod.gov.uk with your name, national insurance or reference number and contact details and we will be in touch as quickly as they can.

Armed Forces Pensions

Please be reassured that all Armed Forces Pensions payments will continue to be made as usual into your nominated account.

Pension enquiries can still be answered by calling the JPA Enquiry Centre on 0800 085 3600 during the hours of 10am to 4pm.

They are also prioritising work to commence new pension payments due to those leaving the Armed Forces, Death In Service entitlements and Widows and Dependents pensions.

Processing of Early Payment of Preserved Pension applications is being maintained although timescales may be longer. Applications from individuals who are terminally ill are being prioritised.

Pensions on Divorce administration work is currently suspended - they will recommence this work as soon as the Government's control measures are relaxed.

Pension transfer work is currently suspended - they will recommence this work as soon as the Government's control measures are relaxed. Pension forecast request work and Internal Dispute Resolution Procedures casework has been suspended, although ill health forecasts are continuing to be issued.

They are continuing to review their processes and priorities and updates will be posted at www.gov.uk/veterans-uk as they become available.

10. Historical Secretary's Report

The Historical Secretary, Mr Stephen Read informed those present that this year we have started to create an archive of old photos, harvested from those shared by members on Facebook. So far the earliest photos

date from the 1940s. He has also created 'decade' registers of Artillery Clerks from the contents of internet documents such as the London Gazette, National Archive medal record, a WW2 Seniority roll and a 1950 seniority roll provided by Eddie Mills. He thanked Terry Cooper for his assistance in progressing both above-mentioned activities.

With the decade registers and the AC family tree lists we have been able to record Artillery Clerks from as early as 1904 up until the 1980s and the formation of the AGC (SPS). The earliest AC I have found is WO1 SM(AC) Oscar Marr who was appointment in the London Gazette as a QM, with honorary rank of Lt, on 2 Sep 1904. Oscar is noted as being appointed vice someone who had died – an early example of dead man's shoes?

The next year, 1905, two WO1 SM(AC)s, Brewster and Fairburn, were commissioned in the London Gazette as Lt District Officers. Unfortunately, there is no indication of where in the Empire they subsequently served.

During WW1, many AC's were Mentioned in Despatches including one in East Africa by Lt Gen Smuts. After the war, a lot of ACs received decorations from grateful allies, including France, Belgium, Italy, and Romania. It is of note that the same did not happen after WW2.

To date the highest Bravery Awards I have found awarded to ACs are from WW1, when in 1916:

WO2 QMS(AC) Chaundy was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal and
WO1 SM(AC) Hartgrove the Military Cross

Another item worthy of note is that in the 1950 there were a significant number of TA Artillery Clerks as it was a regular occurrence to see them receiving BEMs and even MBEs in the London Gazette.

The self-isolation regime brought in to protect us from Covid-19 has given some ex ACs time to think about their military service and I have received service details from Ken Moore (last posting WO1 SM(AC) in 1(BR)Corps 75-77) and Roy Swann (last posting WO1 SM(AC) as Docs Inspector in RA Records Sidcup 71 to 74. Stephen encouraged any member who has not sent him their service details to get in touch and send him as much as they can remember. He concluded by saying that he is also interested in any documents or photos relating to ACs, especially anything from the 1960s where his register is extremely limited indeed.

11. Germany Secretary's Report.

The German Secretary, Mr. Ron Holmes MSM informed those present that sadly the Association and the AC membership living in Germany has lost a staunch member and friend Pete Deverall. It only seems like yesterday when we had a meeting of friends and dinner last November as reported in the last CQ. The Association has ensured that Pete's widow, Birgit, has received all the advice and support needed during these sad times. Birgit was very touched when he passed her all messages from all members who posted their condolences. She now sends her appreciation and thanks to the Association. Including myself, we are now only three active members with Hauke Michelsen and Tim Matthews. There are two or three ex ACs living in Germany who decline membership, but we keep in touch so as not to completely lose touch.

Ron added that due to the uncertainty of travel during Corona times he will not make a firm date for an informal gathering, however being optimistic, he will have a table booked for 10 around the end of November, beginning of December at a favourite venue in Bielefeld. Partners will be most welcome.

Hopefully, some sort of normality will appear by the end of the year so that we can start fresh in 2021 and back to our normal routine. Well, a routine that could be classed as normal! Ron concluded by saying that he looks forward to seeing everyone in Larkhill in June 2021.

12. Webmaster's Report

This report covers three aspects that are now part of the Webmaster's role. These are:

- The Association website;
- The Newsletter, and;
- The Microsoft Teams site.

The Association Website

The website has been at its peak for content for well over a year now and has seen little change. Maintenance is required on the Home page for the notices, X-Quills gets a new edition once a year, Silent Quills is updated at obvious times, the Standard Bearers page reflects X-Quills, and the Reunion pages and Gallery are updated post-reunion. It's all about content for the website and there has not been much passed to me for addition so the mainstay of the last six months since the last report has been maintenance.

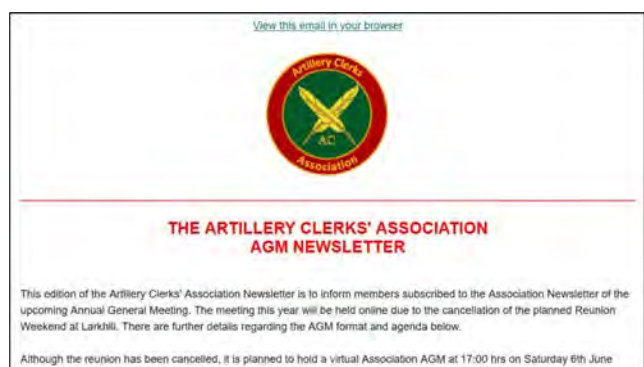
There has recently been an addition to the website of a page dedicated to the new Microsoft Teams site. There is more information about the Association Team site later, but this new webpage provides direction for members how to sign up to Microsoft, the process for joining the Association Team site, Microsoft's MS Teams online information and training. The webpage can be accessed via the "AC TEAMS SITE" link in the menu and can also be located at <https://www.artyclerkassn.org/webpages/ac-ms-teams.htm>.



The Newsletter

A purge was carried out on the email addresses held by the Association and those located in the Mailchimp application that is used for the newsletter. There were a few addresses that were incorrect, not working, or just spurious. These have been rectified and additions that the Secretary managed to obtain have been added. From our total membership of 200 members there are 142 working address of subscribed audience.

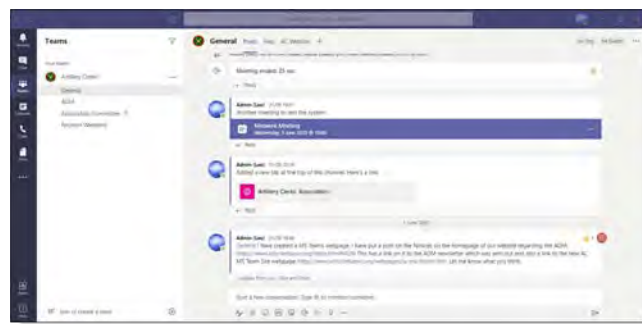
There have been two newsletters published to the Association membership since the last report. These have been the Spring edition and a special AGM newsletter. In all, these are a welcome addition to the flow of information from the Association to its members, at least that is what I deduce from general feedback.



The Microsoft Teams Site

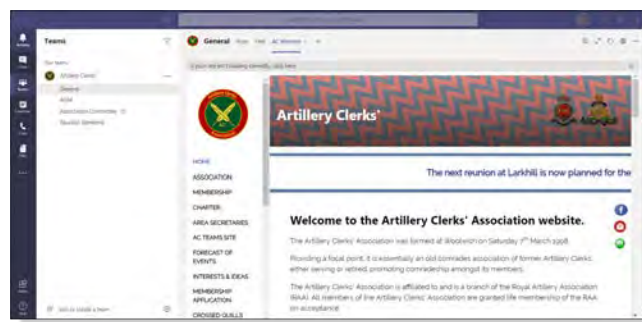
Extensive work has been carried out recently to get the Association Membership motivated to join online video

messaging to keep in touch and with a mission to hold the Annual General Meeting online.



Initially trials were carried out using Zoom but bad press for that platform regarding user security pushed us in the direction of Microsoft Teams. The webmaster set up the user accounts, invited the members via email and put together Association Teams working application environment. This is set up in channels to work in. There is (at present) a General channel for general business and information; a channel dedicated to the AGM; another channel provided for use regarding future Reunions.

As we have run up to the AGM there have been many meetings carried out online with many of those members that signed up to the Team site. The site also enables the upload of various media such as document files, pictures and so on. There is the chat area for one-to-one or team collaboration without setting up meetings. Plus, there is also the integration of our Association website which can be located within the General channel under the AC Website tab. This feature is handy to save cutting back and forth between Team site and web browser.



13. Reunion Secretary's Report

The Reunion Secretary, Roy Deal, mentioned to those present that it was disappointing that the decision to cancel the 2020 Reunion had to be made but given the average age of our membership the Committee decided that an early decision was best to avoid unnecessary expense to our members.

We have set the Reunion for 2021 and the Mess in Larkhill is booked for the weekend of 5th June 2021,

the usual calling letter will be available soon, and with 12 months' notice I do hope and encourage members to book this time into their social calendars so that we can increase numbers attending and make up for the year we missed.

The Committee continues to discuss options for increasing attendance at our Reunion's, currently the event is subsidised from the GPF, averaging at £300 - £400 per year, increased attendance will reduce this drain on the GPF account.

14. Election or re-election of Committee

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

• Election or Re-election of the Committee for 2020/2021

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

Russ Lee proposed, and Clive Nuttall seconded this proposal. The proposal was put to the vote and was CARRIED unanimously.

15. Applications for Honorary Membership

The Secretary introduced two applications for Honorary Membership; from Mr Sid Copeland (sponsored by Martin Hedges), and Mr Robert Richardson (sponsored by Roy Deal)

This was followed by a lengthy debate on the criteria for Honorary Membership, method of voting on applications and the governing Association Charter. Whilst there was support for and against the applications and processes in equal measure, it was evident that a degree of ambiguity had emerged from the discussion for those members present to make a clear decision. The Chairman therefore decided to withdraw the applications without a vote.

The Chairman also undertook to continue the discussion separately with the Committee in order to examine changes to the Association Charter and then to make fresh recommendations at an Extraordinary AGM to be convened in due course

16. Any other Business

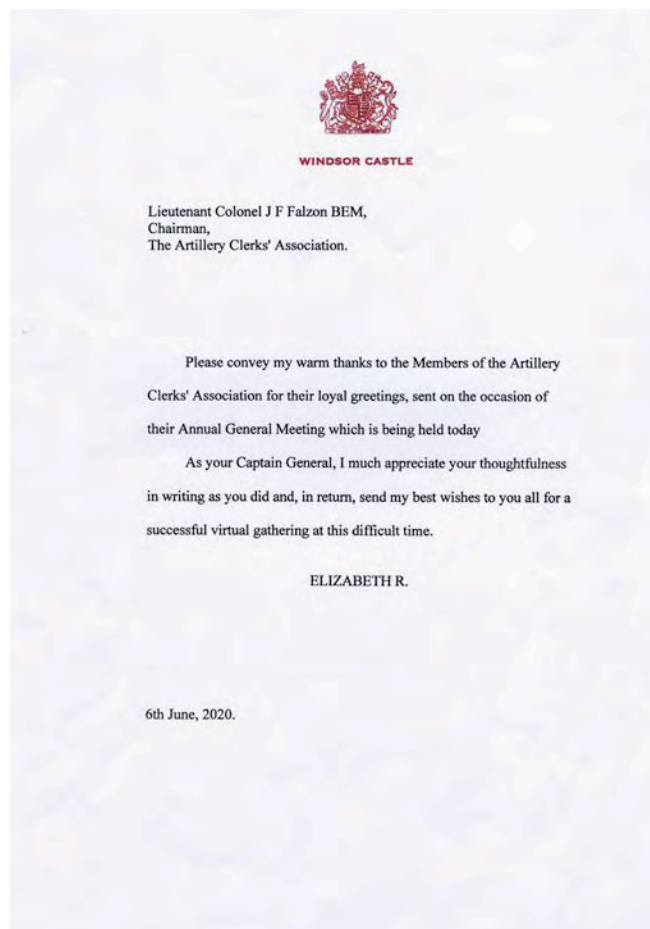
a. Future Association virtual get together. The Chairman suggested that it would be good to continue with these virtual gatherings so that we can continue to discuss outstanding issues and also to keep in touch on an ad-hoc basis with the members on organised meetings. He said that it would be good to maintain the MS Teams channel and that further invitations would be sent out in the future in the hope that members will be able to join.

b. Suspended Members. Bill Young suggested that all members who had been suspended from membership for not paying their membership fees for a period of 3 years should no longer receive the 'Crossed Quills' each year and that they should be removed from the 'Crossed Quills' page on Facebook. All those present agreed with this suggestion.

17. Date of Next Meeting

The next AGM will take place at Larkhill on Saturday 5th June 2021.

Andy Tibble
Secretary



Minutes of the Virtual Extraordinary General Meeting held on MS Teams on Sunday 26th July 2020

1. Opening Remarks by the Chairman

The Chairman, Lt Col Joe Falzon OSJ BEM opened the EGM by welcoming everyone attending the virtual Extraordinary General Meeting and said that he was pleased that so many members were present.

2. Apologies for Absence

There were 3 apologies for absence.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 6th June 2020

The Chairman said that the Minutes had been circulated in advance via MS Teams which everyone present confirmed that they had read and therefore, it was not intended to read them at the meeting.

A proposal by Mick Hutchinson and seconded by Mick Grenham to confirm that the Minutes were a true and accurate record. This proposal was put to the vote and CARRIED unanimously.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 6th June 2020

The Chairman recalled that after a lengthy discussion at the AGM on the criteria for Honorary Membership it was decided to take a step back and re-examine the Association Charter. This work has now been completed and the revised Charter will be presented for adoption at Agenda Item 5.

He added that he was pleased that the regular “get togethers” on MS Teams have continued. This was a good way of keeping in touch with each other at this rather unusual time. He hoped that these informal meetings will continue even when the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

The Secretary informed those present that a review of our Facebook page ‘Crossed Quills’ had been undertaken and as agreed by our members the group has now been closed to members of the Artillery Clerks’ Association only. All non-members had now been removed. He went onto to say that the Admin for this Group would be the Secretary and Webmaster, however, the Secretary would control membership of this group.

5. Adoption of the new Artillery Clerks’ Association Charter

The Chairman thanked Russ Lee for his initial advice on the revised Charter. He added that the revised Charter had been drafted with the help of the legal department of The Royal British Legion to ensure that it was fit for purpose. Once adopted the Charter will be supported with over governance related documents setting down, amongst other things, the roles and responsibilities of Committee members.

The Secretary informed those present that a copy of the Artillery Clerks’ Association Charter Edition Number 2 dated 23rd June 2020 has been placed on MS Teams for everyone to read. All those present confirmed that they had had sight of the Charter and therefore, it was proposed not to read it out.

A proposal by Paul Corker and seconded by Clive Nuttall that the Artillery Clerks’ Association Charter Edition Number 2 is accepted. This proposal was put to the vote and CARRIED unanimously.

A copy of the Artillery Clerks’ Association Charter Edition Number 2 dated 23rd June 2020 and adopted by the Artillery Clerks Association members on the 26th July 2020 is attached to these minutes.

6. Applications for Honorary Membership

The Secretary informed those present that that one application for Full Membership and two applications for Honorary Membership had been received and in accordance with the Artillery Clerks’ Association Charter they were accepted by the Committee to be put forward to the membership at this EGM to be voted upon. The Secretary informed those present who had confirmed that they had read them, that details of the record of service for those being put forward for membership had been placed on MS Teams.

**• Full Membership.
WO2(SQMS) Jason Lloyd AGC(SPS)**

A proposal by Russ Lee and seconded by Mick Grenham that full membership of the Artillery Clerks’ Association be granted. This proposal was put to the vote and CARRIED unanimously.

• **Honorary Membership.**
Mr Robert Richardson

A proposal by Roy Deal and seconded by Mick Hutchinson that Honorary membership of the Artillery Clerks' Association be granted. This proposal was put to the vote and CARRIED unanimously.

• **Honorary Membership.**
Mr Sid Copeland

A proposal by Martin Hedges and seconded by Stephen Read that Honorary membership of the Artillery Clerks' Association be granted. This proposal was put to the vote and CARRIED unanimously.

The Secretary informed those present that in accordance with the Artillery Clerks' Association

Charter Edition Number 2 that Honorary Membership will initially be approved for a period of 3 years. Thereafter the roll would be reviewed or revised as necessary by the Association Committee and reaffirmed annually by the membership at an AGM or EGM.

7. Any other Business

Nothing to report.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next AGM will take place at Larkhill on Saturday 12th June 2021.

Andy Tibble
Secretary



1963 - J/Gnr, JLRRRA Bramcote - the formative years

Potted History - from J/Gnr to Lt Col (QM)

Joe Falzon



1968 - Bdr, Best time ever as Battery Clerk of 111 (Dragon) Battery, 36 Hy AD Regt in Shoeburyness (left)

1970 - Sgt (AC), Assistant Chief Clerk 36 Hy AD Regt - Hosting Capt Alex Harley (later Master Gunner) at the Sgts Mess Draw. The Chief Clerk WO2 (QMSAC) Colin Wilkinson must have gone to get the next round in! The Regiment had moved 'lock, stock and barrel' from Shoeburyness to Napier Barracks, Dortmund earlier that year. (below)





1975 - SSgt (AC), Chief Clerk 20 Lt Regt - Happier days in Hong Kong with Bernie Walker, Chris Berry and Mike Grenham.



1980 - Dining out of WO1 (SMAC) Syd Simpson on commissioning, with Benny Hedges, Jim Roast, Colin Davidson and Boyce.



1980 - WO1 (SMAC), Superintending Clerk HQ Arty Div, HQ 1(BR) Corps - proud winners of the Inter-Branch Tug-o-War Competition with Jim Roast, Derek Hughes, Colin Davidson and Benny Hedges.



1974 - SSgt (AC), Chief Clerk 20 Med Regt - Feeling the cuft that all was running smoothly in the Regimental office in Fort George, Londonderry. We had just spent all day sorting out the R & R plan.



1999 - Lt Col (QM), Farewell to HQ QMQ after 2+ years as CO Andover Support Unit

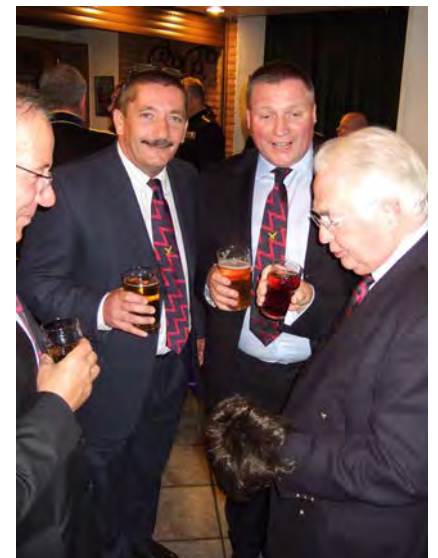
Air Operations & Liaison Flights

by Major (Retd) John Reynolds



When the AAC was first formed they had an establishment for non-commissioned ranks, but no one to fill the positions so, as they really did not know their function, they were still operating as Air OP and Liaison Flights, therefore most of the positions were filled by Gunners. Our dress, as you can see, was a bit mixed. Everyone still wore their BD with their regimental titles, trade and specialist badges etc. Everyone, including officers, wore the AAC badge (commonly

known as the Hovering Shitehawk) on the right shoulder, and the badge of the formation in which the unit was serving on the left shoulder. In our case at HQ 1 Lt Ac Wing, we wore the 1 (BR) Corps Spearhead. When it came to head dress, we all wore the pale blue beret. ERE 1 personnel such as REME, RAPC and ACC, wore their own cap badge. All others, such as clerks, drivers, signallers etc wore the AAC cap badge. I know that this is late for the next CQ, but I thought that it ought to go into the archives. As a matter of interest, as I was forming the Wing HW in Detmold, Sgt (AC) Derek Taylor was CC of 652 Sqn also in Detmold. 652 Sqn, as an Air OP Sqn, had been there since the end of the war. Sgt (AC) Don Cormack was in Hildesheim forming 654 Sqn which was a new Sqn. I can also claim that I was the first OR in BAOR to wear the new beret and badge. John Cross, who was an AC transferred to the AAC and served in Malaysia as CC 2nd Lt Ac Wing and was later commissioned as a QM in the AAC.





Reunion Secretary's Germany Report

by Ron Holmes MSM (former WO1(SSM))

I will start my report by mentioning the sad loss of our great friend and member Pete Deverall who passed away in May this year after a long battle against cancer. Despite corona and all the restrictions, Pete got a lovely send off in a special cemetery which was his wish. "I came from the forest and want to be placed in a forest in the end" So we buried him in a biodegradable urn by a large oak tree in a forest near Bielefeld exactly as wished. I remember first meeting Pete in 1987 when as a newly promoted Sgt AC I took over from Pete as



Discipline Sgt in 50 Msl Regt RA. I found out his nickname was the "Druid" so ending up in a forest was the right thing to do. What a

guy and a sad loss to many of us who really new him.

So what's happening with ACs in Germany? Tim Matthews, Hauke and myself form the core. I have lost touch with Andy Moss and have regular communications with Alan Witts, Iain Campbell and Jamie Jamison who I wish to recruit as a guest member (ex AC Bdr 50 Msl). Plans to have a meeting/BBQ have been scuppered due to the current situation. Fingers crossed Hauke and myself will get to Larkhill next year and then have a small meeting in Autumn 2021. Stay safe and Ubique
Ron

My first posting - first by name, first by nature?

by Dick Jeavons (former WO1(SMAC))

This article should be read whilst appreciating that 48 years ago the electronic wizardry we rely so much on today was yet to be invented, or just not available, so please temporarily forget I Pads, PC's, mobile phones, laptops, Google, et al.

Three of us were lined up outside the Alanbrooke Troop Commander's Office. Our Troop Sergeant (Les 'The Lad') Helliwell marched us in for interview. The new(ish) Troop Commander, Lieutenant (Richard) Crawshay was a big man, but his office was tiny. Somehow Sergeant Helliwell managed to manoeuvre,

in short, sharp, jerky (drill-type?) movements, Mustering Gunners Ashford, Moorhead and Jeavons into the confined space and squeezed himself in behind us.

Seeing Sergeant Helliwell's success at cramming all five bodies into a space designed for a small selection of bumpers, mops and brooms, Lieutenant Crawshay announced he was delighted to inform us that we had been 'selected' for 1st RHA (clearly this wasn't aimed at Sergeant Helliwell), which he said was a fine regiment, but was not forthcoming as to how the 'selection' had been achieved.

Since I was a few months older than the others, I was told I would join the regiment first, immediately after Christmas Leave and that 'Nellie' Ashford and Pete Moorhead would follow on later. Although questions were invited, I didn't take the opportunity to point out that there must have been an error, because on my 'dream sheet' I'd put 1st Blazers Battery (in Singapore) as my first posting choice and hadn't written anything relating to 1st RHA! At least the 1st bit was correct, my Troop Commander was clearly delighted with the selection and who knows, there might have been some advantage to my first posting to

the frozen wastes of NW Germany rather than the balmy climes of Singapore, which I may have overlooked. So I kept quiet.

The brown envelope arrived in the post with some Christmas cards and was addressed to my Dad (handwritten, using a ruler). It contained several documents all about me!! The Junior Leader's Final Report was graded Good, but I had to explain to Dad that 'Gunner Jeavons having No Sounding Ability' didn't mean my career would be curtailed, unduly blighted or that I would never get promoted, it was just recording that I'd apparently failed to get anything tuneful out of a bugle or trumpet on cold Saturday mornings in Bramcote.

The Posting Order detailed that I was posted to 1st RHA, BFPO 41 on 5th January 1973, in the substantive rank of Gunner. Other than knowing BFPO 41 was somewhere in Germany, the exact location of 1st RHA was a mystery. My mother asked if BFPO 41 would be close to her brother, who was a WO1 Staff Clerk in BFPO 40, we had no idea at the time, but subsequently discovered that Detmold was nowhere near Rheindahlen!

The Movement Order offered few clues on German geography, but detailed I had a RAF flight to Gutersloh and from there I would take military transport to Detmold. Our family copy of the Reader's Digest European Atlas had a couple of pages covering Germany but no mention of these places, or BFPO numbers.

I remember little about the Gutersloh flight, other than meeting a lad named Andy King. He had recently finished training in Woolwich and was posted to 1st RHA, he was going to do something called Arty Int. The weather in Germany was cold,

the big 44 seater white bus had around half a dozen people in it and the heater didn't work, Andy and I were the only ones going to Detmold.

The bus dropped us at the gate to Hobart Barracks and there was someone there to meet us. Gunner (Microbe – never did find out the reason or his proper first name!) Farnsworth was in HQ Battery, 1st RHA. He was a singly and would take us down to our accommodation, which was about 120 yds away. It was dark and snowing, as we lugged our cases down the road Microbe gave us a potted history of the barracks, the regiment and life in Germany, including where to get the best bratties (Willie Sanders) and German beer (Halfway House) in Detmold. The cookhouse and NAAFI were closed, so no chance of a 'growler' (neither Andy or I were sure what it was or even if we might have wanted one) and because most of the regiment was still on Christmas Leave, none of the Battery Bars were open. After seeing Andy and I into a room in the block Microbe said he'd give us a knock for breakfast and take us to the BSM next morning.

WO2 Brian (Candy) Canderton was the TSM of G Troop (wasn't sure what that was, having never had a TSM before), but Acting BSM of HQ Bty. BSM Canderton was a big man with a loud, jovial and friendly character, strangely unusual and un-nerving for a Sir! (it no doubt stood him in good stead for his post Army employment as a Beefeater some years later). He gave Andy and I a quick briefing on the regiment and daily routine, told us his troop had recently returned from Salalah (where-ever that was) and that most of the regiment were still on leave, which explained why there weren't many bodies around or currently living in. He mentioned something about crash outs,

cleanliness of the accommodation, the Hakedahl married patch being out of bounds to singlies, dress, drinking and cigarette coupons. BSM Canderton was going to be Andy's boss, Bdr Westwell was waiting outside his office to take me over to RHQ.

RHQ was about 75 yds away from the block, Bdr (Fred) Westwell took me in through a side door, the front entrance being for Officers and Warrant Officers only. The main office was up on the first floor and in his 'scouse' accent Fred (Bdr to me then) gave me a quick rundown of the offices and introduced me to the staff. The Chief Clerk (Mick Carter) was still on UK leave, SGT(AC) (Brian) Bailey was standing in, but would soon be posted out, on promotion. Bdr (George) McLachlan was the Docs Clerk, he (Fred) was the Discipline Clerk, Gnr Dave Fisher worked on Part 2 Orders and Gnr Howard Wheeble (another singly) was the Movements Clerk. I was destined to be the Filing and Dispatch Clerk. However, Fred said all that might change once the Chief came back, next week!!

It was about 0200 hrs and the sirens were really loud, doors were being banged on and 'Active Edge' or 'Crash Out' shouted every few seconds. Only having been in the regiment for 3 days I didn't really know what to do or expect, but recalled the BSM saying something about crash outs on day 1. In essence; Soviet forces were coming over the inner German Border and the entire British Forces in Germany were being stood up to combat them.

Dressed in green combat kit I 'fell in' outside the block in the snow with the other singlies, it was bitterly cold. BSM Canderton told the assembly this was indeed a crash out, that the regiment would be deploying to the designated reserve areas and would be away

from camp for at least 24 hrs. Given most of the regiment was still on leave, those now in camp (plus 'pads' from the quarters) would have to move or crew the guns and support vehicles. Great stuff, although ready to repel the invading hoards, I couldn't drive and hadn't been allocated a weapon, however I had done ok in recruits 'milling', worked for James Bond (WO2 QMSAC) and the pen was supposed to be mightier than the sword, so why should England (or Germany) tremble?



Working for WO2 (QMS(AC)) James Bond at Bramcote obviously inspired Gnr Jeavons to go on to greater things!

There were sufficient RHQ personnel to man the Binnars and duplicators (both spirit and ink versions) so, being a new boy SGT Bailey 'lent' me back to HQ Bty. The BSM told me to crew a 432 (tracked vehicle) command post,

along with Gnrs (Crasher) Kimmet and Microbe (even the BSM called him that!). Once all the cam nets, poles, map boards, gerry cans and other miscellaneous items had been loaded up we were ready to roll and after an inordinate amount of time, just waiting, that's exactly what 1st RHA did.

I'm sure the seemingly endless convoy of wheeled and tracked vehicles roaring along the snowy roads of Detmold was a fine sight, although the residents of this normally quiet town, having been woken and disturbed by the noise and vibrations of Her Majesty's finest, may not have seen it that way – still it was for their own good... wasn't it? My own view was somewhat restricted, bouncing around in the dark belly of the 432, with only a tiny rear door window to see anything through.

The sun had come up – there was nothing anyone could do to stop it. Biesterberg with its rolling hills, pine trees and carpet of crisp white snow looked like a picture from a Christmas card or calendar. A closer look at the immediate area we were in revealed deep furrows, gouges and thick mud created by numerous tracked vehicles getting into positions. Crasher and Microbe swiftly got me into action, helping them disguise the shape

of our 432 using an assortment of poles and nets. Other crews were carrying out the same frantic activity around their vehicles.

BSM Canderton was moving round, checking the position, advising each crew on the effectiveness of their efforts. I noticed he had a weapon and was wearing a set of webbing, I didn't have any of that stuff. The call to breakfast came, Microbe gave me a tin plate and a KFS out of a storage box and we walked over to a tented area enveloped in billowing clouds of steam, he had webbing on too. A webbingless and weaponless Andy King was also at breakfast, after getting our sausage, bacon, beans and egg, pandemonium suddenly broke out. Everyone was running about yelling, Gas, Gas, Gas (fast reacting baked beans?) The BSM saw Andy and I, he directed us, in no uncertain terms, to make our way over to the 432 at speed, get inside, close the door and not open it up for anyone, but him. Meanwhile outside, in the crisp, cold, clear air of the German countryside, our breakfasts were congealing on the plates and for all we knew the Soviets could have been advancing on the other side of the hills.

Suddenly it was all still and strangely quiet, too quiet.



