

# The Crossed Quills

The Magazine of the Artillery Clerks' Association

Edition 26  
December 2022

440



LEST WE FORGET

# RAA Forecast of Events 2023

## 2023

<i>16 Feb 2023</i>	<i>RA Gold Cup, Sandown Park</i>
<i>16 Mar 2023</i>	<i>RAA NEC Meeting, Larkhill</i>
<i>12-14 May 2023</i>	<i>RA Assembly, Blackpool</i>
<i>13 May 2023</i>	<i>RAA NEC Meeting, Blackpool</i>
<i>16 April 2023</i>	<i>Gunner Sunday, RHC</i>
<i>1 July 2023</i>	<i>RA Service of Remembrance, NMA</i>
<i>4 October 2023</i>	<i>RAA NEC Meeting, Larkhill</i>
<i>9 November 2023</i>	<i>Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey</i>
<i>12 November 2023</i>	<i>RA Ceremony of Remembrance, Hyde Park Corner</i>
<i>3 December 2023</i>	<i>St Barbara's Day, Larkhill Garrison Church</i>



Charles Dickens described the start of 'A Tale of 2 Cities' as It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. This year feels a bit like that. We have had the most amazing Platinum Jubilee for Her Majesty celebrating the extraordinary life of the one true constant in our lives, a pleasure that will not come around like that again, and then just months later, the end of the longest reign by a monarch this country has ever seen. 2022 may well become known as the year of Elizabeth The Great, as there have been calls for, but what no one can doubt was the pure majesty of Her funeral, with all its pomp and ceremony. The comments around the world in support of The Queen, and of the extraordinary and brilliant precision of all 3 Services in ensuring that she was buried with the attention to detail that she was renowned for, made one proud to be British. All those involved in the planning and execution of the Royal Funeral should take immense pride in having done their duty to the Commander in Chief in the style she deserved. We all owe them a debt of gratitude

But that is not all that has happened this year, of course, and as I write, the politics of the country is in a degree of turmoil, not seen for a while, with uncertain long and short term outcomes promised. From

# Foreword by Association President

*Lt Gen Richard Nugee CB CVO CBE*

record breaking weather this summer, topping 40°C for the first time in this country (walking around Aldershot that day, the heat reminded me of Basra or Helmand), to the first serious European war in my lifetime, and then a toppling of a Prime Minister and Leadership election, things are certainly interesting! Added to that, floods from torrential downpours, and most importantly, a cost of energy which is going to affect us all and then the cost of living crisis and inflation the likes of which we haven't seen since I remember my father working at home by Tilley Lamp in the 1970's during the 3 day working week (and 98% supertax!), and perhaps the future looks bleak.

Soldiers however, in my experience, are optimists who are always looking for opportunities and the bright side of things. So even as the Ukrainians suffer hugely on our behalf, fighting for their very existence as an independent country and keeping Putin's ambition in check, as Gunners we should be thankful that the role and power of Artillery, never forgotten by the Russians, is now being recognised more by the Army - our trade is in the ascendancy. I doubt we will get

back to the level of being 25% of the Army (and over 1 million Gunners) in WW2 but I suspect that we will finally see some investment in Air Defence, rocket systems and good old fashioned tube artillery. Would it be too bold to say «about time!»?

And next year we celebrate our own Silver Jubilee (or 25th Anniversary) as the Artillery Clerks Association. With the Master Gunner of St James's Park attending the unveiling of our commemorative silver centrepiece (thank you to all our donors!) the celebration in June will be something to look forward to and remember. Do see if you can make it to the Reunion Dinner on 24th June 2023. It will be fun! See you there!

I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year, and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Reunion in June and seeing our new silver centrepiece.

## *Artillery Clerks' Association Virtual Annual General Meeting Tuesday 7th March 2023*

The Artillery Clerks' Association virtual Annual General Meeting will be held at 1900 hours on Tuesday 7th March 2023. Further details can be seen in the Secretary's report and will be published in due course



## Report by Association Chairman

*Lt Col Joe Falzon OSJ BEM*

nually at the Royal Albert Hall.

Our Annual Dinners, first in Woolwich and latterly in Larkhill, have always attracted the most senior Guests of Honour – by my reckoning, in the past 24 years we have hosted 3 Master Gunners, 1 Chief of the Defence Staff, 14 Major Generals, 1 Director Royal Artillery, 3 Regimental Colonels (who can ever forget Colonel Sam Shepard in 2021) and 10 Royal Artillery Sergeant Majors. This is clear testimony of our high standing as an Association amongst senior officers who remember our individual and collective contribution to the Royal Regiment in their formative years and when they were Battery Commanders or Commanding Officers. Of course, it is now common knowledge that Lt Gen Sir Andrew Gregory KBE CB DL, Master Gunner St James's Park, will be returning for his third visit as our Guest of Honour – he was last with us in 2010 (in his capacity as Director General Personnel) and in 2018 after his appointment to Master Gunner in May the previous year,

I have banged on several times in my editorials/messages published in *Crossed Quills* on the importance of Celebrating life milestones. Celebrating who we are, what we stand for and what we do is good for all of us. It's an opportunity for activity, conversation, bonding, laughter and excitement. We are social creatures, and we're happier when we connect with each other. Multiple generations of Artillery Clerks have come together at reunions, parades and anniversaries, to talk about and celebrate their shared history, to tell familiar stories and unveil new ones, to enjoy seeing how the Association has flourished, to feel

close to comrades they've known throughout their lives, to remember the years they've shared, the struggles they've endured, the triumphs they've savoured. Celebrating our past and present allows us the chance to feel we have achieved something significant together, that our commitment to each other has value in the eyes of our family and friends, to feel a source of strength, energy and unity.

Over the past 24 years we have been very fortunate to benefit from three supportive Honorary Presidents, numerous dedicated and committed Committee Members, an ever-present Standard Bearer and, in the past couple of years, 34 (Serlingapatam) Battery have stepped up to the mark as our affiliated battery. I would like to thank everyone for their individual and collective immeasurable contributions.

So, as we celebrate another successful year for the Association, let us look forward to our 25th Anniversary and pledge to continue to improve and expand our membership base, to keep in touch, to support Association events and to help the Committee chart our future.

I wish you and your families a healthy and prosperous New Year.

With every best wish.

As we approach our 25th Anniversary since the formation of our Association in 1998 I thought it prudent to pause and look back on some of the highlights, starting with the inaugural dinner on 7th March of that year. In the first edition of *Crossed Quills* later on in the same year, I wrote how deeply honoured I was to be the first Chairman and emphasised how much we can do, both individually and collectively, in promoting comradeship amongst our members.

Moving on a few years in our formative years. I recall that the winter months between November 2009 and February 2010 brought seismic setbacks to our membership as we heard about the passing in quick succession of former Sgt (AC) and In Pensioner George McKinnell, former WO2(QMS(AC)) and In Pensioner Duggie Waterhouse, our first Association Secretary and driving force, former WO1(SMAC) Mel Charlton and former WO2(QMS(AC)) Ron Cooper who was a staunch supporter of the Association. However, our spirits were lifted when news reached us that Russ Lee was selected for promotion to Lt Col and that Andrew Jones secured a place to parade the Association Standard at the 2010 Festival of Remembrance held an-



## Report by Association Secretary

*Andy Tibble MVO MSM (former WO1(SSM))*

Once again this has been a very busy year for the Artillery Clerks' Association. We have continued to support the Royal Artillery Association (RAA) by having representation from the Association at some of their major events throughout the year. On behalf of the Committee and members I would once again like to thank Andrew Jones our Standard Bearer for his continued dedication and commitment in representing the Association throughout the year at some of these events. Details of those events that Andrew attended can be seen in the Minutes of the AGM in June 2022 further in the CQ. I would also like to extend our sincere congratulations to Mick Hutchinson who was presented with a Brigade Commander West Midlands Coin and Certificate of Excellence in recognition his service to the Warwickshire & West Midlands Army Cadet Force where he has provided excellent administrative support.

We have once again throughout the year been ably supported by our affiliated Battery, 34 (Seringatam) Battery who have themselves been very busy. I would like to express on behalf of the Association our gratitude to them for their continued support. Further details on 34 Battery can be found later in the newsletter.

We had a most excellent Reunion

Dinner which was held at the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Central Mess, Larkhill on Saturday 11th June 2022 under the auspices of Mr Roy Deal. The Association was proud to welcome the Colonel Commandant, Major General Neil Marshall OBE as our Guest of Honour and as our guests, the Royal Artillery Sergeant Major, WO1 (RASM) Len Sanders, the Battery Commander of 34 (Seringatam) Battery, Major Glyn Forster and the Battery Sergeant Major 34 (Seringatam) Battery, WO2 (BSM) Gemma Begley. A full report on the Dinner by our Reunion Secretary can be read later in the CQ. On behalf of those members who attended, I would like to say a big thank you to Roy for all the hard work that he put into this dinner, making this a most memorable evening and a most enjoyable weekend.

I know that it has become even more difficult to try and engage with our membership, however, could I please continue to urge our Area Secretaries to continue where possible, to engage with all members of the Association who currently live within their areas of responsibility. As mentioned, many time before, 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 to improve attendance levels. I would like to take this opportunity once again to thank all our Area Secretaries for their continued support over the past year. Your support is gratefully appreciated by us all.

The 88th Artillery Clerks' Reunion

will take place over the weekend of the 23rd – 25th June 2023 at Larkhill. We are delighted to announce that the Master Gunner St James's Park, Lt Gen Sir Andrew Gregory KBE CB DL has accepted our invitation to be our Guest of Honour. The calling letter for this reunion weekend is enclosed with your edition of 'The Crossed Quills'. This is the only opportunity for all members of the Artillery Clerks' Association to meet up over a weekend in the UK and therefore, it would be good to seek the support of all members in supporting this event each year. Should any members have any concern regarding transportation to/from the reunion, this should be included on your Reunion return when sending them back to Roy, so that we can contact you directly to possibly provide any assistance where possible, such as car sharing or even arranging for a group of members to travel by minibus 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.

It was agreed by the Committee that as the Artillery Clerks' Association' celebrate our 25th Anniversary on Tuesday 7th March 2023, we would hold a virtual Annual General Meeting instead of at our reunion weekend in June 2023. This will enable as many members as possible to come together for the AGM who might not be able to attend the reunion weekend. As this will also be the actual date of our 25th

Anniversary, we will all be able to raise a glass in celebration of our Anniversary. Further details will be published in due course. I would be most grateful if you would all put this date into your diaries, please.

I do hope that you enjoy reading this edition of 'The Crossed Quills'. I would like to take this opportunity in thanking those Association members who have contributed to this edition by forwarding articles and photographs for inclusion into this edition. Donations for this year's magazine have been received from the Committee members and 34 (Seringatam) Battery. Many thanks for your contribution. I would be most grateful if you could all look through your individual archives to see if you have something of interest, old photographs that you would like to be published in next years' edition. These articles, with photographs should reach me by no later than Friday 1st September 2023. 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 sent back to you once they have been scanned onto the system. Edition 27 of the Crossed Quills is due to be published by the end of December 2023.

Our current membership stands at 134. There are currently 204 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 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 continue to receive a lot of feedback about our look website and would like to thank Leo for all his hard work over the past year. Unfortunately, as you are all aware a lot of our members tend to visit Facebook (Crossed Quills) to leave messages etc. This is clearly a good way for our members to communicate and keep each other up to date on events. I would, however, like to urge you all please to visit the Artillery Clerks' Association website at regular intervals please to see what messages have been placed on the message board and 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.

The St Barbara's Day Church Service will be held in the Garrison Church of St. Alban the Martyr, Larkhill on Sunday 3rd December 2023. If you live within reasonable travelling distance, please can I urge you to support this event and get this date into your diary's. If you wish to attend, please inform the Secretary

Due to membership being spread over the Globe and not having in my possession everyone's e-mail address (or up to date one) may I please ask you all to make a point of reading the Notice Board on the Association Website [www.artyclerkassn.org](http://www.artyclerkassn.org).

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 in Larkhill in June 2023, if not sooner. Ubique.

Andy

## Assistant Secretary's Report

*by Roy Deal MBE  
(former WO1 (SSM))*

The Artillery Clerks' Association ties are available from the Assistant Secretary at a cost of £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 2023 Reunion. The Association tie is of a silk/polyester Gunner zig zag design depicting the crossed quills and the 'AC' in gold. If you wish to purchase a tie please contact me at [Reunion-sec@artyclerkassn.org](mailto:Reunion-sec@artyclerkassn.org)



# Association Committee 2022 - 2023

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 WO1(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	Leo Lyall - former SSgt
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 [Northwest@artyclerkassn.org](mailto:Northwest@artyclerkassn.org)

***The North*** – Durham, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, Cleveland, North, West and South Yorkshire and Humberside. Contact Brian Morgan at [North@artyclerkassn.org](mailto:North@artyclerkassn.org)

***The Midlands*** – Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, West Midlands, Leicestershire, Hereford and Worcestershire and Warwickshire. Contact Leo Lyall at [Midlands@artyclerkassn.org](mailto:Midlands@artyclerkassn.org)

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

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

***The West*** – Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Avon and Wiltshire. Contact Roy Deal at [Reunion-sec@artyclerkassn.org](mailto:Reunion-sec@artyclerkassn.org)

### ***The London Area.***

Contact Andrew Jones at [London@artyclerkassn.org](mailto:London@artyclerkassn.org)

***Scotland.*** Contact Andy Tibble at [Secretary@artyclerkassn.org](mailto:Secretary@artyclerkassn.org)

***Germany.*** Contact Ron Holmes at [Germany@artyclerkassn.org](mailto:Germany@artyclerkassn.org)

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

Contact the Association Secretary, Andy Tibble at [Secretary@artyclerkassn.org](mailto:Secretary@artyclerkassn.org)



# Report by Treasurer

*Major (Retd) Paul Corker*

## General

I would like to begin by wishing all members and their families the very best for the remaining part of 2022 and that 2023 will see most of us meet up in Larkhill for our 25th anniversary. 2022 did not let us down? The pandemic is still with us but we are learning to live with it. I will go and get my booster along with my flu jab in the coming months; age is a beautiful thing and is there to be enjoyed!! We have all witnessed the ‘partygates’ and the like however, in my eyes, sadly, Boris had to go!! 2023 will have its moments too, there is no doubt, but Larkhill in June is the one I am looking forward to with much pleasure

Well I made it to a reunion but it was a ‘close run thing’. I have been waiting for a hip replacement for approximately 18 months and I thought it was going to happen in June but thankfully it did not come about. I therefore attended both Friday and Saturday nights and thoroughly enjoyed myself, meeting up with many old friends. Julia, (my wife) came on Friday night and has asked me to specifically thank all those who looked after her. My thanks go to Andy and Roy for putting on a great weekend which ran like ‘Artillery clockwork’.

My main effort this year as I’ve reported on in my previous reports

was ‘Gift Aid’. This was not an easy task due to the pandemic. It is with immense satisfaction to be able to confirm that the administration to register as a Charity was completed and approved by HMRC. Not only that, the first application for Gift Aid was completed in January 2022 and the Association received £465:67. This will be an annual application and therefore will ensure that a consistent amount of income will support the fund for many years to come. I thank the committee for their assistance and the membership for completing their ‘Gift Aid’ returns that has enabled me to conform to the regulations.

My mission to the Committee and to you as members is to ensure that the fund has long-term sustainability and a solid platform to meet the ever changing needs of the Association. I am able to do this, with professional guidance from the Committee and the platform of the website which Leo superbly oversees. As you have seen on the website our ‘Silver Centre Piece’ fund is going along nicely. As I speak, the fund is in excess of £5k, with more income on the way. Remember that the Association is able to claim ‘Gift

Aid’ on any personal contributions and those individuals who are in the 40% tax bracket and over may claim tax on their personal tax accounts.

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. You will find an ‘Artillery Clerks’ Action List’ which highlights those members, who for some reason need to complete some outstanding administration. Please take time to look at this and where necessary complete your individual areas. It would be nice to complete this as soon as possible.

To recap: Please check your bank statements before January 2023 and where necessary, change your annual subscription to £15. Pay subscriptions by ‘direct mandate if not already doing so and complete the ‘Gift Aid’ declaration form which can be found on the website. I value your support; with it, I am able to do my job and to achieve my goals. It is extremely rewarding for me to achieve targets on your behalf and to end my reports by stating that the fund is ‘fit for purpose’.

## Statement of Account - 12th November 2022

### ASSETS

Current Bank Account	£ 10389:17
Deposit Account	£ 4515:29
Shop Stock	£ 300:00
Property	£ 1000:00

**Total Assets (A) £ 16204:46**

### LIABILITIES

Function	£ 1100:00
Silver Centre Piece	£10190:00*
*(Gift Aid to be claimed)	(£1640.00)

**Total Liabilities (B) £11290:00**

**AVAILABLE CASH (A – B)£ 4914.46**

\*Gift aid on donations claimed in Jan 23

## Main Action Areas

Outstanding Subscriptions  
- £1,625:00 (this is total). Only 4 unpaid 2022 subscriptions.  
Mandate - 10 Members not paying by Direct Mandate  
Gift Aid - 20 Members have not submitted the Declaration Form

## Summary

The fund continues to be financially sound and has the strength to support the needs of

its members when required. My efforts are: to clear outstanding subscriptions totaling £1,625.00, to ensure all members change their annual subscription to £15 and for all to complete their Gift Aid forms before 2023. There are no outstanding invoices; therefore this statement is a true reflection of the worth of the fund. 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 any unknown challenges as they come along.

Wishing you all the very best and hope to see you in Larkhill in June 2023.

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## Report by Standard Bearer

*Andrew Jones (former Sgt (AC))*



After church, we retired to the "In Pensions" bar for Sunday lunch.

I would recommend you visit the Royal Hospital Chelsea if you have not been before. The facilities are outstanding. Hoping to see more members on parade for 2023!

### Mr Hopkins Funeral

I represented The Royal Artillery Clerks' Association at the funeral of Mr. Michael John Hopkins on Friday 22 April 2022 at 1000 hours at The Park Crematorium, Aldershot.

### Gunner Sunday

On Sunday 24 April 2022 at 1100 hours, I represented the Royal Artillery Clerks' Association at The Gunner Sunday at The Royal Hospital Chelsea carrying the standard.

The day was a warm spring morning, we formed up for the Governors Inspection, there were many Royal Artillery Association Standard's on parade.

This was then followed by a church parade in the chapel of The Royal Hospital.





## Report by Welfare Secretary

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

The Covid Pandemic is slowly but surely receding and with the ongoing vaccination programme well and truly underway we are getting back to some sort of normality.

We should remember that we did lose one member to the Pandemic (David Hamilton) and a number of members suffered from hospital admission to a version of “man flu” and I am sure there are some members still suffering the after effects known as ‘long Covid’.

The world is changing with the ongoing war in the Ukraine – General Granville-Chapman when MGRA and the Guest of Honour at our association dinner a few years ago stated during his speech that although the cold war was over, the main threat to NATO still came from Russia and he was correct.

The War in the Ukraine has had a global impact on fuel and food prices dragging millions into fuel and food poverty. Although the majority of our association members are financially secure, you may be aware through other service affiliations, breakfast clubs, battery or regimental reunions of ex service personnel who may not be so fortunate and are looking for help.

Please keep in mind the Veteran’s Gateway and feel free to refer any individuals to this support. The Veterans Gateway can be found using any search engine and there

is a link from our own Artillery Clerk’s Association page. The Veterans Gateway landing page states:

“We put veterans and their families in touch with the organisations best placed to help with the information, advice and support they need – from healthcare and housing to employability, finances, personal relationships and more.”

The Veterans Gateway has links to some useful organisations that can offer help, advice and support for Veterans in financial hardship.

There is also support and help for veterans from the Government run website Veterans UK. Veterans UK is responsible for administering compensation and pensions schemes for both serving personnel, veterans and their families, as well as the Veterans Welfare and Defence Transition Services. However, did you know that Veterans UK is part of the Ministry of Defence’s shared services delivery organisation, Defence Business Services? As well as veterans services, in DBS they also look after Pay, HR, and lots more in-between for the Armed Forces Community. So, chances are that if you have served even one day in the UK Armed Forces, you will have used the services of DBS.

In Veterans UK they know that they can continuously improve how they provide their services and make your experience of Veterans UK and DBS a better one. They can’t do that without listening to the people that have or could use their services, and better understand what they can do to help you.

They have taken the results of the DBS Veterans Customer Satisfaction Survey and alongside those, invited many members of the armed forces and veterans communities, and their advocates, to ‘Lived Experience’ events, where senior leaders and staff from Veterans UK have listened to feedback and suggestions on what they need directly from veterans and supporting organisations.

They are committed to enhancing services where they can and playing their part to deliver on the Government’s Veterans’ Strategy Action Plan 2022/24 and have been working hard to address some of the key points raised through the feedback received as part of their promise to continuously improve.

End users told them that they want and need more information about how the compensation scheme claim and appeals processes work. Their first step has been to produce a comprehensive suite of diagrams that illustrate the flow of a claim or an appeal, and what happens as the application is considered and processed. The diagrams show what information is needed to accurately consider an application and where we get that from, in order to ensure that claimants receive what they are eligible for and entitled to, in accordance with legislation.

They want to be transparent and by sharing what they do with each of the claims, they hope that they can work together, with end users, to ensure their claims are dealt with quickly and accurately.

Coming soon are some bite-size videos, the first of which will provide more advice on starting

a claim and providing the detail and information at the first point of contact, to ensure we can begin processing it straight away - these will be available shortly.

Please feel free to pass on this information to any of your veteran friends that you feel may need support.

## *Artillery Clerks' Association Virtual Annual General Meeting Tuesday 7th March 2023*

The Artillery Clerks' Association virtual Annual General Meeting will be held at 1900 hours on Tuesday 7th March 2023. Further details can be seen in the Secretary's report and will be published in due course



## Report by Webmaster

*Leon (Leo) Lyall (former SSgt)*

out of the contracting world and into a permanent role which is remote and home based. The role is rollout/break-fix work but now adds greater future security.

I am still continuing with the work on the quarterly newsletters which I hope the membership appreciate. I find this a more direct way of getting information to your mailbox with issues and information regarding the Association. I assume that I have all of the members email addresses and that they are receiving the newsletters but if this is not the case you can sign up at <http://eepurl.com/gaw5on>.

Since volunteering my artistic services to the drawing and design of the proposed Association 25th Anniversary Silver Piece I have seen the ideas now flourish into something tangible. The marketing of the idea and the returns in funding has been tremendous. It looks like we will be in a position soon to go full steam ahead, per se for the production of the asset. I am really looking forward to its production and the unveiling next year at the 25th Anniversary Reunion in Larkhill. You can find lots of information on our website regarding the Reunion Weekend (<https://www.artyclerkassn.org/webpages/reunion.htm>) and the Gallery ([https://www.artyclerkassn.org/webpages/reunion\\_gallery.htm](https://www.artyclerkassn.org/webpages/reunion_gallery.htm)) for past reunions

The website, you will notice, has had a few tweaks in the past year. I changed the banner header for most pages for continuity and make the site more regimented. The theme across the whole site is the same with the idea not to promote confusion for members. New pages/areas have recently been added, notably:

- the Newsletter page (<https://www.artyclerkassn.org/webpages/newsletter.htm>) for links to past newsletters
- the Silver Piece webpage (<https://www.artyclerkassn.org/webpages/silverwareProject.htm>) with all the information about the silver piece, and
- a page dedicated to our host in Larkhill, 34 Battery RA ([https://www.artyclerkassn.org/webpages/34\\_Battery.htm](https://www.artyclerkassn.org/webpages/34_Battery.htm))

As I juggle the many different aspects of my life at the moment, I wonder how you are all coping. It is a quickly evolving world we live in these days with aspects of life changing daily. This is no more evident than with technology. As

I can't believe I writing another Christmas Webmaster Report already. Where has the year gone? It has been a busy year for me. I've had two job roles, been involved in the design and marketing for the 25th Anniversary Silver Piece, attended the Reunion Weekend in Larkhill, continue to publish the newsletters, and also running and maintaining the Association website (<https://www.artyclerkassn.org/>).

At the turn of the year, I returned to Aldermaston for a second stint as a Rollout/Break-Fix Engineer, replacing much of the I.T. kit I was involved in installing back in 2016. I enjoyed the brief return and it was surprising that there were many of the old team still working there. The site itself hasn't changed much less for some replaced old for new buildings (and people have aged a little, ha!). I enjoyed the work and the environment but I was called to greater things. I have now moved

we struggle to get to grips with Facebook, with app-this, and app-that, download this-that-and-the other, we need to be constantly vigilant about our online presence and how we react online to the confusion of stuff that is thrown at us online. If companies such as Apple can miss security flaws, then we have less of a chance.

However, there are defences out there that you can have on your PC/laptop/mobile phones that can protect against nefarious actors and keep your personal data safe. There is lots of information on the internet to help you protect your technology and your online presence. Here are a few guides to assist:

**1. Use Strong Passwords:** The most common way to protect your online identity is to focus on creating strong passwords. When creating a password, choose something that will not be easily cracked or decoded. Never use a word or number that someone can associate with you such as a first, middle, or last name, a spouse or child's name, address, phone numbers, employers, or other identifying letters or numbers. Mix up the letters and numbers used in your password and use symbols and a combination of upper and lowercase numbers, when possible, in order to protect yourself from online security breaches. Additionally, it is important to never share your password with anyone. It might be necessary to change your passwords a few times each year.

**2. Look for Encryption:** Before making any sort of financial transaction online, look for signs that show whether the website is encrypted or not. To do this, look for two things: the trusted security lock symbols and the extra "s" at the end of http in the URL or web address bar. When you are on the page that's asking for your

credit card information, the "http" changes to "https" when it is a secure site. At the same time, a lock symbol will also appear on the right side of the address bar or at the bottom left of your browser window. These two signals show that the site is encrypted, which means nobody will be able to see information as it's sent to the website owner. This keeps your name, phone number, address, credit card number and other sensitive information from being seen by anyone else.

**3. Install Security Suites:** Security suites are security programs that keep dishonest people and programs from infecting your computer and stealing information and data from you. This includes blocking harmful software such as spyware, viruses, and phishing scams that can be installed secretly when you are online. Some of the popular security suites include Total AV, Norton Antivirus, McAfee Virus Protection, Ad-Aware Pro Security, and AVG Internet Security. Be sure to purchase and install one of these suites to protect your personal information online.

**4. Turn on Web Browser Blacklisting:** The lack of internet security is partially due to the internet browser being used. Many web browsers have additional security options such as blacklisting. This allows you to set the criteria for sites you will be navigating; only secure, trusted sites will be available to visit.

**5. Avoid Phishing Scams:** Phishing scams use a variety of methods to obtain your personal information and steal your identity. There are many different phishing scams out there, but they can be avoided by educating yourself on how to recognize them. To avoid being the victim of a phishing scam never open emails or attachments when the

sender is unknown and don't click on unsecure links from strange emails. Additionally, avoid anyone offering money, unfamiliar job opportunities or requests for donations to charities as this might be a plot to obtain your personal information and online identity.

**6. Get Private Data Protection:** Another way to protect your online identity and sensitive information when sharing it online is to get private data protection. This type of security suite will protect any private data that is included in emails, private messenger programs, social media sites, or in various blogs. By employing a private data protection suite, you can further prevent hackers from gathering your personal information.

**7. Password-Protect Your Wireless Router:** A wireless router that accesses the internet at your home or business should always be password-protected. When you do not have a password on your wireless network, anyone in your range can use and access your internet, even a hacker. A hacker with experience committing cybercrimes will use this to their advantage and steal information from your computer while accessing your router. You should also enable the encryption feature on the wireless router, which scrambles any data you send online to further protect your sensitive data.

**8. Hide Your Personal Information:** It is possible to accidentally share your personal information with others if you don't set up your web browser properly. Any time you get a new computer or download and install a new browser, you can first configure it. To do this, you will access the "set-up" option on the browser and choose to configure the browser so that it doesn't

reveal your name, email address or other information. Be sure to take this extra step when downloading or installing a browser to ensure your privacy and safety.

#### 9. **Enable Cookies on Your Web Browser Only When Required:**

Another option for setting up your browser to protect your online data is by enabling cookies only when required by a website. These cookies are details websites store on your computer, including information about what sites you visit and what you do there. Most of them keep the details to themselves, but this is also a way dishonest people get your information. You want cookies to be enabled, but to limit them only to websites that require it.

#### 10. **Protect Your Credit Card**

**Info:** Another option for setting up your browser to protect your online data is by enabling cookies only when required by a website. These cookies are details websites store on your computer, including information about what sites you visit and what you do there. Most of them keep the details to themselves, but this is also a way dishonest people get your information. You want cookies to be enabled, but to limit them only to websites that require it.

Source: The Utica University,  
<https://programs.online.utica.edu/about/2022>

Remember the links to our online facilities:

- The Association website:  
<https://www.artyclerkassn.org/>  
Facebook X-Quills: **Crossed Quills**  
**/ Facebook**

All the very best wishes to the members out there and their families. Have great Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

## Report by Historical Secretary

### *Stephen Read (former WO1 (SMAC))*



Earlier in the year I was searching the web and found that there are digitised Army Lists covering the period from 1839 to 1950 available on the National Library for Scotland website. These Lists mainly concern officers, however, from around WW1 they also started to list Warrant Officers Class 1 from all Regiments and Corps. I have begun to go through the entries and found that there are SM(AC)s listed under the Royal Artillery as well as, in some instances, "Superintending Clerks". This is not a term that I have previously heard associated with the Royal Regiment and an initial search of the Association records does not return any of the named personnel listed. This does not necessarily mean that they were not members of the Royal Regiment as it could

just be a reflection of the lack of completeness of my lists.

As the days get shorter, I will start to work my way through this valuable source of information and add it to our records. In the meantime, if anyone reading this article can shed any light on the use of the title 'Superintending Clerk' in the Royal Regiment I would very much like to hear from you.

The same site also contains War Office Casualty Lists for 1917 and 1918, and I have taken a quick look at them. As you might expect they are huge and so far, I have been unable to identify details of any Artillery Clerks killed in action or dying from their wounds. This is probably because, whilst abbreviated ranks are given, appointments are not and, therefore, an AC would not stand out in the same way that they do on other lists. Even a cursory look at these lists is sobering, especially when you see the long lists of names against many Infantry Battalions.

As always, if you have information relevant to the history of Artillery Clerks or the people who served as such, please make contact.

### *Artillery Clerks' Association Virtual Annual General Meeting Tuesday 7th March 2023*

The Artillery Clerks' Association virtual Annual General Meeting will be held at 1900 hours on Tuesday 7th March 2023. Further details can be seen in the Secretary's report and will be published in due course



## Report by South Area Secretary

*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 contact me via my email [\*\*paddy.vysk@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:paddy.vysk@gmail.com).

To craft a foreword to such a worldly experienced membership for this edition has proved difficult. This year will be remembered for many reasons and especially for Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. This edition of Crossed Quills I'm sure is rightly dedicated to marking this historic moment and recording our monarch's commitment to service and the Armed Forces in particular. I had the pleasure of being at Larkhill this year for our Reunion, just a week after this event and it was so nice to hear the reply letter from

our Captain General being read aloud by Joe our Chairman, on the occasion of Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. I shall leave this here as I do not wish to steal anyone else's sandwiches as I'm sure there will be plenty of photos from the Reunion weekend placed within this edition.

This year was also marked the 40th anniversary of the Falklands conflict and I'm sure some of you made it to the National Memorial Arboretum to celebrate this remembrance. Three of my work colleagues attended. One served with 4th Regiment Royal Artillery, the other with the Gurkhas and the third was a young 20-year-old, Royal Marine. As usual it was a bittersweet occasion. On one hand sombre for remembering the fallen and the events, and on the other it was great to see comrades that they did not see since then.

The highlight from an Association point of view for me for this year, was the Reunion weekend. It was great to finally meet physically since the pandemic in our normal format and I would like to thank everyone concerned for making it a tremendous weekend. We were royally hosted by 34 Battery and I for one really enjoyed the Saturday morning activities and hosting the BSM during the dinner. It was great to see the new RASM and to hear his State of The Nation. Our Guest of Honour gave a sobering speech on what we can expect for the immediate future. I'm used to these as he is my real-life boss as CE of The Forces Pension Society. It's also been great to see that the weekly MS Teams meetings have continued throughout 2022. So nice to see smiley faces on the "big screen".

Although this will be the first edition of "Cross Quills" printed since the pandemic, we would like to keep the theme of "going down memory lane". So, if you are able to find some snap shots of your service to embellish next year's edition, please send them to me and I will forward them to Andy Tibble or feel free to send them direct to Andy.

I'm still working at The Forces Pension Society as their Deputy Head of Membership and have settled into a hybrid model of home and London based work. This affords me to keep ties with the Services and you will be pleased to know that we are Royal Regiment heavy at Vauxhall.

One of our Vice-Presidents is Lord Richards and I always remind him of when 4th Armoured Brigade Headquarters Sergeants' Mess dined him out as Commander with a reverse Regimental Breakfast starting at 0730hrs. Boy was that a long day at the office for both of us.

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 who was our Guest of Honour at this year's Reunion Dinner. Former, CO and current Honorary Colonel of 1 RHA. He has also served with 7 RHA, 19 Regt RA & 39 Regt RA where Steve Seymour confirmed at this Year's dinner that he was his first Chief Clerk. 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 **Crossed Quills** which I present to him annually since his arrival in 2018 and I'm sure he will love this year's edition. He still resides within the Salisbury area and loves listening to **The Guns** firing on the Plain every now and then and was grateful that the Association asked him to be Guest of Honour at this year's dinner.

Maj Gen Bill Moore, former CO of 7 RHA and previously of 4th Regt RA during the Falklands campaign is one of our Directors'. He also requested to pass on his good wishes to members of the Association that know him.

We still have two Gunner veterans on the Executive staff as Pension Consultants. Maj (Retd) Alison Waddie, she served in a Post 1992 era where some of her clerks in the AGC were former Artillery Clerks and understands the comradeship and professionalism that these personnel brought to the regiments.

Former WO2 Colin Thomas. Colin served 35 years, 22 in the Royal Regiment and 13 on the LSL. He wishes to pass on his regards to all members of the Association that may know him, especially Chris Shuter; from their sailing days.

I still reside in Sandhurst, just around the corner from Andy Tibble and Clive Nutall in Yateley. We meet up occasionally when our diaries permit, normally at "The Cricketers" in Yateley for a bite to eat and mull over fond times.

I'm happy to remain your area 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 2023 Reunion and am looking forward to meeting you all there and seeing our 25th Anniversary Silver Piece take pride of place at the Dinner table.

It now just leaves me to wish All Members of the Association, to have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year for 2023. Keep safe, calm; and carry on.

My Best Regards to You All,  
Ubique.

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## Report by Reunion Secretary Germany's

*Ron Holmes MSM  
(former WO1(SSM))*



### Life in Germany 2022

As I mentioned in 2021, there is no such thing as BFG anymore but troops in Sennelager are on a slight increase due to the political climate. Brexit is hitting the shelves so hard that NAAFI have restricted veterans from buying any alcohol or tea and most other goodies you cannot find in the German shops. We are considered to be like locusts and buy everything before the troops can. The pandemic finally caught

up with me and after two years of avoiding it. I recently went through a bout of man flu which was described as positive corona or covid number x. Although I saw no positives in having it. My misses was not impressed in me passing on my positivity and so the toaster was my saviour. By the time you read this short report, you may have heard that we had a small AC reunion with partners in Bielefeld on the 27th November. It coincided with opening of the Christmas market opening and I sure it will be a nice event ;-). I am really hoping we get some UK members over too. I am looking forward to meeting you all in Larkhill for the big bash 2023.

# North Area Secretary Report

*Brian Morgan (former WO2(SQMS))*



Hello and greetings fellow Artillery Clerk's

Just a few lines to catch up with Association Members in the North of England, and my apologise for not having been in touch on a more regular basis more recently but I do hope this finds that you all are keeping well and up to date on issues and events within the association through the various channels, including the Website, Facebook etc.

As the representative for the North, I cover the counties of Yorkshire, Durham, Northumberland (including Tyne and Wear), and Humberside a large geographic area but with not a particularly enormous number of members. Part of my role as the regional representative for the North of England is to act as a conduit for the Association Committee and if any Association Member needs any kind of assistance or is aware of any of our members in the North who require help, support or assistance then please do not hesitate to contact me.

I had a most enjoyable weekend when I attend the 2021 Annual Reunion and Dinner in the Sergeant's Mess at Larkhill but sadly was unable to join fellow association members at this years' Reunion and Association Dinner so look forward to attending the Association's 25th Anniversary Reunion and Dinner in 2023. I do hope as many of the members

from the North as possible are able to join me, it would be nice if members from the North were able to come together and share transport to attend the function. If anyone is interested in travelling together, please let me know We are living in a somewhat crazy and stressful times in the world at the moment, what with huge energy price rises, the cost of living crisis, continuing wars, conflict and tensions around the world makes for an even more anxious and worrying time for everyone and it's often difficult to find time for everything, so I must take the opportunity to thank our Committee and all the do on behalf of the Association, particular mention for their efforts go to Joe Falzon, Andy Tibble, Roy Deal and Leon Lyall for all the work he does on the Crossed Quills page on Facebook and the Association website, not forgetting sterling efforts of Andrew Jones our Association Standard Bearer, well done all and thank you all for your hard work and commitment.

Like many of you, I am not only a member of the Royal Artillery Association but also a member of

the Royal British Legion, I'm also a member of several other military associations/groups including 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery Past & Present Members Association, an Associate member of The Parachute Regiment Association, a member of the British Airborne Forces Club and part of a group of former members of 7th Parachute Regiment RHA who live in the North East and North Yorkshire area who meet up from time to time for a bit of lamp swinging, recalling younger days and tales about hrowing ourselves out of perfectly serviceable aircraft.

Over the weekend 19-21 May the British Airborne Forces Club held its annual reunion in Brecon which involves climbing Pen Y Fan on the Saturday morning and a hog-roast and BBQ in the afternoon at Brecon Rugby Club. It was the first Reunion since 2019 due to Covid-19 and was well supported, I encouraged my wife and one of the grandsons (Leonard age 7) to join me in completing the Fan Dance and credit to them both making it to the top following the slightly easier route up from the lay-by just along from the



*British Airborne Forces Club on top of Pen y Fan*



*Ian Constantine, Brian Morgan & Hamish Green outside Armoury House at the Honourable Artillery Company*

Youth Hostel. The weather was surprisingly good for the Brecon Beacons and the cloud even lifted and the sun came out just as we reached the summit. I think like most of us during the lockdown I have put a few pounds on in weight and it was a test of my own levels of fitness, so it was an achievement even for me.

On the 7th July I attended an event at the Tower of London along with other members of the 3 RHA Past & Present members Association to raise funds for the Red Cypher charity, one of the Trustees of the Charity and former member of 3rd Regiment is a Yeoman Warder at the Tower and had kindly organised the event. The Red Cypher charity has been set up to aid and support the serving soldiers and former members of the Regiment. The evening consisted of a guided tour of the Tower and access to the Ceremony of the Keys followed by a few social drinks in the Cross Keys the Yeoman Warders bar and I am reliably informed the cheapest pub in London. I stayed overnight as a guest at the Honorable Artillery Company which is a fabulous location and was joined

at Armoury House by a former HAC Quartermaster and Artillery Clerk Ian Constantine who has I believe recently agreed to take over as the Treasurer of the Red Cypher charity.

I am sure many if not all of you will have heard of Ben Parkinson MBE a former Lance Bombardier in 7th Parachute Regiment Royal Horse Artillery, he is sometimes described as the most seriously injured soldier to survive his wounds, having been seriously injured when the Land Rover he was providing top cover in detonated a Russian anti-tank mine in 2006 whilst serving on an operational tour in Afghanistan. He suffered massive injuries including a significant brain injury, broke his spine, broke his pelvis, broke every rib, shattered his jaw, he had both legs amputated and doctors said he would never walk or talk again. He has overcome much since then aided by his mum and stepfather receiving an MBE for his efforts on behalf of various charities in 2013. I have got to know Ben well over the years and his mum Diane contacted another former member of 7 Para RHA and



*Ben Parkinson MBE carrying the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games Queen's Platinum Jubilee Baton*

asked if we could come along to Sheffield on 12th July when Ben was to carry the Birmingham 2022 Queen's Platinum Jubilee baton as part of the events leading up to the Commonwealth Games. Ben had hoped to carry the baton and walk either unaided or just using one crutch whilst carrying the baton and had practised on his drive at home using a broom shank to replicate the baton. Unfortunately, the broom shank did not in any way replicate the baton which was quite heavy and the driveway at home did not replicate the route he had been given to walk which had quite a steep incline. He initially struggled and, on several occasions, almost fell over as he struggled to hold the baton in one hand and attempted to walk without the aid of crutches. Eventually, the staff from the Commonwealth Games baton relay provided him with a device that strapped over his shoulder/chest and held the baton in place and Ben much to his frustration agreed to use his crutches with my friend and I providing verbal encouragement and support. There was a large crowd of school children watching the event which was also been covered by tv news and reporters. As Ben was nearing the end of his section of the relay he looked to be struggling and my friend went in front of him and produced a Regimental flag, as soon as Ben's eye's caught sight of the flag it was as if he had got a second wind and he powered forward to the end of the designated route. It was very humbling to witness the sheer effort and determination put in to complete the event by Ben and quite inspirational and emotional to have been involved.

Look forward to seeing everyone at the 2023 Reunion Dinner, in the meantime take care of yourselves and best wishes to you all.

Ubique



# The Artillery Clerks' Association Silver Centrepiece Project

## Background

The designation of “the Artillery Clerks’ Section” was first created under Army Order 54 of 1903 and remained in force until the establishment of the Adjutant’s General Corps in 1992. Having proudly served the Royal Regiment of Artillery for 83 years, the cohort of Artillery Clerks were required to change their cap badge and allegiance and complete their individual service chiefly within the Staff and Personnel Support arm of the newly formed Corps.

All Artillery Clerks were enlisted primarily as Artillerymen before being selected to assume the essential administrative and personnel support duties within the various Headquarters and Field and Training Regiments of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, leaning on their personal pride to serve and support others as enthusiastic members of the Gunner family around the world in peace time and on active service.

From after WW2, it looks possible that the status of Artillery Clerk was only bestowed on those soldiers in the Royal Artillery who attained the educational and clerical grades in the rank of Sergeant through to Warrant Officer Class 1, and this became the norm from the 1950s. This unique privilege served to create a “special bond” which exists to this day.

The Artillery Clerks’ Association was formed in Woolwich in 1998 and next year (2023) marks our 25th anniversary. The Association members are determined to preserve their proud heritage as well as the memory and role played by Artillery Clerks in the last century.

## Critical Path and Timeline

**11th August 2021** – The Chairman informed the Association Committee that there was a desire amongst members to commission a Silver Centrepiece to commemorate the Artillery Clerks’ Association 25th Anniversary and that the proposed design will be published on the website and will be discussed further at the Reunion in June 2022.

**9th September 2021** – Leo Lyall presented his initial sketches of the proposed Centrepiece for consideration. The draft design and specifications were agreed in principle and presented without obligation to a supplier in search for a quote.

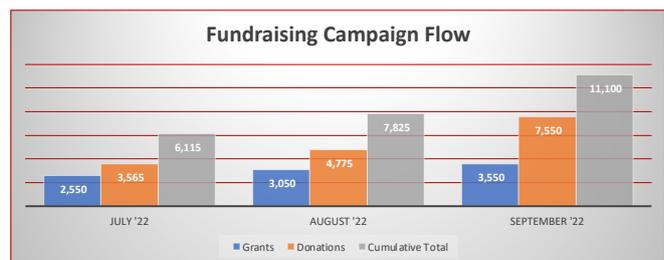
10th March 2022 – Final agreed sketches provided by Leo were circulated to members through social media.

**5th April 2022** – A computer aided design (CAD) representing the proposed Centrepiece was circulated on social media.

**19th April 2022** – Paul Corker informed by HMRC that Gift Aid will be applicable on all personal contributions to the Project by members and honorary members.

**11th June 2022** - At the AGM members voted unanimously to commission the proposed silver centrepiece to coincide with the 25th Anniversary of the formation of the Association in 2023.

An ambitious campaign was launched to raise **the projected cost of £8,760** (including VAT) needed to complete the final design and commission this new silver centrepiece.



**June – September 2022** -The initial grant of £1500 from our own General Purpose Fund (GPF) was quickly followed by a grant of £750 from the Royal Artillery Association (RAA). Momentum gathered as 3 more Corporate grants and personal contributions from members and honorary members ensured that the funds required to reach the original target of £8,760 would be met.

**27th September 2022** – Proposals tabled by Dennis Norris that (1) the Silver Centrepiece be commissioned and that (2) delegated authority be vested to the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Webmaster and Robbie Astick (The Project Team) to manage the Project were unanimously supported by the Association Committee.

– The Chairman announced that the Silver Centrepiece project had seamlessly moved into the Commissioning Phase. The final agreed design is opposite:

The only meaningful change from the original design is the introduction of a single drawer fitted to the bottom plinth housing a silver name plate acknowledging by name all those who have contributed to the



Fund. Another variation is that the 5mm letters “AC” mounted underneath the silver crossed quills will be gold plated and the three 2” engraved crests RA – RHA – RAA will be infilled with gold. These variations have moved the overall costs (including Perspex clear cover, wooden storage carry box and VAT) from £8760 to £9980 (a difference of £1220).

A specimen copy of the silver plate acknowledging all donors is below:

The Members of the Artillery Clerks’ Association gratefully acknowledge the following for their generous contributions and support in making this Centrepiece possible

The Royal Artillery Association  
 The Central Sergeants’ Mess  
 The Nugee Foundation  
 The British Members’ Council

**Members**

Ashcroft AD	Deal RH	Hyatt GO	Mills GE	Regan M
Astick R	Falzon JF	Jeavons RA	Morgan B	Reynolds JH
Bradburn P	Grenham MI	Johnston M	Moss AG	Seymour SR
Callaghan SP	Haddock JWS	Jones AJ	Norris D	Shuter C
Collinge M	Headford PA	Kemish T	Nuttall C	Snowdon SA
Constantine IF	Hester M	Lee R	Peggie J	Spencer PG
Corker P	Holdaway VC	Lyall LJ	Phelps J	Stotan DG
Cowan RNO	Holmes RJ	Matthews TL	Piper CR	Sykes A
Crawford D	Horner RH	Michelsen H	Platts E	Tibble AM
Cussell DJ	Hutchinson JM		Read SV	Young WM

**Honorary Presidents**

Currie APN  
 Nugee RE

Shellard MFL  
 Viggers FR

**Honorary Members**

Beard SM  
 Butler PG

Cooper TC  
 Gauci P

**In Memoriam**

Brown G  
 Charlton JM  
 Cussell HJ

Deverall P  
 Freeman C

Hedges MJ  
 McGilvery G

Morland WPC  
 Taylor J  
 Verdon PJ

**Nugee EG**

(List accurate as at 10th November 2022)

# Update on 34 (Seringapatam) Battery, 14 Regiment Royal Artillery

*By Major Glyn Forster-Haig Royal Artillery*

As current events have shown the world is more unstable and unpredictable than ever, with threats being posed across the spectrum from Cyber, land, air and the maritime. With economies and global supplies more interconnected than ever before the ripples of wars within one country have been shown to impact those around the world with more impact than ever. NATO is being tested for the first time since the cold war with global powers having to reassess their contributions to national defence and global security. The British Army knows it must shape its structure and equipment more expediently, with emphasis on technology and future capabilities that will protect the soldier, attrite the enemy and ultimately win the battle. While technology can never replace a well trained and motivated soldier it can make the individual more lethal, increasing their ability to find, understand and strike.

It is within this environment and with this intent that 34 (SERINGAPATAM) Bty has looked to change at a pace of relevance, considering how fires can deliver more accurately with greater mass, while also increasing the survivability of its soldiers and equipment.

Over the past year 34 (SERINGAPATAM) Bty has gone through significant change, picking up the responsibility for leading with the development of future capabilities for the Gunners has led to substantial challenge for all members of the army's

only artillery Innovation and Experimentation Bty.

This past year has seen the Bty conducting significant live fire deployments in a number of new and challenging environments, including rural and urban locations. This has introduced significant complexity to the delivery of accurate and timely fires, demanding the soldiers and officers consider the full gambit of current and future enemy capabilities. Having to defend against air and ground attack from both manned and unmanned platforms has led to significant leaps in tactics and doctrine.

The brilliance of the soldiers within the Bty was best shown on the URBAN TIGER exercise where the Bty deployed into the urban sprawl, not only focused on training artillery tactics in the urban but also honing Close Quarter Battle skills (CQB) as dismounted infantry.

Having set the conditions through hard work and diligence the Bty is now set to move to its next phase from September, becoming part of the Next Generation Combat Team (NGCT) the 2YORKS led Battle Group responsible for the delivery of pan army future capability in 2025. This role will see the FST deploying to the US on Project Convergence (the US main experimental ex in California), The BC and his HQ deploying to Germany as part of Ex CERBERUS and the Gun line continue its work with the Royal Artillery Trials and Development Unit. This will involve the testing

of new carrier shells, enhanced exoskeletons for soldiers and close support to DSTL on the future fires' platform.

Within the NGCT the Bty will develop and refine tactics and doctrine that will directly support the conversion of 16 Air Assault Brigade to a Robotic and Autonomous enabled combat team (RAS) by 2025. This will see the Bty leading on the trialling of new technology harnessing UAS, AFVs and new data communications in the pursuit of the competitive edge.

Holding the core principles of Artillery at its heart, the Bty has begun the journey into the future for the wider Royal Artillery. Its work will inform and shape future procurement of technology and platforms, ensuring the Deep Recce Strike Brigade has the very best in Find and Fires capabilities allowing it to meet the future threat head on and win.

# 34 (Seringapatam) Battery, 14 Regiment Royal Artillery

*By 2Lt G Ellis, Troop Commander*

The last Gun Salute to take place at Stonehenge was in 2018 to mark the 100th Anniversary of the ending of the First World War. Fast forward to June 2nd, 2022, and 34 'Seringapatam' Battery were once again rolling through the gates of Stonehenge, guns in tow, No. 2 Dress gleaming and with a sense of pride amongst the troops. The Battery delighted in having the prestigious privilege of marking Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee in front of the stones with a 42 Gun Salute. It was an honour for all in the Battery, to be on the world stage celebrating this impressive milestone. After a brief long weekend, 34 was back, nose to the



grindstone and deploying on our Live Fire serials in support of the Royal School of Artillery (RSA). Owing to our access to ammunition, training areas and equipment, these Live Fire serials provide 34 with the perfect opportunity to explore and refine new ways of employing a Close Support Battery within current doctrine. Throughout these serials during the summer term, 34 tested the deployment of NLAW, the Next Generation Light Anti-Tank Weapon, on the gun line, using it as part of the defence of the gun position. Providing the gun line with the ability to defend itself against, and



kill, armour is pivotal and has been proven in recent conflicts in Europe. The Battery is looking forward to furthering its title as the Innovation and Experimentation lead of the Royal Artillery with upcoming trips to Germany and California USA, in support of 2 YORKS and the Next Generation Combat Team.

Unique to the summer term was the Battery's involvement in Op Interflex, the British-led multinational military operation to train and support the Armed Forces of Ukraine. Op Interflex saw the delivery of 50 L119 Light Guns to Salisbury Plain, donated by the Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery, along with a team of 29 Kiwi instructors. 34 Battery provided the safety teams, who were concerned with the safe planning, control and conduct of the L119 firing. It was a fantastic opportunity, not only to meet and learn from the some 500 Ukrainian 'gunners', but to feel a great sense of achievement in supporting Op Interflex and Ukraine as a whole in their current conflict. This role was even conducted over the weekends! It showed a tremendous devotion to duty from those involved at 34!

When we weren't out on ceremonial duties, live firing or in support of a partner-nation, 34 Battery were up to all sorts of extra-mural activities. Sgt Davies organised an incredibly successful charity event in Salisbury Town Centre. The day saw members of the Battery cycle 1241.4 miles and row 76.7 miles within 12 hours. These figures derived from the latitude and longitude of Srirangapatna, India, known to us by its colonial name, 'Seringapatam'. A respectful £806.21 was raised and donated to the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund, who are there to help our serving or veteran Gunners and their dependants when they are struggling to find funding for essential needs. It was an enjoyable day for all, with keen competition being seen amongst the officer cohort; Lt Wicks leading the way with an impressive stint on the rowing machine! More good news! The summer term saw the Battery Football team making it to the final round of the Inter-Battery Shield, where they lost narrowly to F Bty, 7 PARA RHA. It was an impressive season on the pitch! Gnr Maloney continued these successes, making it into the Gunner Football squad. On a similar note, Gunners Moroca and Stratford Dunks (Female Captain), LBdr Chance, LBdr Carden and Lt McCarthy played Gunner Rugby, whilst Sgt Lotawa coached the Gunner Rugby 7's team. LBdr's Munenga and Robertson, Bdr Gilson and 2Lt Ellis also represented the Gunners in Tug of War, competing at the Inter-Corps Championship with much success. LBdr Munenga deserves a special mention for representing the Army



Tug of War Team. In addition to this, the Battery saw 6 promotions over the summer term, a brilliant achievement to all respectively.

It is rather interesting that we started the summer term with such a prestigious event, in the form of HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and that we have too started this winter term with an event of such enormity. The death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was felt keenly by the soldiers and officers of 34 'Seringatam'



Battery. To find themselves given the responsibility of helping a nation remember one of the most important parts of our countries shared identity and history was a task that no member of the Battery took lightly. Poignant for the members of the 34 both Junior and Senior, the salute presented an opportunity for all to consider what Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II represented not only to the Army, but the Nation as a whole. Reminded of the core values of the British Army; Courage, Discipline, Respect for Others, Integrity, Loyalty, and Selfless Commitment it is difficult to think of a single person who has embodied these qualities more perfectly and honestly than Her Majesty.

*"As the Captain General for the Royal Artillery, Her Majesty has always been a part of the very fabric of the Gunners as a whole, setting the standard that all of us who chose the serve aspire to. As Commander of 34 Bat-*

*tery, I can think of no greater honour than that of playing even the smallest of roles in remembering an incredible statesman, woman and leader that Her Majesty was, from my most Junior soldier to my most Senior, the sense of loss was felt equally, and deeply, by all."* - Major Glyn Forster-Haig RA, Battery Commander 34 'Seringatam' Battery RA.

Moving forward into the winter term, the Battery is eager to hit the ground running and achieve as many, if not more, successes as the previous term.



# A Silent Tribute to some of our Absent Friends

## *The Dash (A Poem by Linda Ellis)*

<p>I read of a man who stood to speak At the funeral of a friend. He referred to the dates on the tombstone From the beginning...to the end.</p>	<p><b>George McGilvery</b> <b>9 November 2006</b></p>
<p><b>Mel Charlton</b> <b>17 December 2009</b></p>	<p>He noted that first came the date of birth And spoke the following date with tears, But he said what mattered most of all Was the dash between those years.</p>
<p>For that dash represents all the time That they spent alive on earth. And now only those who loved them Know what that little line is worth.</p>	<p><b>Jim Cussell</b> <b>4 January 2011</b></p>
<p><b>John Wilson</b> <b>29 December 2012</b></p>	<p>For it matters not, how much we own, The cars...the house...the cash. What matters is how we live and love And how we spend our dash.</p>
<p>So, think about this long and hard. Are there things you'd like to change? For you never know how much time is left That can still be rearranged.</p>	<p><b>Pat Verdon</b> <b>13 November 2013</b></p>
<p><b>John Taylor</b> <b>3 March 2017</b></p>	<p>If we could just slow down enough To consider what's true and real And always try to understand The way other people feel</p>
<p>And be less quick to anger And show appreciation more And love the people in our lives Like we've never loved before.</p>	<p><b>Bill Morland</b> <b>18 March 2017</b></p>
<p><b>Pete Deverell</b> <b>19th May 2020</b></p>	<p>If we treat each other with respect And more often wear a smile, Remembering this special dash Might only last a little while</p>
<p>So, when your eulogy is being read With your life's actions to hash... Would you be proud of the things they say About how you spent YOUR dash</p>	<p><b>Martin "Benny" Hedges</b> <b>20 March 2021</b></p>

# 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](mailto:info@britishlegion.org.uk).

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

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### If you need help...

- Call 0808 802 8080**  
8am to 8pm, 7 days a week  
[0808 802 8080](tel:08088028080)
- Online chat**  
8am to 8pm, 7 days a week  
[Launch online chat](#)
- Get local help**  
Find your closest RBL location  
[RBL near you](#)

### For supporters...

- Call 0345 845 1945**  
For assistance with donations or fundraising

### For members...

- Call 0800 307 7773**  
For help with Membership queries



# Artillery Clerks' Association Membership List as at 31st December 2022

Dave Allen	Sid Evans	Jason Lloyd	Vince Scott
Sparky Allen	Ted Fairbrass	Leon Lyall	Steve Seymour
Alf Alvin	Joe Falzon	Dave Manchester	Chris Shuter
Richard Ancliffe	Jim Findlay	Tony Martin	Sid Siddall
Alan Ashcroft	Peter Gauci	Tim Mathews	Dougie Silver
Robbie Astick	Martin Geddes	George McLachlan	Bob Smith
Derek Baldry	Ian Grant	Eddie Mills	Snowy Snowdon
Brian Bayliss	Mick Grenham	James McNamara	Phil Spencer
Steve Beard	John Haddock	Jim Mutch	Trevor Spurr
Taff Bellis	Colin Haine	Hauke Michelson	Will Stirman
Chris Berry	Ted Hall	Brian Morgan	David Stotan
Jon Bevan	Dave Hamilton	Ian Morris	Dave Straw
Peter Bradburn	Adrian Harrison	Andy Moss	Andy Sykes
Denis Brett	Phil Headford	George Mould	Phil Syddall
Phil Buckingham	Martin Hedges	Richard Nichol	Alex Taylor
Paddy Butler	Marty Hester	Dennis Norris	Mark Testi
Steve Callaghan	Alan Hill	Richard Nugee	Andy Tibble
Iain Campbell	Geordie Himlin	Tony Nuttall	Gordon Timmis
Merv Chadwick	Trev Hind	Gil O'Mallo	Trig Tregower
Rob Clarke	Joe Hoggins	Jim Peggie	Steve Truslove
Lawrence Collingwood	Vic Holdaway	Roy Penhallurick	Gary Tyson
Tony Coombes	Ron Holmes	Nick Perkovic	Dave Vesty
Terry Cooper	Richard Horner	Duncan Pettit	Freddie Viggers
Ian Constantine	Mick Hutchinson	Joe Phelps	William Wallace
Sid Copeland	Geoff Hyatt	Chris Piper	Daz Ward
Paul Corker	Dick Jeavons	Eddie Platts	Chris Wood
Stan Cornwell	Mick Johnston	Jim Pottle	Al Wood
Bob Cowan	Andrew Jones	Steve Prowse	Robert Worley
Dennis Crawford	Ted Jones	Derek Ralphs	Bill Young
Kev Crump	Trevor Kemish	Steve Read	
Peter Currie	Clive Knaggs	Michael Regan	Membership stands at
Dave Cussell	Ralph Lalabalavu	John Reynolds	133
Roy Deal	Russ Lee	Howard Richardson	
Ray Dickinson	Ray Lewis	Des Riley	
Brian Dobson	John Lindley	Ken Russell	
Paddy Ennis	Harry Lomax	Alan Sawdon	

## WANTED

### *For membership of the Association*

John Adams	Ron Baynes	Tom Browne	Mick Carter
Ron Allen	Brian Bailey	David Brown	Les Carton
Peter Allwright	Pip Bailey	Dave Burfitt	Chris Chamberlain
Jimmy Anderson	Martin Birch	Titch Buckley	Bill Charlsworth
Ron Anson	James Bond	Budgie Burgess	Dick Cliffe
Al Artley	Dave Boswell	Martin Butler	M Collinge
Dave Askham	Dave Boulton	Paul Buxton	Andy Collins
Bob Barber	Adrian Boxall	Tom Carmichael	Fred Cullingford
Gary Barker	Ron Bristo	Stuart Carnegie	Alan Cosgrove
Baz Barry	Dave Brookes	Jeff Carter	Mike Cottrell

Sandy Cran  
Keith Creswell  
Colin Davidson  
Paul Davies  
Steve Davies  
Harold Deacon  
John DeMaria  
Pat DeMaria  
John Dewberry  
Jim Diamond  
Derek Donovan  
Jim Doran  
P Drury  
Mick Dunn  
Dave Dunn  
Mel Durrant  
Roger Escott  
Roger Essex  
Karl Ezard  
Steve Edgeley  
Paul Evans  
Paul Fairbank  
TH Fairweather  
PE Field  
Cliff Fields  
Dick Finch  
Dave Fisher  
Graham Flint  
Alan Foot  
Derek Gauci  
Les Gillard  
Paul Green  
Mike Greening  
John Haddow  
CJ Hamley  
Bob Hagen  
Gary Harland  
Brian Harrington  
Terry Hart  
Ted Harvey  
Adrian Hawker  
Chris Harvey  
Steve Hawke  
Phil Hayes  
Bill Heaven  
Andy Holder  
John Hopkins  
Steve Hoyle  
Eric Hubbard  
Pete Hubbard  
Derek Hughes  
Stu Hunt  
Tony Hunt  
Tab Hunter  
Pete Hutchinson  
Brian Hyland  
Alan Jeffery

Chris Jones  
Steve Jones  
Bob Kindness  
Jack Knott  
Steve Jukes  
Kev Keast  
Derek Kelsey  
Dick Kibble  
Dave Langstaff  
Dave Larcombe  
Steve Lee  
Mark Lindsay-Smith  
Derick Lund  
Mick Lynch  
Adam Martin  
Ken May  
Tommy McCarthy  
C McCusker  
John McDermott  
Steve McKenna  
Alistair McKenzie  
Martin Meek  
Tony Meek  
Maurice Metcalfe  
Eric Miller  
Tam Millsip  
Ken Moore  
Tony Mott  
Paul Mudd  
Pete Murphy  
John Nicholas  
Bill Ogilvie  
Gil O'Mallo  
Andy O'Neill  
John Osman  
Dave Parkinson  
Bill Pattison  
Ken Peacock  
Peter Petts  
Paul Perry  
Alan Phillips  
Clem Pooke  
Nick Powell  
John Pratt  
Len Price  
Mick Price  
Garry Prottey  
Richie Pryor  
Fred Pulfer  
Ron Reid  
Robert Richardson  
Neil Ridout  
Jim Roast  
Graham Roberts  
Dave Robertson  
P Robinson  
Tom Rooney

Jim Rostron  
Dick Scatterd  
Mick Scaife  
Syd Simpson  
Tony Skinner  
Dave Smith  
Martin Smith  
Mark Spring  
Alex Stelfox  
Colin Stephenson  
Jock Stewart  
Joe Stockhill  
Trevor Stokes  
Dave Stoneham  
Paul Stratton  
Roy Swann  
Bernie Swift  
Ritchie Syme  
Bill Tasker  
Derek Taylor  
Tom Taylor  
Graham Telford  
Bob Thompson  
Charlie Thompson  
Harry Thompson  
Mark Thorington  
Frank Thorne  
Dave Townley  
John Turner  
Mel Turpie  
Dave Tyler  
Harry Waldron  
RVM Walker  
Bob Walkinshaw  
Nigel Waring  
LS Warren  
Kev Watkins  
Andy West  
Fred Westwell  
Ronnie Whelan  
Geoff Whitby  
Wills Williams  
Ian Williams  
Mick Williams  
Chalky White  
Chris Williams  
TC Williams  
Tony Wilson  
Brian Wolstenholme  
Alan Witts  
Den Wright  
  
205 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 31st December  
2022)

# Minutes of the Virtual Annual General Meeting held on MS Teams on Saturday 11th June 2022

## 1. Agenda Item 1 - Opening Remarks by the Chairman

- 1.1 The Chairman, Lt Col Joe Falzon OSJ BEM, opened the AGM by welcoming all members present and said how nice it felt to be gathered together once again for a face-to-face AGM, after a two-year absence, when we had to master the protocols of virtual meetings.
- 1.2 The Chairman thanked all those present for their support, especially this year, when for a several reasons, a number of regulars could not attend. He especially thanked those who had travelled long distances.
- 1.3 He reminded those present that the AGM offered an opportunity to everyone to contribute to the discussions, especially those touching on the proposed plans for the 25th Anniversary next year.
- 1.4 The Chairman then led The Exhortation, especially in memory of all those service personnel and civilians who died or were injured in the Falkland Islands conflict in 1982.

## 2. Agenda Item 2 - Conflict of Interest

- 2.1 The Chairman invited all those attending to declare any interest held, directly or indirectly, in an existing transaction or arrangement which would conflict with any discussion during the meeting. He explained that this could either be done in advance or at any point during the meeting and that all declared conflict of interest will be recorded in the minutes.
- 2.2 He went onto say that the meeting was quorate as there were more than 15 full members present. Therefore, any proposal or resolution carried by a majority of the full members present would be deemed as valid and effective.

## 3. Agenda Item 3 - Apologies for Absence

- 3.1 The Secretary informed those present that he had received 13 apologies for absence from:

Maj Ian Constantine	WO2 Chris Norris
Lt Col Russ Lee	Maj Dave Cussell
Maj Dennis Crawford	Maj John Reynolds
Mr Marty Hester	Capt Richard Jeavons
Mr Brian Morgan	Mr David Stotan
Mr Andy Sykes	Mr Bill Young

## 4. Agenda Item 4 - Approval of the Minutes of the Virtual Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on Saturday 12th June 2021.

- 4.1 The Chairman said that the Minutes of the Virtual AGM held on Saturday 12th June 2021 had been circulated in advance via Crossed Quills (Issue 25) and that it was not intended to read them at the meeting.
- 4.2 A proposal by Richard Horne, seconded by Mike Grenham to confirm that the Minutes were a true and accurate record was CARRIED Unanimously.

## 5. Agenda Item 5 - Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Virtual AGM held on Saturday 12th June 2021.

- 5.1 There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the Virtual AGM held on Saturday 21st June 2021 which were not included in the Agenda. The Chairman brought to the attention of those present the following three outstanding matters:
- a. A discussion on the 25th Anniversary Reunion Weekend was included under Any Other Business (AOB).
  - b. The Treasurer will outline the actions that have been taken regarding suspensions.
  - c. There will be an update by the Secretary in his report on the proposal by Stephen Read, who had asked the Committee if it would not be possible for membership to be granted to Honorary members for a longer period than the current 3 year with an annual review thereafter.

## 6. Agenda Item 6 - Chairman's Report

- 6.1 The Chairman mentioned that the past two years have not been easy as everyone had been impacted, in one way or another, by the pandemic. No sooner did we recover from all the restrictions which had become the norm that the worries about the cost of living, rising inflation and the war in Ukraine emerged to take away the gloss and, in some cases, the hope, of a better future.
- 6.2 However, the Association remains in good shape with progress achieved on many fronts by the Committee, including tackling the issues of suspensions and honorary membership.
- 6.3 The Chairman added that:
- 6.3.1 The relationship with our affiliated Battery had been strengthened and that the BC and BSM of 34 Battery will be amongst our guests for the Dinner. This renewed bond was clearly demonstrated by the equipment display the Bty laid on for the Association earlier in the day.
  - 6.3.2 Our social media, be it Crossed Quills, the website or FB, have received praise from many outside the Association – a most recent comment said “what an impressive website your Association has! The sheer professionalism of the website is excellent. I have rarely seen one so good!”
  - 6.3.3 The Quarterly Newsletter has remained as a source of timely updates throughout the year. The Chairman also recommended the informal Weekly Catch-up on MS Teams (Sunday evenings at 7pm) – we need more members to join in the banter!!!
  - 6.3.4 We have continued our representational work. Last year, together with Andrew Jones, the Chairman attended the RA Service of Remembrance at the NMA and St Barbara's Day at Larkhill.
  - 6.3.5 Richard Horner is now a member of a Royal Artillery Association Working Group set up by the Regimental Secretary to find ways of sharing best practice.
  - 6.3.6 And of course, members enjoyed a terrific reunion dinner in October in the company of the Regimental Colonel, Colonel Sam Shepherd as our Guest of Honour.
- 6.4 The Chairman concluded that the members have a lot to celebrate and with a lot more to come next year. He mentioned that none of this would have been possible without the full support and commitment of all the Committee Members. All of us owe Andy Tibble, Leo Lyall, Paul Corker, Roy Deal, Dennis Norris, Steve Read, Ron Holmes and Andrew Jones a huge amount of gratitude for all they do behind the scenes.

## 7. Agenda Item 7 - Secretary's Report

- 7.1 The Secretary, Mr Andy Tibble MVO MSM made the following comments:
- **Membership.** The membership of The Association currently stands at 137.

- **New Members.** Former WO2 (QMS(AC)) Gil O'Mallo who joined us on the 27th August 2021. Gil lives in Fordingbridge, Hampshire
- **Deaths.**
  - Former WO2 (QMS(AC)) Michael Hopkins who passed away on 16th March 2022 (Not a member)
  - Former Sgt (AC) Steve Paton who passed away some 4/5 years ago. No details are available.
- **Honours & Awards.** Nothing to report.
- **Promotions.** Nothing to report.
- **Membership – Wanted List.** The Secretary explained that there are currently 205 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 ‘2021 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 26 are to be forwarded to the Secretary by **Friday 2nd September 2022.** 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.** The 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 represented the Association at the following events:
 

**Sunday 29th May 2022** – Founders Day (Royal Hospital Chelsea).

**Sunday 14th November 2021** – RA Ceremony of Remembrance at Hyde Park Corner.

**Sunday 5th December 2021** – St Barbara’s Day Service, Larkhill

**Friday 22nd April 2022** – attended the funeral of Former WO2 (QMS(AC)) Michael Hopkins funeral at Aldershot at the request of the family and the RAA

**Sunday 24th April 2022** – Gunner Sunday (Royal Hospital Chelsea)

**Due to attend:**

**Sunday 10th November 2022** – RA Ceremony of Remembrance at Hyde Park Corner.

**Sunday 4th December 2022** – 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 4th December 2022. 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 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.

## 8. Agenda Item 8 - Assistant/Reunion Secretary's Reports

- 8.1 **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.

- 8.2 The Assistant Secretary went on to say that members should wear the Association tie with pride during the Reunion and at any social gatherings, to clearly show that we are an elite Association and proud to be so. He urged those who have managed to hang onto the older versions and new recently joined members to invest in the new high-quality version for the next Reunion.
- 8.3 **Reunion Secretary's Report.** The Reunion Secretary mentioned that he continues to try and keep within a budget for the dinner night. He said that keeping the costs at a reasonable level remains a constant challenge whilst maintaining the standards of a full Regimental Mess Dinner night we all come to expect. He went on to provide an update on the evening and those guests attending.
- 8.4 The Reunion Secretary then:

**Proposed that any expenditure for the 2022 Reunion Dinner, (be capped once again at £50 for those attending), that exceeded the income generated is covered by the GPF up to a maximum of £1500. (Afternote: The 2022 Reunion Dinner account has now been balanced and the total spent came to £1133.55)**

**This was proposed was seconded by Ron Holmes, put to the vote, and CARRIED Unanimously.**

**Proposed that £1000 be transferred from GPF to cover any additional weekend costs for the 25th Anniversary from the 23rd – 25th June 2023.**

**This was proposed by Joe Falzon and seconded by Ron Holmes, put to the vote, and CARRIED Unanimously.**

- 8.5 **RAA Grants.** Lt Col Richard Horner mentioned that the RAA had funding available to assist Association with their annual reunions and suggested that the Committee should apply to the RAA for a grant to cover some of the costs for the 25th Anniversary Reunion next year.

## 9. Agenda Item 10 - Treasurer's Report

- 9.1 Maj (Retd) Paul Corker, presented the following Liquidity State as at 11th June 2022:

<b>ASSETS (A)</b>	
Cash	£ 00:00
Current Bank Balance	£ 5516.28
Deposit Bank Balance	£ 4513.90
Property (Display Boards)	£ 1000.00
Shop Stock	£ 300.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS (A)</b>	<b>£ 11330.18</b>
<b>LIABILITIES(B)</b>	
Function	£ 1648.00
Silver Centre Piece	£ 1050.00
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES (B)</b>	<b>£ 2698.00</b>
<b>AVAILABLE CASH (A-B)</b>	<b>£ 8632.18</b>

9.2 He particularly emphasised that:

- **Subscriptions.** Total outstanding subscriptions is £1,625. Only 8 from 2022.
- **Mandate.** 11 members are not paying by the Standing Order Mandate. Members are continuously encouraged to subscribe by this method.
- **Gift Aid.** Until 2013 the fund received £2,374:81 from HMRC. Charity status was granted to the Association in 2020, therefore Gift Aid may once again be claimed. In 2021 the Fund received £465.67. The claim will be submitted annually in January. There are 20 members who have not signed up to the Gift Aid Scheme.
- **Suspensions.** In accordance with the Association's policy on suspension, the Treasurer has written to all members who have not paid their subscriptions for a period of 3 years. There are currently 60 members shown as 'suspended'. There were 2 in 2022
- **Treasurer's Updates.** All members are reminded of their subscriptions within the Crossed Quills, the Association's Website and at the AGM. They are also invited to join the mandate system and Gift Aid.
- **2021 Income and Expenditure Report (As at 31 Dec 21 submitted to the RAA).** The Treasurer said that the financial report, which was submitted to the RAA, shoes an end state in 2020 as:

<b>Income</b>	<b>£1,840.22</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£1,832.06</b>
<b>GPF</b>	<b>+£8.16 (Excess of Income over Expenditure)</b>
- **Insurance.** The insurance for the fund is valid until 31 Mar 23. 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.
- **Support to the RAA.** The Association, via the Secretary continues to support the RAA when called upon to do so.
- **Concluding Remarks.** The Treasurer urges Members to change their Standing Orders to £15. He undertook to continue to chase outstanding subscriptions and those who have been paying £5

from 2013 and now the change to £15 from 2019. Suspensions will be implemented, when necessary. Gift Aid will be claimed annually in January.

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

- 9.3 The Chairman thanked the Association Treasurer for his concise report and for all the work he carries out on behalf of the Association.

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

- 10.1 The Welfare Secretary, Mr Dennis Norris, informed those present that the Covid Pandemic is slowly but surely receding and with the ongoing vaccination programme well and truly underway we are getting back to some sort of normality. He went on to mention that we should remember that we did lose one member to the pandemic (David Hamilton) and a number of members suffered from hospital admission to a version of "man flu" and there will be some members still suffering the after effects known as 'long Covid'.
- 10.2 He mentioned that the world is changing with the ongoing war in the Ukraine. He recalled that General Granville-Chapman when MGRA and the Guest of Honour at our Association dinner a few years ago stated during his speech that although the cold war was over, the main threat to NATO still came from Russia and he was correct. The War in the Ukraine has had a global impact on fuel and food prices dragging millions into fuel and food poverty. Although the majority of our Association members are financially secure there will be other veterans who may not be so fortunate and are looking for help.
- 10.3 He added that the Veteran's Gateway is the conduit for any individuals to seek support when needed. The Veterans Gateway can be found using any search engine and there is a link from our own Association website. The Veterans Gateway landing page states:

*"We put veterans and their families in touch with the organisations best placed to help with the information, advice and support they need – from healthcare and housing to employability, finances, personal relationships and more."*

The Veterans Gateway has links to some useful organisations that can offer help, advice and support for Veterans in financial hardship.

- 10.4 The Welfare Secretary concluded his report by inviting members to feel free to pass on his information to any of their veteran friends that they feel may need support.

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

- 11.1 The Historical Secretary, Mr Stephen Read, informed those present that slow but steady progress continues in developing the historical records of the Association. There have been no major new developments over the past 12 months although the Secretary has provided a rich source of information relating to previous dinners.
- 11.2 He invited any members who have yet to provide their service details for the Artillery Clerks family tree to get in touch. He also urged anyone who is aware of any web or paper-based resources that might give an insight into the history of the Artillery Clerks as individuals, or as a group, to pass details on to him.

## **12. Webmaster's Report**

- 12.1 The Webmaster, Mr Leo Lyall, informed those present that the Association website is now a stable state and I receive little information to make any changes. Thus, it has had minimal updates since the Xmas report. Changes made have been to the Notices, the Treasurer, and Reunion pages.

The link to the Association website is: <https://www.artyclerkassn.org/>

- 12.2 The MS Teams site was taken down earlier this year due to minimal usage with the Association not able to justify the cost of the licence from Microsoft to run it. Those that have MS Teams or Zoom can still communicate with each other if they wish to do so. There is still a weekly meeting set up every Sunday by the Association Secretary. So, if you'd like to partake, please send him a message at **secretary@artyclerkassn.org** where he will send you the appropriate invite.
- 12.3 The Association newsletter is still published quarterly. This, along with other supplementary editions for important announcements are seen as a direct way of keeping members up to date with the Association. For a recap on any newsletter's that have been published there is a list at: **<https://www.artyclerkassn.org/webpages/newsletter.htm>**
- 12.4 Since the 2021 AGM several members of the Association have been involved in forging ahead with the plans for the 25th Anniversary Silver piece. My involvement was the production of the design drawings of the envisaged piece and subsequent alterations and modifications of the said drawings. These along with the information fliers have proved invaluable to the silversmiths who will produce the piece and for helping secure valuable donations towards the cost of the production of the final piece. The CAD video that was produced by an outside source really capture the drawings perfectly and brought the piece to life.

**The Artillery Clerks' Association 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Silver-piece Design Proposal**



Total Height: 14 inches  
Silver height: 10 inches  
Wooden base height: 4 inches

**Front Silver Plate Wording**

Commissioned to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
of the  
Artillery Clerks' Association  
1998 - 2023

**Design Details**

- The silver section will depict the crossed quills sitting on a silver base, the letters "AC" underneath it raised at an angle so it is visible while looking at it front on.
- This silver base will have the Royal Artillery badge engraved on the front centre, the Royal Horse Artillery badge to the right, the Royal Artillery Association cypher to the left, and the Army Order on the back (see over for detailed drawings).
- There will be a wooded base to rest the silver piece on as shown in the images which will have cannon ball feet.
- A silver plate attached to the front of the wood base will depict the details what the piece is about – wording shown below left.
- A silver plate attached to the rear of the wood base will depict the Army Order 54 of 1903 – wording shown below right.
- The Crossed Quills would be enclosed by a Perspex case.



**Rear Silver Plate Wording**

Army Order 54 of 1903 decreed that with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 1903, all soldiers in the Royal Artillery who were permanently employed as Clerks shall form a section to be called the Artillery Clerks' Section



- 12.5 I am now working on a webpage to reflect the project and will add it to the website once the silver piece is finally commissioned. All these details will have been announced in detail by the Chairman and Secretary during the AGM.
- 12.6 The Chairman thanked the Webmaster for everything that he has done and continues to do with the website on behalf of the Association as Treasurer.

### 13. Germany Secretary's Report.

- 13.1 The Germany Secretary, Mr Ron Holmes, informed those present that he intends to organise a Germany AC Reunion either in the last week of November 2022 or first week of December 2022 in Bielefeld, to coincide with the annual Christmas Markets. The Reunion weekend will include wives.
- 13.2 He went on to mention that Sennelager is now the main area for British Forces in Germany.

## 14. Election or re-election of Committee

14.1 The Secretary confirmed the following re-elections for 2021/2022

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

***Mick Grenham proposed and Des Riley seconded this proposal. The proposal was put to the vote and was CARRIED unanimously.***

14.2 **Honorary Membership.** The Secretary informed those present that the following Honorary Members have now held their Honorary membership for a period of three years or more and in accordance with the Association's Charter their membership needed to be reaffirmed annually by the membership at an AGM or EGM. The following members have confirmed that they would like to continue with their Honorary membership:

Mr Jon Bevan	Mr Terry Coombes
Mr Steve Beard	Mr Peter Gauci
Mr Terry Cooper	Mr Trevor Hind
Mr Paddy Butler	Mr Brian Dobson

***A proposal by Ron Holmes, seconded by Stephen Read, that the Honorary Members listed above have their honorary membership renewed for a further period of 12 months was CARRIED Unanimously. This will be reviewed again at the AGM in 2023 in line with the Associations Charter.***

## 15. Any other Business

15.1 **Association 25th Anniversary Reunion Weekend – 23rd – 25th June 2023.** The Chairman highlighted that the Association would be celebrating its 25th Anniversary in 2023. He took the opportunity to ask if any members were interested in being part of a Steering Committee which would assist the existing Committee with the project.

15.2 Updates on the proposed silver piece were provided as follows:

- **Royal Artillery Association (RAA).** The Chairman mentioned that the Association had applied for a grant from the RAA to help defray the cost of the proposed Silver Centrepiece. The RAA Trustees approved the application with a grant of £500.
- **Detailed Costs and Critical Deadlines.** The Secretary informed those present that the cost of the Silver Centrepiece, as illustrated in the drawing and as per the CAD, would be £8760 which includes VAT. The order would need to be placed by the 1st October 2022 in order for the Silver Centrepiece to be ready in May 2023. As the RAA had provided a grant of £500 towards this, invoices would have to be submitted to the RAA by the 1st December 2022.
- **Treasurers Update.** The Treasurer provided those present with the following update:
  - **Silver Centre Piece Fund.** The fund currently stands at £1,350, made up from the following donations/grants:

Grant from the RAA	£750.00
British Members Council of the World Veterans Association	£300.00

Dave Cussell	£ 50.00
Jim Cussell	£ 50.00 (Dave's Late father)
Mick Hutchinson (1)	£100.00
Andy Sykes	£100.00

**Robbie Astick proposed that the Artillery Clerks' Association donates £1500 toward the Silver Centrepiece from the GPF to the Silver Fund. The proposal was seconded by Mick Grenham, put to the vote, and CARRIED unanimously.**

***(Afternote: The fund currently stands at £3,800.00, made up from individual Donations, grants and Gift Aid. Regular updates will be posted on the website as more donations are received)***

- **Gift Aid.** The Treasurer will check with HMRC whether Gift Aid can be claimed from the donations that are received.

***(Afternote: HMRC have now confirmed that Gift Aid is recoverable for individual donations received in the Silver Fund.)***

- **Donations.** The Treasurer mentioned that information on how to make donations towards the Silver Centrepiece will be published on the website which will include a donation button facility.

***(Afternote: This information has now been circulated via the website.)***

- **Fundraising Update.** Mr Robbie Astick provided those present with an update on fundraising to date. He mentioned that he had sent out 81 letters to various organisations including Livery Companies and that 21 rejections had been received to that appeal. He went on to say that if anyone had any ideas that they get in touch with him as soon as possible.

## **16. RAA Working Group Update**

16.1 Lt Col Richard Horner informed those present that he had been asked to be part of the RAA Working Group and provided the following update:

- The RAA confirmed that the Artillery Clerks' Association is a national arm of the RAA.
- All gunners are members of the RAA from the date of enlistment and can benefit from its charitable awards.
- The overall perception, for a number of reasons, is that the RAA Branch structure is in decline. There is a desire to adjust the Association (of many rules and regulations) to meet potential members' expectations in the digital era.
- There are a number of past and present members and disbanded regimental and battery reunion groups that do not wish to become formal members of the current RAA structure. These are the kind of individuals and groups the RAA should be attracting.
- The Working Group consider that these groups could still be supported, as they consisted of veteran members, but did not necessarily have to become formal branches of the RAA. There is therefore no reason why these groups cannot apply for funding for certain activities.
- The RAA is the delivery arm of the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund (RACF). The fund was established at the end of WW2. Due to shrewd investment over the years the RACF still has circa £45M of welfare funds.
- The two big areas of concerns are communications and outreach. These must move with the

times and communicated through the revised RAA website and outreach through the utilisation of various social media and online forums.

## 17. Date of Next Meeting

17.1 The next AGM will take place at Larkhill on Saturday 24th June 2023. (To be Confirmed)

# 87th Artillery Clerks' Reunion and Association Dinner Friday 10th – Sunday 12th June 2022 - Royal Artillery Sergeants' Mess, Larkhill *Roy Deal MBE (former WO1(SSM))*

I hope everyone enjoyed the 2022 Reunion in Larkhill, it was great to get together again and have members travelling from afar; Germany and Malta to name a few, such commitment is what makes us an elite Association. Unfortunately, we did have members who were unable to attend for various reasons and rest assured they were not forgotten as we raised our glass in the traditional manner to toast Absent Friends.

I certainly found the dinner entertaining; the Guest of Honour Maj Gen Neil Marshall was certainly entertaining and gave us some "food for thought". We had an excellent review of the Gunners by the RASM, WO1 Len Sanders and all they have been involved in over the last 2 years. There is still lots going on in the Gunner's future, manning continues to look good, and opportunities are plentiful both at work and play. With the BC and BSM 34 Bty in attendance it provided an even more entertaining evening for us all. We had a great time getting a Battery history and looking over a few vehicles on the Gun Park hosted by some very enthusiastic individuals, who managed to take us through the equipment and fended off our questions well. I am sure some good pictures were taken by individuals over the weekend, please share them on the AC Association web page via Leo or Andy.

Maintaining the standards of a full Regimental Mess Dinner night we have all come to love was well supported by Elaine and the Mess staff once again ensuring we were well fed. I thought the Wiltshire Police Band continue to offer an entertaining repertoire and I continue to look at these types of opportunities to keep costs down whilst providing good entertainment for the evening.

I do hope we can encourage more attendance from members at the 2023 Reunion and we await the availability of the Master Gunner to go firm on the dates. A full and entertaining weekend is promised, hopefully

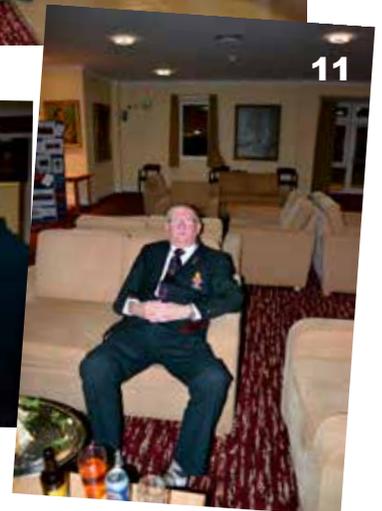
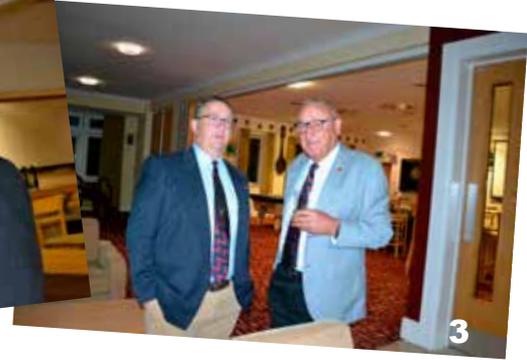
supported with good attendance from Members. I would really like to see the numbers attending the dinner increase, which would really make the effort the committee and guests put into the event even more gratifying, so please try to join us.



*Mr Mick Grenham, Mr Terry Cooper & Mr Michael Regan*



*Mr Terry Cooper, Mr Paddy Butler, Lt Col Joe Falzon (Chairman) & Mr Leo Lyall*



1. Mr Mick Grenham & Mr Michael Regan
2. Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary) & Mr Terry Cooper
3. Mr Paddy Butler & Mr Peter Gauci
4. Mr Robbie Astick, Mr Ron Holmes & Mr Hauke Michelsen
5. Mr Steve Beard, Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary), Mr Dennis Norris, Mr Robbie Astick & Mr Ron Holmes
6. Mrs Julie Corker, Mr Mick Hutchinson & Maj Paul Corker (Treasurer)
7. Mrs Julie Corker, Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary) & Mr Roy Deal (Reunion Secretary)
8. Group Photograph of those who attended Friday evening
9. Mr Leo Lyall, Mr Robbie Astick & Mr Terry Cooper
10. Mr Michael Grenham, Mr Michael Regan & Mr Steve Seymour
11. Mr Mick Hutchinson having a power nap!



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- 12. Mr Andrew Jones, Mr John Lindley & Mr Hauke Michelsen
- 13. Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary) & Lt Col Joe Falzon (Chairman)
- 14. Mr Stephen Read, Mr Geoff Hyatt & Mr Dennis Norris
- 15. Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary), Mr Roy Deal (Reunion Secretary) & Mr Steve Seymour
- 16. Maj Paul Corker (Treasurer), Mr Des Riley & Mr Paddy Butler
- 17. Mr Andrew Jones & Mr John Lindley
- 18. Mr Terry Cooper, Mr Michael Regan & Mr Clive Nuttall
- 19. Left: Mr Albert Rhoades, Mr Andrew Jones, Right: Mr Terry Cooper & Mr Clive Nuttall
- 20. Mr Mick Hutchinson, Mr Mick Grenham & Maj Paul Corker (Treasurer)
- 21. Mr Steve Beard & Mr Des Riley



- 22. Maj Gen Neil Marshall (Guest of Honour), Mr Clive Nuttall & Lt Gen Richard Nugee (Honorary President)
- 23. Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary) & Mr Roy Deal (Reunion Secretary)
- 24. Mr Peter Gauci, Lt Col Joe Falzon (Chairman) & Lt Gen Richard Nugee (Honorary President)
- 25. Maj Glyn Forster (Guest), WO2(BSM) Gemma Begley (Guest) & WO1(RASM) Len Sanders (Guest)
- 26. Maj Gen Neil Marshall (Guest of Honour), Lt Col Joe Falzon (Chairman) & Lt Gen Richard Nugee (Honorary President)
- 27. Maj Glyn Forster (Guest) & Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary)
- 28. Mr Dennis Norris, Mr Clive Nuttall & Mr Terry Cooper
- 29. Mr Paddy Butler, Mr Geoff Hyatt & Mr Dennis Norris
- 30. WO2(BSM) Gemma Begley (Guest), Mr Paddy Butler & Mr Geoff Hyatt
- 31. Lt Col Richard Horner, Mr Ron Holmes & Mr Peter Gauci
- 32. Left: Mr John Lindley, Mr Steve Seymour



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- 33. Mr Andrew Jones, Mr Steve Read, Mr Steve Beard & Mr Des Riley
- 34. Lt Col Joe Falzon (Chairman), Lt Gen Richard Nugee (Honorary President), WO1(RASM) Len Sanders (Guest) & Mr Roy Deal (Reunion Secretary)
- 35. Lt Col Joe Falzon (Chairman) addressing the Association
- 36. Mr Des Riley, Mr Steve Beard, Mr Steve Read & Mr Andrew Jones
- 37. Maj Gen Neil Marshall (Guest of Honour) addressing the Association
- 38. WO1(RASM) Len Sanders addressing the Association with the State of the Union update.
- 39. Maj Paul Corker (Treasurer), Lt Col Richard Horner & Lt Gen Richard Nugee (Honorary President)



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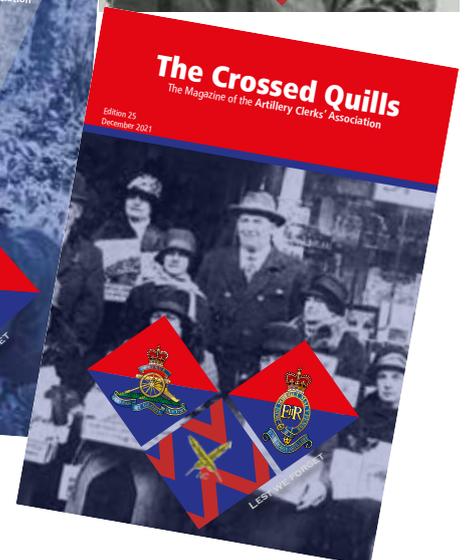
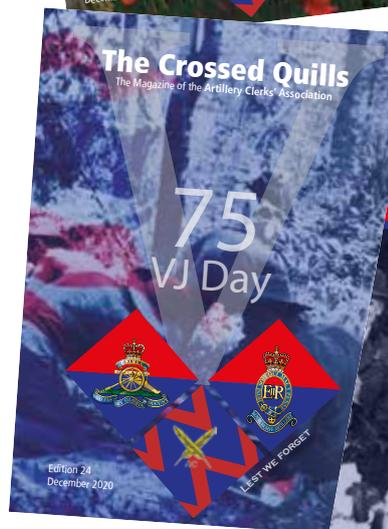
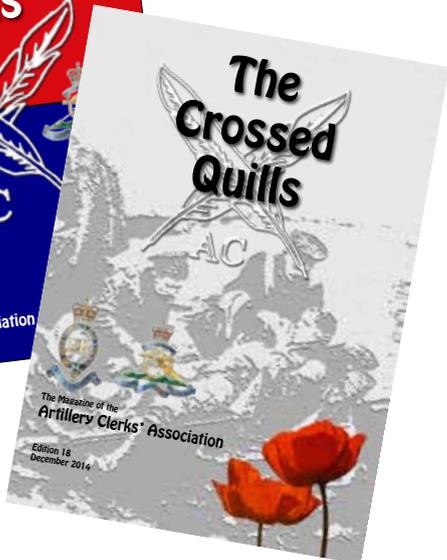
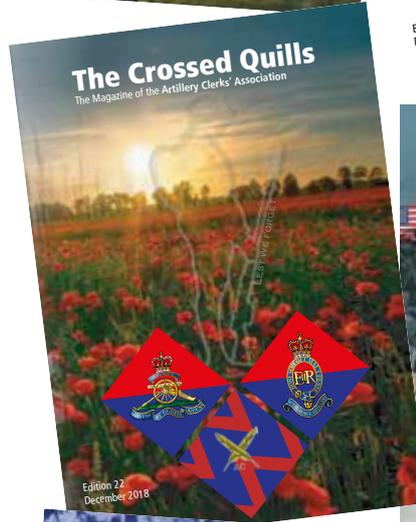
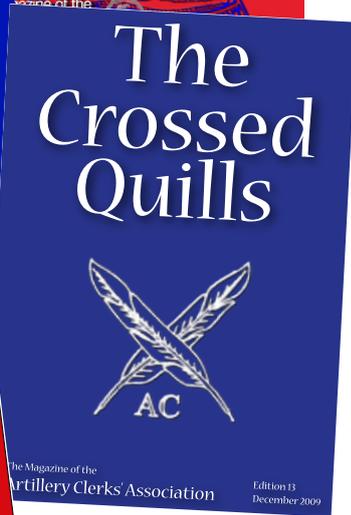
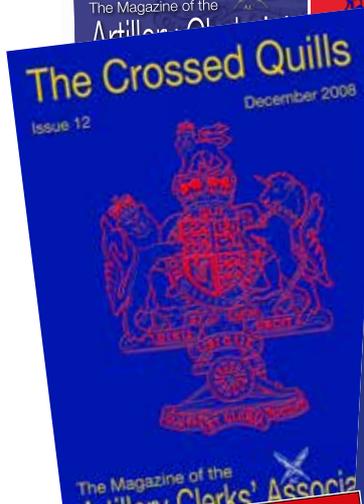
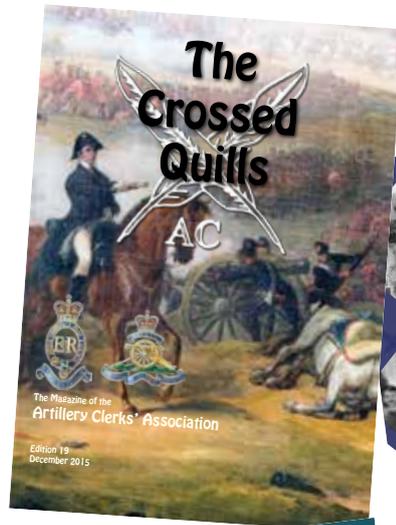
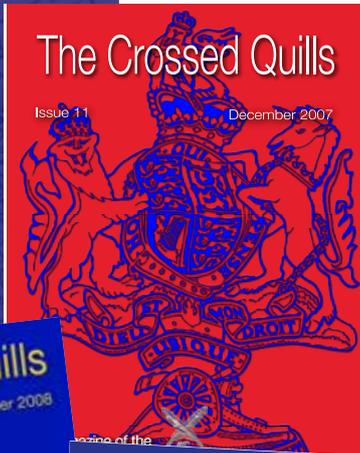


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- 40. Mr Leo Lyall, Mr Peter Gauci, Mr Michael Regan, Mr Clive Nuttall, Mr Mick Hutchinson & Mr Geoff Hyatt
- 41. WO1 (RASM) Len Sanders (Guest), Lt Col Joe Falzon (Chairman) & Maj Gen Neil Marshall (Guest of Honour)
- 42. Lt Col Joe Falzon (Chairman), Lt Gen Richard Nugee (Honorary President) & Maj Gen Neil Marshall (Guest of Honour)
- 43. Left to right: WO2(BSM) Gemma Begley (Guest), Maj Glyn Forster (Guest), Mr Michael Regan, Mr Steve Beard & Lt Col Joe Falzon (Chairman)
- 44. WO1(RASM) Len Sanders (Guest), Mr Terry Cooper, Maj Paul Corker (Treasurer), Mr Dennis Norris (inset) & Mr Geoff Hyatt
- 45. Maj Glyn Forster (Guest), WO2(BSM) Gemma Begley (Guest) & WO1(RASM) Len Sanders (Guest)
- 46. Mr Peter Gauci, Mr Michael Regan, Mr Clive Nuttall, Mr Mick Hutchinson & Mr Geoff Hyatt

# Crossed Quills

All members are reminded that previous editions of 'The Crossed Quills' going back to Edition 1 (May 1998) can be found on the Artillery Clerks' Association website at [www.artyclerkassn.org](http://www.artyclerkassn.org)





From: Lieutenant Colonel J F Falzon OSJ BEM  
Chairman, The Artillery Clerks' Association

THE ARTILLERY CLERKS' ASSOCIATION  
Hon President: Lieutenant General R Nugee CB CVO CBE



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Mob: 07971 142007  
Email: jffalzon@gmail.com

His Majesty The King  
Buckingham Palace  
London  
SW1 1AA

15<sup>th</sup> September 2022

*Your Majesty,*

At this time of great sadness, it is my humble duty to write on behalf of the Honorary President, Committee and Members of the Artillery Clerks' Association, to offer our deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolences to you and the Royal Family on the death of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

As part of the Armed Forces community, we all come together with the nation and the Commonwealth in sharing grief and sadness in the knowledge that Her late Majesty devoted her entire remarkable and inspirational life to the selfless service of her subjects with dignity, devotion and grace.

Many of us have had the pleasure of meeting or of being in the presence of our late Sovereign Lady over her 70 years on the throne. Some of us have had the privilege of being honoured for our proud service to the Crown, at home and overseas, in times of peace and on active duty.

As you accept the responsibilities of Monarch and Sovereign our members pledge their humble duty and loyal service to Your Majesty, our Captain General. We pray to God for your enduring wellness and fortitude and to sustain you over many years to come.

God Save The King.

I have the honour to be,  
Your Majesty's humble and obedient servant.

J F Falzon  
Chairman, The Artillery Clerks' Association



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

The King has asked me to send you his warm thanks for your kind message of sympathy following the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

His Majesty is deeply touched that you should have thought of him at this time.

The King knows he can rely on your support as he takes forward his new duties and has asked me to send you his warmest wishes.

*Matt Magee*

Matt Magee  
Deputy Private Secretary to The King





*Visit of Her Majesty The Queen to RSA Larkhill on the 7th April 1973.  
WO1 (SMAC) Eddie Mills (Superintendent Clerk) in front of Newcome Hall.*



*Visit to the HAC to commemorate HMTQ 90th Birthday (summer 2016). HMTQ meeting Maj Ian Constantine*



*Lt Col Russ Lee and family meeting Her Majesty The Queen at a Garden Party*



*Lt Col Russ Lee being invested at Buckingham Palace with the MBE by Her Majesty The Queen*

87th Artillery Clerks' Reunion and Association Dinner  
Royal Artillery Warrant & Officers' & Sergeant's Mess, Royal Artillery Barracks, Larkhill  
Saturday 11 June 2022



**Front Row: Left to Right:** WO2(BSM) G Begley (Guest), Mr R H Deal MBE (Reunion Secretary), Maj P Corker (Treasurer), Lt Gen R E Nugee CB CVO CBE (Honorary President), Mr A M Tibble MVO MSM (Secretary), Maj Gen N Marshall OBE (Guest of Honour), Lt Col J F Falzon OSJ BEM (Chairman), WO1(RASM) L Sanders (Guest), Maj G Forster RA (Guest) & Lt Col R H Horner  
**Middle Row: Left to Right:** Mr A J Jones (Standard Bearer), Mr S R Seymour, Mr G O Hyatt, Mr C Nuttall, Mr R Astick, Mr L Lyall, Mr M Regan, Mr D A Riley, Mr J M Hutchinson & Mr H Michelsen  
**Rear Row: Left to front:** Mr TC Cooper, Mr MI Grenham, Mr J Lindley, Mr SV Read, Mr D Norris, Mr RJ Holmes MSM, Mr P Gauci, Mr PG Butler & Mr S Beard



HM Queen Elizabeth II

1926-2022



**On the 40th anniversary of the  
Falklands Conflict, we remember  
all those impacted by the  
conflict.**