

The Crossed Quills

The Magazine of the Artillery Clerks' Association

Edition 27
December 2023



Royal Artillery Association Forecast of Events 2024

- 15 February 2024 - RA Gold Cup, Sandown Park*
- 13 Mar 2024 - RAA NEC Meeting, Larkhill*
- 21 April 2024 - Gunner Sunday, RHC*
- 14 May 2024 - Artillery Clerks' Association Virtual Annual General Meeting*
- 18 May 2024 - RAA NEC Meeting, Blackpool*
- 17-19 May 2024 - RA Assembly, Blackpool*
- 21-23 June 2024 - Artillery Clerks' Association Reunion Weekend, Larkhill*
- 13 July 2024 - RA Service of Remembrance, NMA*
- 9 October 2024 - RAA NEC Meeting, Larkhill*
- 7 November 2024 - Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey*
- 10 November 2024 - RA Ceremony of Remembrance, Hyde Park Corner*
- 1 December 2024 - St Barbara's Day, Larkhill Garrison Church*
- 6-8 December 2024 - Artillery Clerks' Association Germany Reunion, Bielefeld*



25 years! Many congratulations to the Artillery Clerks Association on their Anniversary! For those who were there at the unveiling of the silver centrepiece by the Master Gunner, I hope you will agree that this was an evening of wonder at the craftsmanship of the new piece, and joyful celebration (which included German fire!) And apart from this great event, there is much to celebrate this year including the crowning of the monarch for the first time in most of our lifetimes, at a splendid and very regal ceremony which included our very own Gen The Lord Richards of Herstmonceux carrying one of the swords of state, next to Penny Mordaunt. And also the very welcome news that the King has agreed to be our Captain General, to the huge pride (and not a little relief!) of all

Foreword by Association President

Lt Gen Richard Nugee CB CVO CBE

Gunners past and present: I look forward to toasting 'The King Our Captain General' for the first time at next year's reunion dinner. And at the end of the year, what could be a more fitting tribute than the parading of our standard again at the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance.

So what does the next 25 years look like? The first 25 years was defined by the extraordinary efforts to set up the Association, to bring in as many members as we can (which is of course still going on) and the creation of a camaraderie and support network that stretches well beyond the shores of Britain. Capped by the silver centrepiece, a shining tribute to all those who have served as Artillery Clerks and those who have been remembered but are no longer with us, the first 25 years, expertly guided by our Chairman Joe and his team, have given us the respect of many and a secure place in the Royal Artillery family. We have a secure

foundation to move forward from. As our numbers inevitably dwindle due to the ravages of time, not only should we be thankful for what we have together, but continually seek to spread that camaraderie and friendship to all those artillery clerks who are not members - the 'Wanted List'. Doing so not only helps the Association as we reconnect with faces not seen for a while, but as we all get on a bit, the support that the Association brings should be extended as far and wide as possible to all artillery clerks. It is in our and their interest to do so.

As a year of celebration, pageant and ceremony, and a decidedly odd summer of rain followed by heatwave draws to a close, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and very much hope to see you at the Reunion Dinner in 2024, where our centrepiece will of course take pride of place!



Report by Association Chairman

Lt Col Joe Falzon OSJ BEM

I woke up this morning and said to myself that today is an ideal day to finish off my annual message for Crossed Quills. For extended periods from July onwards we have had to contend with low dark cloud, curtains of rain and refrigerated temperatures. I notice from the window in my study that everyone seems to be moving hurriedly with umbrellas unfurled. It is clear that only the brave and determined will

venture out to the weekly farmers' market or the coffee shops dotted round Salisbury. So, today is the perfect time to put pen to paper and reconnect with our members, widows and friends of the Association.

As we all know this year marked the 25th Anniversary of our Association. We have had ample time over the past year to look back at the last quarter of a

century and highlight the progress the Association has made – so I am not going to repeat the same messages. Apart from to say that I am very proud of what we have achieved together and, as Chair, I feel honoured and humbled by our friendship and inspired by a varied range of personal talent and commitment within our ranks. Instead, as we charge towards the end of one year and the beginning of a new one, I would like to offer you some extra cheer! I read somewhere once that “the right cheer, at the right time, can make all the difference”. So, as you enter the final push of 2023, I urge you to make sure that all the small details that Artillery Clerks are celebrated for, are taken care of so that you enjoy a meaningful holiday season with your loved ones.

I raise a glass and wish you:
Three cheers for all the times
this year you’ve contributed to

our social media with messages, photographs, anecdotes, humour and weird facts that made us smile.

Three cheers for your patience when you were having a really busy day and you stopped and made time to help a neighbour, to chat to another veteran on the phone or online.

Three cheers for wholeheartedly supporting the Silver Centerpiece project which exceeded my wildest expectations. Your generous donations and input and suggestions to the overall design manifested in a stunning success. Three cheers for joining us at the Reunions in Larkhill and Germany, some of you accompanied by your partners, for supporting your committee, for willingly joining in the hosting of our many guests.

Three cheers for remembering those members who passed away

this year, for supporting their next of kin and for cultivating many moments of pride, self-respect and joy.

As an Association we have so much to be proud of and to celebrate. yet good organisations constantly strive to do things better and to improve. I remain filled with excitement and ambition for the Association as I look ahead to the next year.

Finally, I will close by thanking our Honorary President and all the members of the Association Committee for their dedication, enthusiasm and hard work this year.

Season’s greetings to you, your family and friends. I wish everyone a relaxing, safe, healthy, prosperous, and joyful New Year, full of hope and kindness.

Thank you.



Once again this has been a very busy and successful year for the Artillery Clerks’ Association. It was also confirmed that His Majesty King Charles III had agreed to become Captain-General of the Royal Regiment of Artillery. 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. Our Standard Bearer, Andrew

Report by Association Secretary

Andy Tibble MVO MSM (former WO1(SSM))

Jones has continued to represent the Association at some of the major RAA events. On behalf of the Committee and members I would like to thank Andrew once again for his continued dedication and commitment in representing the Association throughout the year. Details of those events that Andrew attended can be seen in the Minutes of the AGM that took place on Tuesday 7th March 2023 further in the newsletter.

We have once again throughout the year been ably supported by our affiliated Battery, 34 (Seringapatam) 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 what 34 Battery

have been doing throughout the year can be found later in the newsletter.

We had a most excellent 25th Anniversary Reunion Dinner which was held at the Warrant Officers’ and Sergeants’ Central Mess, Larkhill on Saturday 24th June 2023 under the auspices of our Reunion Secretary, Mr Roy Deal. The Association was proud to welcome the Master Gunner, St James’s Park, Lieutenant General Sir Andrew Gregory KBE, CD, DL as our Principal Guest of Honour, and as our other guests, the Commanding Officer 14 Regiment Royal Artillery, Lieutenant Colonel Andy McDermott Royal Artillery, Regimental Sergeant Major 14 Regiment Royal Artillery, WO1 (RSM) Gemma Begley and Battery

Sergeant Major 34 (Seringsapatam) Battery, WO2 (BSM) Ryan Zietsman. 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. Further details regarding the 88th Artillery Clerks' Association and Reunion Dinner that took place at Larkhill on Saturday 24th June 2023 can be read later in this edition of 'The Crossed Quills'.

It has been agreed by the Committee that we will hold a virtual Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 14th May 2024. This will enable as many members as possible to come together for the AGM who might not be able to attend the reunion weekend. Further details will be published in due course. I would be most grateful if you would all put this date into your diaries, please.

The 89th Artillery Clerks' Reunion will take place over the weekend of the 21st – 23rd June 2024 at Larkhill. Details of the Guest of Honour and other Guest will be published in due course. 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.

I do hope that you enjoy reading this edition of 'The Crossed Quills'. I would like to thank those Association members who have contributed articles and photographs for inclusion into this edition. Donations for this year's edition have been received from the Committee members and 34 (Seringsapatam) 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 7th September 2024. 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 28 of the Crossed Quills is due to be published by the end of December 2024.

I would like to bring your attention to the RAA Forecast of Events on the inside of the front cover of this edition of 'The Crossed Quills'. If any members of the Artillery Clerks' Association wishes to attend any of these events, grateful if you could let me know please in advance.

Our current membership stands at 132. There are currently 199 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. Thank you Leo. 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 1st December 2024. 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.

Association Committee 2023 - 2024

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 Secretary's 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 Secretary's for their continued support over the past year. Your support is gratefully appreciated by us all.

Due to membership being spread over the Globe and not having in my possession everyone's e-mail address (or up to date one) may I please ask you all to make a point of reading the Notice Board on the Association Website www.artyclerkassn.org. There is no other way I can get details of promotions, deaths, etc. to you in a timely fashion. In return may I please ask you to keep me up to date with any news, promotions, deaths, award of medals, change of address including e-mail, etc.

I would like to take this opportunity in wishing every member a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. I hope to see you in Larkhill in June 2024, if not sooner.

Ubique.

Andy

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

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

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

The West – Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Avon and Wiltshire. Contact Roy Deal at Reunion-sec@artyclerkassn.org

The London Area. Contact Andrew Jones at London@artyclerkassn.org

Scotland. Contact Andy Tibble at Secretary@artyclerkassn.org

Germany. Contact Ron Holmes at Germany@artyclerkassn.org

Wales/N Ireland & Rest of the World. Contact the Association Secretary, Andy Tibble at Secretary@artyclerkassn.org

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 2024 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



Report by Treasurer Major (Retd) Paul Corker



General

I would like to begin my report by wishing all members and their families the very best for the remaining part of 2023. What an amazing year 2023 was for the Association: our 25th anniversary in Larkhill was absolutely superb, the Silver Centerpiece unveiling will go down as one of the most memorable events that I've witnessed as an Artillery Clerk and the togetherness of the Association was a joy to behold. At the time of writing I remember stating last year that the pandemic

will remain with us all for the foreseeable future and we will have to learn to live with it: next week I have my flu, covid and pneumonia jabs, is it the age we are living in or as Julia (my wife) says it is an age thing!! .

What a reunion 2023 was and I think most of us, if not all would agree that it was excellent. The Friday night was a good catch up with friends and eased us all into the Saturday which was greatly anticipated – it did not disappoint. From beginning to end the Saturday was truly outstanding – well done to all those for their organisational skills and expertise. Julia, let me know that she had never been to a better organised event where attendees were all enjoying themselves. To see the ladies on parade for the very first time was fitting the occasion and one we should look to endorse and encourage for future events. A discussion for all members I believe.

My main effort this year was how to balance all income over a

hectic period. With my juggling gloves on I needed to account and separate subscriptions, reunion money and not forgetting the 'Silver Centre Piece' donations. All had to be strictly accounted for due to HMRC (gift aid) implications. This now leads me on to 'Gift Aid', and I can now happily report that the Association is well set up and following all the guidelines given by HMRC. The 2022 complex application for Gift Aid was completed in January 2023 and the Association received £591:74. As previously stated, this will be an annual application and therefore it 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.

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.

Special Thanks. Trevor Kemish donated £1,000, enhanced my Gift Aid (£250) as shown by the statement of accounts under liabilities towards the administrative costs of contacting missing members. This will be further explained by the Chairman in 2024 when I'm sure the funds will be used to enhance the way we go about our membership revival. Thank you Trevor for your kind donation.

To recap: Please check your bank statements prior to January 2024 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 report by stating that the fund is 'fit for purpose'.

Main Action Areas

Outstanding Subscriptions

£1,250:00 (this is total).
Only 6 unpaid 2023 subscriptions.
Mandate - 09 Members not paying by Direct Mandate
Gift Aid- 19 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 £1,250:00 (reduced from 2022), to ensure all members change their annual subscription to £15 and for all to complete their Gift Aid forms prior to 2024. 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 2024.

Statement of Account - 31st October 2023

ASSETS

Cash £ 15:00
Current Bank Account £ 1906:70
Deposit Account £ 4024:48
£10190:00*
Shop Stock £ 300:00
Property (Display boards) £ 800:00
Silver Centre Piece (SCP) £9980:00

Total Assets (A) £ 17016:18

Property & SCP (P) £ 10780:00*

**AVAILABLE CASH £ 4952:70
(A - B - P)**

LIABILITIES

Function £ 1100:00
Kemish Fund £1250:00

Total Liabilities (B) £1283:48

***SCP and Property not available cash**

Report by Standard Bearer

Andrew Jones (former Sgt (AC))



Gunner Sunday Royal Hospital Chelsea

I was very honoured and privileged to attend Gunner Sunday at the Royal Hospital Chelsea on Sunday 16th April 2023.

The morning started with: 1000am hours. Assemble and meet in the Octagon Colonnade by the chapel.

1015am hours. The Royal Hospital Chelsea pensions and RAA Standard Bearers form up.

10.40am hours. Parade Finished.

11.00am hours. The chapel service begins

The Artillery Clerks' Association Standard, was paraded with the Royal Artillery Standard Bearers, members of the serving regiment's and veterans, joined by In-Pensions on parade.

We were inspected by Dr F Keating, Physician & Surgeon Royal Hospital Chelsea, Brigadier Mark Pountain CBE and Colonel Charlie Garner ADC.

During the parade music was played by the Guards Association Band.

After the parade, I joined the In-pensions and congregation in the chapel.

Following the church service, a curry lunch was held at the In Pensions Club.

If anyone would like to attend in 2024 please contact Andy Tibble.



Festival of Remembrance Saturday 11th November 2023 at Royal Albert Hall

Andrew Jones (former Sgt (AC))

I was very much honoured and privileged to represent the Artillery Clerks Association at the Festival of Remembrance on Saturday 11 November 2023 at Royal Albert Hall.

The standard was carried under the "ex service associations' standard bearers".

There were two shows at 1400pm & 1900pm on Saturday 11

November 2023. The running time is approx. 1 hour and 40 minutes per show.

On Friday 10th November 2023 at 1600PM hours, all the standards bearers had to report to Royal Albert Hall, for security passes, watch a health & safety video and collect our security passes. All the standard bearers were then taken to the floor of the

Royal Albert Hall where we met the Garrison Sergeant Major London District WO1(GSM) Andrew "Vern" Stokes OBE MVO.

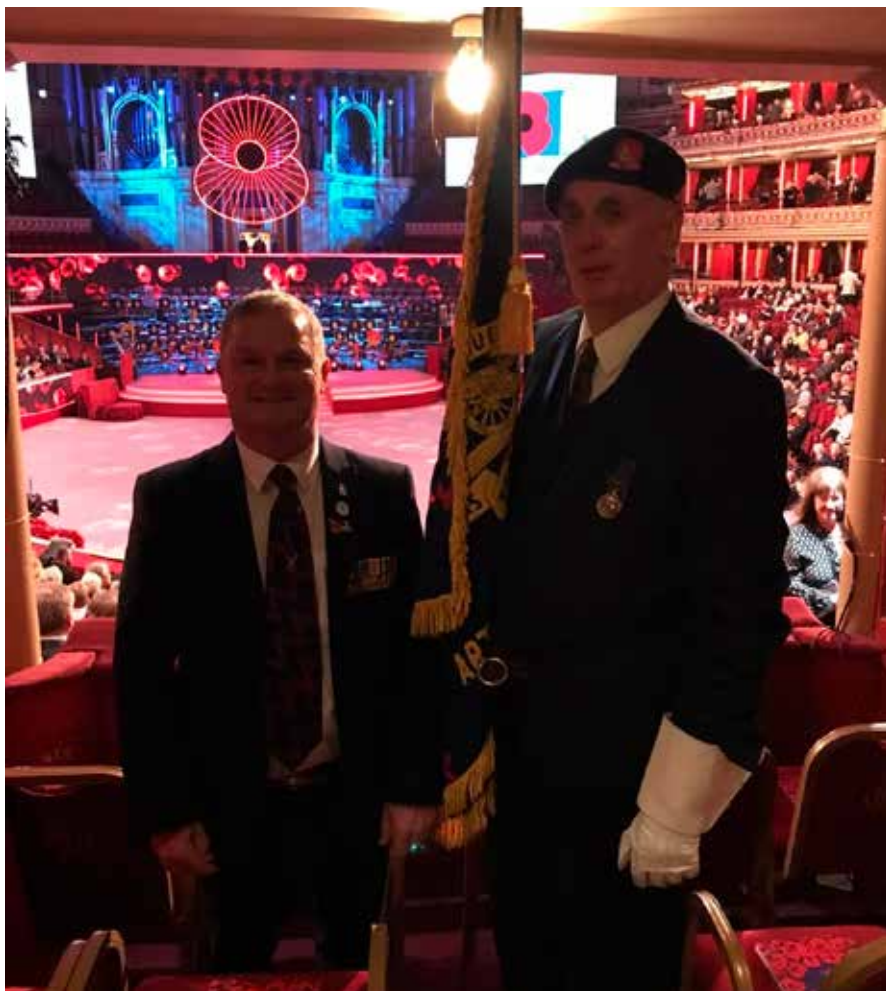
We were put through a steep learning curve of carrying the standard up and down the stairs of the The Royal Albert Hall without falling over. Looking straight ahead and keeping in step! On Saturday 11th November 2023,

all the standard bearers had to return for more rehearsals and a dress rehearsal. All went well.

The show at 1900pm hours was in front of King Charles III, a high standard and drill and turnout was expected with everyone looking very smart.

The day was a great success and the also the moment of the night when all red poppies fall from above.

For all Artillery Clerks Association members if you can get tickets for the Royal Albert Hall, it is a most enjoyable evening.



Mr Lee Lyall & Mr Andrew Jones, Standard Bearer



2023 has proved particularly testing financially for most people with inflation hovering at 10% and fuel costs escalating to unprecedented levels it is putting financial pressure even on those with the best financial plans in place.

For those who do fall into difficulties however, there are a number of Veterans charities out

Report by Welfare Secretary

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

there that can provide bespoke support to those in need. A simple on-line search will supply a number of Veterans Organisations who can supply the help required.

You can, of course, contact your association welfare secretary or any of the committee members who will look to point you in the direction of the most appropriate support.

We have a number of Association members who have ongoing medical conditions of varying severities who are all managing their conditions with the support of health professionals but would always welcome a call and a chat from a fellow Association member.

Although some Association members have never served in the same unit at the same time, what we all have in common is our service as an Artillery Clerk – we all have our service in common and have plenty to pull up a sandbag and chat about.

As always, if you know of a fellow Association member in difficulties, please let myself or another committee member know and we will assess what would be the best and most appropriate support available.

Veterans Aid Charity

For 90 years, Veterans Aid has been battling homelessness

among the ex-service community. Established in 1932, the Charity started life as H10, a canteen and recreation room for destitute ex-servicemen. The following year it was designated The Embankment Fellowship Centre. It was subsequently rebranded The Ex-Services Fellowship Centre (EFC) before assuming its present identity as Veterans Aid. The Charity was founded by Mrs Gwen Huggins whose husband was Adjutant of The Royal Hospital Chelsea from 1932-35. Moved by the sight of men who had served their country sleeping on the capital's streets, she decided to do something practical to remedy it.

Main activities

All Veterans Aid's activities revolve around helping ex-servicemen and women in crisis.

The Charity has played a significant part nationally in the reduction and eradication of homelessness among veterans. It intervenes immediately, practically and at three stages: before crisis (preventing), during (addressing) and after (sustaining).

Because homelessness is both a cause and an effect, Veterans

Aid's activities are diverse. Its objective is always to enable sustainable, independent living, but the interventions necessary to achieve this can involve days, weeks, months – or even years of investment.

Reach and impact

Although Veterans Aid is London-based, its reach and impact is international. Since the end of 2007, the Charity has helped UK veterans based in more than 70 countries.

In 2018 its HQ & Ops Centre moved from Buckingham Palace Road to more suitable premises in nearby Victoria Square. The £8.2m redevelopment of its residential facility, New Belvedere House, was completed in the same year.

In both cases the objective was to deliver a better service rather than establish a bigger geographical footprint.

Welfare to Wellbeing©

Veterans Aid's Welfare to Wellbeing© model is one that looks at both context and the circumstances of the individual when tackling crisis. It introduces veterans to a system

that will offer holistic support, but it recognises that some issues need to be resolved as a priority before others can be addressed. Immediate actions might be provision of food, new clothing and shelter.

Subsequent interventions might involve prolonged periods of counselling, drink/drug rehabilitation and medical treatment.

Further support frequently involves education, retraining or the acquisition of a new skill. Help is given to identify employment opportunities and, when they are considered ready, individuals are helped to move into new homes – furnished and decorated by Veterans Aid. Welfare to Wellbeing© is the game-changer that accounts for Veterans Aid's success and it goes a long way towards explaining why so many politicians, practitioners, academics and philanthropists involved in veterans affairs worldwide are looking beyond traditional benevolence towards a system that is multifaceted and integrated; a system that goes beyond welfare, towards sustainable 'wellbeing'.



Report by Webmaster

Leon (Leo) Lyall (former SSgt)

I find it difficult to write these reports for you each year, including the Annual General Meeting report. It's not that I can't write them, it's trying to not repeat the content each time. Looking for something interesting that you haven't heard before. The same churn. However, this is an issue we all face every day with information and technology... same old-same old! We become complacent and just take it all for

granted. How many times while on Facebook do you get the message not to click on a friend's request because someone's been hacked! It's so common, it's boring. So, back to this report...this is not a friend's request!

I keep the website as reasonably up-to-date and refreshed as I can. I'm fed information from various parts of the Association Committee to update you on

various issues. The most recent update was the message that His Majesty King Charles III will become our Captain General (<https://www.artyclerkassn.org/webpages/notices.htm>). Great news! The most part of the past year has been work on the Association 25th Anniversary and the Association Silverpiece, keeping you all updated on the progress plus the preparation of the webpage for the Reunion Weekend. Don't forget that I also work on and publish a quarterly newsletter for the Association and present regular updates on our Facebook page. Oh, and I have a day job as well.

The Association website link is <https://www.artyclerkassn.org> and should be a go-to place for all your Association information. Details you might need to know about could be our Charter or a list of the Membership, what the Governing Regulations are or something in past copies of the Newsletter. Maybe you remember something you saw in Crossed Quills or you've decided to Gift Aid the Association and need to download the form. Go to the website, it's all there!

The Association newsletter has been published quarterly since December 2018 and keeps the membership up-to-date with relevant information in between the annual publication of Crossed Quills and other details missed if not attending the various reunions during the year in both UK and Germany. Where it is deemed necessary extra newsletters will be published for items such as the Annual General Meeting or for a survey of the membership.

Most of the membership uses Facebook. It is a popular and a very quick way of disseminating information out to the membership. It is a closed group to which access is only to those



given access by the admins to ensure a more controlled and directed passage of relevant information on a need-to-know basis. It's all about security.

We all need to be vigilant these days even though we are no longer serving in the military (well most of us). Not a day goes by where there has been a security incident of varying degrees around the world. Our concern is at home here in the UK and especially our own personal security. Online security as I always bang on about is paramount as we are all delving into cyberspace on a regular basis. Before you do things online always think before you click as that is all it takes to end up in a whole world of financial pain.

The worst area for personal online security is email:

- Scammers send emails to try and get you to give them your personal details. They might either try and direct you to a fake website, claim something's wrong with an account or device you own or claim you've won a prize. Sometimes there might be a file attached to the email. The scammer wants you to open or download this as it could harm your device by releasing or downloading a virus (malware).
- Scammers send emails to try and get you to give them your personal details. They might either try and direct you to a fake website, claim something's wrong with an account or device you own or claim you've won a prize. Sometimes there might be

a file attached to the email. The scammer wants you to open or download this as it could harm your device by releasing or downloading a virus (malware). Always be suspicious of attachments or links.

- You should look out for:
 - Errors in the spelling or grammar, or wording that just doesn't seem quite right.
 - Requests for personal information, such as usernames, password or bank details.
 - Anything that's time-sensitive and wants you to act fast.
- **Pause and think.** It might seem simple, but it's one of the best things to do to stay safe. We can all be guilty of doing or clicking things online without thinking. But if you're at all suspicious of an email or website, then don't act. Take your time, trust your instincts and get in touch with the organisation directly through their official website or contact number. If it seems dodgy or too good to be true, it probably is.
- **Use strong passwords.** A strong password is a very effective way to stay safe online. Avoid common words, anything easily guessable (such as 'password' or '123456') and don't include personal information. Websites often have certain criteria for a strong password. It's important to use different passwords for different accounts and never share them – genuine companies will never ask for your full password.

The Artillery Clerks' Website Menu Listing

https://www.artyclerkassn.org	Wherever you are in our website just click the 'Home' link in the menu or any of the Association badges on every page to get back to the Home page.
https://www.artyclerkassn.org/webpages/notices.htm	The 'Notices' link gives you our web page for up-to-date information deemed relevant for the membership.
https://www.artyclerkassn.org/webpages/silverwareProject.htm	There are multiple menu links on this webpage laying out a timeline of the 'Silverpiece' Project.
https://www.artyclerkassn.org/webpages/newsletter.htm	This webpage link gives you a list of all back copies for the quarterly Association 'Newsletter' .
https://www.artyclerkassn.org/webpages/assn.htm	The 'Association' link in the menu provides the contact details of the Association Committee.
https://www.artyclerkassn.org/webpages/areaSecs.htm	The 'Area Secretaries' link in the menu provides the contact details of the Association Area Secretaries.
https://www.artyclerkassn.org/webpages/member.htm	If you need to see who is a member of the Association go to the 'Membership' link in the menu
https://www.artyclerkassn.org/pdf/AC_Charter_Edition_5.pdf	For any details regarding the charter of the Associations business follow the 'Charter' link. This opens in a new tab as a PDF document.
https://www.artyclerkassn.org/pdf/2020_Governing_Regs_v3.pdf	For any details regarding the governing regulations of the Association follow the 'Governing Regulations' link. This opens in a new tab as a PDF document.
https://www.artyclerkassn.org/pdf/FOE.pdf	The RAA annual 'Forecast of Events' for this year and into the early part of the next one. This opens in a new tab as a PDF document.
https://www.artyclerkassn.org/webpages/wantedList.htm	The 'Potential Members' link shows the list of ex-RA Clerks who could potentially join the Association.
https://www.artyclerkassn.org/webpages/interests.htm	There are multiple menu choices in the 'Interests' area and includes online security, veteran memberships, medals, among other interesting items.
https://www.artyclerkassn.org/webpages/membershipApp.htm	The 'Membership' link provides all the information required to apply for membership of the Association.
https://www.artyclerkassn.org/webpages/XQuills.htm	Follow the 'Crossed Quills' link for the complete collection of past and present editions of.
https://www.boards2go.com/boards/board.cgi?user=shadowen	The 'Message Board' facility is not used so frequently but this is a convenient way of getting messages to the Association.
https://www.artyclerkassn.org/webpages/silent.htm	'Silent Quills' provides an area to respect the ex-Artillery Clerks' who are deceased and shows the tributes to them from our comrades.
https://www.artyclerkassn.org/webpages/bearer.htm	Our 'Standard' is paraded all over the country at events such as St Barbara's Day and Gunner Sunday and where possible at deceased member funerals.
https://www.artyclerkassn.org/webpages/reunion.htm	This link called 'Reunion' is dedicated to everything a member needs to know regarding the upcoming Reunion Weekend, including the Calling Notice.
https://www.artyclerkassn.org/webpages/reunion_gallery.htm	If you would like to see photographs from past reunion weekends then follow the 'Reunion Gallery' link. Find photos from the UK and Germany reunions.
https://www.artyclerkassn.org/webpages/history.htm	There has been a lot of information collated over the years to provide a history of the Artillery Clerks'. Follow the 'History' link to investigate further.
https://www.artyclerkassn.org/webpages/shop.htm	The 'Shop' only has stock limited to the Association Tie but this page provides the information required to obtain a new one as required.
https://www.artyclerkassn.org/webpages/welfare.htm	There is a wealth of information and links to various external agencies associated with veteran welfare on the 'Welfare' webpage.
https://www.artyclerkassn.org/webpages/treasurer.htm	The 'Treasurer' page has been formulated to give all the financial details required for the Treasurer to be able to manage the Association's finances.
https://www.artyclerkassn.org/webpages/34_Battery.htm	The '34 Battery RA' link is to our hosts at Larkhill who provide welcome help and assistance to our Reunion Weekend.
https://www.army.mod.uk/who-we-are/corps-regiments-and-units/royal-artillery/14-regiment-royal-artillery/	An external link is provided to '14 Regt RA Website' on the Army portal. They are 34 Battery's parent unit.
https://www.facebook.com/14RegtRA/	This link to '14 Regt RA Facebook' will take you to up-to-date information from a social level about the Larkhill based regiment.
https://www.thegunners.org.uk/	The final link in our website menu structure, 'RAA' is another external link to the Royal Artillery Association website

Protect your wireless network.

Make sure you have a 'key' – a type of password – on your wireless network (Wi-Fi) so no one else can access it. There should be instructions on how to do this that come with your wireless router.

- **Install software on your computer.** Anti-virus software will detect and remove viruses before they can infect your computer. Anti-spyware software will prevent unwanted adverts and pop-ups and can stop anyone tracking your online activity, such as credit card numbers and bank details. You can buy packages online or in a shop from reputable sources such as Norton or McAfee. There are also free, safe versions available

online from companies such as AVG, Avast and Microsoft. Most of these companies also provide virtual private network software (VPN) that adds another layer of online security. Using a VPN creates a private, encrypted tunnel through which your computer/mobile can access the internet while hiding your personal information, location, and other data.

- **Keep your devices safe.** You may use your mobile phone or tablet to access the internet. You can install similar software to protect yourself from viruses (companies such as Avast, Kaspersky and Norton offer mobile options) as well as password-

protecting your device. It's also important to keep the operating system of your device – such as Windows or Mac OS – updated as these help keep your device as safe as possible.

Source: www.ageuk.org.uk/get-online

We have a security information page on our website: <https://www.artyclerkassn.org/webpages/interests1.htm>

Happy 2024. All the very best to all members and their families. Stay safe in everything you do. Hope to see you at the reunion in June.

Report by Historical Secretary

Stephen Read (former WO1 (SMAC))



Research continues as time allows to identify and document those that have served as Artillery Clerks. Having down loaded lists of WO1 (SM(AC))s from the WW1 and WW2 Army Lists work has now started on entering them into the online spreadsheet. This will take a while to do but with the nights getting longer more time should be available.

Paddy Butterly has recently kindly provided me with a list of 157 Artillery clerks that he knew during his service. Whilst a few have dates and units against

them or are already listed on the database, there are a lot that are new to me. The list of people I have no details for are:

Gary Barker
Baz Barry
Ron Baynes
Tom Browne
Jeff Carter
Harold Deacon
Jim Diamond (could this be John?)
P Drury
Steve Edgeley
Paul Fairbank
T H Fairweather
Dick Finch
John (Len) Haddow
C J Hamley
Bob Hagen
Ted Harvey
John Hopkin
Eric Hubbard
Pete Hubbard
Tab Hunter
Jack Knott
Alan King (Civilian Clerical Instructor at Bramcote in the 1970s and 1980s?)

Mark Lindsay-Smith
Ron Marsh
C McCusker
Steve McKenna
Alistair McKenzie
John Nicholas
Boll Ogilvie
Nick Powell
Richie Pryer
P Robinson
Dick Scatcherd
Jock Stewart
Bob Thompson
R V M Walker
Kev Watkins

Can I ask members to review this list and let me know any details they can add for any of these people.

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





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.

To craft the foreword this year has been a lot easier than last. My two great highlights were the King's Coronation in May and our 25th Larkhill Anniversary Dinner in June. With the attendance of spouses/partners this year it made for a more enriched atmosphere. The pinnacle for me was the predinner unveiling of our silver centrepiece by our Guest of Honour, The Master Gunner St James's Palace.

I had the pleasure of being at Larkhill this year for our Reunion,

just a week after His Majesty's first birthday celebrations and it was so nice to hear the reply letter from his Majesty being read aloud by General Richard.

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.

Once again, the highlight from an Association point of view for me for this year, was the Reunion weekend. It was great to meet physically again and with the majority staying in the Holiday Inn on Solstice Park, I even got introduced to Taco Bell by Robbie Astick. I would like to thank everyone concerned for making it a tremendous weekend. We were royally hosted on Saturday morning by the Officers' Mess for a visit to their Silver Room and paintings. Everybody was trying to find the mouse in all the Terence Cuneo ones. Steve Seymour even got a chance to tickle the ivories in the main dining hall. Our Guest of Honour gave the state of the Nation within his speech.

It's also been great to see that the weekly MS Teams meetings have continued throughout 2023. So nice to see smiley faces on the "big screen" and the virtual AGM in March was also a success.

As with previous editions of "Cross Quills", we would like to keep the theme of "**going down memory lane**". So, if you can 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 the 2022 Reunion Dinner. I keep reminding him that he had to sing for his supper. He is 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 the 2022 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 **Cross 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 last year's dinner.

Maj Gen Bill Moore, former CO of 7 RHA and previously of 4th Regt RA during the Falklands campaign, stood down this year as 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 2024 Reunion and am looking forward to meeting you all there.

It now just leaves me to wish All Members of the Association, to have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year for 2024. Keep safe, calm; and carry on.

My Best Regards to You All,
Ubique.

North Area Secretary Report

Brian Morgan (former WO2(SQMS))



Hello and greetings brother Artillery Clerks, just a quick update on what I have been up to as the Association Area Secretary for the North of England. The North area covers the counties of Northumberland, Durham, Humberside and North, South, West and East Riding of Yorkshire a large geographic area but not an enormous number of association 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 members of the association (or indeed any former Artillery Clerk even if not in the Association) need any kind of assistance or support or if anyone becomes aware of any member in the North who requires help of any kind of assistance or support, please contact me and I can then contact the Committee or other relevant agencies in order that appropriate support can be put in place as appropriate. I would like to take this opportunity to reach out to Association Members living in the North and indeed to any potential members please could I ask you to confirm your current details with me. This will ensure that the Association hold your correct and up-to-date details or even just contact me via my email: morgan_45@hotmail.co.uk.

2023 has been a memorable year for many reasons King Charles III Coronation and the 25th Anniversary of the formation of the Artillery Clerks Association.

The Annual Reunion Dinner in the Royal Artillery Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess at the Royal Artillery Centre Larkhill was an amazing event and one of the best Reunion Dinners I have attended. It was especially a memorable event with the presentation and unveiling of the Association 25th Anniversary Silver centrepiece which is fantastic and many thanks to everyone involved in the project and to all who made donations and contributions towards the silver-piece no matter how large or small. I had lobbied for the inclusion of the Royal Horse Artillery cypher on the silver-piece (as in my 12 years in the Royal Regiment from 1976 until transferred to the Adjutant Generals' Corps in 1993 the only time I had worn an RA cap badge as opposed to a silver cypher was whilst in Junior Leaders Regiment). I was amazed when I saw the finished silver centrepiece had included the new Royal cypher for King Charles III and it is brilliant that we as an association have both the Queen's crown and the King's crown on our silver centrepiece. Well done everyone involved and many thanks for all the efforts of our Chairman Joe Falzon, the Association Secretary Andy Tibble, and the Reunion Secretary Roy Deal for all the work you do tirelessly behind the scenes and on behalf of the Association, it goes without saying these projects and the Association Annual Reunion & Dinner do not just happen and there's always lots of work goes unnoticed that go to make them the success they always are, thank you all very much.

The 25th Anniversary and the 88th Annual Reunion & Dinner of the Artillery Clerks Association was

a brilliant event, and it was lovely to have my dear long-suffering wife Fiona with me along with our guests Jimmy and Sandy Martin (a former WO1 Master Gunner, we served together in 3 RHA) we all thoroughly enjoyed the evening and had a wonderful time.

My first ever Artillery Clerks' Dinner was at the Royal Artillery Sergeants' Mess at Woolwich in 1987 and the numbers in attendance were quite amazing for a newly promoted Sergeant (Artillery Clerk) my Chief Clerk was Mel Charlton and the assistant Chief Clerk was Dave Stotan and we travelled up to London from Aldershot thankfully I was not Mr Vice. The furthest I travelled to attend the Dinner at Woolwich was all the way from Hong Kong in 1990 when I was able to book a return flight to the UK on the back of the Artillery Clerks' course at the Royal Artillery Manning and Records Office at Imphal Barracks York. This allowed me the opportunity to assess up and coming postings and promotions and have a few nights in York (not all in my own bed! Ask Steve Seymour) before attending the Dinner in the Mess at Woolwich. My last dinner in



British Airborne Forces Club Annual Fan Dance event on the summit of Pen y Fan proudly sat at the trig piont on the summit with my gradson Jack Waikari

uniform (Mess Dress) was the Reunion Dinner held at the RA Mess at Woolwich in 1999.

You may recall in last years Crossed Quills I mentioned climbing Pen y Fan with one of grandsons as part of an annual event and reunion for the British Airborne Forces Club Leonard aged 7 years made it to the top of the summit of the Fan. Well, I was in Brecon again in May this year this time I had Leonard's older brother Jack with me, Jack is aged 13 and has a number

of a disabilities, cerebral palsy, hydrocephalus, he has a shunt fitted to drain fluid from his brain, he has partial paralysis down his left side and is visually impaired. His parents were concerned that the climb may be a little difficult or too much for him, but I had confidence that he would have the determination to reach the summit. It was a beautiful dry, sunny Saturday morning and after a cuppa and a bacon butty we set off from the National Trust car park at the bottom of Pen Y Fan. Rather than set off with the main body of the BAFC group doing the Fan Dance we set off a little bit earlier, I knew Jack would be determined to match his younger brother's efforts and despite his disabilities he would not want to give in, I kept an eye on him in case he overdid things or started to become fatigued. It helped me out as when I started to feel tired or needed a rest, I would tell him to stop so we could have a drink of water or have a breather. As anyone whose done Pen y Fan well knows it is a steep gradient and does not level off until you are virtually at the summit. I was super proud of him and made sure he was part of the group photograph which was taken on the Trig point.



My last Artillery Clerks Dinner in uniform RA Mess Woolwich 1999. WO2(SQMS) B Morgan (2nd row, 2nd from left) stood next to WO1(SSM) Mel Charlton. My first and last Arillery Clerks Dinner in uniform with Mel

As some of you may know I have been involved with a Charity called Purple Warriors which took injured and impaired service members and helped with their rehabilitation and mental wellness through the sport of Dragonboat Racing. I was actively involved with the charity from 2016-2020 and took part in dragon boat competitions throughout the UK and overseas participating in events in Hong Kong and the World Championships in Szeged, Hungary in 2018. I had first got introduced to the sport of dragon boat racing whilst serving in Hong Kong. When I first joined Purple Warriors, I was encouraged to join a local club to improve my technique and boat fitness. Fortunately for me the Tees Valley Dragons Powerhouse club are based at the River Tees Water sports Centre in Stockton-on-Tees, a brilliant little club, and first-class facilities. The Powerhouse Club are also celebrating their 25th Anniversary since the Club was established this year, and we held an event at the clubhouse to celebrate the formation of the Club (no silver centrepiece though). I continue to train and race with Powerhouse taking part in races and regattas around the UK and will be competing in the BDA National Finals at the National Water Sports Centre at Home Pierpoint in Nottingham in late September.

Not 25 years but on 31 July I was recognised with a Long Service and Good Conduct award having served over 20 years with North Yorkshire Police and was humbled to receive my award from the Chief Constable and Deputy Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire

Royal Artillery Association Working Group

Lt Col Richard Horner MBE

As the majority of you will be aware I have now been involved in three RAA working groups looking at the current model of RAA Branches and considering options for the future. One conclusion the group came to early on was that the old model, although still very strong in some areas, was certainly on the demise and not attractive to the majority of current service leavers therefore this review was deemed critical to help navigate a way ahead.

During the first session it was clarified that the RAA view the Artillery Clerks Association as one of its National Branches. Covering both national and international links to its members across the globe. The group reviewed the Arty Clerks constitution and governance which they found fit for purpose for its target audience.

Work is still ongoing with priority effort in outreach to be more inclusive and receptive to the current veteran population. Formal branch regularity and propriety have been scrutinised to help them become more flexible and less formal. One of the major work streams is capturing all the disparate veteran groups that currently communicate very successfully via social media with reunions and catch-up meeting mainly being organised via

“Facebook” or “WhatsApp”. All these groups are entitled to the welfare provisions of the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund therefore should have closer links to RHQ RA without the need to become a formal branch with all the legacy regulations and rules.

Future meetings have yet to be decided but work is currently ongoing by RHQ RA in establishing the governance and management process to bring the eclectic cyber space groups closer to the Regimental Hub without the intervention of a formal bureaucratic process.

Artillery Clerks' Association Virtual Annual General Meeting Tuesday 14th May 2024

The Artillery Clerks' Association virtual Annual General Meeting will be held at 1900 hours on Tuesday 14th May 2024. Further details can be seen in the Secretary's report and will be published in due course

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

2Lt D Ditchfield, Troop Commander

The previous iteration of the 34 'Seringapatam' Battery article began with a ceremonial gun salute to mark the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, and it seems only fitting that this year's edition, following the sad passing of Her Majesty has the Battery performing the prestigious honour of firing a 21-gun salute at Stonehenge to mark the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. The order of dress for the Battery – immaculate No. 2's and for the spectators watching – wellies and Gore-Tex. It was, despite the torrential rain, a spectacular and memorable event and enjoyed by all. On a similar note, in August 2023 the Royal Regiment was honoured by the announcement that His Majesty would be taking on the role of Captain General of the Royal Artillery, an appointment previously held by Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of which we are all incredibly proud.



34 Bty BSM - W02 Zietsman at the Royal Gun Salute for His Majesty King Charles III

Once ceremonial duties were completed, the fast and furious nature of life at 34 Battery continued. With the Battery having multiple commitments across Op INTERFLEX, live firing for the various Royal School of Artillery courses at Larkhill as part of the Experimentation and Trials Group. Of particular interest was the utilisation of heat proof camouflage nets to conceal the location of the gun positions. This was tested through thermal imagery cameras being flown on drones – a method of detection

currently being employed on the frontline in Eastern Europe. The 34 Battery FSTs continue to play a key role in the innovation of Artillery tactics and deployments, demonstrated during LIVEX 23, working alongside 2 ROYAL YORKS – the Army's Next Generation Combat Team.

Throughout June and July, a key focus for the Battery was the conversion of our armoured artillery soldiers to light gun. Due to the UK's ongoing commitment to Ukraine, the majority of the AS90 guns have been gifted in kind towards the campaign in Eastern Europe, where they continue to have a great effect on the battle. This has resulted in 34 Bty primarily operating the L118 Light Gun for all its live firing commitments. For the soldiers that have arrived at the Battery from armoured regiments, this meant having to complete conversion courses to light gun. The soldiers now represent some of the most broadly qualified close support soldiers across the Royal Regiment, truly jack of all trades.

As is always the case, there have been numerous extra-curricular activities throughout the year with charity events, sporting representation at Regimental level and of course adventure training! Particular highlights include Ex PIPEDOWN – the Regimental ski trip to Les Contamines, France in January that allowed a number of soldiers and officers within the Battery to further their skiing prowess and compete across the Army. Endurance and suffering (chafing) are the words that come to mind when thinking about



L118 Light Gun fired at Stonehenge to mark the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III

the charity events undertaken throughout the year. In May, WO2 Pollard laced up his boots and completed a 100km tab from London to Brighton, carrying 15kg in aid of the Rawthey Project. Sgt Rai took on the Wiltshire 3 Peaks in June, raising money for the Youth Adventure Trust. And as this article is being written, the outgoing BQMS SSgt Armitage is celebrating leaving the Army after 23 years' service by donning the lycra and cycling 5,000 miles around the UK mainland in support of several mental health charities.

Personnel from across the Battery have been engaged in various



WO2 Pollard and Caot Ted Smith complete a 100km tab from London to Brighton

other commitments, with the strong representation at various levels across the Army in a multitude of both sporting and non-sporting events. Gunners Cham, Naisake, Harris and Ullah had the privilege of travelling to France to provide the provide the burial party for the remains of an unknown Allied soldier, killed during World War One, who was believed to be attached to the 20th Divisional Artillery. LBdr Hughes boxed for 14 Regiment RA at the Royal Artillery Boxing Championships in March. Finally, of note are the achievements of Gunner Birch, who found himself making and impact both in sporting terms and professionally! He used his initiative to implement real change across Larkhill Camp through a recommendation to the Garrison Sergeant Major on the relocation of the Camp's defibrillators. For which he was awarded the Commanding Officer's coin. All of this whilst competing in tug of war at a national level.

During the summer, there was all change at the Battery with numerous incoming and outgoings. In June, we bid farewell to the outgoing Battery Commander – Major Glyn Forster-Haig, who has been replaced by Major Alexander O'Neill who has joined us from the Joint Helicopter

Command as the J5 planning officer. Likewise, the Battery Captain, with Captain Nathan Paulus succeeding Captain Sean Jones.

The final few months of the year sees the Battery as busy and widely committed as ever. A visit to DSEI in London during September gave the Officers and WOs a chance to view the latest technology the defence industry has to offer. Both Bengal and Mahratta Troop enjoyed troop days out to London and Portsmouth respectively, providing the opportunity for some team building and not-so friendly competition in the form of darts! It's now full pelt to close out the year and one last push to deliver the remaining live firing exercises before some well-deserved Christmas Leave!



Gnr Birch receives the CO's coin from Lt Col A McDermott MBE



L118 Light Gun deployed under experimentation cam net on Salisbury Plain as part of the ETG

Artillery Clerks' Association Membership List as at 31st December 2023

Dave Allen	Ted Fairbrass	Tim Mathews	Bob Smith
Sparky Allen	Joe Falzon	George McLachlan	Snowy Snowdon
Alf Alvin	Jim Findlay	Tony Meek	Phil Spencer
Richard Ancliffe	Peter Gauci	Eddie Mills	Will Stirman
Alan Ashcroft	Martin Geddes	Jim Mutch	David Stotan
Robbie Astick	Ian Grant	Hauke Michelson	Dave Straw
Derek Baldry	Mick Grenham	Brian Morgan	Andy Sykes
Brian Bassett	John Haddock	Ian Morris	Phil Syddall
Brian Bayliss	Colin Haine	Andy Moss	Mark Testi
Steve Beard	Ted Hall	George Mould	Andy Tibble
Taff Bellis	Adrian Harrison	Richard Nichol	Gordon Timmis
Chris Berry	Phil Headford	Dennis Norris	Trig Tregower
Jon Bevan	Marty Hester	Richard Nugee	Steve Truslove
Peter Bradburn	Alan Hill	Tony Nuttall	Gary Tyson
Denis Brett	Geordie Himlin	Gil O'Mallo	Dave Vesty
David Brown	Trev Hind	Roy Penhallurick	Freddie Viggers
Paddy Butler	Joe Hoggins	Nick Perkovic	William Wallace
Steve Callaghan	Vic Holdaway	Duncan Pettit	Daz Ward
Iain Campbell	Ron Holmes	Joe Phelps	Chris Wood
Merv Chadwick	Richard Horner	Chris Piper	Al Wood
Rob Clarke	Mick Hutchinson	Eddie Platts	Bill Young
Mel Collinge	Geoff Hyatt	Jim Pottle	
Tony Coombes	Dick Jeavons	Steve Prowse	Membership stands at
Terry Cooper	Mick Johnston	Derek Ralphs	132
Ian Constantine	Andrew Jones	Steve Read	
Paul Corker	Trevor Kemish	Michael Regan	
Stan Cornwell	Clive Knaggs	John Reynolds	
Dennis Crawford	Ralph Lalabalavu	Ritchie Richardson	
Kev Crump	Russ Lee	Des Riley	
Peter Currie	Ray Lewis	Ken Russell	
Dave Cussell	John Lindley	Alan Sawdon	
Roy Deal	Harry Lomax	Vince Scott	
Ray Dickinson	Jason Lloyd	Steve Seymour	
Brian Dobson	Leon Lyall	Chris Shuter	
Paddy Ennis	Dave Manchester	Sid Siddall	
Sid Evans	Tony Martin	Dougie Silver	

WANTED

For membership of the Association

John Adams	Gary Barker	Tich Buckley	Chris Chamberlain
Ron Allen	Baz Barry	Dave Burfitt	Bill Charlsworth
Peter Allwright	Ron Baynes	Budgie Burgess	Dick Cliffe
Jimmy Anderson	Martin Birch	Martin Butler	Andy Collins
Ron Anson	James Bond	Paul Buxton	Fred Cullingford
Al Artley	Dave Boswell	Tom Carmichael	Mike Cottrell
Dave Askham	Dave Boulton	Stuart Carnegie	Alan Cosgrove
Brian Bailey	Adrian Boxall	Jeff Carter	Sandy Cran
Pip Bailey	Dave Brookes	Mick Carter	Keith Creswell
Bob Barber	Tom Browne	Les Carton	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
Karl Ezard
Steve Edgeley
Roger Essex
Paul Evans
Paul Fairbank
TH Fairweather
PE Field
Cliff Fields
Dick Finch
Dave Fisher
Graham Flint
Alan Foot
Foxy Fox
Derek Gauci
Les Gillard
Paul Green
Mike Greening
John Haddow
CJ Hamley
Bob Hagen
Gary Harland
Brian Harrington
Terry Hart
Ted Harvey
Chris Harvey
Steve Hawke
Adrian Hawker
Phil Hayes
Bill Heaven
Andy Holder
John Hopkins
Steve Hoyle
Eric Hubbard
Pete Hubbard
Derek Hughes
Tony Hunt
Stu Hunt
Tab Hunter
Pete Hutchinson
Brian Hyland
Alan Jeffery
Chris Jones
Steve Jones
Bob Kindness

Jack Knott
Steve Jukes
Kev Keast
Dick Kibble
Dave Langstaff
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
Maurice Metcalfe
Eric Miller
Tam Millsip
Ken Moore
Tony Mott
Paul Mudd
Pete Murphy
John Nicholas
Bill Ogilvie
Andy O'Neil
John Osman
Dave Parkinson
Bill Pattison
Ken Peacock
Paul Perry
Peter Petts
Alan Phillips
Clem Pooke
Nick Powell
John Pratt
Len Price
Mick Price
Gary Prottey
Richie Pryor
Fred Pulfer
Ron Reid
Harry Richardson
Neil Ridout

Jim Roast
Graham Roberts
Dave Robertson
P Robinson
Tom Rooney
Jim Rostron
Dick Scatcherd
Mick Scaife
Tony Skinner
Syd Simpson
Dave Smith
Martin Smith
Mark Spring
Alex Stelfox
Colin Stephenson
Bill Tasker
Jock Stewart
Joe Stockhill
Trevor Stokes
Dave Stoneham
Paul Stratton
Roy Swann
Bernie Swift
Ritchie Syme
Derek Taylor
Tom Taylor
Graham Telford
Charlie Thompson
Bob Thompson
Harry Thompson
Frank Thorne
Mark Thorington
Dave Townley
John Turner
Mel Turpie
Dave Tyler
Harry Waldron
RVM Walker
Bob Walkinshaw
Nigel Waring
LS Warren
Kev Watkins
Andy West
Fred Westwell
Sean Whelan
Chalky White

Dave Whitby
Chris Williams
Will Williams
Mick Williams
Ian Williams
TC Williams
Tony Wilson
Alan Witts
Brian Wolstenholme
Den Wright

199 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 31 December 2023)

*Artillery Clerks' Association Virtual Annual
General Meeting
Tuesday 14th May 2024*

The Artillery Clerks' Association virtual Annual General Meeting will be held at 1900 hours on Tuesday 14th May 2024. Further details can be seen in the Secretary's report and will be published in due course

Giving something back, Charity - Its not just for Christmas

Alf Alvin MSM (Former WO1(SSM))



Author September 2022 'The Ride to Arnhem'

Being asked to write a short article for Crossed Quills is a great privilege especially at a time when everyone is feeling the pinch and we all must watch our pennies, the subject of charity is emotive to all and needed by many.

In 2018 I was invited to take part in my initial fundraising event for the Army Benevolent Fund, the event was to mark 100 years after the first world war. Starting outside of Ypres we covered 321 miles back to the UK through France, Belgium and the Netherlands over 5 days. In 42 degrees temperature we started the challenge. The group: a diverse mix of characters many from military backgrounds and civilians - why on earth we wanted to put ourselves through the challenge was clear. There are families out there, single service personnel and veterans alike, officers and soldiers who are in need. My work with the Army Dependents Trust has exposed me to the myriad of social circumstances surrounding many personnel both serving and discharged, the need

to help is clear and the work the Army Benevolent Fund conduct is truly priceless helping those in dire need, many at the lowest times of their lives, bereavement and mental health being at the forefront.

Over the past three ABF events, the Somme 100, Normandy 75 and the Ride to Arnhem. I am proud to say that with help of my friends and family I have successfully raised over £5000, which is a drop in the ocean compared to the other riders over the three events but each year more and more assistance is delivered by the ABF and the other service charities to those in need. These events help raise the profile of the charities and garner the support that they truly need.

Each year in June I am also humbled to take part in an annual golfing tournament with former members of 45 Field Regiment Royal Artillery. This event started 6 years ago with just eight members it has grown now to twenty-four would be ramblers. When we first assembled former Lance Bombardier Aussie Duggins was working for Jim Davidsons Charity 'Care after

Combat', he initiated a swear pig and we gladly contributed as golfers do. The seed was sewn and each year we select another charity to benefit, this year we made a small donation to the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund. I am extremely lucky to have benefitted personally as the members have also contributed to the ABF for the rides that I have taken part in over the years.

I think the idea of giving something back was implanted in me directly through my service as an Artillery clerk, being there in the background making things work and keeping bosses and colleagues on the right road. Built in software if you like, we should always be grateful for where we are in life and the family and friends that surround us. Life is fragile and we should bear in mind that it could be lost in the blink of an eye, that's the reality of those that contact service charities. With a mindset that it's what we do when no one is watching that counts. These charities give back and they need our help. Thank you to all of you who have helped me in this regard - UBIQUE



Minutes of the Virtual Annual General Meeting held on MS Teams on Tuesday 7th March 2023

1. Agenda Item 1 - Opening Remarks by the Chairman

The Chairman, Lt Col Joe Falzon OSJ BEM, opened the AGM by welcoming all members present. He said it was pleasing for the Association Committee to be joined for this virtual AGM by so many members and honorary members, and especially to have our Honorary President present to formally open proceedings on this the 25th AGM as an Association.

Before handing over to General Richard, the Chairman reminded those present that the AGM offered everyone an opportunity to contribute to the discussions which would help the future shape of the Association. He added that all the relevant papers and reports had been sent out with the agenda in advance of the meeting.

The Chairman added that the Association was marking its 25th Anniversary – recalling, that some of those present had been members for the whole stretch and that some had attended the inaugural dinner which was held in Woolwich on Saturday 7th March 1998. He concluded by saying that, at the end of the meeting, there will be a pause for a few moments to remember our absent friends.

The Chairman then invited our Honorary President, General Richard Nugee to formally open the AGM.

The Honorary President, General Richard Nugee mentioned that, as members were gathered to celebrate the 25th Anniversary, he wanted to congratulate the Association on reaching this milestone. He went on to thank the committee for their ceaseless, and often thankless, work on behalf of all the members. Their success and dedication are demonstrated by the over-subscription of the funds to create the new, superb, silver centrepiece. He concluded by saying that he very much hoped that as many members as possible will attend the Reunion Weekend in June to witness its unveiling.

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 confirmed 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.
- 2.3 In conclusion, the Chairman reminded everyone to follow the Virtual Meeting Etiquette requirements, which had been circulated in advance.

3. Agenda Item 3 - Apologies for Absence

- 3.1 The Secretary confirmed that he had received 19 apologies for absence from:

Lt Col Vic Holdaway
Maj Richard Ancliffe
Maj Ian Constantine
Maj John Reynolds
Capt Dave Straw
Mr Alan Ashcroft

Mr Marty Hester
Mr Andrew Jones
Mr Ron Lewis
Mr Des Riley
Mr Ken Russell
Mr Alan Sawdon

Mr Jon Bevan
Mr Peter Bradburn
Mr Tony Coombes
Mr Terry Cooper

Mr Snowy Snowdon
Mr David Stotan
Mr Gary Tyson

4. Agenda Item 4 - Approval of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on Saturday 11th June 2022.

- 4.1 The Chairman said that the Minutes of the AGM held on Saturday 11th June 2022 had been circulated in advance via Crossed Quills (Issue 26) and that it was not intended to read them at the meeting.
- 4.2 A proposal by Richard Horner, 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 11th June 2022.

- 5.1 There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the AGM held on Saturday 11st June 2022 which were not included in the agenda. The Chairman said that he had asked Richard Horner to provide an update on the RAA Working Group under Agenda Item 17 – Any Other Business (AOB)

6. Agenda Item 6 - Chairman's Report

6.1 The Chairman opened his report by saying that the intervening 8 months since the last AGM in June 2022 had probably been the most rewarding in his long tenure as chairman. At that AGM the members embarked on a very ambitious journey to raise the £10,000 needed to commission the 25th Anniversary Silver Centrepiece. He said that everyone rallied round and with the help of 5 major corporate grants the objective was achieved by the deadline of 31st October 2022. He added that a detailed update on Silver Centrepiece project would be covered in Agenda Item 9.

6.2 The Chairman added that whilst the fundraising campaign was the primary focus, the Committee made a huge effort, amid all the reports of gloom and doom impacting our lives daily, to keep the purpose and character of our Association active and vibrant. He explained that action creates momentum and traction which then in turn lead to unanticipated opportunities for our Association and our members. He was pleased to report that:

- The Association remains in good shape in terms of good governance and membership numbers. The Committee, led by the Treasurer, will be tabling a proposal to change our Charter at Agenda Item 8.
- Our message of condolence to His Majesty King Charles III following the death of Queen Elizabeth II was acknowledged with warm thanks.
- Our social media platforms, Crossed Quills and Quarterly Newsletter have kept our members informed and connected. The informal Weekly Catch-up on MS Teams (Sunday evenings at 7pm) have also continued but would benefit from more members joining occasionally in the banter.
- Representational work has continued, both at Regimental events and, just as visible, at the funerals of our deceased members. Negotiations are ongoing to secure a place for our Association Standard Bearer to be present at the 2023 Festival of Remembrance.
- Ron Holmes organised another successful “get together weekend” in Germany.
- Our Welfare Secretary has kept in regular contact with those members who requested assistance and advice.

6.3 In summary, he said that the Association has a lot to celebrate and can look forward with confidence until we meet again at Larkhill for our 25th Anniversary Reunion Weekend.

6.4 The Chairman concluded by saying that none of the above would have been possible without the dedicated 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 133.
- **New Members.** Nothing to report.
- **Deaths.**

Former SSgt (AC) James Peggie who passed away in Portsmouth on Thursday 8th December 2022

Major Bob Cowan who passed away in Cyprus on Sunday 8th January 2023.

- **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 ‘2022 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 27 are to be forwarded to the Secretary by Friday 1st September 2023. 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 10th November 2021 – RA Ceremony of Remembrance at Hyde Park Corner.

Sunday 4th December 2022 – St Barbara's Day Service, Larkhill

Friday 6th January 2023 – attended the funeral of Former SSgt (AC) James Peggie at Havant.

Due to attend:

Sunday 16th April 2023 – Gunner Sunday (Royal Hospital Chelsea)

Sunday 12th November 2023 – RA Ceremony of Remembrance at Hyde Park Corner.

Sunday 3rd December 2023 – 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 3rd December 2023. 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 - Motion to Amend the Artillery Clerks' Association Charter

- 8.1 The Chairman presented the Discussion Paper which was circulated with the agenda entitled: *Inclusion of a process to waiver the Annual Membership Fee.*
- 8.2 It was being proposed that the Membership Fee conventions laid out in the Charter of the Artillery Clerks' Association are amended by including a new sentence (in italics) to paragraph No. 13 as follows:
- "13. There is to be a fee to join the Association which equates to the extant membership fee irrespective of the month of joining. The authority to waiver the annual membership fee is vested solely with the Association Committee."***
- 8.3 The Chairman explained that the Association was an agile, caring and responsive Association. He said that the proposed amendment, if passed, would reinforce the aims of the Association, namely, to provide a focal point for all members; to promote and celebrate a common bond through comradeship for both serving and retired members, so that they can maintain close links with each other.
- 8.4 The Chairman explained that if the proposal is agreed, the Association Committee (which includes the Welfare Secretary) will be vested with the authority to waiver the annual membership fee in respect of members who unexpectedly find themselves in financial difficulties. A request for a waiver will be discussed by the Association Committee at the earliest opportunity, with follow up action transferred to the relevant Regional Secretary, who will be charged to monitor the case periodically until the temporary difficulty is resolved. Confidentiality will be maintained at all times.
- 8.5 He contended that Association members are not immune from falling into financial difficulties from time to time, especially if they experience the sudden loss of a job or are impacted by expensive medical bills. When that happens, it's important for the Association Committee to be empowered with a well-defined process in place to help when a member requests financial assistance. The Association Committee would want to address such a request in a thoughtful way that is sensitive and compassionate.
- 8.6 *The proposed amendment to paragraph 13 of the Charter (Membership Fees) was proposed by Joe Falzon, Chairman, seconded by Mick Hutchinson, put to the vote and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.***

(Afternote: The Charter has been amended accordingly and Version 5 has been posted on the Association Website.)

9. Agenda Item 9 - Silver Centrepiece

- 9.1 The Chairman informed the AGM that as of 7th March 2023 the Fundraising Campaign for the Association Silver Centre Piece had raise a total of £12,017,70, which includes £1,677.50 in Gift Aid. This was against a revised target of £9,980.
- 9.2 He added that the breakdown of grants and personal contributions was as follows:
- 5 Corporate Grants were received from our own Association, the RAA, The Central Sergeants' Mess, the British Members' Council and the Nugee Foundation.
- Personal donations were sent in by **49** members, **4** Honorary Presidents, **4** Honorary Members and **12** other donations were given in memory of former members.
- 9.3 The Secretary clarified that the production of the Silver Centre-piece was progressing extremely well and provided the following update:
- The silver box is fabricated, and the next step is to saw out the feathers and get them chased/ engraved.
 - The Perspex case is finished and now with the joiner to make the wooden plinth which will be complete in a week or so.
 - Once the plinth is complete, this will go to the silversmith to make sure all the sizes are correct, and we can start cutting out the plates for engraving and the draw plate.
 - The feather is in a brass mock-up which they make to check on the sizing etc..
- 9.4 He went on to say that an update along with some photographs had been forwarded to the members.
- 9.5 The Chairman explained that at the last Association Committee Meeting held in November 2022, he presented a discussion paper which set out a number of options on how to handle the surplus which at the time stood at £2,037.50.
- 9.6 He confirmed that the Association Committee resolved that £1000 is to be donated to the RACF and that the Association is to retain the remaining funds (currently £1037,50) to help defray the costs of the incidental expenses arising out of the 2023 Reunion weekend (e.g., transport, catering, gifts etc). He added that the Association Committee also delegated authority to the Reunion Secretary and the Treasurer to execute the resolution above in respect of the distribution of these surplus funds.
- 9.7 In the discussion that followed, the Chairman explained that the silver name plate, which in an integral part of the Silver Centrepiece, will only acknowledge the names of those members and honorary members who had made personal contributions in response to the fundraising campaign. He added that it was most gratifying that some members had made separate contributions so that names of former members (absent friends) would also be included.
- 9.8 The Chairman added that the Fundraising Campaign will be concluded on Monday.3rd April 2023 – this is the deadline for the list of grant donors and personal contributions to be finalised.
- 9.9 The Chairman concluded with a special note of thanks to Leo Lyall for his immense contribution to the design of the Silver Centrepiece.

Agenda Item 10 - Treasurer's Report

- 10.1 Maj (Retd) Paul Corker, presented the following Liquidity State as at 7th March 2023:

ASSETS (A)	
Cash	£ 636.00
Current Bank Balance	£ 15316.26
Deposit Bank Balance	£ 4523.42
Property (Display Boards)	£ 800.00
Shop Stock	£ 300.00
TOTAL ASSETS (A)	£ 21872.68
LIABILITIES(B)	
Function	£ 3024.00
Silver Centre Piece	£ 11980.00 (Gift Aid = + £37.50)
TOTAL LIABILITIES (B)	£ 15004.00
AVAILABLE CASH (A-B)	
	£ 6868.68

10.2 He particularly emphasised that:

- **Subscriptions.** Subscription is set at £15 annually and should be paid on or close to 1 January. Outstanding subscriptions total £1,065:00 as of today. Subscriptions for 2023 are continuing to arrive. As directed, I have issued a letter to members requesting payment of outstanding subscriptions.
- **Mandate.** All members are urged to pay by mandate. If all personnel paid subscriptions by the mandate system, then this would ease and simplify the administration burden. 10 members are yet to pay by this method.
- **Gift Aid.** This is an excellent source of income to the fund. £3,432.33 to date. Our take continues to be £3.75 for every £15 individuals contribute. For the Association to claim our Gift Aid then members must complete the declaration. I urge the 20 members to put pen to paper. The Association has now been granted charity status with effect 9th October 2020. It is estimated that a refund of approximately £450 per annum can be expected.
- **Suspensions.** In accordance with the Association's policy on suspension, The Treasurer wrote to all members who have not paid their subscriptions for 3 years. There are currently 57 members shown as 'suspended'. There could be a further 2 for 2023.
- **Shop.** Shop stock consists of 15 ties @ £20:00, therefore totaling £300.00. There are no cuff links and lapel pins remaining.
- **Property.** Property totals £800. The purchase of new display boards is now accounted for within the Association's Property Book. These are shown as an asset in the account as you can see at £800.00. Annual depreciation is set at £200 and therefore after another 4 years this will have no value.
- **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.
- **2022 Income and Expenditure Report (As at 31 Dec 22 submitted to the RAA** The End of the Year Report for 2022 was submitted to the RAA as directed, signed by the Chairman and Secretary. More details are available on request if required but the end state was:

Income	£4,920.27 (Explain if required)
Expenditure	£3,740.00 (Explain if required)
GPF	£1,180.27 (Excess of Expenditure over Income)

- Support to the RAA. The Association, via the Secretary continues to support the RAA when called upon to do so.

10.3 **Richard Horner proposed, and Dave Cussell seconded, that the `Treasurer's Report is accepted. This proposal was put to the vote and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

10.4 The Chairman thanked the Association Treasurer for his custodianship of the Association's funds and especially for facilitating a swift and positive response from HMRC in respect of the Gift Aid refund for 2022.

Agenda Item 11 - Assistant/Reunion Secretary's Reports

11.1 The Assistant/Reunion Secretary's Report had been circulated to all members along with the agenda. Unfortunately, the Reunion Secretary was unable to attend the meeting and therefore, the Secretary presented the report.

11.2 The format for our 25th Anniversary from Friday 23rd to Sunday 25th June 2023 will be as follows:

Friday night

- | | | |
|-----------------|---|---------------------|
| 1645 - 1730 hrs | - | Evening Meal |
| 1900 - 2300 hrs | - | Sgts' Mess Bar Open |

Saturday

- | | | |
|------------------|---|---|
| 0900 - 1300 hrs | - | Brunch available (Sgts' Mess – Pay-As-You-Dine) |
| 1030 - 1200 hrs | - | Visit to the RA Mess Silver Room |
| 1200 - 1400 hrs | - | Brunch available and Bar open in Sgts Mess |
| <i>Afternoon</i> | - | <i>Free Time</i> |
| 1900 hrs | - | Re-union Photograph |
| 1900 - 1930 hrs | - | Pre-Dinner Drinks |
| 1930 hrs | - | Reunion Dinner |

Sunday morning

- | | | |
|-----------------|---|---|
| 0900 - 1300 hrs | - | Brunch Breakfast (Sgts' Mess – Pay-As-You-Dine) |
|-----------------|---|---|

As this is a special occasion the format for the evening has changed slightly. We have a professional photographer who I will meet and arrange a suitable and hopefully different background for the Reunion photo, this will be confirmed once numbers have been finalised. Final returns for the Reunion are due no later than 1 June 2023.

Guests are:

Master Gunner St James's Park
Col (Retd) Carter – The Regimental Secretary
BC 34 Bty
RASM
BSM 34 Bty

A seating plan will be available on the night.

11.3 Association ties are still available at £20 from Roy Deal.

11.4 A specially commissioned lapel pin to mark the 25th Anniversary will be presented to all members and honorary members who have contributed to the silver Centrepiece. Those attending the Reunion will also be presented with the lapel pin. It will be available to purchase at £2 each.

11.5 The dress for our ladies will be "formal Cocktail attire". Our formal dinner is an occasion for the ladies (and the men) to dress up, but a full-length gown is not necessary. Ladies can wear a smart (perhaps pleated) trousers and blouse combination, but trouser suits are not appropriate.

- 11.6 The Secretary mentioned to those present that based on the most recent attendance list that 38 members and guests, including 8 partners had confirmed their attendance.
- 11.7 The Secretary urged all members to complete and submit their booking form as soon as possible to the Reunion Secretary.

12. Welfare Secretary's Report.

- 12.1 The Welfare Secretary, Mr Dennis Norris, informed those present that 2023 has proved particularly testing financially for most people with inflation hovering at 10% and fuel costs escalating to unprecedented levels it is putting financial pressure even on those with the best financial plans in place.
- 12.2 He mentioned that those who do fall into difficulties however, there are a number of Veterans charities out there that can provide bespoke support to those in need. A simple on-line search will supply a number of Veterans Organisations who can supply the help required. You can, of course, contact your association welfare secretary or any of the committee members who will look to point you in the direction of the most appropriate support.
- 12.3 We have a number of Association members who have ongoing medical conditions of varying severities who are all managing their conditions with the support of health professionals but would always welcome a call and a chat from a fellow Association member. Although some Association members have never served in the same unit at the same time, what we all have in common is our service as an Artillery Clerk – we all have our service in common and have plenty to pull up a sandbag and chat about.
- 12.4 The Welfare Secretary concluded by saying that as always, if you know of a fellow Association member in difficulties, please let me or another committee member know and we will assess what would be the best and most appropriate support available.

13. Historical Secretary's Report

- 13.1 The Historical Secretary, Mr Stephen Read, informed those present that Research into the history of the Association, and the gathering together of information about our brother Artillery Clerks, who served the Royal Regiment since Queen Victoria was on the throne, continues but at a slower pace than anticipated. New sources of information have been found, including historical copies of the Army list, but it has not yet been possible to get to grips with them and update our records with the information that they contain. I will aim to do this in time for this year's Reunion Dinner.
- 13.2 He went onto say that as members will be only too aware we are an ageing population and sadly our numbers diminish further with each passing year. Can I please make my annual plea to all members to pass onto me their memories of the people they served with and the units, and locations they served in."

14. Webmaster's Report

- 14.1 Leo Lyall was also not able to join the AGM due to work commitments. The Chairman informed the AGM that, following the scam email attack in November 2022, Leo had taken steps to improve security, by taking down all references to first names or nicknames from the Area Secretaries, Committee, and the Association Membership pages. This was only a small measure but will ensure that emails cannot be directed personally which makes them more convincing.
- 14.2 The Chairman said that In essence scams cannot be stopped so everyone needs to remain vigilant and alert by verifying the sender and context of every email received.
- 14.3 Ron Holmes led a vote of thanks to acknowledge Leo's contribution in maintaining the high standard of our Association website and social media platforms.

15. Germany Secretary's Report.

15.1 The Germany Secretary, Mr Ron Holmes, informed those present that the reunion weekend that he organised in Bielefeld last November was a great success and was enjoyed by all those members who attended. He went on to mention that it was proposed to hold the same Reunion later this year either at the end of November or beginning of December 2023 to coincide with the Christmas Markets.

15.2 The Charman thanked Ron for his report.

16. Election or re-election of Committee

16.1 **Association Committee.** The Secretary confirmed the following re-elections for 2022/2023

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

16.2 ***Russ Lee proposed and Bill Young seconded this proposal. The proposal was put to the vote and was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.***

16.3 **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
Mr Ritchie Richardson	Mr Sid Copeland

16.4 A proposal by Ron Holmes, seconded by Paul Corker, 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 2024 in line with the Associations Charter.

17. Any other Business

17.1 The Secretary informed the AGM of the following RAA events taking place this year. He asked members to let him know if they had plans to attend.

16th April – Gunner Sunday – Royal Hospital Chelsea (Andrew Jones to attend).

12th – 14th May - RA Assembly, Blackpool (Chairman to attend).

22nd July - RA Service of Remembrance, NMA (Chris Shuter to attend).

12th November – RA Ceremony of Remembrance.

3rd December – St Barbara's Day, Larkhill. (Chairman to attend)

17.2 **RAA Working Group update.** Lt Col Richard Horner informed the AGM that he attended the 3rd meeting

of the RAA Working Group earlier in the week at Larkhill. He explained that there were two aims; firstly, to keep a watching brief on the Arty Clerks' Association relationship with the RAA and secondly to represent 25 Fd Regt as a veteran reunion group. The March edition of Gunner will contain a summary of the areas/projects under consideration. There was no decision so far as to the Arty Clerks' Association status as a National Branch is concerned. However, there was considerable activity on veteran outreach with the consideration of a new virtual branch protocol being drawn up to embrace the current evolving "Old Comrade" (mostly Facebook Reunion groups of which there are over 100) branches as dotted line affiliate groups.

18. Date of Next Meeting

- 18.1 The Chairman led a brief discussion on the format and dates of the 2024 AGM. Russ Lee suggested a hybrid meeting option, combining the traditional face-to-face AGM and a virtual event. This style of event would offer increased scalability, inclusivity and flexibility for attendees, who can join the physical meeting or participate online. The Chairman thanked Russ for his suggestion and said that this option would be investigated by the Association Committee.
- 18.2 The next AGM will be held at Larkhill on either Saturday 8th or Saturday 15th June 2023 (possibly as a hybrid meeting), or earlier in the year as a virtual meeting. (To be Confirmed).

19. Toasts.

- 19.1 At the end of the AGM, the Chairman led the loyal toast to His Majesty The King, followed by toasts to the Association and to absent friends.

25th Anniversary and Association Dinner Friday 23rd – Sunday 25th June 2023 - Royal Artillery Sergeants' Mess, Larkhill

Roy Deal MBE (former WO1(SSM))

I hope everyone enjoyed the 2023 Special anniversary 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, if not longer than usual; the Guest of Honour was certainly entertaining and gave us some "food for thought". With the

BC and BSM 34 Bty in attendance it helped strengthen our affiliation to 34 Bty. 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.

The costs of maintaining the standards of a full Regimental Mess Dinner night we have all come to love, are continually proving challenged but we can be confident that the Association will be well supported by Elaine and the Mess staff, who in 2023 once again ensured we were well fed, and I was kept in "check". I thought the Sandhurst Band continue offered an entertaining

repertoire and I continue to look at opportunities to keep costs down whilst providing good entertainment for the evening.

I do hope we can encourage more attendance from members at the 2024 Reunion. A full and entertaining weekend is promised, hopefully supported with good attendance from Members and partners.

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.



1. Maj Ian Constantine, Mr Ron Holmes & Mr Paddy Butler
2. Mr Mick Hutchinson, Mr Robbie Astick, Mr Leo Lyall, Mr Marty Hester & Mr Hauke Michelson
3. Royal Artillery Officer's Mess - Front Row: Mr Mick Hutchinson, Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary), Mr Marty Hester, Lt Christian Hedicker RA, Mr Clive Nuttall, Mr Michael Regan & Mrs Rikke Nicola
Middle Row: Mr Paddy Butler, Mr Steve Seymour, Mr Terry Cooper, Maj (Retd) Dave Cussell, Mr Dennis Norris, Mr Robbie Astick, Mr Roy Deal (Reunion Secretary)
Back Row: Mr Richard Nichol & Mr Ron Holmes
4. & 5. Lt Col Joe Falzon (Chairman) address those members and guest present prior to the unveiling of the Silver Centrepiece. Mr Steve Beard, Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary), Mr Dennis Norris, Mr Robbie Astick & Mr Ron Holmes
6. & 7. Lt Gen Sir Anthony Gregory (Master Gunner, St James's Park) assisted by Lt Col Joe Falzon (Chairman) unveiling the Artillery Clerks' Association Silver Centrepiece
8. Lt Gen Sir Anthony Gregory (Master Gunner, St James's Park) addressing those members and guest present following the unveiling of the Silver Centrepiece. Inset: Lt Col Richard Horner.
9. The Artillery Clerks' Association Silver Centrepiece
- 9a. Silver Centrepiece Committee - Left to right: Mr Robbie Astick, Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary), Mr Roy Deal (Reunion Secretary), Mr Leo Lyall (Webmaster), Lt Gen Richard Nugee (Honorary President), Lt Col Joe Falzon (Chairman), Maj Gen Peter Currie (Honorary President), Lt Gen Sir Anthony Gregory (Master Gunner, St James's Park) & Maj Paul Corker (Treasurer)



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10. The Artillery Clerks' Association 25th Anniversary Reunion Dinner
11. Left to right: Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary), Mr Mick Grenham, Mrs Julie Shutter, Mr Chris Shutter, Mrs Julie Corker, Maj Paul Corker (Treasurer), Mr John Nugee (Guest) & Mr Robbie Astick
12. Maj Phil Headford, Mrs Sandy Martin, Mr Jimmy Martin & Mr Albert Rhodes
13. Left: Mr Mick Grenham, Mrs Julie Shutter, Mr Mick Hutchinson, Mrs Julie Corker, Maj Paul Corker
Right: Mr Geoff Hyatt, Rt Hon Sir Christopher Nugee, Mrs Rose Gauci, Mr Clive Nuttall, Lt Col Richard Horner & Lt Gen Sir Freddie Viggers
14. Lt Gen Sir Anthony Gregory (Master Gunner, St James's Park) addressing the Artillery Clerks' Association
15. Left to right: Lt Col Andy McDermott, Mrs Josephine Falzon, Lt Gen Sir Anthony Gregory (Master Gunner, St James's Park) Guest of Honour, Lt Col Joe Falzon (Chairman), Lt Gen Richard Nugee (Honorary President) & WO1(RSM) Gemma Begley
16. Mr Clive Nuttall & Mrs Rose Gauci
17. Mrs Dorothy Norris, WO2(SMIS) Chris Norris, Mrs Sabrina Norris and Mr Dennis Norris



18



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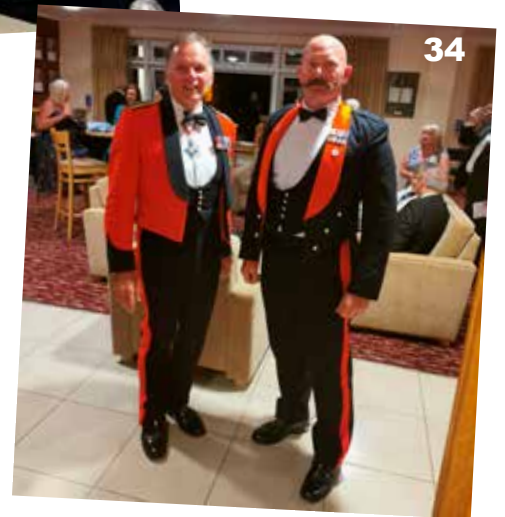


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18. Mr Albert Rhodes, Mrs Josephine Falzon & Lt Col Joe Falzon (Chairman)
19. Mr Andrew Nugee, Rt Hon Sir Christopher Nugee, Lt Gen Richard Nugee & Mr John Nugee
20. Lt Col Andy McDermott, WO2(SMIS) Chris Norris & Mrs Sabrina Norris
21. Mr Robert Clarke, Ms Martine Oakley, & Mr Paddy Butler
22. Mr Ron Holmes & Mr Grant Peggie
23. Mr Steve Seymour, Mr Brian Morgan & Mr Peter Gauci
24. Mr Terry Cooper, Mr Geoff Hyatt, Mr Mick Grenham & Mr Marty Hester
25. Mrs Julie Shuter, Mr Clive Nuttall, Mrs Julia Corker & Mrs Margaret Deal
26. WO2(BSM) Ryan Zietsman, Mr Ron Holmes & WO1(RSM) Gemma Begley



- 28. Mrs Catherine Stotan, Mr David Stotan, Mrs Sabrina Norris, WO2(SMIS) Chris Norris, Mr Dennis Norris, Mrs Dorothy Norris, Mrs Rikke Nicola & Mr Richard Nichol
- 29. Maj Dave Cussell & Mr Andrew Nugee
- 30. Mr John Nugee & Mr Robbie Astick
- 31. Maj Gen Peter Currie & Mr Steve Beard
- 32. Mr Andrew Nugee & Maj Ian Constantine
- 33. Lt Gen Sir Freddie Viggers & Mr John Lindlay
- 34. Lt Gen Sir Anthony Gregory (Master Gunner, St James's Park) & WO2 (BSM) Ryan Zietsman

Artillery Clerks' Association Celebrates Silver Anniversary

Former WO1(SSM) Mike Hutchinson and SSgt(AC) Robbie Astick

As a vibrant and active branch of The Royal Artillery Association, the Artillery Clerks' Association reached a significant milestone in 2023 with a celebration of its silver anniversary.

The Association Committee started planning for this anniversary over two years ago; from the outset the Committee made a conscious decision to swap confetti and cake for a newly commissioned piece of silverware and creating lasting memories.

About the Artillery Clerks

The designation of "the Artillery Clerks' Section" was first made 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 vital administrative and personnel support duties within the various Headquarters, Field and Training Regiments of the Royal Regiment of Artillery. They served with loyalty and personal pride, supporting and sustaining others as enthusiastic members of the Gunner family around the world in peacetime and on active service.

From after World War Two, the status of Artillery Clerk was only bestowed on 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 at the Royal Artillery Barracks, Woolwich Garrison, on 7th March 1998. Providing a focal point for its members, it is essentially an old comrades association of former Artillery Clerks, either serving or retired, promoting comradeship among its members as well as emotional and financial support to members and widows in need. Each year the Association holds reunions in the UK and Germany.

The new silver centrepiece - from flash to bang

At its AGM of 2022, the Association members unanimously decided that the most fitting way to provide a permanent and visible commemorative reminder of the Association and, at the same time, honour the service of the thousands of Artillery Clerks since 1903, would be to commission a silver centrepiece to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the Association and 120 years since the inception of the Artillery Clerks' Section in 1903.

After collating all the ideas which flooded in from Association members, the Association Committee started to create a concept design. A small project team was formed, and an ambitious fundraising campaign targeting Association



members, grant-giving trusts and foundations was launched. The project team took delivery of the new silver centrepiece on 11th June 2023, a few days before it was unveiled by Lt Gen Sir Andrew Gregory KBE, CD, DL, Master Gunner St James's Park, on 24th June 24, at the Association's annual reunion dinner held in the



Royal Artillery Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess at Larkhill.

In his letter of thanks to the silversmiths, the Association Chair wrote: "The Association is indebted to you and your team – we have successfully worked together to create a centrepiece which has given the Association the wonderful opportunity of adding further to the heritage of the Royal Regiment of Artillery - something that is very close to our hearts."

Reunion weekend

On Thursday 22nd June, a small party of Association members decided to kick off the weekend of celebrations in London by meeting initially for pre-dinner drinks at the warm and welcoming Union Jack Club bar, close to Waterloo Station,

In contrast, a short distance away, in the heart of Covent Garden, the party adjourned for dinner at the iconic Sarastro Restaurant in Drury Lane, famous for its opulent décor and flamboyant food. The

energising ambience encouraged several to 'throw some shapes' on the dance floor, which may have come as a bit of a shock to the other much younger patrons that evening (names of those involved have been withheld to protect the innocent!). The evening was rounded off with an obligatory visit to another pub in Covent Garden before regrouping at the convivial and somewhat cheaper bar at the Union Jack Club for nightcaps.

In line with the usual reunion weekend programme, the party reconvened the next day at the Royal Artillery Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess at Larkhill, joining forces with the majority of Association members who assembled to launch the weekend celebrations in earnest. Many had travelled from overseas to attend this unique anniversary weekend: Peter and Rose Gauci from Malta, Rich and Rikke Nichol from Denmark, Ian Constantine from Brittany, Steve Beard from the Isle of Man, and Ron Holmes and Hauke Michelson from Germany.

Friday night in the Mess is, for many, the highlight of the weekend as comrades enjoy the opportunity to catch up and chat as only old gunners can; to renew friendships going back many decades; to recount anecdotes of service life in the Sixties through to the present day. Marty Hester, one of the senior members, recalled at length his experience of service in the Korean war! As always, the Mess staff were very welcoming, friendly and courteous.

The absence of service accommodation in barracks due to a refurbishment project did not adversely affect attendance. Many stayed overnight in various hotels and guesthouses close to Larkhill. Roy Deal, the Reunion Secretary, earned his spurs by providing the 'recce' transport to and from the hotels with his usual efficiency

and an ever-present smile.

Saturday morning was taken up by a guided tour of the Officers' Mess and Regimental Silver, expertly narrated by 2nd Lt Christian Hedicker RHA. It was a fascinating and highly educational, not to say entertaining tour, which kept everyone enthralled; Christian's efforts were very much appreciated. Any future tours will ensure that a close eye is kept on Hauke after his attempts to reclaim some German artefacts from the silver collections.

The unveiling

The reunion dinner was preceded by the unveiling of the new silver centrepiece by the Master Gunner St James's Park. The Association Chair, Lt Col Joe Falzon, started by thanking the project team for their outstanding professionalism and the members and honorary members who supported the project with their donations. In particular, he highlighted the individual contributions of Maj Paul Corker (Treasurer), former WO1 (SSM) Andy Tibble (Secretary and Co-ordinator), former SSgt Robbie (AC) Astick (Trust Fundraiser) and former SSgt Leo Lyall (Artist and Designer).



The Association Chair added that the project team worked in close and harmonious collaboration with the creative team and professional craftspeople of Silver Lady to turn the original ideas, aspirations and vision into reality. Without a doubt, Leon Lyall takes full credit for the outstanding original



designs which incorporated the many proposals from Association members. These designs were the foundation for what is now a striking and impressive centrepiece. The Chair concluded by highlighting the fact that the centrepiece, among other features, keeps alive the memory of several former Artillery Clerks.

The unexpected and much appreciated success of the fundraising appeal means that the Association was able to donate £1,000 from the surplus funds to the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund – the Association's charity of choice.

The accompanying photographs clearly show that the silver centrepiece is quite simply stunning. This sentiment was

echoed by our special guests: The Master Gunner St James's Park, Lt Gen Richard Nugee CB, CVO, CBE (Hon. President), Lt Gen Sir Freddie Viggers KCB, CMG, MBE, DL (Past Hon President), Maj Gen Peter Currie CB, CBE (Past Hon President), Lt Col Andrew McDermott MBE (CO 14 Regt), WO1(RSM) Gemma Begley (RSM 14 Regt) and WO2(BSM) Ryan Zietsman (BSM 34 (Seringapatam) Bty – the Associations' affiliated Bty).

The silver centrepiece now provides a permanent commemorative reminder of the Association and the service of its members, especially the value and high regard with which Artillery Clerks were held by their fellow Gunners, officers and soldiers alike. This singular historic flagship will be securely housed, displayed and maintained with other regimental artifacts in the Royal Artillery Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess at Larkhill.

The dinner

Befitting the occasion, this was the first reunion dinner to which partners were invited. The ladies were most welcome and ensured conversation flowed freely on a whole range of topics. As we always expect, but never take for granted, the food and wine supplied by the Mess staff during the evening was first class and

reminiscent of many a Sergeants' Mess dinner night of the past. A special mention must go to the Mess staff both in front and behind the scenes who do so much every year to make our reunion weekends and dinners so enjoyable.

Our thanks also go to the Sandhurst Band Musical Quartet who played during the meal. They did an excellent job, providing a wide and varied programme of music, with a fantastic rendition of the post horn gallop as a particular highlight.



Following the Loyal Toast and toasts to the Ladies and Absent Friends, we were treated to some entertaining speeches from our Association Chair and the Master Gunner St James's Park before retiring to the bar to finish off a remarkable evening.

In all, a total of 62 Association members, guests and partners sat down to enjoy a splendid dinner which was a very fitting celebration of our 25 years as an Association and provided us with a night to remember for a very long time, with, of course, a spectacular silver centrepiece.

There were many highlights worth mentioning from the weekend:

Mike Hutchinson, a former member of the Rocket Troop in



Presentation of a cheque for £1000 by Mr Roy Deal to Col Matthew Carter RAA

2nd Fd Regt, particularly enjoyed his visit to the Congreve Room in the Officers' Mess. In one of the many coincidences we encounter so much in the gunner family, one of our Past Hon Presidents, Maj Gen Peter Currie, was also Mike's Commanding Officer when Mike was Chief Clerk 12 AD Regt; and a 2nd Lt when Mike was Gunner Clerk in 2 Fd Regt in the early Seventies.

The announcement that the Association Standard would be paraded at the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall on 11th November 2023 was the icing on the cake, confirming the high standing and prestige of the Association.

It was good to see nine of the members who attended the first dinner in 1998 gather again for a group photograph 25 years later – they were (front row): Leon Lyall, Marty Hester, Joe Falzon (Chair), Dave Stotan, Dennis Norris; (back row): Michael Regan, Mick

Artillery Clerks' Association Virtual Annual General Meeting Tuesday 14th May 2024

The Artillery Clerks' Association virtual Annual General Meeting will be held at 1900 hours on Tuesday 14th May 2024. Further details can be seen in the Secretary's report and will be published in due course

Grenham, Ron Holmes and Geoff Hyatt.

Finally, thank you to all the original members who created the Association for the indelible mark they left 25 years ago and for the values they instilled, which current members have kept true in their working and retired lives throughout these years.

We now look forward to the next 25 years of our Association and to Larkhill 2024 for our next reunion weekend.



Artillery Clerks' Association Germany Reunion 8th – 10th December 2023

Ron Holmes MSM (former WO1(SSM))

Dear fellow members, we have just had an amazing reunion weekend here in Bielefeld which coincided with the Bielefeld Christmas Market 8-9 December 2023.

Several members came across from UK and Denmark to meet up Friday night in the Irish bar for a warm up.

The hotel planning in the Altstadt and Ravensberger Hotels was spot on being in the middle of the Bielefelder Altstadt. Right by the wide spread Christmas market which made for easy walking to the Gluhwein stands and various delights and shops in the city centre. It proved to be far cheaper than any UK Xmas market.

As per last year we met up in the Irish bar which had great service and cocktails where two for the price of one which was a bonus for the ladies. It was the perfect start before we went for a meal in the famous Bielefelder brauhaus (booked 6 months previous to ensure we get a table. The place was amazing. We were given a great place to sit and were very well looked after by the Brewery girls. The pre menu booking worked a treat and the food was delicious washed down by their local brew which was a treat. Some of us even went and had a dance with all the local party goers who were having a smashing time in the old brewery. This was



followed by a return to the Irish bar for further refreshments. Some managed it until 0200 hrs before toddling off to the hotel (no last orders here).

Saturday was a day of rest with some light strolling around the market in the afternoon. A few Glühwein's and currywurst did not spoil the appetite for the evening dinner in the Gluck und Seligkeit restaurant. Those who had not been before were amazed at how nice the place was. You can judge for yourself from the pictures in our AC website. We had superb food and company and were very well looked after by the staff who were very attentive. It was a marvellous reunion within a very nice Christmas setting in what used to be a large church. We raised a glass to absent friends and had a thoroughly enjoyable evening. I must mention that the weekend would not been half as good without the ladies present. It was really nice and added that much more to the reunion.

Many have pledged to come back again at the same time next year. I am planning for the weekend 6 – 8 December 2024. So start planning. I really look forward to seeing you all in Larkhill in June so we can catch up again.



Remembering the Korean War 70 years on

Terry Cooper

Horse Guards Parade Thursday
27th July 2023

On Thursday 27th July 2023
I attended the Korean War 70
remembrance ceremony at
Horse Guards Parade. I was
accompanied by my youngest,
Jess, pictured.



It was an honour to remember those that fought during the conflict which included my Dad, Allan Cooper. He served aboard HMS Birmingham where amongst her actions, she fired 1051 6in shells. She then assisted the US Navy who used landing craft to evacuate thousands of friendly Koreans from the islands off the North West coast. Photos are of Dad wearing his Korean War medal ribbons and HMS Birmingham.



Dad was a bit of a character. Among his misdemeanours were when the crew were jumping into the sea to cool off he swam underneath the ship to the other side. Needless to say the crew

panicked thinking that he had drowned. He went on a diving course where they nailed the divers boots to the deck which made the trainees think the boots were too heavy to move. One of Dad's more important episodes was that he had two girlfriends at the same time. One he sent all his savings too. He made a mistake and sent letters in the wrong envelopes to them. The one with the savings disappeared and the other was my Mum, Anne with whom seven kids were born! He was eventually kicked out of the navy for smuggling cigarettes.



HMS Birmingham was used in a couple of well know films; 'The Baby And The Battleship' and 'Battle Of The River Plate'. There was a bit of a hoo-ha when at the Cannes Film Festival, 1957, when the painting 'The Bane' was



visible in the wardroom, it had been loaned to the ship!



Anyway, back to the Remembrance Ceremony. It was attended by many Korean War veterans with families and friends. HRH The Duke of Gloucester and His Excellency the Ambassador to the South Korean Embassy were in attendance and gave speeches. The programme included a timeline of the war, with veterans and their families describing what went on at each phase of the conflict. There were also South Korean traditional displays along with a choir and the British Army Band Colchester.



There were various displays by all services of the Armed Forces which were of great interest. There were some weapons on display from the Korean War. I am photographed with a 25 Pounder and Limber from the era. They had come from Larkhill.

Later, during the event I met up with Robbie Astick who was there with his family. His Uncle,



Rifleman Alfred Lowther of the Royal Ulster Rifles had served during the Korean War and had been wounded during the Battle of Imjin River. His Uncle also served during the Second World War. Sadly Robbie doesn't have a photo of his Uncle.

Overall it was a great event to remember those that took part in the 'Forgotten War' seventy years ago. It was an honour to speak to the Korean War veterans and to talk about my Dad's service.



Being an Artillery Clerk

Maj (Retd) John Reynolds

Being under lock-down because of the Covid pandemic, has given me time to reflect on the day that my Chief Clerk, SSgt(AC) Nick Carter, in 1st Singapore Regiment RA in 1951, told me that, if I wanted to proceed beyond the rank of Bdr as a clerk, I would have to become an Artillery Clerk. I already had my ACE 2nd Class, but I needed to upgrade to Clerk BII to have the necessary basic qualification to make an application. Nick Carter managed to get me on to a BII course very quickly at the RASC School in Nee Soon. I managed to pass the course, but only just. It was here, at the RASC School, that I met my first RASC Staff Clerk. There were four of these blokes on the course and they explained that, after basic training at the RASC Depot, they did the Staff Clerks course and were then posted to various HQs and that they did not expect to be posted to an RASC unit as a clerk. Of these four, one was serving with GHQ FARELF, and the other three were with HQ Singapore Base District. More about Staff Clerks later.

The next step was for an AF B2048, headed in red ink "Application for Appointment to the ACs Roll", to be completed by the CO with a recommendation. This was then sent directly to RA Records in Sidcup where it was handled by the section that dealt with Acs for consideration. Fortunately, there was a vacancy on the Roll and I was appointed LBdr(AC) with the seniority date 26 January 1952. At the time I was a War Substantive Bdr, so I continued to wear the stripes and get paid as such. There was one other problem – the regiment did not have an establishment for a junior NCO Artillery Clerk, but the Artillery Branch, GHQ FARELF, did. So I was posted to Artillery Branch GHQ FARELF as a WS/Bdr(AC) on the 31st August 1951. This posting did not last long, the Army had decided to do away with the War Time Promotion Code, which it had carried on using even after the war ended, and introduced the Peace Time Promotion Code, to be effective 1st April 1952. All War

Substantive ranks were cancelled and every one had to revert to a substantive rank that had already been calculated by the various Record Offices. I had to revert to substantive Lbdr(AC), but the vacancy was for a Bdr(AC). Once again I was on the move, this time to HQRA 40 Infantry Division at Far East Farm Camp in the New Territories in Hong Kong, where I filled the vacancy for a LBdr(AC) in the AQ Branch of the HQ under Sgt(AC) Bill James. The odd thing about this posting was that even though there was an HQRA 40 Inf Div, there was no actual HQ 40 Inf Div. After I had been there for a couple of months, 14th Fd Regt came to Hong Kong from Korea and moved into Quarry Camp just a few miles up the road from us. Their Chief Clerk had been brought off the troop ship in a stretcher and admitted to 33 General Hospital. The regiment requested someone from HQRA to fill the position until Field Records in Singapore could find a replacement. I was promoted to Local Bdr and sent to do the

job. It was quite interesting as a Substantive LBdr(AC) to be the Chief Clerk of a regiment. Field Records eventually found a Sgt(AC) and came to take over. My next interesting experience as an Artillery Clerk was in August 1954, as a very, very, junior Sgt(AC) I was on the Held Strength of Field Wing at the Depot awaiting a posting. I was sent for by the Adjutant (I wondered what heinous crime I was guilty of) and on arrival in his office I was informed that I was posted immediately to HQRA 52nd (Lowland) Division in Glasgow as the Chief Clerk and was promoted, immediately, to Acting WO1(SMAC)! I was also informed that it was only a temporary promotion as the chief clerk had died suddenly and I was to hold the fort until a promotion board could be convened to find a permanent replacement. The job lasted 4 months, and I then reverted to Sgt(AC) and returned to Woolwich. I found it very interesting working with the TA.

In 1956 we held the first and last Artillery Clerks' Reunion in Hong Kong. During the course of a conversation someone bemoaned the fact that the infantry and armoured regimental orderly rooms were staffed by a WOII(ORQMS) and a senior rank as assistant chief clerk, whilst Gunner Regimental Offices were run by Sgts. As the most junior Sgt(AC) present, and Chief Clerk of 15th Medium Regiment, I commented that, surely, we should take pride in the fact that in the Gunners a Sgt(AC) could do the job of a WOII and senior NCO in the infantry and armoured regiments! It was many years before the Gunners managed to get the regimental chief clerks positions ungraded to the same level.

In 1958, RA Records declared that 6 acting Ssgt(AC)s had to relinquish their acting ranks and

revert to Sgt(AC). At the time I was a Ssgt(AC) instructing at the RA Clerks' School in Woolwich. I really did not like it there, so I asked for a posting and I was posted to Detmold to a new AAC unit called HQ 1st Light Aircraft Wing AAC. The AAC had been formed the year before and consisted mainly of Air OP Squadrons manned by the Gunners, and Light liaison Flights crewed mainly by remnants of the Glider Pilot Regiment. The Corps did not have an establishment yet for Other Ranks, so the RA continued to fill all the OR positions. It was interesting forming a new HQ in a corps that was trying to find a new path away from the old Air OP system. Starting with an empty office, some boxes containing regulations, manuals, and stationary, and working long hours proved to be very interesting, but very satisfying and I thoroughly enjoyed it.

At last – Staff Clerks! In August 1964, on promotion to SMAC, I was posted to Artillery Branch, HQ BAOR. On arrival I soon found that most of the EREIII jobs in the HQ were filled by Gunners. They were employed in the mail room, stationery office and as runners for various senior officers. One of these runners was based in the C-in-C's office under is Superintendent Clerk. One day this Gunner appeared in my office with a file for the MGRA. I happened to look down at his feet and saw that he was wearing brown shoes, so I immediately

ordered him to go back to his barrack room and get his issued black shoes or boots, and to never again wear brown shoes in uniform. Instead of doing as I had ordered, he went back to his Superintending Clerk to complain, and this bloke immediately phoned me and asked who did I think I was to order his staff around and why had I ordered him to change his shoes. I responded that, as the senior Royal Artillery Warrant Officer in the HQ, I had every right to correct any improper dress worn by Gunners. I also added that in my REGIMENT, the wearing of brown shoes was a privilege allowed by Warrant Officers Class I, and that if his CORPS did not have a problem with that, then that was his problem. This job was interesting because both the MGRA and I were double-hatted. The MGRA was also the Commander, Artillery Division, HQ Northern Army Group, and I was also the Superintending Clerk (the first time that I had ever been called that) of the Artillery Division, HQ Northern Army Group. I had two clerks offices, the Artillery Branch BAOR clerks, which included one Sgt(AC), and the NORTHAG clerks which included a Belgian SSgt, a British Bdr Clerk GD, and Dutch and German LCpls.

I felt that I had been extremely lucky to have been an Artillery Clerk, and to have been given the unique opportunity to experience so many different postings. I thoroughly enjoyed it and would do it all again.

Artillery Clerks' Association Virtual Annual General Meeting Tuesday 14th May 2024

The Artillery Clerks' Association virtual Annual General Meeting will be held at 1900 hours on Tuesday 14th May 2024. Further details can be seen in the Secretary's report and will be published in due course

25th Anniversary of the Artillery Clerks' Association
Royal Artillery Warrant & Officers' & Sergeants' Mess, Royal Artillery Barracks, Larkhill
Saturday 24th June 2023



Front Row: Left to Right

WO1(BSM) R Zietsman (Guest), WO1(RSM) G Begley (Guest), Lt Col A McDermott MBE RA, (Guest), Maj Gen APN Currie CB, Mr AM Tibble MVO MSM (Secretary), Mrs J Falzon, Lt Gen Sir Anthony Gregory KBE CB DL (Master Gunner, St James's Park) (Guest of Honour), Lt Col JF Falzon OSJ BEM (Chairman), Lt Gen RE Nugee CB CVO CBE (Honorary President), Lt Gen Sir Freddie Viggers KCB CMG MBE DL, Mr RH Deal MBE (Reunion Secretary), Mrs M Deal, Lt Col RH Horner MBE

Second Row: Left to Right

Mr AJ Jones (Standard Bearer), Mr L Lyall, Mr C Nuttall, Mr M Hester, Mrs S Martin, Mr M Regan, Mrs L Straw, Mr C Shuter, Mrs J Shuter, Mrs R Gauci, Mr A Nugee, Rt Hon Sir Christopher Nugee, Mr J Nugee, Mrs D Norris, Mrs R Nichol, Mr RJ Nichol, Mrs J Corker, Maj P Corker (Treasurer)

Third Row: Left to Right

Mr SR Seymour, Mrs F Morgan, Maj DG Straw, Mr GO Hyatt, Mr JM Hutchinson, Mr MI Grenham, Mr P Gauci, Mrs S Norris, WO2(SMIS) C Norris, Mrs C Stotan, Mr D Norris, Maj IF Constantine, Mr K Lynn

Rear Row: Left to Right

Maj PA Headford BEM, Mr J Martin, Mr B Morgan, Maj DJ Cussell, Mr RJ Holmes MSM, Mr S Beard, Mr PG Butler, Mr J Lindlay, Mr D Stotan, Mr TC Cooper, Mr H Michelsen, Mr R Astick, Mr G Peggie

**The Coronation of
His Majesty King Charles III
Saturday 6th May 2023**