

The Crossed Quills

The Magazine of the Artillery Clerks' Association



Edition 29
December 2025

Royal Artillery Association Forecast of Events 2026

Date	Event	Location	Description	Attendance
19 February	RA Gold Cup	Sandown Park	Family - Reunion	Ticketed Event
11 March	RAA NEC Meeting	Larkhill	NEC Committee	Attendance Return
12 April	Gunner Sunday	RHC - Chelsea	Family-Church Service (SB)	Ticketed Lunch
15-17 May	RA Assembly	Blackpool	Family - Reunion (SB)	Ticketed Event
16 May	RAA NEC Meeting	Blackpool	NEC Committee	Attendance Return
4 July	RA Service of Remembrance	National Memorial Arboretum	Family-Reunion Church Service (SB)	None-Ticketed Event
13 October	RAA NEC Meeting	Blackpool	NEC Committee	Attendance Return
5 November	Field of Remembrance	Westminster Abbey	Church Service	Invitation Event
8 November	RA Ceremony of Remembrance	Hyde Park Corner	Church Service - Reunion (SB)	None-Ticketed Event
6 December	St Barbara's Day	Larkhill	Family-Church Service (SB)	Ticketed Lunch

SB = Standard Bearer Supported Event

Artillery Clerks' Association Forecast of Events 2026

Date	Event	Location
31 March	Artillery Clerk's Association Committee Meeting	Virtual
29 April	Artillery Clerks' Association Annual General Meeting	Virtual
3-5 July	Artillery Clerks' Association Reunion Weekend	Larkhill



Foreword by Association President

Lt Gen Richard Nugee CB CVO CBE

not going to ‘just go away’ any time soon.

In another part of Defence, the Chief of Defence People, as one of the last acts of a post now disestablished, has just announced the launch of ZigZag careers, where the intent is that people can leave the service for a while, gain experience in civilian life, and return, more experienced and therefore bringing different perspectives. This goes hand in hand with enhanced Reserves. This increased flexibility of employment is designed to increase both skills (a Skills Passport was also launched at the same time) and increase retention. We can only hope it achieves its ambitions, to ensure that the military is kept up to date with developments in the civilian world and improve retention.

It is at times like this, when the future seems more uncertain than in the past, that the camaraderie and friendship of veterans seems much more relevant and important, and I think it is no coincidence that an Afghanistan Veterans charity has been launched, for the 160,000 soldiers who went through that campaign. It is also when our values and standards, that none of us forget from training, appear to be more relevant than ever, not least the concept of helping each other when in need. It is this that the Association is so good at, keeping the slightly reducing numbers always together. We have to thank Joe our Chairman, Andy

our Secretary and the whole team for that, for their unstinting work, always done with seeming ease and good will.

After 10 years of having the honour and privilege of being your Honorary President, I have decided to hand on this treasured baton to another, younger and more dynamic, to take this wonderful institution forward. I am delighted that my very good friend, Maj Gen Neil Marshall, who many of you will know, has accepted the challenge. As I look back on the last decade, I believe you should be deeply proud of what you have achieved. From representing the Association at every possible opportunity, to ensuring that those who have died are properly commemorated, to a celebratory silver Anniversary, with a magnificent silver centrepiece attached, and to the finding of new members of the association, so much has been accomplished.

As we end a year that has had more than its fair share of unpredictable events, difficult politics across the western world, and in the face of continued Russian aggression, I wish you all the very best. And as ever, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

2025 appears to have been the year of published strategies – Defence Review, Industrial Strategy, Defence Industrial Strategy to name a few – and a reaction to the US questioning how much Europe is paying for its Defence. As a result we have a commitment from the Government for more Defence spending, although it will not satisfy those who think we should be doing more, faster. But the trajectory is up, for the first time in ages, and this can only be a good thing for the Army. The Artillery are also increasingly being recognised (again!) as an essential part of any ORBAT – the very poor state of field artillery (14 x 155mm guns in the whole Army) is being addressed, and we established the King’s Gurkha Artillery, which is a triumph of a change and I am sure they will be made hugely welcome.

The mood appears to be upbeat – with the largest ever Defence Sales Exhibition in September – although the scale of what needs to be done to prepare for the potential for more tension in Europe is not being underestimated. With Russia testing Poland’s defences with drones and more NATO troops (in this case the RAF) being sent to Europe’s Eastern flank, it is clear that the threat to our security is

A Message from the Honorary President Elect

Maj Gen Neil Marshall OBE



It is both a great honour and a genuine pleasure to have been invited by General Richard, Joe Falzon and the Association Committee to serve as your fifth Association Honorary President. Joe assured me that the role would be “purely honorary” — yet I am delighted that it will give me the opportunity to meet many of you once again, following my last visit to your Annual Dinner in 2022.

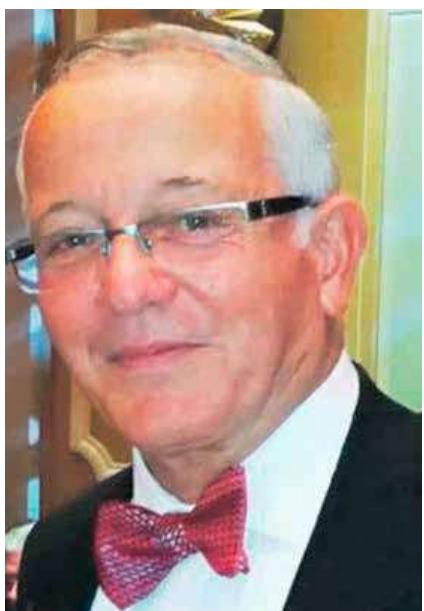
I am immensely proud to be associated with an organisation that, to my mind, represents the very best of the British Army: loyalty, integrity, and comradeship — values that are deeply rooted and enduring. This Association, uniting those who share common experiences and values, stands as a powerful testament to our collective spirit.

At a time when society can feel increasingly fragmented, the bonds of friendship and mutual support that this Association nurtures are more important than ever. It is through these enduring connections that we preserve not only our shared history but also the sense of belonging that defines us all.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the next Association Dinner at Larkhill on Saturday 4th July 2026 as part of the Reunion Weekend. Have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

*Artillery Clerks' Association
Virtual Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 28th April 2026*

The Artillery Clerks' Association virtual Annual General Meeting will be held at 1900 hours on Tuesday 28th April 2026. Further details can be seen in the Secretary's report and will be published in due course



Report by Association Chairman

Lt Col Joe Falzon OSJ BEM

It feels like a long time since our Reunion Weekend and Dinner back in June—and in that short space, the world has seemed to deliver more than its fair share of challenges. Across the globe, we've witnessed earthquakes, flooding, forest and grass fires, wars and conflicts, and here in the UK, political U-turns and the ongoing cost-of-living crisis. Too often, the headlines have been heavy with bad news.

Yet, within our own Association, there has been much to celebrate. Our 90th Reunion was a shining example of the camaraderie and spirit that define us. The weekend was made all the richer by the presence of friends we hadn't seen in far too long—most notably Mark and Joan Testi, and Joe and Debbie Hoggins.

One of the evening's most poignant moments was the



introduction of a new honour: The Kemish Award, named in memory of the late WO2 (QMS(AC)) Trevor Kemish. This award recognises exceptional dedication and service to the Association, and it was a privilege to see our first recipient, Dave Cussell, receive it from our Honorary President. Dave's unwavering commitment, loyalty, and leadership over more than 25 years make him not only a worthy winner but a true cornerstone of our Association.

In uncertain times, it is all too easy to feel that the world is drifting apart. But belonging to a "family" like ours remind us of a different truth: that friendship, loyalty, and shared experience are anchors no

storm can shake. We are bound not just by history, but by the values we have lived—service, respect, humour in adversity, and a willingness to look out for one another. These qualities are not just the spirit of our Association; they are the very things the world needs more of. When we come together—whether in person at a reunion or in quiet acts of support between meetings—we renew those bonds, strengthen each other, and carry that spirit forward into our families, communities, and lives.

As usual, I would like to thank once again the Association Committee members and all of you who have backed the work they do.

This year, my special thanks go to Roy Deal, our outgoing Reunion Secretary, whose hard work and dedication since 2017 made our annual Reunion Weekends possible. Everyone's support and encouragement over the past year has been central to enhancing our special bond of comradeship. It is your continued and visible endorsement that sustains our organisation and makes all the difference.

Finally, I would like to offer heartfelt thanks to Lieutenant General Richard Nugée for his remarkable decade of service as our Honorary President. His insight, encouragement, and friendship — especially as we marked our Centenary in 2023 and commissioned our Silver Centrepiece — have meant a great deal to us all.

We now warmly welcome Major General Neil Marshall, who will take up the appointment on 1 January 2026, and we look forward to working together to further strengthen and grow our Association.

I wish you all the best for a prosperous, healthy, and successful 2026, and I look forward to seeing you all again at the Reunion Dinner on 4th July 2026



Report by Association Secretary

Andy Tibble MVO MSM (former WO1(SSM))

It has been another very busy and successful year for the Artillery Clerks' Association. We have continued to support the Royal Artillery Association (RAA) through our presence at several major events during the year. Our Standard Bearer, Andrew Jones, has once again represented the Association at key RAA

engagements. On behalf of the Committee and the membership, I extend our sincere thanks to Andrew for his dedication and commitment throughout the year. A full list of the events he attended can be found in the Minutes of the AGM held on Tuesday 14th May 2025, later in this 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 90th Reunion Dinner which was held at the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Central Mess, Larkhill on Saturday 21st June 2025 under the auspices of our Reunion Secretary, Mr Roy Deal. The Association was proud to welcome the Director Army Basing and Infrastructure, Major General R M Clements CBE as our Guest of Honour. Our other guests were Major Richard Davies, the Association Secretary of the Royal Artillery Association, and Warrant Officer Class Two Simon Godfrew, Battery Sergeant Major of 34 (Seringapatam) Battery. A full report on the Reunion weekend and dinner can be found later in the magazine. 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. Thank you also to Roy for everything he has done as Reunion Secretary to make sure that the reunions have been a great success during his tenure as he now hands over the reins to Chris Shuter. Further details regarding the 90th Artillery Clerks' Association and Reunion Dinner that took place at Larkhill on Saturday 21st June 2025 can be found later in this edition of 'The Crossed Quills'.

Annual General Meeting 2026.

It was agreed by the Committee we would hold a virtual Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 28th

April 2026 instead at our reunion weekend in July 2026. 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.

91st Artillery Clerks' Association Reunion and Dinner. The 91st Artillery Clerks' Reunion will take place over the weekend of the Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th July 2026 at Larkhill. Detail of the Guest of Honour and Guest will be published in due course. Following his appointment as our new Honorary President I am pleased to announce that Major General Neil Marshall OBE, will be attending. 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 Chris, 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.

Crossed Quills 2025/2026. I do hope that you enjoy reading this edition of 'The Crossed Quills'. I would like to take this opportunity in thanking those Association members who have contributed to this edition by forwarding articles and photographs for inclusion into this edition. Donations for this year's magazine have been kindly received from Committee members, Association members, and 34 (Seringapatam) Battery. Many thanks for your contributions. I would be very grateful if members could look through their personal archives to see whether they uncover anything of interest—such as old photographs—that they would like to be included in next year's edition. These articles, with photographs should reach me by no later than Friday 4th September 2026. 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 32 of the Crossed Quills is due to be published by the end of December 2026.

Distribution of Crossed Quills.

At the Annual General Meeting in May 2024 the Chairman announced significant changes regarding the distribution of our annual magazine, The Crossed Quills starting from December 2025. The Crossed Quills will now be distributed online. This decision reflects our commitment to make savings, streamlining our communications methods, reducing our environmental footprint and enhance accessibility for all members, regardless of geographical location.

However, we recognised that some members may prefer to continue receiving hard copies of The Crossed Quills. Therefore,

discretionary exception will be made for those members who register their preference to receive hard copies with the Association Secretary. To date only 5 members have made a request to receive a hard copy of Crossed Quills.

If you wish to receive a hard copy of the Crossed Quills going forward, I would be most grateful if you could email me, please to let me know at [Secretary@artyclerkassn.org](mailto:artyclerkassn.org) by no later than Monday 2nd November 2026

The Kemish Award. The Kemish Award honours outstanding contributions to the Artillery Clerks' Association, commemorating the legacy of Trevor Kemish and his commitment to unity, service, and growth within the Association.

It is presented annually to a member or honorary member who has demonstrated exceptional dedication and impact.

- **Eligibility & Criteria.** Open to active, paid-up or honorary members with at least five years of membership. Nominees are assessed on leadership, innovation, mentorship, welfare support, teamwork, and representational duties.
- **Nomination & Selection.** Nominations, endorsed by another member, must be submitted by 14th March each year. The Association Committee selects the recipient before the AGM, based on the quality, impact, and alignment of contributions with the Association's values.
- **Award Presentation.** The award is presented by the Honorary President at the Annual Reunion Dinner in July and publicly recognised across Association channels.
- **Governance & Review.** The process is overseen by the Association Chairman and

Secretary, with annual reviews and member feedback ensuring transparency and continuous improvement.

Nomination Forms for the Kemish Award are to reach the Association Secretary by 15th March 2026. A copy of the Nomination Form is attached to this Newsletter, available on the Artillery Clerks' Association website or on request from the Association Secretary.

RAA Forecast of Events. 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 wish to attend any of these events, grateful if you could let me know please in advance.

Membership. Our current membership stands at 125. 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.

Artillery Clerks'; Association Website/Facebook. As you know, Leo Lyall our Webmaster has continued to dedicate a lot of time and hard work to make sure that the Artillery Clerks' Association website is highly presented and

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

St Barbara's Day Service

2026. The St Barbara's Day Church Service will be held in the Garrison Church of St. Alban the Martyr, Larkhill on Sunday 6th December 2026. 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

Area Secretary's. I know that is 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.

Informal Association Gathering – Sunday Evenings.

As you may already be aware, there is an informal gathering every Sunday evening on MS Teams at 1900 hours. If you would like to join this gathering, grateful if you could let me know please and I will ensure that the invitation is forwarded to you.

Change of Address/Contact

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

See you in Larkhill in July 2026, if not sooner.

Ubique.

Andy

Association Committee 2025 - 2026

Honorary President	Lt Gen Richard Nugee CB CVO CBE
	Maj Gen Neil Marshall OBE (from 1 Jan 2026)
Chairman	Lt Col Joe Falzon OSJ BEM
Secretary	Andy Tibble MVO MSM - former WO1(SSM)
Assistant Secretary	Vacant
Reunion Secretary	Chris Shutter - former Sgt(AC)
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))
RAA Representative	Lt Col Richard Horner MBE

Regional Secretaries

North	Brian Morgan – former WO2(SQMS)
North West	Dennis Norris – former WO2(QMS(AC))
Midlands	Leo Lyall - former SSgt
East	Alf Alvin - former WO1 (SSM)
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 Alf Alvin 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



Reunion Secretary's Report ***by Chris Shuter (former Sgt (AC))***

The Artillery Clerks' Association ties are available from the Reunion 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 2026 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





General

Where has a year gone?! Andy has recently reminded me that my report was due and I'm still wondering how quickly the time has raced by over the last 12 months. It could be, that I'm busier than ever but there is only a set period for golfing, gardening and the odd beer!! I do hope at the time of writing all members and their families are enjoying what has been a belter of a year. The weather in Southport has been exceptional, so not too many wet days on the golf course.

The 2025 reunion was a great gathering and I must take time to thank Roy for his continued professionalism to his bailiwick. It was fitting that he was presented with a farewell gift from the Association as he takes his place as a 'back bencher' from next year. I want to personally say thank you, we have worked closely over the years agreeing the expenditure limits for the annual dinners and it comes as no surprise to say Roy followed his financial mandate to the letter.

2025 has been a normal reporting year as accounting goes. No 'Silver Centre Piece' donations to track and to claim back gift aid donations from HMRC. At the time of writing the 2025 Reunion account is balanced to zero with no issues raised. Leading on to 'Gift Aid', could I please politely

Report by Treasurer

Major (Retd) Paul Corker

request the 18 members who are yet to complete the form to do so as quickly as possible? The Association received £452.59 in January 2025 which gives a grand total of £4,979.05 since we were granted 'charity status'.

My mission to the Committee and to the members has not changed. I am committed to ensure that the fund has long-term sustainability and a solid platform to meet all challenges. Please take a look at the accounts; with clear guidance from the Committee I can report that the fund continues to be financially sound.

Just some parish notes. As I previously alluded to, the website is a fantastic platform that we all should embrace and use to improve what we do as an Association. You will find an

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

To recap: Please check your bank statements prior to January 2026 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	- £1,440:00 (this is total). Only 9 unpaid 2025 subscriptions.
Mandate	- 7 Members not paying by Direct Mandate.
Gift Aid	- 18 Members have not submitted the Declaration Form.

Statement of Account – 01st September 2025

ASSETS (A)	LIABILITIES (B)
Cash £ 0:00	
Current Bank Account £ 228:17	Function 2025/26 £ 0:00
Deposit Account £ 7,000:00	Kemish Fund £ 870:00
Shop Stock £ 300:00	Creditors £ 200:00
Property (Display Boards) £ 400:00	
Kemish Trophy £ 360:00	
Silver Centre Piece (SCP) £ 9,980:00	
Total Assets (A) £ 18,268:17	Total Liabilities (B) £ 1070:00
Property and SCP (P) £ 10,740:00*	* SCP and Property not available cash
AVAILABLE CASH (A – B - P) £ 6,458:17	

Summary

The fund continues to be financially strong and has the flexibility to support the needs of its members when required. My efforts are: to clear outstanding subscriptions totaling £1,440:00 (slight increase from 2024), to ensure all members change their annual subscription to £15 and for all to complete their Gift Aid forms prior to January 2026.

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 require that action. The fund is on a strong financially footing and continues to be ready to meet any unknown challenges as they come along.

Wishing you all the very best and I hope to see you in Larkhill next year. Take care.

Report by Standard Bearer

Andrew Jones (former Sgt (AC))



Gunner Sunday at The Royal Hospital Chelsea on Sunday 13th April 2025

I was honoured and privileged to represent The Artillery Clerks' Association at Gunner Sunday at The Royal Hospital Chelsea on Sunday 13th April 2025.

This year Richard Horner & his wife turned up. We had a most enjoyable lunch and a drink in the

bar. Also in attendance was Ted Fairbrass.

The Royal Hospital Chelsea was established over 300 years ago, during the reign of King Charles II, to provide a home for soldiers "broken by age and war." In 1682, the King commissioned Sir Christopher Wren, one of Britain's most celebrated architects, to design this sanctuary for veteran soldiers. The site chosen was in Chelsea, adjacent to the River Thames, where an earlier of Charles' projects, the huge but unfinished 'Chelsea College' stood. By 1692, the Royal Hospital opened its doors, welcoming the first 99 Chelsea Pensioners, and by the end of that year, several hundred veterans had made this their home.



Wren's design, inspired by the Hôtel des Invalides in Paris, initially featured Figure Court, which housed 412 veterans and their officers. As the need grew, Wren expanded his design to include Light Horse Court and College Court, ensuring the Royal Hospital could accommodate more residents. The Hospital's early funding came from deductions



The Master Gunner St James's Park, Lt Gen Sir Andrew Gregory KBE CB DL, Mr Andrew Jones (Standard Bearer) & Lt Col Joe Falzon DSJ BEM (Chairman)

from Army pay, which remained its main source of revenue until 1847.

Ranelagh Gardens and the Rotunda

Part of the Royal Hospital's grounds was granted to Richard Jones, 1st Earl of Ranelagh, in 1698. He transformed the area into the Ranelagh Pleasure Gardens, which became a popular venue for entertainment, and included the Rotunda, a magnificent concert hall, where a young Mozart once performed to fashionable crowds.

The Gardens closed in 1803 and the Rotunda was demolished in 1805. Following the construction

of the Embankment, the gardens were redesigned in the 1860s and still echo this vibrant past as a venue for shows and festivals.

Wartime Resilience

The Royal Hospital has endured significant challenges, particularly during the two World Wars. In the First World War, the Hospital suffered heavy damage, and during the Second World War, it was directly hit during the Blitz. The Soane Infirmary's East Wing was destroyed by an aerial mine in 1941, resulting in the loss of lives, including four nurses and eight Chelsea Pensioners. The North East Wing was also severely

damaged by a V2 rocket in 1945. Despite these incursions, the spirit of the Royal Hospital and its residents remained resolute.

Modern Era

In the post-War years, the Royal Hospital saw significant restoration and modernisation. The Chelsea Pensioner accommodation, known as 'berths', was enlarged in 1954-55 and again in 1991, to better meet the needs of its residents. The Margaret Thatcher Infirmary, a state-of-the-art care home and hospice, opened in 2009, further enhancing the level of care provided.

The Royal Hospital's historic buildings, such as the Great Hall and the Long Wards, have been meticulously restored. The Great Hall, with its impressive mural painting of Charles II on horseback, and Wren's original Figure Court remain central to the Royal Hospital's identity. Today, the Royal Hospital Chelsea continues to serve as a living monument to the nation's gratitude, providing a home, care, and community to the veterans who have served their country.



Report by Welfare Secretary

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

- brain injury
- alcohol or drug misuse
- the side-effects of medical treatment

You must make an LPA whilst you are still capable of making decisions for yourself. This is called having mental capacity. There are two types of LPA:

- property and financial affairs LPA
- health and welfare LPA

You don't have to make both types of LPA at the same time.

Property and financial affairs lasting power of attorney

A property and financial affairs LPA can give someone the authority to deal with and make decisions about things like:

- buying or selling property
- bank, building society and other financial accounts
- welfare benefits
- tax affairs
- debts

You can give someone power of attorney to deal with all your property and financial affairs or only certain things, for example, to operate a bank account, to buy and sell property or change investments. If you want to make an LPA which only deals with certain matters, you should make sure that it is drawn up very carefully so that the attorney is very clear about what authority they have to deal with your affairs.

A property and financial affairs LPA must be registered before it can be used. However, you don't have to wait until someone loses their mental capacity before using it. A property and financial affairs LPA will come into effect

as soon as it is registered. This means that the attorney will be able to start making decisions about your property and financial affairs straight away, even if you are still capable of making your own decisions. If you don't want the attorney to be able to make decisions about your affairs straight away, you should make sure that the LPA says this.

The LPA must always include authority for the attorney to make decisions once the donor has lost their mental capacity.

Health and welfare lasting power of attorney

An LPA about health and welfare can give someone authority to deal with and make decisions about things like:

- where you live
- your day-to-day care, including what you wear and what you eat
- your healthcare treatment
- what contact, if any, you should have with certain other people

You can make a health and welfare LPA which deals with all aspects of your personal welfare, or only certain things.

It's not possible to use a health and welfare LPA until the person who made it has lost their mental capacity. The LPA must be registered before it can be used.

Make a lasting power of attorney

You must make an LPA whilst you're still able to make decisions for yourself. You should choose the person who you want to look after your affairs very carefully.

Whilst the majority of our members are in good health, it is important to make plans for the future to ensure your families can manage your affairs during any period of incapacitation. The main area that this involves is the appointment of Powers of Attorney to manage your property and finance and/or your health and well-being.

Lasting Power of Attorney

If you want someone to look after your affairs for a long period of time, you can give them a lasting power of attorney (LPA). An LPA is different from an ordinary power of attorney because:

- you can make an LPA which looks after your health and care decisions and one to look after your property and financial affairs
- an LPA must be registered before it can be used
- an LPA lets you choose people to look after your affairs if you lose mental capacity

Anyone can make an LPA in case they ever lose mental capacity. This doesn't mean you're expecting it to happen, it's something you might want to do in case something happens in the future.

The kinds of illness which might prevent you from making decisions for yourself include:

- dementia
- mental health problems

The person you choose to look after your affairs is called an attorney.

There are two ways you can make an LPA. You can:

- make a lasting power of attorney on GOV.UK
- download the forms - you'll need to fill them in, then print them off and sign them

There is one form for a property and affairs LPA and a different form for a health and welfare LPA. If you want someone to look after your financial affairs and your health and welfare, you will need to make two separate LPAs and fill in both forms.

There are notes which come with the forms which tell you exactly what to do. You should read these very carefully.

Register a lasting power of attorney

Once you've filled in these forms, you will need to register the LPA with the Office of the Public Guardian. If you're the donor and you still have mental capacity, you can apply to register the LPA yourself. The person named as your attorney can also apply to register the LPA. They can do this at any time, whether you have lost

mental capacity or not.

To register the LPA, send the completed form to the Office of the Public Guardian. If you need to pay a registration fee, you'll need to send it with your completed form.

Office of the Public Guardian
PO Box 16185
Birmingham
B2 2WH
Telephone: 0300 456 0300
Calling from outside the UK: +44 (0)203 518 9639
9am to 5pm, Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays
10am to 5pm, Wednesdays
Email: customerservices@publicguardian.gov.uk
Website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/office-of-the-public-guardian>

If you make both types of LPA, you will need to pay two lots of fees. Some people don't have to pay any registration fees. You can find out how much an LPA costs on GOV.UK.

If the LPA has been correctly completed and there are no objections to the registration after people have been notified, the Public Guardian must register it. It takes around 20 weeks for the Public Guardian to register the

LPA. They must notify the donor and any attorneys that they have registered the LPA.

You can use the LPA once it has been registered. You can now register the LPA with anyone who needs it - for example banks or doctors.

End a lasting power of attorney

There are a number of ways to bring an LPA to an end. These include:

- the person who made the LPA (the donor) can cancel it if they still have mental capacity.
- the attorney can say they no longer want to be an attorney - they must do this on form LPA 005 which is sent to the donor, the Office of the Public Guardian, and any other attorneys.

An LPA will also come to an end when the donor dies. A property and financial affairs LPA will come to an end if either the donor or an attorney becomes bankrupt.

You can choose to end part of an LPA. For example, you might want to remove one attorney. You need to do a 'deed of partial revocation'. You should get specialist advice to do this.

Artillery Clerks' Association Virtual Annual General Meeting Tuesday 28th April 2026

The Artillery Clerks' Association virtual Annual General Meeting will be held at 1900 hours on Tuesday 28th April 2026. Further details can be seen in the Secretary's report and will be published in due course



Report by Webmaster

Leo Lyall (former SSgt)

ensuring nomination details and updates were published promptly. During the spring, there was a technical issue with the email forwarding system which required some investigation and adjustment, but this was resolved successfully to restore normal communication.

The quarterly newsletters continue to be a cornerstone of our communications, and these have been published regularly to keep members informed of Association news, events, and stories of interest. The website typically sees a notable increase in visits in the run-up to the Annual Reunion Dinner in Larkhill, which underlines the importance of the online presence in supporting attendance and keeping members connected.

The Association's Facebook page remains a lively space for day-to-day interaction. While the website acts as our formal record,

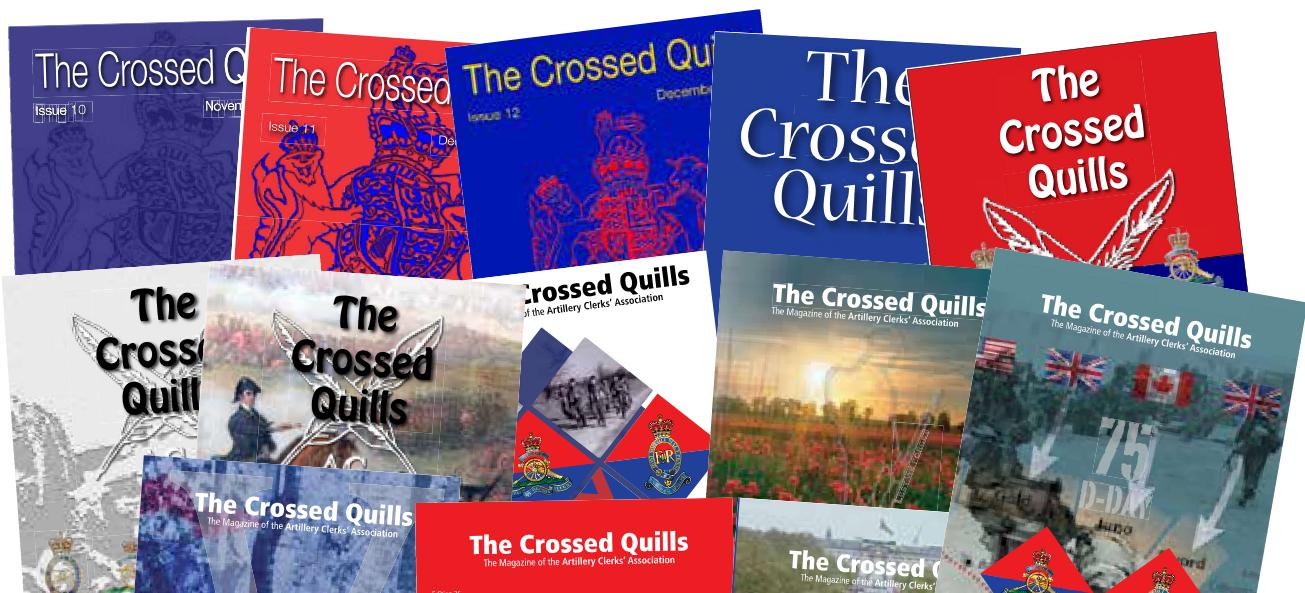
Facebook allows members to share memories, photos, and informal updates, as well as engage in discussions that keep the community spirit alive throughout the year.

Looking ahead into 2026, I anticipate another relatively quiet year from a technical perspective. My focus will remain on ensuring the smooth running of the website, continuing regular newsletters, and supporting the Committee in promoting key events and announcements. I will also keep an eye on opportunities to improve the member experience - whether through simplifying access to information, sharing more historical material, or making the most of our online platforms.

As always, I will use the established routes of the website, Facebook group, and newsletters to keep members informed and engaged.

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 Historical Secretary

Stephen Read (former WO1 (SMAC))

as a clerk was transferred into the military. He was promoted quite quickly and there is some suggestion that he might have been selected for officer training. He was posted around the UK and France, and in 1918 he received a posting order to move to Jamaica.

He embarked on the SS Tortuguero at Liverpool on 24th June 1918 but never made it to his new posting. His ship was sunk by U-boat U156 on the 26th June 1918. There were 12 deaths when the ship went down, 10 crew members and 2 soldiers, one of whom was Henry.

After experiencing the horrors of the western front, Henry came close to surviving the war but died

5 months before the Armistice, on the way to start an exciting new role in the Caribbean. Ubique!

Hopefully this edition of Cross Quills, focussing as it does on the history of the Association, will encourage members to write about their experiences of serving and bring to light old photos that they have stashed away in draws and boxes. Send them in and we will add them to the history of the association and all those that had the honour of bearing the title of 'Artillery Clerk'.

To demonstrate the breadth of service of Artillery Clerks we have recently been able to respond to an enquiry from New Zealand about Sergeant (AC) Henry William Howard who died on 26th June 1918. Before the war Henry was employed as a clerk in company in London and lived, with his wife, in a recently built flat complex in Camberwell Green in London. He volunteered at the start of the war and joined the Royal Garrison Artillery where his experience



Report by South Area Secretary

Paddy Butler (former WO1 (SSM))

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 two years.

Unfortunately, I could not attend this year's reunion due to a diary clash with Royal Ascot but I'm very much hoping to attend in 2026.

Once again, the highlight from an Association point of view for this year, was the Reunion weekend. It was great success if the pictures are anything to go by and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Roy and his committee for executing yet again a fabulous weekend for all who attended.

It's also been great to see that the weekly MS Teams meetings have continued throughout 2025. 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

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

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 would like to congratulate him on receiving Field Marshal in the King's Birthday Honours & Awards. 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.

I am delighted that, the Chief Executive, Maj Gen Neil Marshall will take the role of our Association Honorary President on 1st January 2026. He was our Guest of Honour at the 2022 Reunion Dinner. He is a former CO of 1 RHA. and has also served with 7 RHA, 19 Regt RA and 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 Crossed Quills which I present to him annually since his arrival in 2018 and I'm sure he will love this year's edition. He still resides within the Salisbury

area and loves listening to The Guns firing on the Plain every now and then and was grateful that the Association asked him to be Guest of Honour at the 2022 dinner.

Maj Gen Bill Moore, former CO of 7 RHA and previously of 4th Regt RA during the Falklands campaign, a former Director has 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 Nuttall 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. Our last catch-up was Friday 4th September 2025.

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.

I'm extremely looking forward to attending (health permitting) the 2026 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 2026. Keep safe, calm; and carry on.

My Best Regards to You All,
Ubique.





North Area Secretary Report

Brian Morgan (former WO2(SQMS))

Hello brother Artillery Clerks hope this finds you all fit and well or as well as can be expected given our ever increasing age.

Like many Associations and other such similar military groups it's often the unseen work carried out by a few that ensures the success of the organisation and it cannot be emphasised enough how much the work of certain individual's goes to make our Association and in particular our Annual Reunion and Dinner such a success. The work carried out by Andy, Joe and Roy goes such a long way to ensure the smooth and efficient running of our Association and is the envy of many other Branches and Association's thank you all for your efforts on behalf of our Association. Although Roy has decided to step down and hand over the reins as the Reunion Secretary he will be still helping out in the background and ensuring that the new incumbent will be afforded every assistance as Chris assumes responsibility for the Reunion and Dinner.

I attended the 2025 Association Reunion and Dinner at the Royal Artillery Warrant Officers' and

Sergeants' Mess in June which was once again a most enjoyable event and it has to be said many thanks to Roy for organising everything which ensured everyone had another superb evening. It was great to see Mark and Joan Testi who had made the long journey from the other side of the world especially given Mark's current health issues. Mark and I along with Dave Stotan (who has also had his own health battles of late) were all clerks together in 7 RHA. I was assistant Battery Clerk in G Battery (Mercer's Troop) RHA with Dave and Mark was across the corridor with F (Sphinx) Battery RHA. Mark and Dave both moved on to be the Assistant Chief Clerk of the Regiment before moving on to be Chief Clerks at 22 Air Defence and 4th Regiment Royal Artillery respectively. During our time as young clerks in Germany Trevor Kemish was for a time our Chief Clerk in Roberts Barracks so it was rather poignant that the inaugural award of the Kemish award was presented following the group photograph to Dave Cussell who was recognised for his stalwart service to the Association.

I would certainly encourage all members to make the effort to attend the annual reunion and dinner we really are quite unique

and very fortunate to be able as an Association to have our function in the Royal Artillery Warrant and Sergeant's Mess. I have been contacted by Ian 'Ted' Morgan and John Haddock two former Artillery Clerks who have been enquiring about attendance at the 2026 Reunion Dinner so hopefully we will see a few new (old) faces at the dinner next year. Now that the association has made the decision to go digital and will no longer be going to the effort to send out paper copies of the Crossed Quills to members it is even more important that members stay connected and in touch and to look out for each other. It is important that if any member of our Association is struggling with health or welfare issues that you don't suffer in silence or that you feel too embarrassed to ask for assistance and support. I can assure that everything will be dealt in strictest confidence. As Area Secretary for the North I am responsible for the geographic area from Northumberland to Humberside including the counties of Durham, North Yorkshire, East Riding of Yorkshire, South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire. My email address is morgan_45@hotmail.co.uk or you can contact me via the Association webpage or Facebook group.

Artillery Clerks' Association Virtual Annual General Meeting Tuesday 28th April 2026

The Artillery Clerks' Association virtual Annual General Meeting will be held at 1900 hours on Tuesday 28th April 2026. Further details can be seen in the Secretary's report and will be published in due course



Report by East Area Secretary

Alf Alvin MSM (former WO1 (SSM))

Hello everyone and welcome to my second report in the role, and firstly an apology. I used my previous report as an introduction and completely steered away from the association core responsibility I hold. As mentioned in the last edition by my colleague Paddy, my role is here to be the conduit between the association committee and you the members. Taking the role on, I realised that the pages of the crossed quills aren't just there to report on events occurring but also to send up a flare to those in need who could benefit from assistance in any form as members of the gunner family. Can I please reach out to all those members on the Eastern

patch to get in touch using the east@artyclerkassn.org or via the Facebook page of course.

Well then where to start, let's go for the middle of the year and a fantastic June, not only did I make it safely through another birthday which has been in the past the main cause of my non attendance at reunion dinners. This year was different I did attend and had a great night meeting new and old friends enjoying the ambience (that's code for booze and grub). What did amaze me though was the size of school nowadays, the expansion is striking the place is huge, no comparison to the firing camps I attended back in the day. Our guest of honour during the dinner did expand on the changes occurring in the Royal Regiment and its place within the future army construct, the gunners are going from strength to strength

being the true cornerstone for the future. More to follow, I am sure.

June was also full up for me as the weekend before I attended the annual West Yorkshire Gunners Golfing Tournament that took place at the Forest Pines Golf Club in Broughton. Over the weekend I am glad to say I broke the mould and didn't scrape in with the "most played gold" award. The members are made up of veterans from 45 Regiment and like the reunion a great chance to catch up.

I hope that this short update finds you all safe and well, have a great Christmas everyone and all the best for 2026, Alf Ubique//

PS, get the dates of the next reunion in your diaries I can assure you it is an event not to miss.



The Artillery Clerk's Association and Alabaré Join Forces to Support Veterans in Malta

Lt Col Joe Falzon OSJ BEM

A heartwarming collaboration between our Association and the veteran-focused charity Alabaré has brought new life to one of Malta's historic sites—Fort Delimara—while offering a transformative experience for a group of UK veterans.

As part of Alabaré's Boots on the Ground project, seven veterans and four dedicated volunteers travelled to Malta in May to take part in the restoration of Fort Delimara, a striking 19th-century coastal fortification. The initiative was co-ordinated by Joe Falzon and was generously supported by Heritage Malta, Visit Malta, and the Armed Forces of Malta.

A number of Joe's friends from Malta also played an active role in welcoming and supporting the group. Notably, Michael Attard and his wife Marisa hosted a memorable barbecue at their farmhouse for the visiting veterans and their guests, which included Peter Gauci. This event coincided

with the commemoration of the 80th anniversary of VE Day, adding an especially poignant note to the occasion.

The Boots on the Ground project supports veterans in their journey of recovery and reintegration by offering meaningful work, team-building experiences, and structured challenges. This Malta mission gave participants the chance to contribute to heritage conservation while fostering a renewed sense of purpose, camaraderie, and well-being. Members of the Artillery Clerks' Association played a vital role in supporting this initiative—raising awareness and essential funds to help make the trip possible. Our financial support to Alabaré reflects a shared commitment to honouring and supporting those who have served in the Armed Forces.

For many involved, the experience was both productive and deeply rewarding. Veterans and

volunteers worked alongside experts from Heritage Malta, gaining valuable skills and making a lasting contribution to preserving Fort Delimara for future generations.

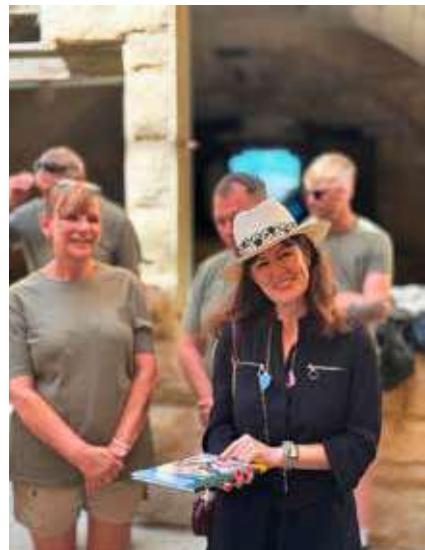
This successful international collaboration is a shining example of what can be achieved through community, charity, and shared purpose—and how acts of restoration, both physical and personal, can go hand in hand.



Joe Falzon welcoming the Alabaré group in Malta



Joe Falzon presenting a cheque from the Association to Sue Bradley and Andrew Lord MBE, CEO Alabaré - Apr 2025



VIP Visitor to fort Delimara HE Cath Ward LVO OBE UK High Commissioner for Malta

Royal British Legion Malta

Peter Gauci (former Bdr(AC))

A number of years back, during one of his visits to the island, a certain Joe Falzon paid a courtesy visit to the RBL offices in Valletta. During that visit he 'happened' to mention why wasn't Peter Gauci, (who had recently returned to live in Malta after 30 years of absence) a member of the British Legion? Sure enough I got an unsolicited telephone call from the Membership Secretary asking me if I would join the Legion – that was around 24 years ago – and that is how my journey with the RBL in Malta started. It is little consolation that I did receive a call on my mobile from Joe, 'advising' me that he might have dropped me in it! No worries I said - at that time, I was still in full time employment battling for market share against Vodafone, having joined a young fledgling telecoms company, **go mobile**, from which I had the pleasure of retiring as the Director of Mobile services some 18 years ago.

Once I retired from full time employment, I swiftly became a committee member, followed by a number of posts – special projects officer, Standard Bearer, vice chairman, till I finally took over the helm of the Branch almost 5 years ago – I now boast as having one of the best unpaid jobs on the island! It became apparent from the early days of joining the Branch was still very much operating in the dark ages and that any form of IT and the usage of digital tools and practices were completely non-existent. It felt that I had dropped back into the dark ages (not quite as bad as being a Battery Clerk in Fallingbostel with 20 Hy Regt in 1965), but strangely reminiscent of those days.

As Special Project Officer I remember trying to carry out

a reform in the way we were making monthly cheque payments on behalf of the Royal Navy Benevolent Association to around 50 x Navy recipients who were deemed as being people who 'couldn't make ends meet' When I suggested that we should be looking at making direct bank transfers to these individuals, I was shouted down – these guys do not have Bank accounts - ahh I said, so it's nothing to do with tax avoidance then, perhaps? Years later, as Vice Chairman, I convinced the then Chairman to allow me to have a go at inviting these recipients to let me have details of their bank accounts, 'as not to do so may result in delays in receiving your payments'. Sure enough – we obtained all the Bank Account details within one month of asking. The payments are now made quarterly directly from Portsmouth – the direct payment method has been running smoothly for the last 5 years or so!

Running an overseas Branch of the RBL relying solely on volunteers brings an extra dimension to the job in hand. Gone are the tools available to the Boss of warning individuals that if their performance does not improve, he or she would receive a written warning followed by dismissal. This factor alone has a very significant impact on how one 'manages' these individuals and the Branch, their backgrounds can vary somewhat – some examples being an ex-Cpl RAF photographer, MT Sgt ex RAF (married to a Maltese whilst serving on the island), who joined the Met Police Force and later formed part of the Queens security service after retiring from the RAF, ex Captain from the RAEC, ex RN cook, Wren, Military Nurse (Poppy Appeal

Organiser), Merchant Navy, and x-pat civilians (the latter category are now few and far between as Brexit has put a nail in that coffin). The minimum roles that need to be filled and maintained are Chairman, Branch Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Welfare Officer, Poppy Appeal Organiser, Standard Bearer and Parade Marshall. The Branch has mandatory reporting obligations to the RBL UK. Audited year end Accounts have to be submitted in a timely fashion. Additionally, local annual reporting regulations to the Malta Business Registry (MBR) and the Controller of Voluntary Organisations (OCVO) places an additional administrative burden on the Branch.

I took over the helm of the Branch during Covid. The then Chairman had to step aside to help his ailing wife. The Branch Secretary's health had been deteriorating prior to Covid, with the resultant slow but inevitable 'disappearance' of the Branch. The treasurer passed away from a sudden heart attack, and the Membership secretary shared the same faith. Succession planning in the branch was unheard of. I had no option but to practically run the Branch on my own for a few months. This forced me (and allowed me) to start the necessary transformation of our practices from paper to the digital era. Over a period of some months, I located a new treasurer, membership Secretary, Branch Secretary and Standard Bearers. All these people had to 'discover' what their duties entailed as we went along. I adopted modern communication tools with the use of social media and the creation of chats groups, always keeping in the back of my mind that any undue pressure would result in sudden vacancies! We created

a new and lively webpage and FB page that are kept constantly updated with ceremonial and social events. I now send regular emails to 75% of the membership who have email addresses. The transformation is in place, but it never stops.

On my part I have established a good working relationship with the various Embassies - the British High Commission, the American Embassy, the Australian Embassy the German, Indian and Italian Embassies, The Armed Forces of Malta, the various service organisations on the island – RAFA, RNA, GCIA, BRA. Apart from the Remembrance Day service the Legion now gets invited to parade the Standard and lay wreaths at the many annual ceremonial events that take place on the island. Three years ago, we were approached to take over the organisation of the annual commemorative service of the famous Operation Pedestal (The Malta Convoy), or as its locally known the Santa Marija Konvoy. The King's Coronation gala dinner and dance gave birth to annual fund-raising events.

Hey-ho – it's a labour of love, but hugely rewarding. I have thrown all my administrative, managerial and commercial experience at it, and made it the best unpaid job on the island! The present Chairman of the Artillery Clerks' Association has a lot to answer for!!



The Falklands Revisited

Maj David Cussell



Back in 1982, a L/Bdr (Stephen) Beasley and I were serving in 29 Commando Regiment when on 1st April the Argentines invaded the Falkland Islands. The Regiment was called into barracks, and we were told to be ready to leave as soon as the ships, primarily moored at Devonport were loaded. We were both on the LSL Sir Geraint and did all administration for the embarked force as well as training for war. It took six weeks to arrive in the Falklands with a stopover at Ascension Island to move stores between ships plus went ashore to zero our weapons and a route march!

We landed by helicopter some 90 minutes after sunrise on the 21st May at Wreck Point overlooking San Carlos Water. We were based at Regt Main HQ, co-located with the FDC, Cym CP, 2IC Party, RSM & Regiment Survey Officer. The main reason we were there was to man the Casualty Occurrence Cell, that worked directly to the Field Records Office as well as the normal clerical facility. Thankfully, we didn't fulfil our primary role.

Sub unit clerks took on the same role at their level. With the

shortage manpower, all clerks had other roles as well. Regimental Main HQ firstly moved from San Carlos via Teal Inlet to Estancia House, then onto Goat Ridge and finally into Stanley arriving on 15th June. The Regiment were all back in UK by the 13th July and ten days later had 6 weeks leave.

On 23rd August I flew with my family to Germany and joined 5th Heavy Regiment in Hildesheim. I lost touch with Stephen and tried a lot of avenues to find him without success.

Some 41 years later I had a communication from the Commando Association asking if I could vouch for a Beasley! We met in a Pub on Plymouth's Barbican when I was there for the 60th anniversary reunion of 95 Regiment in March 2024. Despite the 42 years between seeing each other, we (seemingly) got on extremely well and still recognised each other at first glance, subsequently using WhatsApp to remain in touch. Stephen went on a solo recce of the Falklands in May 2024 flying via Santiago in Chile and using the weekly (Saturday) commercial flight and once he was back, we started discussing plans for us to visit the Falkland Islands in 2025.

"Op Cussell" started in the February when we submitted Applications to SAMA '82 for the twice weekly concessionary RAF flights from Brize Norton.

Some 3 weeks before our 15th May departure we were notified that we had been allocated seats on the aircraft. It turned out that there were 61 passengers for an Airbus 330 Voyager aircraft that



San Carlos Water.



had some 290 seats! Then our flight was delayed by 24hrs due to Rotor Winds. April/May had been a particularly bad month for Rotor Winds and several aircraft had been delayed. Our plans changed accordingly.

So, the 15th May arrived. I drove to Oxford Parkway Station to pick up Stephen to go via a pub in Witney and then proceeded to Brize Norton for the flight. After all the security checks, we were given security passes including a car parking permit and for us to move around the base unescorted. We then checked in and paid for our flight costing £268.00 return (concessionary fare for all SAMA travellers). It was then up to us to find things to do during the 4 hours after check in closed prior boarding the aircraft operated by the airline Air Tanker. In hindsight they could have used us to check the perimeter fence during that time!!



inside Air Tanker A330

The light passenger load gave us the opportunity to be very comfortable using the middle row

of four seats where we could go horizontal. Taking off at 0055hrs, flying time to Ascension was 8 hours 15 mins, an uneventful flight with most people sleeping. On arrival we disembarked to the lounge for 2 hours, had a crew change and aircraft refuelled. The NAAFI provided free wifi.

Back on board for another 8+ hours flight to Mount Pleasant Complex (MPC) we met WO1 James Goatham (Royal Engineers) and his wife Debbie who are based at MPC. Flight landed at 1600hrs to a warm welcome by the staff on passport control. Once clear of customs we boarded our Penguin Travel transport for the one-hour journey to our home for the next 10 days which was an apartment on the Stanley waterfront. We got ourselves settled and then went to Falkland Island Company West Store to gather our supplies.... water, water that turned into wine & water that became beer!

On Saturday 17th May we had an early start, the weather wasn't too bad at all and we toured Stanley on foot visiting the Memorials. During this we were invited into a Royal Marines house (Geoff) for coffee and got a surprise briefing as to what was going on whilst we were there (more later). We then continued with the Historic Dockyard Museum, although small it was very concise about the whole of the Falkland Islands history. Including a feature of the memories of young islanders of the Falklands War. Our last task

before sunset was to collect the Toyota Hilux we had hired for the stay.



Falklands Memorial in Stanley.



The Margaret Thatcher statue in Stanley

Sunday 18th and Monday the 19th we had very heavy rain and high winds. With also a low cloud base hiding the upper elevations of the mountain top we decided to stay at near sea level and thus drove to Goose Green. Being a Sunday made no difference, as outside of Stanley the only other eatery is at there. On the way we visited the Royal Engineers Memorial, to pay our respects. Mick Melia who was a Sapper Cpl in 59 Independent Commando Squadron Royal Engineers was killed during the notorious battle for Goose Green, he was also my next-door neighbour in Plymouth.



Royal Engineers Memorial

Our last call for the day was to visit Fitzroy to see the memorials for the RFAs Sir Galahad and Sir Tristram and The Welsh Guards. Monday, we visited Liberty Lodge in Stanley. I had help from John Francis (BSM 7 Cdo Bty during the conflict) who has visited the Falklands a few times. He put me in touch with Christine Ford who is the Liberty Lodge Manager. We were delighted that there were some Royal Marines from 45 Commando RM and had a good chat with them. One of them was called Mick Melia, who questioned me about Mick Melia the Sapper as it had been reported to his brother (who was also in the conflict) that he was reportedly killed at Goose Green. But it was sorted out very quickly which one had actually died. We joined them in the evening for a few drinks in the Narrows Bar. A great night swinging the lantern!



Tuesday 20th came and the weather had improved a little so we climbed up Mount Harriet

with a view to yomping to Goat Ridge behind it. On top of Mount Harriet, the weather was closing in and recorded the temperature as a chilly -16.7F on a Beasley gismo. We took the decision to come off the mountain and go to Cape Pembroke to look for penguins. They too had decided to stay away during this bout of bad weather.



That evening we were invited to The Governor's Reception in honour of Lt General Sir Charles Strickland KCB OBE RM held at Government House who was visiting the Island to attend the Landing Memorial Service. Upon arrival we were welcomed by Her Excellency, The Governor Alison Blake CMG in the Entrance Hall. We introduced ourselves and she showed us to the bar and then introduced us to other attendees from the serving military personnel from MPC, selected islanders, retired Royal Marines who settled in Stanley and (serving) Dutch Marines. A true privilege to be there and a great evening.



It was a very early start on the morning of the 21st to drive to San Carlos Settlement for the Landing Day Commemorations. The islanders had prepared hot drinks and food in a tented area to the rear of the Cemetery as a meeting place prior to holding the

service and for a light lunch after. The service was very poignant for Stephen and I as we could just make out Wreck Point House which was our landing place 43 years ago to that day. We met many of the people who were at the Governor's Reception the night before. The Governor spent time with us and after the service chatted as we walked back to the reception tent.



There were also members of 14 (Cole's Kop) Battery who are the resident Sky Sabre Battery. It was great meeting them after the service and hearing how they were getting on and enjoying being stationed at MPC. We had plans to go on to Ajax Bay but the weather was closing in, so we returned to Stanley.



Penguin News

FALKLAND ISLANDS

King Road, Stanley, Falkland Islands • Tel: 22884/22700 • editorial@penguinnews.co.uk • www.penguinnews.co.uk • [Facebook](#)

Vol 36 No. 25 Price £2.00

May 25, 2023

*International Tours & Travel Ltd
go with those who know...*



(0) 22841 (0) info@penguin.co.uk

Budget announcement

Anti-stigma mental health brand identity launched

Following on from the success of the 42nd anniversary of the Argentine invasion and members of the British Forces commemorating the 45th anniversary of Landing Day at San Carlos where contingents of the British Task Force landed in order to begin the march towards Stanley to expel Argentine invaders in 1982 - page 14.

Hold that front page!!



Plus, the Argentina Memorial a short distance from Goose Green.



Mount Harriet taken by 42 Commando RM on 11th & 12th June.

Heading back towards Stanley we took several hours from our vehicle to walk to Goat Ridge, our final position on the 12th June. Cease fire was declared on 14th June. It is located to the north of Mount Harriet and to the south of Two Sisters with Mount Kent to the west of the Ridge.



We were able to identify our position all those years ago within the rocks.



On Thursday 22nd morning we went back to Goose Green area to visit Colonel H Memorial.



The area is “littered” with the effects of 29 Commando’s guns! Friday was another windy day with some showers, we had a morning meeting with Simon

Browning (who we had met at San Carlos Cemetery) for a discussion on the Artillery used during the Falkland's War. He had subsequently served at MPC and amazingly liked the Island so much he decided to settle following his military service and now provides battlefield tours to the visiting cruise ships passengers and others who want to be informed about the 74 days it took to recapture the Island. We answered his many questions and gave him the entries that had been in the 1982 Gunner magazine.

After the meeting I went shopping for gifts to take home and then we went out to Yorke Bay and Gypsy Cove looking for penguins - a failed mission.



We had an extra early start on Saturday 24th, as WO1 James Goatham had arranged for us to go on a Welfare Helicopter Trip from Mount Pleasant (MPC) to Volunteer Point. Being winter in the Falklands, it is the only method of transport to reach the area. We needed to be there at 0800hrs for briefing before the flight. Being Veterans, the flights were free, the Sikorsky S-92A was operated by Bristow Helicopter Group. For some years there has been no military helicopters operating on the Island. The RAF operate an A330 air tanker to refuel 4 Typhons. Bristow Helicopters



A muster of King Penguins.

also provide another Sikorsky S-92A solely for search and rescue operations. It was a truly memorable day and we finally found (king) penguins in the thousands.



Sunday 25th, we visited our first landing position (by helicopter) at Wreck Point House located on Red Beach that can be seen in the distance.



Picket mightier than a pen in May 82!



From Wreck Point we yomped down to Ajax Bay to where the battle field hospital was located, known as the Red and Green Machine commanded by Surgeon Captain Rick Jolly RN who was proud that every person who was a casavac to this location amazingly survived.



Monday 26th was our last full day and due to the poor weather, we remained in the Stanley area.

Tuesday 27th we set off at 0400hrs from Stanley to MPC for the 18+ hour journey to Ascension and onto Brize Norton.

In May 1982 there were approximately 1,250 islanders that has now grown to around 3,700.

The most amazing thing was the number of Islanders and their children that thanked us for what the Task force had achieved, whilst we toured the island.

An absolutely great life changing trip. ENDEX

Artillery Clerks' Association Membership List as at 31st December 2025

Sparky Allen	Jim Findlay	Eddie Mills	Will Stirman	
Alf Alvin	Peter Gauci	Jim Mutch	David Stotan	
Richard Ancliffe	Martin Geddes	Hauke Michelsen	Dave Straw	
Alan Ashcroft	Ian Grant	Brian Morgan	Andy Sykes	
Robbie Astick	Mick Grenham	Ian Morris	Phil Syddall	
Derek Baldry	John Haddock	Andy Moss	Mark Testi	
Brian Bayliss	Colin Haine	Richard Nichol	Andy Tibble	
Steve Beard	Ted Hall	Dennis Norris	Gordon Timmis	
Chris Berry	Adrian Harrison	Chris Norris	Trig Tregower	
Jon Bevan	Steve Hawke	Richard Nugee	Steve Truslove	
Peter Bradburn	Phil Headford	Tony Nuttall	Gary Tyson	
Denis Brett	Marty Hester	Gil O'Mallo	Dave Vesty	
David Brown	Alan Hill	Roy Penhallurick	Freddie Viggers	
Paddy Butler	Geordie Himlin	Nick Perkovic	William Wallace	
Steve Callaghan	Trev Hind	Peter Petts	Daz Ward	
John Concara	Joe Hoggins	Duncan Pettit	Al Wood	
Iain Campbell	Vic Holdaway	Joe Phelps	Bill Young	
Merv Chadwick	Ron Holmes	Chris Piper	Membership stands at 125	
Rob Clarke	Richard Horner	Eddie Platts		
Mel Collinge	Mick Hutchinson	Jim Pottle		
Lawrence Collingwood	Geoff Hyatt	Steve Prowse		
Terry Cooper	Dick Jeavons	Derek Ralphs		
Ian Constantine	Mick Johnston	Steve Read		
Paul Corker	Andrew Jones	John Reynolds		
Stan Cornwell	Derek Kelsey	Ritchie Richardson		
Dennis Crawford	Clive Knaggs	Des Riley		
Kev Crump	Ralph Lalabalavu	Ken Russell		
Peter Currie	Russ Lee	Alan Sawdon		
Dave Cussell	Ray Lewis	Vince Scott		
Roy Deal	John Lindley	Steve Seymour		
Ray Dickinson	Harry Lomax	Chris Shuter		
Brian Dobson	Leon Lyall	Sid Siddall		
Paddy Ennis	Dave Manchester	Dougie Silver		
Sid Evans	Tony Martin	Bob Smith		
Ted Fairbrass	Tim Mathews	Snowy Snowdon		
Joe Falzon	George McLachlan	Phil Spencer		

WANTED *For membership of the Association*

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

Keith Creswell	Jack Knott	P Robinson	Mick Williams
Paul Davies	Steve Jukes	Tom Rooney	Ian Williams
Steve Davies	Kev Keast	Jim Rostron	TC Williams
Harold Deacon	Dick Kibble	Dick Scatcherd	Tony Wilson
John DeMaria	Dave Langstaff	Mick Scaife	Alan Witts
Pat DeMaria	Dave Larcombe	Tony Skinner	Chris Wood
John Dewberry	Steve Lee	Syd Simpson	Brian Wolstenholme
Jim Diamond	Mark Lindsay-Smith	Dave Smith	Den Wright
Derek Donovan	Derick Lund	Martin Smith	
Jim Doran	Mick Lynch	Mark Spring	198 Potential New
P Drury	Adam Martin	Alex Stelfox	Members
Mick Dunn	Ken May	Colin Stephenson	
Dave Dunn	Tommy McCarthy	Bill Tasker	Plus any member of the
Mel Durrant	C McCusker	Jock Stewart	AGC(SPS) who served
Roger Escott	John McDermott	Joe Stockhill	in the Gunners as a clerk
Karl Ezard	Steve McKenna	Trevor Stokes	and has subsequently
Steve Edgeley	Alistair McKenzie	Dave Stoneham	been promoted to Sgt or
Roger Essex	Maurice Metcalfe	Paul Stratton	above.
Paul Evans	Eric Miller	Roy Swann	
Paul Fairbank	Tam Millsip	Bernie Swift	(As at 15 September
TH Fairweather	Ken Moore	Ritchie Syme	2025)
PE Field	Tony Mott	Derek Taylor	
Cliff Fields	Paul Mudd	Tom Taylor	
Dick Finch	Pete Murphy	Graham Telford	
Dave Fisher	John Nicholas	Charlie Thompson	
Alan Foot	Bill Ogilvie	Bob Thompson	
Foxy Fox	Andy O'Neil	Harry Thompson	
Derek Gauci	John Osman	Frank Thorne	
Les Gillard	Dave Parkinson	Mark Thorington	
Paul Green	Bill Pattison	Dave Townley	
Mike Greening	Ken Peacock	John Turner	
John Haddow	Paul Perry	Mel Turpie	
CJ Hamley	Alan Phillips	Dave Tyler	
Bob Hagen	Clem Pooke	Harry Waldron	
Gary Harland	Nick Powell	RVM Walker	
Brian Harrington	John Pratt	Bob Walkinshaw	
Terry Hart	Len Price	Nigel Waring	
Ted Harvey	Mick Price	LS Warren	
Chris Harvey	Gary Prottey	Kev Watkins	
Adrian Hawker	Richie Pryor	Andy West	
Phil Hayes	Fred Pulfer	Fred Westwell	
Bill Heaven	Ron Reid	Sean Whelan	
Andy Holder	Neil Ridout	Chalky White	
John Hopkins	Jim Roast	Dave Whitby	
Steve Hoyle	Graham Roberts	Chris Williams	
Eric Hubbard	Dave Robertson	Will Williams	
Pete Hubbard			
Derek Hughes			
Tony Hunt			
Stu Hunt			
Tab Hunter			
Pete Hutchinson			
Brian Hyland			
Alan Jeffery			
Chris Jones			
Steve Jones			
Bob Kindness			

Artillery Clerks' Association Virtual Annual General Meeting Tuesday 28th April 2026

The Artillery Clerks' Association virtual Annual General Meeting will be held at 1900 hours on Tuesday 28th April 2026. Further details can be seen in the Secretary's report and will be published in due course

Minutes of the Virtual Annual General Meeting held on MS Teams on Tuesday 13th May 2025

1. Agenda Item 1 - Opening Remarks by the Chairman

The Chairman, Lt Col Joe Falzon OSJ BEM, opened the Annual General Meeting by welcoming all members and honorary members present. He confirmed that a quorum was present and stated that the meeting could therefore proceed without delay.

He noted that the Agenda for the evening was extensive and reminded attendees—as he does each year—that this meeting is an important opportunity for members to contribute to discussions that will help shape the future of the Association. He expressed hope that everyone had taken the time to review the documents circulated in advance.

The Chairman expressed the hope that everyone had a glass at hand, as is our tradition, to join later in a toast to our Captain General and in remembrance of absent friends.

The Chairman formally opened the AGM.

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 24 apologies for absence from:

Maj Paul Corker	Lt Col Vic Holdaway
Mr Marty Hester	Mr Robbie Astick
Mr Andrew Jones	Mr William Bayliss
Mr Mick Hutchinson	Mr Mick Johnston
Maj John Reynolds	Lt Col Russ Lee
Mr Alan Ashcroft	Mr Dennis Norris
Mr Snowy Snowdon	Mr Tim Matthews
Mr Peter Bradburn	Mr Stephen Read
Mr Peter Petts	Mr Chris Berry
Mr Nick Perkovic	Rev Denis Brett
Mr Julian Allen	Mr Ritchie Richardson
Mr John Lindley	Mr Gil O'Mallo

4. Agenda Item 4 - Approval of the Minutes of the AGM held on Tuesday 14th May 2024.

4.1 The Chairman said that the Minutes of the AGM held on Tuesday 14th May 2024 had been circulated in advance via Crossed Quills (Issue 28) and that it was not intended to read them at the meeting.

4.2 ***A proposal by Ron Holmes, seconded by Richard Horner 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 AGM held on Tuesday 14th May 2024.

5.1 There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the AGM held on Tuesday 14th May 2024 which were not included in the agenda.

6. Agenda Item 6 - Chairman's Report

The Chairman noted that his report had been circulated in advance and therefore would not be reviewed in full. However, he wished to highlight one particular point and to record his sincere appreciation for the dedication and hard work consistently demonstrated by the Committee Members.

He began by thanking all members for their generous donation of £800 in support of his recent project with the charity Alabare. Thanks to this generosity, ten vulnerable veterans were currently in Malta spending ten days helping to restore a Victorian fort. The Chairman described it as a deeply meaningful project and emphasised that it was made possible by the members' support. A full report on the initiative will be shared shortly via the Association's social media platforms.

He then took the opportunity to put it on record once again that 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 for the good and benefit of our Association.

He then presented two important discussion papers – both Motions proposing to amend the Charter of the Association.

6.1 **Motion to Amend the Charter - GDPR.** The Chairman presented his paper that was circulated with the Agenda, and which had been approved by the Association Committee.

The Discussion Paper proposes that the Data Protection measures currently set out in paragraphs 19 and 20 of the Charter are changed and replaced by revised measures under the heading of "Information Policy and Private Notice". A copy of this is attached at Annex A.

This paper was prepared with assistance from Steve Read, an expert in this field. He added that the paper sets out clearly both the reason for bringing this proposed change forward but also the effect is this proposed amendment to the Charter is approved and passed.

There were no questions or points of clarification, so the Chairman asked for the vote to be taken.

The proposed amendment that the Data Protection measures currently set out in the Charter at paragraphs 19 and 20 of the Charter are changed to introduce revised measures under a revised heading 'Information Policy and Privacy Notice' was proposed by Clive Nuttall, seconded by Richard Horner, put to the vote and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6.2 **Motion to Amend the Charter – Association Committee Members** The Chairman presented his paper that was circulated with the Agenda and which has been approved by the Association Committee.

The Discussion Paper set out to address three key proposed amendments:

1. Association Representative on the National Executive Committee

That the elected Association Representative (currently Richard Horner) to the Royal Artillery Association National Executive Committee be formally recognised as a member of our Association Committee.

2. Participation of Honorary Members

That any Honorary Member elected to serve on the Association Committee (as in the case of Paddy Butler) be entitled to attend, speak, and vote on any resolution brought forward at an Annual General Meeting (AGM) or Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM).

The Chairman added that the paper clearly outlines both the rationale for these amendments and the implications

if they be adopted. A copy of this is attached at Annex B.

There were no questions or points of clarification, so the Chairman asked for the vote to be taken.

The proposed amendment to the Charter to correct anomalies and incorporate minor changes to the composition of the Association Committee and the voting rights of Honorary members who are elected members of the Association Committee was proposed by Ian Constantine, seconded by Mick Grenham, put to the vote and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6.3 The Kemish Award. The Chairman referred to the information circulated with the Agenda regarding the Kemish Award, which outlines the rationale behind its creation. He explained that earlier this year, the Association Committee approved the establishment of the Kemish Award to honour the extraordinary contributions of a member or honorary member to the life of the Association. This annual award commemorates the memory of Trevor Kemish and his lasting legacy in promoting unity, collaboration, and growth within the Association. As previously announced on 16th April, following a vote by the Association Committee at their meeting the day before, the Chairman was pleased to reaffirm that Dave Cussell has been selected as the first recipient of the Kemish Award. This recognition reflects his outstanding service and long-standing commitment to the Association.

The award will be formally presented to Dave by our Honorary President at the Reunion Dinner on 21st June 2025.

7. Agenda Item 7 - Secretary's Report

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

- **Membership.** The membership of The Association currently stands at 124.
- **New Members.** Nothing to report.
- **Deaths.**

Former Sgt (AC) James McNamara passed away on 23rd September 2024. Aged: 90

Former WO2(QMS(AC)) Trevor Kemish passed away on 4th June 2024. Aged: 82

Former SSgt (AC) Michael Regan passed away on 13th March 2025. Aged: 81

Former Sgt (AC) David Allen passed away on 13th March 2025.

- **Honours & Awards.** Nothing to report.
- **Promotions.** Nothing to report.
- **Membership – Wanted List.** The Secretary explained that there are currently 200 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 ‘2024 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 29 are to be forwarded to the Secretary by Monday 1st September 2025. 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 8th December 2024 – St Barbara's Day Service, Larkhill

Sunday 13th April 2024 – Gunner Sunday (Royal Hospital Chelsea)

Due to attend:

Sunday 6th November 2025 – RA Ceremony of Remembrance at Hyde Park Corner.

Sunday 7th December 2025 – St Barbara's Day Service, Larkhill

- **Regional Representatives.** The Secretary mentioned that all Regional Representatives 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 Regional Representatives for their continued support.
- **Information Policy & Privacy Notice.** The Secretary said that as part of our ongoing commitment to safeguarding your privacy and complying with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), members were informed by letter sent out with Crossed Quills, that the Committee was reviewing how personal data is collected, stored, and processed. He added that as an organisation handling personal data, the Artillery Clerks' Association is fully committed to ensuring the privacy and security of all members' information.

He confirmed that this review has now been completed and, as a result, the **Information Policy and Privacy Notice** was formally adopted by the Association Committee in December 2024. This document has been uploaded on our website at www.artyclerkassn.org. This policy outlines our legal obligations under GDPR and explains how we collect, use, and protect your personal data, as well as your rights regarding that data.

The Association requests personal information to support our members effectively and to keep you informed about relevant events and activities. We use your information for the following purposes:

- **Association and Regimental Events:** To update you on events, activities, and news related to the Association and regimental community.
- **Connecting with Old Friends:** To help you reconnect with former colleagues and members.
- **Welfare Support:** To help, if you require support, especially related to welfare services.

By consenting to the Association holding your personal information, you enable us to manage your membership, process subscriptions and keep you informed about Gunner events and activities. Attached to the letter circulated with Crossed Quills was a form attached at Annex B. Those members who have not already done so are strongly requested to complete this form and either return it back to the Secretary by post or by sending a good clear scanned copy by email as soon as possible to Secretary@artyclerkassn.org.

We take your privacy seriously and will never share your data with third parties without your explicit consent.

- **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 7th December 2025. 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 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 Leo Lyall, Webmaster for all the hard work that

he had done to ensure that we have an excellent website.

7.2 Application for Honorary Membership

The Secretary informed those present that an application had been received from Mr James Cvancara for Honorary membership of the Artillery Clerks' Association. Mick Grenham provided a brief overview of Mr James Cvancara's background, noting his service in the Royal Artillery.

A proposal by Mick Grenham, seconded by Clive Nuttall, that Mr James Cvancara be granted Honorary Membership of the Artillery Clerks' Association for a period of 36 months was CARRIED Unanimously. This will be reviewed again at the AGM in 2028 in line with the Associations Charter.

The Chairman thanked the Association Secretary for all his hard work throughout the year.

8. Agenda Item 8 – Treasurer's Report

Maj (Retd) Paul Corker, circulated in advance the following Liquidity State as of 13th May 2025:

ASSETS

Cash	£ 0:00
Current Bank Balance	£ 1,960.93
Deposit Bank Balance	£ 8,025.74
Property (Display Boards) (C)	£ 400:00 (£200 Annual Depreciation)
Property (Silver Centre Piece) (C)	£ 9,980:00 (No Devaluation)
Property (Kemish Award)	£ 360.00 (£90 Annual Depreciation)
Shop Stock	£ 300:00
TOTAL ASSETS (A)	£ 22,026.67

LIABILITIES

Function 2025	£ 2,720.00
Kemish Fund	£ 890:00
TOTAL LIABILITIES (B)	£ 3,610.00

AVAILABLE CASH (A-B) £ 17,416.67

AVAILABLE CASH (A-B-C) £ 6,676.67 (Without Property)

In the Treasurer's absence the Secretary provided the following details:

- Subscriptions.** Subscription is set at £15 annually and should be paid on or close to 1 January. Outstanding subscriptions total £1,470.00 as of today. There are currently 14 unpaid subscriptions for 2025. As directed, the Treasurer has 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. 9 members are yet to pay by this method.
- Gift Aid.** This is an excellent source of income for the fund. £4,979.05 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. The Treasurer urged the 16 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. In 2024 this was £452.59.
- Susensions.** 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 54 members shown as 'suspended'. There are no pending suspensions for 2025.
- Shop.** Shop stock consists of 15 ties @ £20:00, therefore totaling £300.00. There are no cuff links and lapel pins remaining.

- **Property.** Property is divided into 2 sections. Display Boards which total £400. Silver Centre Piece £9,980.00 and the newly purchased 'Kemish Award' £360.00. These items are now accounted for within the Association's Property Book. These are shown as an asset in the amount as you can see at £400.00, £9,980.00 and £360 respectfully. Annual depreciation is set at £200 for the display boards, £90 for the Kemish Award and there is no devaluation set against the Silver Centre Piece.
- **Insurance.** The insurance for the fund is valid until 31 Mar 26. It is with the firm Towergate Wilsons. The cost this year was £305.06. This includes personal accident cover for the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Reunion Secretary, Standard Bearer and Regional Secretaries.
- **2024 Income and Expenditure Report (As of 31 Dec 24 submitted to the RAA)** The End of the Year Report for 2024 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	£3,131.63
Expenditure	£2,582.05
GPF	£14,880.55 As at 1st Jan 24 and £15,429.43 As at 31st Dec 24
Real GDP	+£548.88

- **Support to the RAA.** The Association continues to support the RAA .
- **Conclusion.** With available cash totaling £5,049.43 (less property) the fund is healthy and strong, which sets us up well for the coming year and beyond. The Treasurer urged all members to check to ensure their subscription is £15.00 and if not, to contact their banks to amend this prior to 2026. He thanked all members for their continued support to the fund and to himself in his role as Treasurer.

David Cussell proposed, and Steve Seymour seconded, that the 'Treasurer's Report is accepted. This proposal was put to the vote and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Chairman thanked the Association Treasurer for his custodianship of the Association's funds and especially for his ability to extract the Gift Aid Refund from HMRC.

9. Agenda Item 9 - Assistant/Reunion Secretary's Reports

The Reunion Secretary presented his paper which was circulated with the Agenda to all members which he hoped you have all read in advance.

He mentioned that, as of 13th May 2025, 30 Members and 8 partners had registered to attend the Dinner. Our guests will be Maj Gen Richard Clements, Major Dickie Davies and invited guests, Helen McNamara (widow of James McNamara) accompanied by Jill Palmer. And up-to-date attendance list is available on the website.

The format for the Reunion weekend from Friday 20th to Sunday 23rd June 2025 will be as follows:

Friday 20th June 2025

- 1900 hrs - Meet in the Sgts Mess for drinks (AC Tie)
- 2230 hrs - Last Orders
- 2300 hrs - Bar Closes
- A small buffet will be provided, and I have invited the BSM to bring some Bty SNCOS

Saturday 21st June 2025

- 0930 – 1200 hrs - Brunch is available in the Sgts Mess
- 1815- 1840 hrs - Meet Guests - Foyer
- 1845 - 1900 hrs - Group photograph
- 1900 hrs - 1930 hrs - Drinks
- 1935 hrs – seated for dinner.

Sunday 22nd June 2025

Brunch is available in the Sgts Mess for those wishing to meet up and bid farewell to colleagues.

The Reunion Secretary then recommended that a sum not to exceed £1500 is transferred from the GPF to the 2025 Reunion Fund to off-set the costs for the evening for the 2025 Reunion.

Roy Deal proposed, and Ron Holmes seconded, that the sum of not to exceed £1500 be transferred from GPF to the Reunion Fund to help off-set costs for the evening of the 2025 Reunion is accepted. This proposal was put to the vote and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Chairman thanked Roy Deal for his careful oversight and dedication in organising the annual Reunion, noting that this will be his final year in the role. He expressed the Association's sincere appreciation for his long-standing service and the significant contribution he has made to the success of these events over the years.

10. Agenda Item 10 - Welfare Secretary's Report.

In the absence of the Welfare Secretary, Dennis Norris, the Secretary delivered the Welfare Report on his behalf. He informed those present that 16 Association members are currently being monitored by the Welfare Secretary and the Committee, many of whom are dealing with serious health issues, including cancers, heart conditions, and other debilitating illnesses. These conditions are being appropriately managed by the relevant medical services.

The Secretary encouraged all members to stay in touch with colleagues who are unwell, noting that a phone call, a chat, or even a friendly exchange on social media can make a meaningful difference to someone's well-being and help ensure they do not feel isolated.

Dennis added that he, and the Committee, are always available to offer welfare support, and that SSAFA has long been the primary support for the Armed Services. Their website is well worth a visit if members feel they need further help.

Dennis, who has recently begun volunteering with his local Citizens Advice, encouraged members to check whether they or their family members are receiving all benefits to which they may be entitled. While most members receive an Army pension that may exclude them from means-tested benefits, he highlighted that several non-means-tested benefits are available—particularly for those with ongoing medical conditions. These may include Personal Independence Payment (PIP) for individuals under pensionable age, or Attendance Allowance (AA) for those over pension age.

He added that there are several benefits checkers/calculators available on-line, including on the Gov UK site, that can be used. Additionally, help or advice in this area is always available from the Citizens Advice offices. It may also be worth having a look at the Citizens Advice open site at <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/> and search for Armed Forces Veterans to obtain links to advice and support particular to veterans.

11. Agenda Item 11 - Historical Secretary's Report

In the absence of the Historical Secretary, Stephen Read, the Secretary presented his report to the meeting. He noted that the initiative launched last year to collect members' reminiscences of their service as Artillery Clerks has, so far, seen limited participation. While several members expressed an interest in contributing, to date only the Association Chairman has submitted a written piece.

Before considering drawing the initiative to a close, Stephen proposed giving it a renewed push, encouraging members once again to contribute to this valuable and meaningful archive. He emphasised that members need not document their entire career—rather, they might focus on a particularly memorable, interesting, exciting, or even challenging experience from their time in service.

Contributions are welcome in any format—handwritten, typed, or word processed—and of any length. Stephen reassured members that he would edit and format submissions as needed, ensuring clarity while preserving each contributor's original intent and voice.

Members interested in participating are invited to get in touch with Stephen directly via email or post.

Email: artyclkproject@gmail.com

Post: 22 Canada Rise, Market Lavington, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 4A

Stephen also welcomes any photographs or documents related to members' service as Artillery Clerks—or any other materials of historical interest—that members are willing to share for inclusion in the Association's archive. These can be sent directly to him.

The Chairman thanked Stephen Read for his report and echoed his encouragement, urging members to take the time to put pen to paper and contribute their stories whenever possible.

12. Agenda Item 12 - Webmaster's Report

The Webmaster, Leo Lyall mentioned to those present that over the past year, his primary focus as Webmaster has been to ensure that the Association's online presence remains current, accessible, and informative for all members. This report outlines updates made to the Association's website, the continued publication of quarterly newsletters, activity on our Facebook page, and a summary of the technical challenges encountered, most notably, the temporary disruption to our email forwarding system.

Throughout the reporting year, he has kept the website up to date with regular additions to the Notices section. Key updates included:

- Announcements related to events, reunions, and official communications from the Committee.
- Updates to the Association's Charter and contact listings.
- Publication of relevant news from the wider Gunner community and veterans' networks.

The site's core structure remains robust and user-friendly, with ongoing efforts to streamline navigation and ensure content clarity.

Routine checks and updates have been applied to maintain the performance and integrity of the website. These included:

- Security patches and platform updates to ensure continued stability and protection from online threats.
- Periodic reviews of site layout and compatibility across desktop and mobile devices.

In late 2024, a significant issue arose with the website's email forwarding system. Our provider, 123-Reg, implemented a mandatory migration to a new 2nd Generation Email Platform, which resulted in an unplanned interruption to forwarding services.

Upon discovering the issue, and after several persistent exchanges with 123-Reg directly, the forwarding functionality was reinstated successfully. Measures are now in place to monitor such disruptions more closely. Leo added that he is exploring longer-term alternatives to strengthen email reliability.

The Association's quarterly newsletters continue to play a vital role in keeping members informed of key developments, achievements, and upcoming events. Each edition was distributed via email and published on the website, ensuring both direct delivery and wider access. Newsletters Issued:

- **June 2024** – Details of the summer reunion and committee announcements.
- **September 2024** – Financial updates, membership news, and remembrance features.
- **December 2024** – Seasonal message, end-of-year highlights, and archived resources.
- **March 2025** – Notification of AGM plans and calls for member involvement.

Efforts have been made to improve readability and presentation, including a shift to a cleaner, mobile friendly format. Open rates and feedback suggest steady engagement. Leo added that he welcomes suggestions from members on content they'd like to see included in future editions.

Our official Artillery Clerks' Association Facebook page remains a lively hub for day to day updates and community interaction.

- Regular posts (approximately 3–5 per week) included event reminders, historical photos, military news, and tributes to members past and present.
- Engagement has remained strong, with steady growth in page followers and consistent interaction in the form of comments, likes, and shares.
- Top-performing posts typically include visual content—such as reunion photos or “On This Day” historical posts—and generate a high level of member interaction.

Social media continues to offer a valuable means of communication, particularly for reaching members who may not regularly check email or the main website.

In addition to the email forwarding issue mentioned earlier, a few other points are worth noting:

- Content Timing – Occasionally, website and newsletter updates were delayed due to the need for content approval. A more structured process is being developed to improve turnaround times.
- Member Feedback – Feedback from the membership regarding the digital platforms is always encouraged and welcomed. Several suggestions received during the year have already been implemented.

Planned developments for the coming year include:

- **Newsletter Improvements** – Continued refinement of the layout and the possible introduction of interactive features such as polls and embedded video clips.
- **Digital Engagement** – Broader use of social media platforms to increase visibility and attract new and returning members.

Leo thanked the Committee and membership for their ongoing support throughout the past year. It remains a privilege to serve as Webmaster for the Artillery Clerks' Association, and he looks forward to continuing to support our community through the website, newsletters, and social media.

The Chairman recorded a vote of thanks to acknowledge Leo's contribution in maintaining the high standard of our Association website and social media platforms.

13. Agenda Item 13 - Germany Secretary's Report.

The Germany Secretary, 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 onto mention that it was proposed to hold the same Reunion later this year between Friday 28th to Sunday 30th November 2025 to coincide with the Christmas Markets.

The Charman thanked Ron for his report.

14. Agenda Item 14 – Member of the RAA National Executive Committee's Report.

Lt Col Richard Horner informed the AGM that he had just been inducted onto the Royal Artillery Association National Executive Committee as the Wessex, South West Region and the Artillery Clerks Representative. He explained that the Committee considers and recommends changes and updates to the various RAA rules and procedures, and that he was looking forward to attending his first RAA Annual Assembly at Blackpool.

He added that, going forward he will endeavour to update the Association Committee on any issues that might have an impact on our Association. One area the Association Committee is encouraged to look into are the provision within RAA General Administrative Instructions (GAI) that cover Trophies and Awards and possible participation in the annual Standard Bearers Competition.

The Charman thanked Richard for his report.

15. Agenda Item 15 - Elections or re-elections

15.1 **Association Committee.** The Secretary confirmed the following re-elections for 2025/2026

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

Paddy Butler proposed, and Mick Grenham seconded this proposal. The proposal was put to the vote and was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

Mr Jon Bevan	Mr Ritchie Richardson
Mr Steve Beard	Mr Peter Gauci
Mr Terry Cooper	Mr Trevor Hind
Mr Paddy Butler	Mr Brian Dobson
Mr Chris Norris (Not due until 14th May 2027)	

A proposal by Alf Alvin, seconded by Dave Cussell, 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 2026 in line with the Associations Charter.

15.3 Regional Representatives. The Association Secretary has been informed that the undermentioned incumbents wish to remain in post until the next AGM to be held in 2026.

North	Mr Brian Morgan
North West	Mr Dennis Norris
Midlands	Mr Leo Lyall
East	Mr Alf Alvin MSM
South	Mr Paddy Butler
West	Mr Roy Deal MBE
London Area	Mr Andrew Jones
Wales	Mr Andy Tibble MVO MSM
Northern Ireland	Mr Andy Tibble MVO MSM
Germany	Mr Ron Holmes MSM
The Rest of the World	Mr Andy Tibble MVO MSM

David Stotan proposed, and Chris Shuter seconded this proposal. The proposal was put to the vote and was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

16. Agenda Item 16 - Any other Business

The Secretary informed those present that he had not been notified in advance of items to be included in AOB.

17. Agenda Item 17 - Date of Next Meeting

The next Virtual AGM will take place at 1900 hours on Tuesday 28th April 2026.

18. Toasts. At the end of the AGM, the Chairman led the loyal toast to His Majesty The King, our Captain General, followed by toasts to the Association and to absent friends.

Andy Tibble

Andy Tibble
Secretary

Annexures:

- A. To incorporate new changes to the Data Protection measures currently set out in paragraphs 19 and 20 of the Charter
- B. To correct anomalies and incorporate minor changes to the composition of the Association Committee and the voting rights of Honorary Members who are also elected members of the Association Committee.

Annex A to
AGM Minutes
Dated 6th June 2025

THE ARTILLERY CLERKS' ASSOCIATION

DISCUSSION PAPER

Agenda Item: MOTION TO AMEND THE CHARTER

Agenda Item: 6.1

Sponsor: Joe Falzon, Association Chair

Presenter: Joe Falzon, Association Chair

Date: 13th May 2025

The Association Chairman proposes the following motion:

Title: To incorporate new changes to the Data Protection measures currently set out in paragraphs 19 and 20 of the Charter

1. **Proposed Amendment:** That the **Data Protection** measures currently set out in paragraphs 19 and 20 of the Charter are changed to introduce revised measures under a revised heading, as follows:

INFORMATION POLICY AND PRIVACY NOTICE

19. The Data Protection Act 1998 has been replaced by the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018, which govern how personal data is collected, stored, and processed. As an organisation that handles personal data, the Artillery Clerks' Association is committed to complying with these regulations and ensuring the privacy and security of all personal information. The Association Information Policy and Privacy Notice, revised and republished in December 2024, outlines our legal obligations under GDPR and explains how we collect, use, store, and protect your personal data. It also provides transparency on how we process your personal data, the purposes for which we use it, and your rights in relation to that data.

20. The Secretary will act as the Association's Data Protection Officer and will be responsible for ensuring that the Information Policy and Privacy Notice is up-to-date and adhered to across the Association.

2. **Reason for inclusion:** The proposed revision to the Data Protection measures is necessary to ensure that the Association remains fully compliant with the evolving landscape of data protection laws and best practices.

Since the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) in 2018, the regulatory environment has continued to evolve, and it is crucial that the Association adapts its policies accordingly. Furthermore, as technology and data processing methods advance, the risks associated with personal data continue to change. The revised measures will provide enhanced clarity on data protection responsibilities, strengthen safeguards for personal information, and ensure that the Association's practices align with current legal and ethical standards. This update will help maintain the trust of members and ensure that the Association continues to uphold its commitment to data privacy and security.

3. **Effect if passed:** If the proposed amendments are accepted, the Association will be able to implement updated data protection measures that reflect the latest legal requirements. This will have a positive impact on the Association's ability to manage personal data securely and responsibly, ensuring that both legal compliance and member privacy are maintained. Additionally, the acceptance of these measures will reinforce the Association's commitment to transparency and accountability, fostering greater trust among members. With the revised measures in place, the Association will be better equipped to protect members' personal information, mitigate potential risks, and demonstrate its proactive approach to data security. Furthermore, the revised measures will help ensure the smooth operation of the Association in an increasingly data-driven world, contributing to its long-term sustainability and reputation.

4. Main argument: The primary reason for these proposed changes is to ensure that the Association continues to meet its legal obligations under GDPR and related data protection laws, while also adapting to the evolving data security landscape. With the increasing volume and complexity of personal data being processed, it is essential for the Association to maintain a clear, comprehensive and up-to-date approach to data protection. These changes will strengthen our data management practices, safeguard members' privacy, and enhance the Association's ability to mitigate risks associated with data breaches or non-compliance. Ultimately, the revised measures will ensure that the Association remains at the forefront of data protection standards, providing confidence and security to our members and upholding the Association's values of trust, transparency and accountability.

Joe Falzon
Association Chairman

Annex B to
AGM Minutes
Dated 6th June 2025

THE ARTILLERY CLERKS' ASSOCIATION

DISCUSSION PAPER

Agenda Item: **MOTION TO AMEND THE CHARTER**

Agenda Item: **6.2**

Sponsor: **Joe Falzon, Association Chair**

Presenter: **Joe Falzon, Association Chair**

Date: **13th May 2025**

The Association Chairman proposes the follow motion:

Title - To correct anomalies and incorporate minor changes to the composition of the Association Committee and the voting rights of Honorary Members who are also elected members of the Association Committee.

Proposed Amendments

1. Composition of the Association Committee

Amend Paragraph 16 to include a new sub-paragraph (j):

(j) The Association Representative elected to the Royal Artillery Association (RAA) National Executive Committee.

2. Association Meetings – Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Amend Paragraph 17.a.(1) by deleting both existing sentences and replacing with:

(1) All Full Members, and Honorary Members who are elected to serve on the Association Committee, are entitled to attend, speak in discussions, and vote on any resolution. Other Honorary Members may attend as observers only.

3. Association Meetings – Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)

Amend Paragraph 17.b.(1) by deleting both existing sentences and replacing with:

(1) All Full Members, and Honorary Members who are elected to serve on the Association Committee, are entitled to attend, speak in discussions, and vote on any resolution. Other Honorary Members may attend as observers only.

Reason for Inclusion

a. To formally recognise and endorse the role of the Association Representative elected to the RAA National Executive Committee as a de facto member of our Association Committee. This enables the individual to effectively serve as a representative, ambassador and conduit between our Association and the RAA National Executive Committee.

b. To correct the existing anomaly that currently prevents Honorary Members, who are duly elected to the Association Committee, from exercising their right to speak and vote at Association Meetings, including AGMs and EGMs.

Effect if Passed

Acceptance of these proposed amendments will clarify current ambiguities, remove unintended restrictions, and reinforce the Association's commitment to fair representation, transparency, and accountability in its governance.

Main Argument

It is both reasonable and necessary that our elected Representative to the RAA National Executive Committee—and any Honorary Members who have been formally elected to the Association Committee—are empowered with the full rights to participate in discussions and vote at Association Meetings. These changes will ensure they can perform their duties effectively and without unnecessary limitations imposed by the current Charter.

Submitted by:

Joe Falzon
Association Chairman

Artillery Clerks' Association Virtual Annual General Meeting Tuesday 28th April 2026

The Artillery Clerks' Association virtual Annual General Meeting will be held at 1900 hours on Tuesday 28th April 2026. Further details can be seen in the Secretary's report and will be published in due course

Association & Reunion Dinner Friday 20th – Sunday 22nd June 2025 - Royal Artillery Sergeants' Mess, Larkhill

Roy Deal MBE (former WO1(SSM))

I hope everyone enjoyed the June 2025 Reunion in Larkhill, it was great to get together again, and I personally feel that once again the ladies added a touch of elegance to the evening. The efforts of those who had to travel from afar and gentle banter and conversation around the table make it all worthwhile.

The “Advance Party” Friday night event was very entertaining, and I would encourage those who enjoy a very sociable atmosphere to try and make it to the Friday night event.

I hope everyone continues to enjoy revised format for the dinner, allowing us plenty of time in the bar area for a more social

occasion. The Association was once again well supported by Elaine, who insists on taking charge, and ensured we were all well fed, and I was kept in “check”.

I hope you enjoyed the company of our Guest of Honour, Major General Richard Clements CBE, Director Army Basing and Infrastructure; Major Dickie Davies, Secretary of the Royal Artillery Association; and WO2 (BSM) Simon Godfrey, representing our affiliated battery, 34 (Seringapatam) Battery RA. It was particularly nice to see our special guests Helen McNamara and her friend at the Reunion. It would remis of me not to mention our President, Lieutenant General Richard Nugee CB CVO CBE

who not only read the Loyal Message from the King – our Captain General he also displayed excellent driving skills.

I hope an enjoyable evening was had by all. The Wiltshire Police band, albeit very loud, once again, I thought entertained us well (and kept the costs down).

I do hope we can encourage more attendance from members and their partners at the 2026 Reunion our 91st. A full and entertaining weekend is promised.

The Committee has now confirmed the date of the 2026 reunion weekend as Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th July 2026.

Friday Evening



1 Maj Ian Constantine, Maj Dave Cussell, Mr Marty Hester, Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary), Mr Leo Lyall and Mr Roy Deal (Reunion Secretary)

2 Maj Paul Corker (Treasurer), Mr Marty Hester & Mrs Rose Gauci

3 Mr Robbie Astick, Mr William Wallace & Maj Dave Cussell



Friday Evening

- 4 Ms Julia Knowles, Mr Robbie Astick, Mr Chris Norris & Mr Dennis Norris
- 5 Mrs Josephine Falzon & Ms Julia Knowles
- 6 Mr Marty Hester, Mr Ron Holmes & Maj Ian Constantine
- 7 Mr David Stotan, Maj Ian Constantine, Mr Chris Norris & Mr Peter Gauci

Saturday Evening

- 8 Mrs Josephine Falzon, Maj Gen Richard Clements (Guest of Honour), Lt Col Joe Falzon (Chairman), Lt Gen Richard Nugee (Honorary President),
- 9 Lt Col Joe Falzon (Chairman) & Lt Gen Richard Nugee (Honorary President)
- 10 Mrs Josephine Falzon, Maj Gen Richard Clements (Guest of Honour) & Lt Col Joe Falzon (Chairman)



11 Lt Gen Richard Nugee (Honorary President), Maj Dave Cussell & Mr Roy Deal (Reunion Secretary)

12 Left: Mr Leo Lyall, Mr David Stotan, Mrs Julie Shuter & Mr Chris Shuter

13 Mrs Jill Palmer, Mr Andrew Jones (Standard Bearer) & Mr Brian Morgan

14 Mrs Debbie Hoggins & Mr Joe Hoggins

15 Mrs Joan Testi and Mr Mark Testi

16 Mr Dennis Norris and WO2(BSM) Simon Godfrey (Guest)

17 Mr Steve Beard & Mr Steve Seymour



18 Right to Left: Maj Paul Corker, Mrs Julia Knowles, Mr Richard Jeavons, Maj Ian Constantine, Mr Chirs Shuter, Mrs Julie Shuter & Mr Leo Lyall

19 Mr Pater Gauci, Mr Clive Nuttall & Mrs Helen McNamara

20 Mr Alf Alvin, Mrs Sabrina Norris & Mr Dennis Norris

21 Mrs Josephine Falzon, Lt Gen Richard Nugee (Honorary President), Mrs Helen McNamara, Mr Mark Testi, Mrs Joan Testi, Mrs Jill Palmer, WO2(BSM) Simon Godfrey (Guest) & Lt Col Joe Falzon (Chairman)

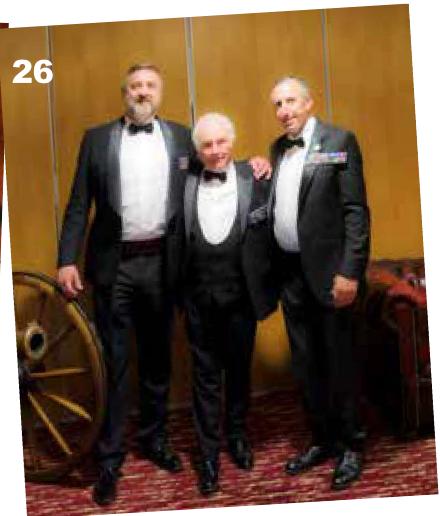
22 Mr Alf Alvin, Mr Chris Norris, Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary), Mr Dennis Norris, Mr Steve Beard & Mr Chris Shuter

23 Mr Roy Deal (Reunion Secretary), Mr Geoff Hyatt, Mr Richard Jeavons, Mr Leo Lyall, Lt Col Joe Falzon (Chairman) & Maj Dave Cussell

24



26



27



28



30



31



29



24 Maj Gen Richard Clements & Mr Peter Gauci

25 Mr William Wallace, Maj Paul Corker & Lt Col Richard Horner

26 Mr Ron Holmes, Maj Paul Corker & Mr Mark Testi

27 Mr Steve Seymour, Mr Joe Hoggins & Mr William Wallace

28 Mr Clive Nuttall, Maj Paul Corker, Mr Brian Morgan & Maj Ian Constatine

29 Lt Gen Richard Nugee (Honorary President), Mr Mark Testi, Mrs Joan Testi & Lt Col Joe Falzon (Chairman)

30 Mr Steve Seymour & Mrs Jill Palmer

31 Lt Gen Richard Nugee (Honorary President), Mr Brian Morgan & Mr Mark Testi

Germany Reunion – Friday 28th to Sunday 30th November 2025

By Ron Holmes (former WO1(SSM))

Greetings from Bielefeld and merry Christmas to all Artillery Clerks and their families – 2025 As another year draws to a close, it's remarkable how quickly time has passed since our last reunion. This past weekend, from November 28th to 30th, we enjoyed a truly memorable gathering in Bielefeld. The festive spirit was alive and well among the Artillery Clerks and their partners! It was great to see Andy bring his son Nick and Leo finally making it back to Germany to join the core of the AC Germany Christmas dinner party for 2025.

Our Friday evening began as planned for pre-dinner drinks at Bernstein's, but a private party put a stopper on our plans. But we quickly regrouped and headed for the Alt Bielefeld pub and then on to the Alex Bar. Before the main event, some took the opportunity

to explore the Christmas market, soaking in the seasonal atmosphere.

For the Friday dinner, we opted for the Ranchos Steak House instead of the Bielefelder Brauhaus which had reached breaking point in festive crowd management. The service was excellent, the food outstanding, and the prices refreshingly reasonable compared to many restaurants these days. By popular consensus, Ranchos will be our choice again next year. An extra perk was how near the hotels, Christmas market, and bars were.

Saturday brought another chance to regroup—some for a few, others over several glühwein's and currywurst—while shopping and enjoying the Christmas market. As tradition dictates, we reconvened at Glück und Seligkeit

just after 6pm. The festive décor of the converted church, the lively ambiance, and the company made for a superb evening. The ladies looked wonderful, and we shared greetings, including Joe's kind Christmas message, and raised a toast to absent friends.

All good things must come to an end, and so at midnight we bid each other Bon Voyage. Due to popular demand, it looks like we'll be meeting again from November 27th to 29th, 2026.

To secure our favourite venues during the festive season, I'll be booking tables at least six months in advance. I will be sending a reminder in the new year. Wishing you all a joyful festive season, wherever you may be. Ubique, Ron



Friday 28th November 2025

1. Mr Leo Lyall, Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary), Mr Nick Tibble, Mr Chris Shuter (Reunion Secretary) & Mr Robbie Astick
2. Mrs Dorothy Norris, Mrs Rikke Nichol, Mrs Jenny O'Mallo, Mrs Julie Shuter & Mr Chris Shuter (Reunion Secretary)



3. Left to Right: Mrs Dorothy Norris, Mrs Rikke Nichol, Mrs Jenny O'Mallo, Mrs Julie Shuter, Mr Dennis Norris (Welfare Secretary) & Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary)
4. Inset facing: Mr Leo Lyall, Mr Robbie Astick, Mr Ron Holmes (Germany Reunion Secretary). Left to right: Mrs Geli Matthews, Mr Tim Matthews & Mr Ritchie Nichol
5. Mr Hauke Michelsen & Mr Robbie Astick
6. Mr Robbie Astick & Mr Gil O'Mallo





Saturday 29th November 2025 - Bielefeld Christmas Market

7. Left: Mr Robbie Astick, Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary) & Mr Nick Tibble. Right: Mr Dennis Norris (Welfare Secretary), Mrs Dorothy Norris & Mr Leo Lyall
8. Left to right: Mr Nick Tibble, Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary), Mr Leo Lyall & Mr Robbie Astick

Glück und Seligkeit, Bielefeld

9. Rear: Mr Ron Holmes (Germany Reunion Secretary), Mr Chris Shuter (Reunion Secretary), Mrs Dorothy Norris, Mr Robbie Astick, Mr Tim Matthews, Mr Gil O'Mallo & Mr Dennis Norris (Welfare Secretary). Centre: Mrs Sylvia Lane, Mrs Geli Matthews, Mrs Julie Shuter & Mr Richie Nichol. Front: Mr Hauke Michelsen, Mr Leo Lyall, Mrs Rikke Nichol & Mrs Jenny O'Mallo
10. Left: Mr Dennis Norris (Welfare Secretary) & Mr Chris Shuter (Reunion Secretary). Right: Mr Gil O'Mallo, Mrs Jenny O'Mallo, Mrs Dorothy O'Mallo & Mrs Sylvia Lane
11. Left to right: Mr Tim Matthews, Mrs Geli Matthews & Mr Ron Holmes (Germany Reunion Secretary)
12. Left to right: Mrs Jenny O'Mallo & Mrs Julie Shuter
13. Mr Ritchie Nichol, Mrs Rikke Nichol, Mr Dorothy Norris & Mr Gil O'Mallo
14. Mr Hauke Michelsen, Mr Robbie Astick & Mrs Dennis Norris (Welfare Secretary)

34 (Seringapatam) Battery Royal Artillery

Lt J Owen KGA

It has been a landmark year in the history of what is now 34(Seringaptam) Battery King's Gurkha Artillery. This year saw the Battery receive the honour of becoming the first Gurkha Artillery Battery in British Army history (not notwithstanding a short spell in 1947). This sees the Brigade of Gurkhas expand to 7 cap badges as well as the already wide scope of trades and professions available to Gurkhas serving in the British Army.

This process began with the cap badging ceremony that took place in June, with the first tranche of new transferee Gurkha Gunners from across the Brigade alongside the Battery's Direct Entry Officers



receiving the new KGA berets in a parade attended by the newly appointed Colonel KGA Brigadier Charlie Harmer. This saw the official stepping up of the Battery as the first of many subsequent KGA Battery's. However work had already been underway to ensure the Battery and KGA HQ were fully prepared to meet the standard that the Brigade of Gurkhas would expect from a sub-unit. All elements of BHQ attended the 2 week Nepali language course hosted in Sandhurst, this is an ongoing effort and members of the Royal Regiment are continually attending the course in order to achieve a very basic grasp of the

language spoken by the Gurkhas. I was also lucky enough to attend, alongside Lt Tom Fraser, the Survival Nepali Culture and Language Course that is held for 3 months in Pokhara, Nepal. The aim of which was to allow Young Officers serving in the Brigade a chance to embrace the culture and language of Nepal in order to better understand the soldiers under their command and therefore become more effective leaders. Highlights of the course saw those attending participating in the famous 'Doko race' that forms part of the arduous selection all would be Gurkhas go through, and a Duty Trek that saw the students explore the remote areas of Nepal and work alongside the Gurkha Welfare Trust to ensure recipients of aid in those remote areas were receiving the support and care they required.



Following the cap badging the new Gurkha Gunners quickly set about learning their new trades. Initial courses were held that covered every element of a Close Support Battery, from L118 Light Gun courses to OP level 2 qualifications. This initial training cycle was followed by a deployment on Exercise Combined Warrior in August that allowed the newest members of the Royal Regiment to put their skills to the test in the austere conditions of Brecon both in Live Firing and Dry training serials. As I'm currently

writing this article level 3 courses are underway in their respective trade streams and will see some of the Gurkhas qualified as Gun 2ICs and CP acks. The training cycle will culminate in the new year with those soldiers senior enough attending their L118 and CP DC courses. The ultimate goal of this is to have a Close Support Troop with all the G4 and OP elements to support it fully trained and ready to post to E Bty 1RHA after Easter next year. This first Field Army Gurkha Artillery unit will go on to deployments and exercises around the world, sharpening and refining their new skills. Undoubtedly these new Gurkha Gunners will also add impressive experience they have amassed over varied careers and as the Royal Regiment teaches them to be Gunners they will undoubtedly teach us a thing or two about what it takes to be a Gurkha unit and perhaps some infantry tips and tricks at the same time.

Outside of learning their new trades members of 34 Battery have also been conducting a variety of activity, showing their abilities in a variety of arenas. the KGA entered a team into both Trailwalker a 100km race hosted by the Queen's Gurkha Signals that is a staple of the Brigade of Gurkha's calendar and EX Cambrian Patrol receiving a gold medal for their impressive efforts. Alongside sport and military activity both GURTAP and UKTAP members of the Battery immersed themselves in Nepali culture. A particular highlight was the celebration of Dashain, a Hindu festival over 15 days celebrating the victory of good over evil, this includes several key events such as the Kalarati party during which we had the honour of hosting the Master Gunner St

James's Park. A Mahanawami was also conducted, the ceremonial blessing of a Regiment's weapons, this saw a Light Gun being hand balled into the rear of the temple in order for it to be blessed in the traditional fashion.

Looking to the future the Battery will see the arrival of the newest Gurkhas fresh from Catterick at the end of November alongside the second tranche of transferees from the wider Brigade confirmed before Christmas. Another Exercise Combined Warrior sees the Battery back in Brecon before some well deserved Christmas leave. Both the British and Nepali elements of the Battery have expanded their skills and made history as the first Kings Gurkha Artillery Battery and have set the tone for the expansion of a new cap badge in both the Royal Regiment and Brigade of Gurkhas.



A Day In The Life of the Deputy Head of Membership - The Forces Pension Society

Paddy Butler (former WO1(SSM))

The day starts with the morning routine, bringing in the overnight electronic files from the Bank Automated Credit System (BACS). I then update our Customer Relationship Management system (CRM) called Harlequin with this information and engage with our members via email to ensure this is what they wish, as sometimes it can be an error.

Then it's back to my Pay Corps days of bank reconciliation, as we have a lot of entries: I find it easier to conduct this daily, as the Society has a turnover of around £2M. I then process any invoices for payments and refunds for the Chief Operating Officer to authorize.

Well that easily takes care of the first 90 minutes. Phone lines open at 10am until 1pm and we answer as and when they come in. This is one of our main USPs as we have an aging population within our membership, and they prefer to speak with a human being. Conversations can be anything from signposting to our affinity partners to avail of their membership benefits, to change of personal details for CRM updating.

Running concurrent with this is answering our email traffic and processing shop sales, mainly ties and scarves but one year we did have a surge in tie sales due to a gentleman wearing one on the Antiques Roadshow.

By 5pm which is endex, I have achieved quite a lot. No two days are the same and I feel good especially if I have helped someone in need that day.

Below is a snapshot of what the Society is about:

Forces Pension Society, Supporting our Armed Forces since 1946

The Forces Pension Society is an independent, not-for-profit membership organisation that acts as a pension watchdog for the entire military community.

We exist to: **Guide** members on the technical aspects of their Armed Forces Pension; **Campaign** against any injustices in the policy provision or maladministration of Armed Forces Pensions; and **Educate** the Armed Forces community on all Armed Forces Pension matters.

Membership Includes:

- Access to our Forces Pensions Consultants who will help you navigate your way through the pension maze empowering you to make better informed decisions.

- Inclusive membership for you and your spouse/partner. Membership automatically transfers over to the spouse/partner if the main contact passes.

- Exclusive access to the Members area of the website so you can browse pension FAQs, reference documents and forms, and read helpful articles and guides.

- Copies of our bi-annual newsletters and magazine, Pennant.

- Membership offers and discounts across a range of products and services, including travel, legal and financial, personal and home, motoring, and health.

- For more information see <https://forcespensionsociety.org/>, email memsec@forpen.co.uk or call 020 7820 9988

1 July 2025

THE FORCES PENSION SOCIETY AT GLANCE 2025

What we are:
Independent
Not-for-Profit
Membership funded
Armed Forces Pensions watchdog

What we do:
Guidance
Campaigning
Education
Membership Benefits

Membership:
c66,500 Serving Personnel & Veterans
Age spread 22-104
Continuous growth for last 10 years
Army 46%
RAF 26%
RN 18%
Civilian 10%

Based in Vauxhall:
18 Employees
PLUS consultancy and specialist support as required

Guidance:
Around 30,000 Member enquiries dealt with annually

Campaigning:
Representing the Military Community on all pension related matters
Challenging the Government when appropriate and influencing policy

Education & Raising Awareness:
Over 250 group briefings & webinars annually to more than 15,000 members of the Armed Forces Community

Membership Benefits:
Exclusive access to:
Personalised AFPS guidance
Members' only area of our website for FAQs & reference material
Pennant magazine & newsletter
Partner discounts & offers

Social Media:
More than 59,000 followers over 3 platforms
in f

OUR VISION:
To enhance Armed Forces Pension clarity for our Members and influence policy, now and for future generations
forcespensionsociety.org

27th Anniversary of the Artillery Clerks' Association
Royal Artillery Warrant & Officers' & Sergeants' Mess, Royal Artillery Barracks, Larkhill
Saturday 21st June 2025



Front Row: Left to Right

Lt Col RH Horner MBE, Mai R Davies (Guest), Mr AM Tibble MVO MSM (Secretary), Mrs J Falzon, Maj Gen RM Clements CBE (Guest of Honour), Lt Col JF Falzon OSJ BEM (Chairman), Lt Gen RE Nugree CB CVO CBE (Honorary President), Maj DJ Cussell, Mr RH Deal MBE (Reunion Secretary) & WO2 (BSM) S Godfrey (Guest)

Second Row: Left to Right

Mr C Shuter, Mr GG O'Mallo, Mr RA Jeavons, Mrs J Palmer, Mrs W Hawke, Mrs H McNamara, Mrs J Shuter, Mrs J O'Mallo, Mrs R Gauci, Mr M Hester, Mr DG Stotan, Mr LJ Lyall, Maj P Corker (Treasurer), Ms J Knowles, Mrs S Norris, Mrs D Norris, Mr G Hyatt & Mr C Nuttall, Mr BJ Alvin MSM, Mr J Hoggins & Mrs D Hoggins

Rear Row: Left to Right

Mr AJ Jones (Standard Bearer), Maj IF Constantine, Mr R Astick, Mrs J Testi, Mr SM Beard, Mr P Gauci, Mr B Morgan, Mr RJ Holmes MSM, Mr S Hawke, Mr WM Wallace, Mr RM Testi MSM, Mr CD Norris, Mr D Norris & Mr SR Seymour



Victory over Japan Day (also known as V-J Day, Victory in the Pacific Day, or V-P Day) is the day on which Imperial Japan surrendered in World War II, in effect bringing the war to an end. The term has been applied to both of the days on which the initial announcement of Japan's surrender was made – 15 August 1945, as well as to 2 September 1945, when the surrender document was signed, officially ending World War II.