

## **THE ARTILLERY CLERKS' ASSOCIATION**

The Artillery Clerks' Section was formed on the 1st April 1903 under authority of Army Order 54 of 1903, given at the Court of St James's on 21<sup>st</sup> March 1903 by Command of King Edward VII. Apart from the war years, Reunion Dinners were held in various London locations and mainly at the Royal Artillery Barracks Woolwich, the Home of the Royal Artillery. During 1993 Royal Artillery clerks were exhumed into the Adjutant General's Corps thereby losing their regimental identity.

On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 1998 the Artillery Clerks' Association was formed and an Inaugural Dinner was held. Major General Mike Shellard CBE attended as the Guest of Honour in his capacity as Representative Colonel Commandant Royal Artillery, representing the Master Gunner St James's Park. Membership of the Association was opened to formerly appointed Artillery Clerks in the rank of Sergeant to Warrant Officer Class One plus former junior rank clerks in the Royal Artillery who had subsequently been promoted to Sergeant and above in the Adjutant General's Corps. Today we have 203 members consisting of retired individuals to serving members both in the Royal Artillery and Adjutant General's Corps ranging from Sergeant to Lieutenant Colonel in rank. Members are dispersed worldwide, in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Germany, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Trinidad & Tobago, Cyprus and Italy. The oldest member is 95 this year. He was discharged from the army after the end of World War 2. We also have one member who is an In Pensioners at the Royal Hospital Chelsea. During 1998 Major General Mike Shellard CBE became the first Honorary President of the Artillery Clerks' Association. Major General Peter Currie CB replaced him in that appointment during 2004 and was subsequently replaced in April 2010 by Lieutenant General Freddie Viggers KCB CMG MBE DL. On the 18th June 2017, Lieutenant General Freddie Viggers KCB CMG MBE DL was replaced by Lieutenant General Richard Nugee CBE. We are also a Branch of the Royal Artillery Association.

Guests of Honour since the Inaugural Dinner in 1998 have been:

1999	Major General Mike Steele MBE DL, Controller Royal Artillery
2000	Major General Mike Shellard CBE Honorary President
2001	Major General Freddie Viggers MBE, Chief of Staff Headquarters Land Command
2002	Major General Peter Currie CB Deputy Adjutant General
2003	General Sir Alex Harley KBE, CB, Master Gunner St James's Park (Centenary year of the formation of the Artillery Clerks' Section)
2004	Major General James Gordon CBE General Secretary, Forces Pension Society

2005 Major General Andrew Ritchie CBE,  
Commandant Royal Military Academy Sandhurst

2006 Major General Peter Currie CB  
Honorary President

2007 General Sir Alex Harley KBE CB  
Master Gunner St James's Park

2008 Brigadier Colin Tadier CBE ADC  
Director Royal Artillery

2009 Major General Michael Charlton-Weedy CBE

2010 Major General Andrew Gregory  
Director General Personnel

2011 Gen Sir David Richards GCB, CBE, DSO, ADC Gen  
Chief of Defence Staff

2012 Major General Richard Sykes CVO

2013 Major General Richard Nugee CBE  
Director General Personnel

2014 General Sir Timothy Granville-Chapman GBE, KCB, ADC Gen  
Master Gunner, St James's Park

2015 Colonel M G J Carter  
Regimental Secretary

2016 Brigadier Simon Humphrey OBE  
Director Combat Support Capability Directorate

2017 Colonel J R Collinge OBE ADC  
Regimental Colonel

2018 Lieutenant General Andrew Gregory KBE CB  
Master Gunner, St James's Park

2019 Colonel M G J Carter  
Regimental Secretary

2020 No Dinner held due to COVID-19

2021 Colonel SJ Shepherd MBE ADC  
Regimental Colonel

2022 Major General Neil Marshall OBE  
Colonel Commandant

- 2023 Lieutenant General Sir Andrew Gregory KBE CB DL  
The Master Gunner St James's Park  
(25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of the Artillery Clerks' Association)
- 2024 Brigadier Mark Pountain CBE  
Royal Artillery Colonel Commandant for Veterans
- 2025 Major General Richard Clements CBE  
Director Army Basing and Infrastructure