



Welcome to the March edition of the REA newsletter.

In preparation for the development of our future strategy, we are conducting a membership survey to gather feedback from you, our valued members. Your insights will help us improve and tailor our services to better support the Sapper community.

The survey can be accessed from the 4th of April via this link: [membership survey](#)

Please take a few minutes to share your thoughts and help shape the future of your association.

Have your say!

Take the survey

"Benevolence: inclination or tendency to help or do good to others; charity."

Benevolence may be an old-fashioned word, but its essence - a commitment to caring for others - remains central to the mission of the Royal Engineers Association (REA) – The Sapper Charity. The REA exemplifies benevolence through its dedicated support to the Sapper family, which includes serving and former members of the Corps, their spouses, widows, widowers, and dependants. The REA's benevolence work aims to offer financial and other assistance to those in need, ensuring that no member of the Sapper family faces hardship alone.

Our benevolence program is designed to empower individuals to overcome their challenges and lead fulfilling lives. We provide various forms of support, including financial grants, educational assistance, and practical help. For instance, the Sapper Charity Children's Fund aims to provide educational assistance to dependant children between the ages of 0-25, ensuring that they have access to the resources they need to succeed.

Fundraising is a critical component of our benevolence work. We organise various challenge events, and encourage members and supporters to participate in activities such as triathlons, treks, and skydives. These events not only raise funds but also foster a sense of community and camaraderie among participants.

Grants made in 2024

£716,570

"It has been a really tough time for dad with mum dying suddenly at 68, but he is a proud veteran and was overwhelmed by the support shown by the Royal Engineers Association and the RBL at a time when he needed it the most. We will forever be grateful"

Message of thanks from a recent beneficiary

In conclusion, the benevolence work of the Royal Engineers Association – The Sapper Charity is a testament to the enduring commitment of the association to support the Sapper family. Through financial assistance, educational support, practical help, and voluntary work, we ensure that no member of the Sapper family faces hardship alone. Our collaborative approach, fundraising efforts, and emphasis on community and mutual support make us a vital resource for serving and former members of the Corps and their families.

Grants made so far this year

January	February
£22,375	£16,671

Some of the things we have assisted with:



Mobility



Furniture



Baby
Equipment



White
Goods



Emergency
Travel

Keep up to date with the latest events

Sapper.com is the secure online community platform for REA members. Details of events, forums and news updates are all available on the platform. Sign up by going to: <https://www.sappercom.com>



Sapper News

1st Field Squadron



Dog Squadron aka 1st Field Squadron are currently in Estonia deployed on Operation CABRIT15. Part of the deployment has seen them working alongside French Sappers from Griffon Company (Translation - Griffen Company). Both physically and metaphorically the bridges were built (see picture) as well as other bits of engineer kit.

42 Field Squadron



42 Counter CBRN Field Squadron (CBRN is the new word for NBC) recently swapped their respirators and chemical detection equipment for Anglo-Saxon hand tools. The Squadron, which is based within axe throwing distance of Sutton Hoo, have been helping out with the construction of a 90ft Anglo Saxon long boat.

1 RSME Regt

The Commanding Officer of 1 RSME Regt. Lt Col John Newton RE along with Brigadier Smith opened a new jetty at Upnor Hard. There were shouts and claps of applause from the Corporals Club when they realised their petition to have the jetty relocated to Cyprus had been unsuccessful. The brand new jetty and gantry means personnel can conduct capsized drills and man over board drills all year round in the River Medway.



Tell your story



The Sapper Charity wants to capture the memories of Sapper Family members be they funny, sad, interesting, not interesting but significant to the individual - it doesn't matter. The plan is to interview Sapper Family members around the country at various locations. This includes not just veterans but wives, husbands, partners, of their experience of operations be that direct on operations or indirect i.e. at home whilst the partner is away. We want to ensure that individual experiences are preserved in the Corps archive for future generations to learn from. We are particularly keen to hear experiences from Iraq, Afghanistan and Northern Ireland.

The first location that 'Sapper Stories' is taking place is the Corps Museum 10am - 4pm Saturday and Sunday 26th - 27th April 2025.

If you would like to tell your story please apply [here](#)

Upcoming Events

4th - 6th Apr 2025

RE Postal & Courier Service Reunion
York Fairfield Manor Hotel

12th April 2025

Royal Engineers at the National Army Museum

1st May 2025

Royal Hospital Chelsea Visit

3rd May 2025

Army v Navy

10th May 2025

FA Cup 150th Celebrations

11th May 2025

Sapper Sunday
Royal Hospital Chelsea

18th May 2025

Army v RAF
Gloucester

6th - 9th June 2025

Gibraltar Weekend

28th June 2025

Armed Forces Weekend

30th June 2025

Sapper Games

19th - 21st September 2025

Corps Memorial Weekend

Keep up to date with all events on [SapperCom](#)

Fundraising News



Charity Event Success – Over £2,100 Raised in One Day!

On Saturday, 22nd March 2025, the dedicated members of 67 Gurkha Field Squadron, 36 Engineer Regiment hosted a successful charity event at The Mall, Maidstone, where they received overwhelming support from the public. Through their collective efforts and the generosity of the local community, they managed to raise an impressive £2,100 in a single day!

The event was part of a wider fundraising initiative involving all departments of 36 Engineer Regiment. All funds raised will be distributed by the CO to two very deserving causes:

The Royal Engineers Association (REA) – The Sapper Charity
The British Ex-Services Wheelchair Sports Association (BEWF)

LCpl Abinash Gurung, who played a key role in organising the event, expressed gratitude for the incredible support from the community and the invaluable assistance from the REA team.



Did you know that whenever you buy anything online from your weekly shop to your annual holiday, you could be raising free donations for the Sapper Charity with easyfundraising?

[Click here for more information](#)

Get Noticed

If you want your unit news to feature in this newsletter, send us the link to your social media info@reahq.org.uk and we'll share it. It's that easy.

Get pictures and your event published! HQ REA can advertise it. Send to info@reahq.org.uk (excludes branch meetings)



Want to donate to the Sapper Charity? Use our Enthuse page [here](#) or the donate button on our website.

Thank you!

FA Cup 150

Festival of Football

Commemorating the Corps of Royal Engineers' historic FA Cup Final win 150 years ago.



Join Us for a Day of Celebration and History!

Mark your calendars for an unforgettable day as we commemorate this historic victory with a military open day packed with excitement! Enjoy interactive displays, football-themed activities, and a variety of food and drink vendors to keep the whole family entertained.

Highlights Include:

- A thrilling display by the Parachute Regiment **Red Devils**.
- Special appearances by **Terry Butcher, Des Walker, Al Murray**, and the **FA Cup Trophy**.
- Engaging entertainment for all ages.

The event is open to the public and free of charge.

To find out more and book your free tickets [click here](#)

Newsletter direct to your inbox

Use the QR code or this [link](#) to sign-up.

