

# ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION



## THE SAPPER CHARITY

# NEWSLETTER #5 MAY ISSUE

*Bringing you news and events from across the Corps and Sapper Family*

Dear Sapper,

There is currently a lot of talk of war be that from a fiery dragon in the far east or a bullish bear on Europe's frontier. The irony of heightened tensions coinciding with the 80<sup>th</sup> year since D-Day is not lost. Whatever the coming years hold your Association has been supporting the Sapper Family since 1912 and has weathered; two global conflicts, the Wall Street Crash, Spanish Flu, Covid and Germany winning the World Cup.....more than once. The Sapper Charity may have changed its name and badge over the years, but it has quietly gone about its job of benevolence and will continue to do so in peace and during war. **Ed** (p.s. Branches – if you want a visit let me know - [info@reahq.org.uk](mailto:info@reahq.org.uk))

## JustGiving™



He's just taken up post as RSM 39 Engr Regt but that hasn't stopped WO1 Joe Ferries from familiarising himself with the local terrain.....RSM Ferries is running the Highland Ultra Marathon for the Sapper Charity to support him and your Association go to - [Sapper Charity](#)

### Members News

The REA rule book has been updated with the amendments related to membership – to have a look at the rules click: [here](#).

Corps Memorial Weekend booking will be open on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 24. Bookings are to be made through Eventbrite (see events).

Despite the NAAFI queue rumours, the Ripon Weekend will go ahead in a similar format to last year (see events).

ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION  
THE SAPPER CHARITY

APRIL 2024  
BENEVOLENCE GRANTED:  
**£7286.45**

THE REA ASSISTED WITH:

Funeral Costs Home Removal Flights (JCCC Deficit)

# CORPS NEWS

## Corps History Volume XIII 2000 – 2019



Corps History Volume XIII was officially launched at the National Army Museum. The editor at large Maj Gen (Retd) Mungo Melvin was on hand to sign copies (Pictured). To get a copy go to [The Sapper Shop](#).

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

## 21 Engr Regiment



21 Engr Regt recently had a run out with a single double LSB (Bailey but metric). On the same exercise they also had a run / fly out of a drone or two.

## 39 Engr Regt – RSM Change



WO1 Joe Ferris (Right) has taken over as RSM from WO1 Bruce Terris (Left)

## 39 Engr Regt – 53 Field Squadron Helipad



It might look like any old site but that is 53 Fd Sqn at work building a helipad on the Isle of Gigha ([Google Maps](#)). The work will ensure local patients get the most seamless and fastest possible transfer to hospital. Well done to everyone involved.

## 42 Engr Regt (Geo) - Section Competitions



42's annual section competition took place in Hythe, Kent - 2 Section 14 Sqn took home the Silverware

## 75 Engineer Regiment – Out in the Field



Managing to dodge the showers (by the looks of it) the Fieldies and POMs of 75 Engr Regt got behind the controls and spades and got to it. Nice trench.



# REA EVENTS AND NEWS

## Wakefield Branch Celebrate 35 Years



The great and the good of REA gathered in Wakefield gathered to celebrate 35 years of the branch. A cracking night of speeches, poetry (not a typo) singing and dancing was had by all.

## How are decisions made at HQ REA?

Contrary to popular belief, HQ REA does not have a tombola machine, dartboard or blind fold which is used to play pin the tail on the “Good Idea”. What it does have is committees. There are committees for: Management, Recruitment, Finance and Benevolence. The committees are made up of volunteers from across and outside of the REA. In addition to the committees there is the Board of Trustees which the CEO reports to every 4 months. All these organisations meet at various times to steer and check on the REA staff activity but above all they discuss ways to improve the REA. This includes changes to the rules (such as membership criteria). If you would like to know more about the committees, the minutes and who the members are go to: [REA Committees and Boards](#).

## Coming Soon.....

**Paint my AVRE** – The REA will be looking for volunteers to help maintain some of the Museums AVREs.

**Bovington Tank Tour** – Courtesy of Lt Col Sticky Whitchurch REA members will have a guided tour of the World Famous Tank Museum.....likely October

## FENLAND SAPPERS –NORMANDY, FRANCE



18 REA members (All arms, serving, retired regular and reserve) spent a couple of days restoring a Bailey Bridge at the Pegasus Bridge Museum in Normandy, France. The newly painted bridge is situated a mere 300m from the site of the first Bailey in France, London Bridge. The branch have enabled a piece of Corps history to be viewed for years to come. Fenland Sappers – Good Job.

## Survey (Geographic) Branch Gathering



The Survey Branch recently held their annual gathering at Newbury Rugby Club. Between the brief from CO 42 Engr Regt, a curry lunch and some background rugby, the family of the late Noel Grimmatt were presented with his Badge of Merit.

## REA Partnership with Tom Harrison House



### Tom Harrison House

The REA has partnered with Tom Harrison House to ensure that any Sapper who accesses the services provided is supported. Info - [Tom Harrison House](#)

## EVENTS

**24-26<sup>th</sup> May 24  
Gibraltar Weekend**

Still time! Contact : [jack@nosa.gi](mailto:jack@nosa.gi)

**1<sup>st</sup> June 2024**

**East Anglia Group Gathering – Carver Barracks**

[Register here.](#)

**1<sup>st</sup> June 2024**

**East Anglia Group Standard Bearers Competition – Carver Barracks**

[Register here](#)

**7,8,9<sup>th</sup> June**

**Ripon Weekend and Freedom Parade**

Contact: [riponreasec@gmail.com](mailto:riponreasec@gmail.com)

**8<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

**Medway Branch D-Day Concert**

Contact: [glenn.scarborough@virginmedia.com](mailto:glenn.scarborough@virginmedia.com)

**21<sup>st</sup> June 2024**

**REA Charity Golf Day**

Contact: [digsvcmgr@instre.org](mailto:digsvcmgr@instre.org)

**29<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

**Stratford Upon Avon BBQ**

Contact: [reaSoAdistrict@btinternet.com](mailto:reaSoAdistrict@btinternet.com)

**6<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

**South East Group Gathering and Dinner**

Contact: [g.doughty109@btinternet.com](mailto:g.doughty109@btinternet.com)

**10<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

**Mulberry Harbour Presentation  
RE Historical Society**

Find out more: [REHS](#)

**7-8<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

**Medway Model Show – RE Museum**

Find out more: [RE Museum](#)

**13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

**Corps Memorial Weekend, AGM, Standard Bearers Competition and Annual Dinner  
Brompton Barracks**

Details will be published on SapperCom from  
13<sup>th</sup> May 24

**14<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

**Cycle for Hero's - start and finish at the Corps Museum. Sapper Charity Fundraiser.**

Find out more: <http://www.cycle4heroes.com/>

## Useful Corps Links

[REA Website](#)

[Sapper Mag](#)

[Institution of Royal Engineers](#)

[Royal Engineers Historical Society](#)



[www.cycle4heroes.com](http://www.cycle4heroes.com)

**KEEP UP TO DATE WITH THE  
LATEST EVENTS**

**SAPPER**



Sappercom.com is the online password protected REA community platform. Details of events, forums and news updates are all available on the platform. Sign up by going to:

<http://www.sappercom.com>

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

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