



• The Gunners •

Newsletter - December 2019

Welcome to the The Royal Artillery Charities newsletter. This is where you can keep right up to date with all the Regimental Family's news and information. As we only sent out our last Newsletter last month, this is a rather short affair, but your next regular Newsletter will be published in February next year.

If you have any news for the Gunner website or the Newsletter from your regiments, branches, districts and regions we would love to receive them. Please ensure that you have permission to share information and images.

Good Bye and Good Luck

As you are all aware Sarah has left the association after many years of producing this Newsletter as well as moderating our social media and managing the website. She has left a big hole to fill and we miss her and wish her and Leon every success in their future

The Gunners

• Message from the Chairman – Brigadier (Retd) Mark Pountain CBE •

What a year this has been! Whatever ongoing differences people may have across the UK, I have been hugely encouraged as I have attended various Association events this year. The common bond we share unites us in ways that many, I suspect, would envy - one Regiment, one Family. We have tried this year to make the Association stronger and better in response to our Members' needs and wishes - much work done, and more to be done. I hope that what follows reflects this.

At a national level, we have of course had our traditional five events on top of all the Branch and Regional events you have held:

- 'Gunner Sunday' at The Royal Hospital
- Our Annual Assembly and AGM at Blackpool, attended in strength by both the serving and retired Regiment, and fantastically well supported by all the musicians of 103 Regiment RA (Lancashire Volunteers), with a star turn by one of our In Pensioners at The Royal Hospital, Colin Thackery, winner of this year's 'Britain's Got Talent' (thank you, Colin)
- Our 'RA Service of Remembrance' at the National Memorial Arboretum, commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Op BANNER and all Gunners who had served in that particular campaign
- Remembrance Sunday in Hyde Park, notably attended by our Standard Bearers from Belgium (Ypres) and the Netherlands, Bjorn Hindryckz and Yoeri Kniest
- St Barbara's Day celebrations at Larkhill, including lunch hosted by the Officers' Mess

While not one of our formal events, National Armed Forces Day took place in Salisbury this year and was supported by members of Wessex Region.

Last year I highlighted three areas being worked on:

- the launch of the Gunner Lottery (launched earlier this year)
- developing our communications (work in progress, but I'd highlight the development of our website, www.thegunners.org.uk; the establishment of the RA Communications Hub, of which we are a part, now up and running; and a workshop held in October with regional representatives)
- the updating and development of our General Administrative Instructions (GAIs - important stuff to assist Branches).

I'd also like to highlight that, following a meeting of the RHA Association this autumn, and in part in recognising the 'One Regiment' concept, the RHA Association has decided to become part of the RA Association, and is in the process of being established as a Branch within the RAA.

Comradeship is however only one part of what we try to support, the other being welfare. In concert with our mother charity, the RA Charitable Fund, over £750,000 have gone to support Gunners in need this year. Please do look out for any ex-Gunners who may be forgotten and languishing in care homes in your area, and do let us know if you find any.

Sadly, as every year, a number of our active volunteers have either retired or died, and I'd like to salute them all. In particular though, I'd like to thank and pay tribute to Colonel Donald Cameron, who retired and handed over as the Regional Representative for Scotland earlier this year. And to Lieutenant Colonel Tim Cole who valiantly headed up Eastern Region for so many years.

Looking forward to next year, it is the Centenary of both the RA and the RHA Association, and we have agreed a number of ways to recognise this, including celebrating the RA and RHA coming together at Blackpool; funds being available to each Region to support a Regional event; and a commemorative piece of art.

We are also thinking more about what our international contacts mean to us, and how/whether we should try to develop that. Most importantly, we shall continue to build on what our members have indicated they want, recognising that some are very happy with 'virtual' membership, while others enjoy social events and meetings. We are always open to consider ideas, and even if we may not be able to realise them all, please let us or your local Branch know.

Finally, I'd like to thank the Regimental Secretary and RHQRA team; Mrs Sarah Young (formerly Davies) for all her tremendous work - now moved on to help the QAs (good luck Sarah!); and especially Captain Allan and Mrs Cath Solly for all their wonderful commitment to the Association.

Very best wishes to all for this festive season, and here's to an outstanding 2020!

Mark Pountain

· St Barbara's Day Service ·





The annual St Barbara's Day Service took place on Sunday 1st December 2019 at The Royal Garrison Church of St Alban with St Barbara, Larkhill. The service was led by The Revd Tom Hiney CF and the Address was delivered by The Ven Stephen Robbins CB, our Honorary Chaplain

Following on from the service, those who had booked were invited to the RA Mess for lunch.

I would like to thank all those involved in organising and managing such a well-executed event.



· The Royal Artillery Charitable Fund ·

The RACF can assist with Travel, Household goods, Mobility and many other needs. Please call 01980 634309 if you know of a Gunner, serving or retired; or their dependant that might need our assistance.

[How We Help](#)

· The Royal Artillery Gold Cup ·



Celebrate the only official All Ranks Regimental Reunion with a unique day out at the historic Royal Artillery Gold Cup on Friday, 14 February at Sandown Park Racecourse.

Entrance tickets* are available using the promotional code 'UBIQUE' through the Sandown Website www.thejockeyclub.co.uk/sandown/events-tickets/royal-artillery-gold-cup-day or on 0344 579 3012. For further information contact WO1 Richardson on 01980 845 677.

*To access Esher Hall and benefit from reduced bar prices you will need to purchase the entrance ticket and wrist band by opting for the 'Adult Ticket Plus Wrist band' option.

We hope that serving and retired members of the Regiment will join us in Esher Hall, which has good access onto the Grandstand with an excellent view of the racecourse. The Gold Cup Suite is also available for those who prefer a quieter atmosphere with indoor views of the race course.



· Joan Wanklyn Award ·

The Joan Wanklyn Memorial prize is a bursary to be presented each year by the Royal Artillery Association in memory of Miss Joan Wanklyn who was, for many years, our Regimental Artist. The Bursary comprises a cheque of £500 is to be presented at the RA Assembly in May 2020.

Applications are open to the sons, daughters and grandchildren of Serving or Retired members of the Regiment, regardless of rank or station, who have reached the tertiary stage of education and are in or about to begin their first year of a course at a recognised College or University to study art in its broader form. Contact Jodie McGovern on 01980 845895 for further details. Applications are requested by **26 January 2020**.

· Community and Companionship ·

Looking out for our Own The RA Charities can keep you in touch with the Regimental Family

We've had a busy start to Spring and Summer with a focus on how we, as a regimental family, can look out for each other and perhaps be a bit more open when we hit tough times.



The Royal Artillery Craft Beers

We are proud to announce the arrival of two very special guests.



THEY TASTE GOOD. THEY DO GOOD.

Champions in their own right, these fine craft beers were hand-picked in June 2019 by a tasting committee of over 90 Gunner soldiers. Gunner IPA and Gunner Pilsner are more than simply great-tasting, flagship examples of the brewer's art. For every litre of beer sold, The Crafty Brewing Co. will make a donation to Royal Artillery Charities – to fund sport, adventure and challenge activities for all Gunners – be they regular or reserve.

So now, when you raise a glass of your very own Royal Artillery craft beer – to slake a thirst, make a toast or in tribute to absent friends – you'll be putting a smile on more faces than just your own.

These delicious Gunner craft beers make their debut this evening and are provided courtesy of The Crafty Brewing Co. for you to enjoy. They will shortly be available in keg and 500ml bottles to every Royal Artillery Mess and for purchase online from November 2019.

To place your advance order visit www.craftybrewing.co.uk



TASTING NOTES:

Gunner IPA – ABV 4.2%

Gunner IPA is a modern classic. It is a golden amber, lightly-hopped IPA bearing all the hallmarks of its four international hop superstars – Simcoe, Chinook, Amarillo and Perle. Refreshing citrus and pine notes are mellowed by toasted fine English crystal malts.

Gunner Pilsner – ABV 5.0%

Gunner Pilsner is a refreshing, full-flavoured, mellow craft lager. Expertly crafted with pale malts and the prince of 'noble' hops – Tettnang. This pilsner is conditioned for 12 weeks and naturally carbonated for a crisp, mouth-filling quaff.



• The Gunner Lottery •

We have launched our [Gunner Lottery](#), The hope is that the Lottery can raise much need funds and raise awareness of the good work done by your charities. You can take part as an individual or as a Battery or RAA Branch syndicate.

The more people who sign up, the more the winnings!



· Gunner Magazine ·

Do you Subscribe to the Gunner Magazine? If not then you can subscribe [here](#)

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