

ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION



THE SAPPER CHARITY

NEWSLETTER #6 JUNE ISSUE

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

Dear Sapper,

May has been an extremely busy REA month. Firstly, the fantastic news was received from Buckingham Palace that HM King Charles III has taken over the role as patron of the REA. His membership card is in the post. 😊 Elsewhere, REA members gathered in Monte Cassino, the Royal Hospital Chelsea and Gibraltar (*page 2*). Meanwhile, members of the Sapper Family have been getting their hands dirty preparing for D-Day commemorations in Normandy (*page 4*). **Ed.**

ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION
THE SAPPER CHARITY

ANNUAL DINNER

BROMPTON BARRACKS WO'S AND SGT'S MESS

£30 PER PERSON

14TH SEPTEMBER 2024

Book your place – [here!](#)

ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION
THE SAPPER CHARITY

MAY 2024
BENEVOLENCE GRANTED:

£25,051.68

THE REA ASSISTED WITH:

- Funeral Costs
- Home Removal
- Home Adaptions

ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION
THE SAPPER CHARITY

The Sapper Charity will be providing access to a free will writing service

In partnership with
Farewill

REA NEWS & EVENTS

CALLING NOTICE

THE REA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE ON **SATURDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2024, 0900hrs THE AUDITORIUM, BROMPTON BARRACKS.**

1 x representative per branch is entitled to claim expenses in line with the REA rules.

Further details: info@reahq.org.uk

Gibraltar Weekend 2024



Elvis joined REA members who gathered for the 2024 Gibraltar Weekend which included Boat trips, history tours and a dinner. Click here for details of [REAGW 2025](#). Photos: Paul Herron

Sapper Sunday



On Sunday 19th May REA members RV'd at the Royal Hospital Chelsea with the Sapper In-Pensioners. After a quick parade and church service refreshments were had well into the afternoon.

PAINT MY AVRE! On the 28th September 2024 REA members will be painting one of the Museums AVREs. To get involved email: Spence communityevents@rhqre.co.uk

BADGE OF MERIT

In recognition of Service not Self the following REA members have been awarded the Royal Engineer Association Badge of Merit:

Mr Andy Brown

Maidstone Branch

Mr John Clark

Highlands and Islands Branch

Mr John Elks

Swindon Branch

Mr Noel Grimmett (posthumous)

Survey / GEO Branch

Mr Jimmy Hall

Newcastle and District Branch

Mr James Walmsley

Preston Branch

To find out more about the Badge of Merit go to section 18 of the [REA RULES](#).

Monte Cassino



The 13th May saw Sapper family, REA members, local Italians and Bundeswehr veterans take part in; a battlefield tour, rafting and a commemoration service on the spot where the Amazon Bridge was built. Italian cuisine and hospitality were in abundance. Look out for details of next year's event. Thanks to the [Shiny 7](#).

Becoming a member

The process for signing up to be a new member is exactly the same as it is for Life Members simply get the individual to click on this [link](#). Once they've applied HQ REA will be in touch with a branch committee member to make sure that branches know who they are.

EVENTS

7,8,9th June

Ripon Weekend and Freedom Parade

Contact: riponreasec@gmail.com

8th June 2024

Medway Branch D-Day Concert

Contact: glenn.scarborough@virginmedia.com

21st June 2024

REA Charity Golf Day

Contact: digsvcmgr@instre.org

21st June 2024

RE Historical Society
Sappers in Italy – Webinar

Contact: secretary@rehs.org.uk

29th June 2024

Stratford Upon Avon BBQ

Contact: reaSoAdistrict@btinternet.com

6th July 2024

South East Group Gathering and Dinner

Contact: g.doughty109@btinternet.com

10th July 2024

Mulberry Harbour Presentation
RE Historical Society

Contact: secretary@rehs.org.uk

7-8th September 2024

Medway Model Show – RE Museum

Find out more: [RE Museum](#)

13th - 15th September 2024

Corps Memorial Weekend, AGM, Standard
Bearers Competition and Annual Dinner

Brompton Barracks

[Apply here](#)

14th September 2024

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

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

28TH September 2024

Paint my AVRE, RE Museum

Contact: communityevents@rhqre.co.uk

30th November 2024

Chilwell Winter Dinner – Chetwyn Barracks

Details tbc – But for now **Save the Date!**

6th – 9th June 2025

Gibraltar Weekend

Find out more - [SapperCom](#)

Who's who at HQ REA?

Email Address: info@reahq.org.uk

Phone Number: [01634 847 005](tel:01634847005)

Maj Gen (Retd) Dickinson - President

Ken Kirk - CEO

Nick Gunnell - Ops Director

Fiona Louch - Business Manager

Ann Richardson - Membership

Julia Ferguson - Members Services

Suzanne Shuter - Benevolence

Fay Sidebottom - Fund Manager

Nigel 'Spence' Spencer - Events



www.cycle4heroes.com

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH THE
LATEST EVENTS

SAPPER

COM

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:

www.sappercom.com

Previous Editions & Minutes

[December](#) – Includes new membership categories

[January](#) – New format!

[February](#) – Includes the 2023 Benevolence Report

[March](#) – General News

[April](#) – New Branch formed!

[May](#) – How are decisions made at HQ REA?

[Minutes](#) - Management, Recruiting, Finance and Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes.

D DAY 80TH PREPARATIONS

In preparation for the 80th commemorations small bands of determined men and women from across the Sapper Family volunteered their time to travel to Normandy and smarten up the Corps' Heritage. The plan is to make these sorts of activities an ongoing "thing" for REA members to get as it gets Sappers together, it's a worthwhile activity and it gives some former Sappers a chance to blow the cobwebs off their trade. If interested look at the 28th September in the events section. **Ed**



A Fenland Sapper refurbishing the Bailey Bridge in the Pegasus Bridge Museum



The Corps Memorial – Arromanches Spruced up by the Military Grave Restorer



Mulberry Whales – Being given a lick of paint by 22 Engr Regt



Gate Guard Restoration got amongst the AVRE and a Free French Sherman giving them a pressure wash and a lick of paint.

The memorial to Major Allen Beckett is now ready for inspection

