



ROYAL MILITARY POLICE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



January 2026

President: Brigadier Sarah Pringle - Smith

Chair: Bob Potts

Vice Chair: Sean Taylor

Secretary: Peter Vorberg

Treasurer: Taff Pickering

Newsletter

This is your newsletter. I can only include what you send me, so please send a short narrative and photographs of any interesting or even boring events. This newsletter goes out to members who may not use social media, so it is the ideal way to show them what the Association is up to. **Can I ask that if you are submitting photographs, please include names if possible.**

Photographs.

All of the photographs in this Newsletter and more are available to view by branch and function on the RMPA website. www.rmpa.org.uk. The website is full of up-to-date information relating to all RMPA matters. If you have any problems accessing the site, please contact myself or Peter.

I Military Police Brigade.

RMP Woman's Football Update

Great to see RMP personnel representing the AGC with pride across Corps and Army level football. A competitive fixture against the Royal Artillery saw returning players back in action, new faces involved, and plenty of positives to take.

Off the pitch, SSgt O'Donnell continues her progress through the UEFA C Coaching Qualification, alongside being voted Players' Player, while SSgt Amy Smalley claimed the In the Trenches Award and Cpl Davies received her Corps Colours.

At Army level, RMP players featured strongly against Middlesex. The Army Women's Development Team showed real resilience, with Cpl Georgia Smith earning Player of the Match after a penalty save, Cpl Libby Davies scoring a superb equaliser, Cpl Forrest-Blake netting a stunning long-range free kick, and Sgt Kate Hampson making an impact from the bench.

Strong representation also continued with the Army First Team, with standout performances from Cpl Georgia Smith and Cpl Libby Davies.



RMP In BATUK

The RMP detachment BATUK are making the most of Kenya, combining demanding training with competitive sport. LCpl Faure represented BATUK FC, earning Man of the Match in three of six games. Alongside core duties, personnel continue to support the local community, visiting The Great Hope Orphanage and helping its 40 children. Senior engagement was reinforced during a visit by CO 3 RMP, meeting deployed personnel and local police leaders.

Deployments like BATUK highlight the diverse roles and experiences within 1 MP Bde and the Royal Military Police.



Adjutant Generals Corps.

Plan Your Perfect Getaway with AGC Holiday Homes 2026

Looking for the ideal escape in 2026? Whether you're dreaming of a cosy countryside retreat, a seaside sanctuary, or a family-friendly adventure, AGC Holiday Homes has you covered.

Why Choose AGC Holiday Homes?

Affordable and exclusive accommodation for AGC personnel.

Stunning locations the UK, 2 homes in Exmouth and 1 in The Lake District. Perfect for families, couples, or solo travellers, all homes sleep up to 8 guests. A chance to relax, recharge, and make unforgettable memories. 3, 4 and 7-night stays available (more stays have been made available in the school holidays). Booking Form is open and stays will be allocated from January 2026. Don't miss out – spaces fill up fast. Mark your calendars and complete; 2026 AGC Holiday Home Booking Form to secure your stay. For more information and to view the availability calendar, please contact the Holiday Home Manager, Lauren.sloan107@mod.gov.uk.

Triple Crown Challenge 2026 - Heritage & Veterans Event Wed 13 May 2026 - Save the date.

The AGC Association is delighted to invite veterans from the Corps and our antecedent Corps to a Heritage & Veteran event at Worthy Down during the Triple Crown Challenge on Wed 13 May 26.

The Heritage & Veterans event will include:

A trip down memory lane around the site conducting the Worthy Down Audio and Visual heritage tour. A joint AGC and RMP Museum heritage stand displaying the Corps history, heritage, artefacts, vehicles, and equipment.

A hot buffet lunch for all veterans.

An opportunity to meet and socialise with serving personnel from across the AGC. Support the teams competing in the AGC military skills competition. See and meet the AGC sports teams and stands. Further detail including details on how to sign up will be promulgated in mid - Feb 26.

FAQs:

When and Where is it?

Timings are expected to be 0945 – 1445 on Wed 13 May 26 and the event will be held in the vicinity of the Cricket Pitch at Worthy Down, Winchester, Hampshire, SO21 2RG.

Will it cost me anything?

No. The event is free of charge to attend but you will be responsible for your own travel and accommodation if required.

Who can attend?

This event is for veterans of the AGC, veterans of AGC Branches (the RMP Association, MPS Association and RAEC & ETS Association, together with) veterans of the antecedent Corps (RAPC, and RAEC) and those who served in the WRAC in; clerical & administrative, provost and policing education & training, and welfare roles. Additional guests are not invited to attend but those with mobility issues may bring a guest/carer if required.

Will there be any food and refreshments?

Yes - Refreshments (tea, coffee, and soft drinks) and a hot buffet lunch will be provided by the AGC Association, free of charge. There will also be lots of other food and drink stands available on site.

Donations to the Association in Memory of or in Tribute to.

Often, We are approached by undertakers and families alike about how and to whom people may donate in memory of or tribute to a deceased former Corps member.

Our stock answer has been up until today – that the funeral director should gather in donations in our name and submit either a cheque or Bacs payment to us. As of now any such request to any branch or official can be answered by sharing the link to the Much-Loved online tribute and donation service by following this link www.muchloved.com

Now we are registered anyone may go to that site and donate in our name assured that donations will come straight to us, and appropriate Gift Aid will be processed by HMRC direct.

Our charity is now registered, and any individual or funeral director may process donations to us.

RMP Journal

The RMP Journal is published three times a year (April, August, and December) and is packed with a diverse range of interesting articles. A full-colour publication, it is available in print form and online.

However, I am amazed how few former RMP subscribe to the Journal - less than 450 from a potential readership of 20K - when it only costs £15 per year (and even less if one subscribes to the on-line version.) The RMP Journal keeps everyone up to date and lets people know of forthcoming regimental and Association events too and if more took it, then they would certainly be far better informed. If you wish to subscribe for a print edition, email Clare Kelly-White at pa@rhqrm.org

West Yorkshire Branch.



52nd Anniversary Of The 1974, M62 Coach Bombing Atrocity

Service and Parade

Hartshead Moor
Service Station
M62 (West Bound)

Sunday 8 February 2024
1000 hrs for 1100 hrs

Again Branch Members will be supporting this poignant event.
As always the occasion will be well supported therefore it is suggested to arrive early for parking, always a chance for a cuppa and a chat beforehand.

Contact The Trustees.

Name	Position	E mail	Branch
Bob Potts	Chair	potts8@me.com chair@rmpa.org.uk	Derby Tel. 07931 723206
Sean Taylor	Vice Chair	seanetaylor3130@gmail.com . vice.chair@rmpa.org.uk	London
Peter Vorberg	Secretary	secretary@rmpa.org.uk	London
Taff Pickering	Treasurer	rmpatreasurer7@gmail.com treasurer@rmpa.org.uk	SIB
Jimmy Walker	Trustee	Jimmywalk86@hotmail.co.uk trustee.NI@rmpa.org.uk	NI
Steve McManus	Trustee	bluebear21@btinternet.com trustee.wales@rmpa.org.uk	Wales
Stuart Reilly	Trustee	Stuart.reilly@rmpa.org.uk	Solent
Irene Furlong	Trustee	I_furlong2005@hotmail.com trustee.scotland@rmpa.org.uk	Scotland
John Alecock	Senior Serving Rep	Via the National Secretary.	

RMPA Diary of Forthcoming Events that may be of interest. 2026/2027

New Event Confirmed

We have looked at holding an RMP Church Parade at the Royal Hospital Chelsea. RHC have granted permission for us to hold the event, and the new date is the 2nd of Aug 2026

The event will involve a brief parade involving serving, veterans our In Pensioners, followed by a service in the Chapel. We will also be looking at a 'subsidised' curry luncheon in the In Pensioners Club. Friends and family will be invited, and the numbers will be capped at 100

This will be a joint event with RMP HQ and RMPA. I will post further details in the New Year with an on-line registration and payment process.

If you are Hosting or organising an event that you wish to add please send details to Bob Potts.

Date / Time	Event	Location	Further Information
2026			
08 Feb 26	Memorial Service. M62 Coach Bombing	West Bound Services M62. Hartshead Moore	Secretary.WestYorkshire@RMPA.org.uk
07 Mar 26	WRAC Provost Reunion Dinner	Cambridge	Jacjun3@aol.com .
24 – 26 Apr 26	RMPA AGM and Reunion	Cardiff.	Secretary.southwales@rmpa.org.uk .

13 May 26	AGC Triple Crown Challenge	Worthey Down	Full details Mid Feb 26.
30 May 26	SIB Dinner	Holiday Inn. Rugby	secretary@rmpasib.co.uk entertainments@rmpasib.co.uk
11 Jun 26	80 th Anniversary	Southwick Park	Details to follow soon.
04 Jul 26	West Yorkshire Dinner	Bradford	Date TBC
Jul 26	AGC Memorial Parade	NMA	RHQ AGC
02 Aug 26	RHC Parade	Chelsea London	secretary@rmpa.org.uk
Aug 26	Cyprus Veterans	NMA	This event is under review.
12 Sep 26	NIVA Parade	NMA	potts8@me.com
19 Sep 26	Hull & East Riding Dinner Night	Hull	Secretary.HullAndEastRiding@RMPA.org.uk
17 Oct 26	Scotland Dinner	Edinburgh	Date TBC
8 Nov 26	Remembrance Parades	London	

RMPA SIB Branch Dinner – Saturday 30th May 2026.

From Donna Longhurst MBE. Entertainments Member RMPA SIB Branch. On behalf of the President and Committee I have the pleasure to advise you that the annual RMPA SIB Branch dinner will take place on Saturday 30th May 2026.

Returning to the Holiday Inn Hotel Rugby – Northampton, M1, Junction 18, Crick, NN6 7XR where there is ample free parking and Ev chargers at the hotel. It has been confirmed that Brig Kris Rotchell, Provost Marshall Serious Crime will be our guest of honour.

RMP Funeral Packs

Just to advise that the RMPA has put together a number of funeral packs that will be sent out on request to Funeral Directors. Similar packs will also be available through RHQ.

Pack in use at Tanky Walkers Funeral in NI.





Branch Contacts.

If you would like details on becoming an area contact or resurrecting a branch, please contact myself or Peter, the National Secretary

Contact list, New Standard Branch email addresses.

3 Shires	Andrew Wayland	Chairman.3Shires@RMPA.org.uk
Birmingham Central	Trevor Bassett	Secretary.BirminghamCentral@RMPA.org.uk
Cheshire And North Wales	Tom Jones	Secretary.CheshireAndNorthWales@RMPA.org.uk
Colchester & East Anglia	Dave Howard	Secretary.Colchester@RMPA.org.uk
Coventry And Warwickshire	Julian Grubb	Chairman.CoventryAndWarwickshire@RMPA.org.uk
Close Protection Branch	Marcus Turnbull	Secretary.CloseProtection@RMPA.Org.UK
Derby	Kathryn Potts	Secretary.Derby@RMPA.org.uk
East Sussex	Derek Mead	Chairman.EastSussex@RMPA.org.uk
Hertfordshire And Essex	Ernest Large	Chairman.HertfordshireAndEssex@RMPA.org.uk
Hull And East Riding	Pete Watson	Secretary.HullAndEastRiding@RMPA.org.uk
Isle Of Wight	John Dugdale	Chairman.IsleOfWight@RMPA.org.uk
Kent	Jonathon Webb	Secretary.Kent@RMPA.org.uk
London	Sean Taylor	Secretary.London@RMPA.org.uk
Manchester	Gary Joynes	Secretary.Manchester@RMPA.org.uk
Mounted Troop	Sandy Low	Chairman.MountedTroop@RMPA.org.uk
MPLMC	Bris Lightower	Secretary.MPLMC@RMPA.org.uk

North America	Bill Drummond	Chairman.NorthAmerica@RMPA.org.uk
North East	Bob Hodgson	Chairman.NorthEast@RMPA.org.uk
Northern Ireland	Jimmy Walker	Secretary.NorthernIreland@RMPA.org.uk
North Hampshire & Surrey	Chris Martin	Chairman.NorthHampshireandSurrey@RMPA.org.uk
Salisbury Plain	John Baber	Secretary.SalisburyPlain@RMPA.org.uk
Scotland	Andy Robertson	Secretary.Scotland@RMPA.org.uk
Special Investigation Branch	Phil Ellis	Secretary.SIB@RMPA.org.uk
Solent	Bob Eggelton	Secretary.Solent@RMPA.org.uk
South Wales	Kath Jennings	Secretary.SouthWales@RMPA.org.uk
Taunton	Stewart Leach	Secretary.Taunton@RMPA.org.uk
Western Australia	Matt Edmunds	Secretary.WesternAustralia@RMPA.org.uk
West Sussex	Bill Watkins	Secretary.WestSussex@RMPA.org.uk
West Yorkshire	James Nylan	Secretary.WestYorkshire@RMPA.org.uk
Republic of Ireland	Ollie Doyle	Secretary.ROI@RMPA.org.uk

253 Pro Coy RMP Historical Research Project

Calling all members of 253 Pro Coy RMP who were deployed operationally on one of the following:

- Operation Granby – Gulf War 1 : 1991
- Operation Grapple - Balkans/IFOR/SFOR>KFOR/EUFOR : 1992 - 1995
- Op Telic : 2003 - 2011
- Op Herrick : 2002 – 2014

253 are currently compiling information on the history of the unit and are looking to create deployment boards, with the data forming part of the RMP historical archive. They have already compiled details of a number of individuals from internal records but want to ensure people are not being missed.

If you served and wish to register your details, please use the ink below. If you know others that are not on Social Media, please pass it onto them to complete

Thanks in advance.

Royal Military Police Museum.

Corporal, Military Foot Police, Constantinople 1919.

This display focuses on the role of the Military Police in the immediate aftermath of the Great War, policing post war Germany as part of the BAOR and Constantinople as part of the Allied Police Commission (APC).

On 30th October 1918, the Armistice of Mudros was signed and allied powers occupied Constantinople. The Allied Police Commission (APC) was created, and each nation policed its own “zone of Control.” For the exhibition we have created a torso, of original uniform and equipment of what a Corporal of the Military Foot Police would have looked like on duty in Turkey, c1919. Pictured is the 1915 simplified Khaki Drill Frock. The pistol cases are almost exclusively seen worn on the right into the 1930s.

The pistol lanyard is most commonly seen worn around the neck. Despite the obvious danger of wearing, it in this fashion the method continued throughout the Great War and into 1930s.

Also pictured is an incredibly rare APC armband, locally made and worn by Cpl Jackson in 1919, currently the only known surviving example! Please continue to follow the Facebook page for progress on the exhibition and future Museum plans.



WRAC Provost Reunion Dinner.

The reunion dinner 2026 is to be held at the Cambridge Belfry Hotel and Spa, on 07 Mar 26. Further details from June Jackson. Jacjun3@aol.com all are welcome to attend more details in due course.

Reminder from Mike Carr.

Don't forget to keep an eye on the new RMPA website from time to time. As well as being a valuable member of the Admin team and National Secretary (a fulltime job in itself), **Peter Vorberg** has been building the website for the benefit of all RMPA members (that means you!).

You'll find details of forthcoming events and other useful stuff (have a browse around). You'll even find scanned copies of the Corps Journal that go back to days of yore (historical term).

Annual Reunion Weekend and Drumhead Service, 24-26 April 2026 – Cardiff.

2026 marks the 80th Anniversary of the formation of the RMPA. To mark that occasion, the South Wales Branch will be hosting this year's Annual Reunion, which will include a five course Dinner night on Saturday 25th April and a Drumhead Church parade in the grounds of Cardiff Castle on Sunday 26th April. The Branch has gone all out to try and make the weekend as memorable as possible. The Branch ladies will be hosting a river boat trip from the Castle to Cardiff Bay. The Cardiff Military Wives Choir will sing during the pre-dinner drinks, but we will also have a few other surprises, which we hope will see us marking the Anniversary in style. Further details can be obtained from the Branch Chairman, Steve McManus. trustee.wales@rmpa.org.uk.



AGC Museum.

As you may know, we no longer house a cafe, so we have been working hard to update the space and make it a more inviting welcome desk. The entrance way has been updated, now featuring AGC colours to make the museum more cohesive. The education space has also had a fresh coat of paint, and we will have updated welcome signs, as well as new objects on display for you all to see once we reopen. We look forward to welcoming you to the AGC Museum soon.

National Chair Recruitment Process

RMPA National Chair Vote Registration

At the AGM we will appoint the new National Chair for the Association and for the first time, all members will be able to place their vote and not just those attending in person. Voting will be permitted either online or in person at the AGM, with one vote permitted per person. Online voters are required to pre-register so we can confirm eligibility to vote, as you will need your RMPA Membership number to do so. If you don't know it, we will attempt to provide it. If you have any problems, contact any of the Trustees who will assist. WRAC Provost and Reservist who are not in possession of, or were not issued an RMPA number, will be issued one on application. It's your vote.

At the Trustees meeting in January the following candidates were short listed for the position. Their full application can be viewed on our website: rmpa.org.uk. For those of you who do not do on line stuff, short bios follow. If you are having any difficulties registering to vote, or viewing full biographies, contact any Trustee for assistance. To maintain fairness and transparency we asked them to answer the following questions.

Stuart Reilly.

Full Name:

Stuart Reilly

RMPA Branch:

Solent

RMP Related Service:

Royal Military Police

What Years did you Serve?

1984 – 2006

What Units did you serve with?

115 Pro Coy RMP, RMP HK, 160 Pro Coy RMP, RMPTC, 172 Pro Coy RMP, Falklands, 111 Pro Coy RMP, RMPTS, CPU, 6 RMP, SIBUK, RMPTS, DCP&G.

Please provide details of your involvement with the RMPA?

I am currently a Trustee for the Association; I have attended numerous RMPA related events over the years.

I have just taken over as the Association lead organiser for the RBL Cenotaph Parade. I have recently become more active with the Association and intend to continue to actively support the Association going forward.

I have been involved with Association related activities behind the scenes, contributing to the day to day management as and when required.

Do you have prior experience as a Trustee or working with a Charity? Yes

If you have prior experience, please provide brief details:

I am currently one of the appointed Trustees for the Association responsible for England.

In my previous service career, I was also involved with working with and supporting the RMP Corps Benevolent fund in my capacity as Depot RSM at Chichester and later Southwick Park.

Please confirm you are happy to be appointed as a Trustee of the Association?

Yes, I am also an existing Trustee

Please provide a brief biography (pen picture) of yourself?

I am a dedicated family man who is also extremely proud of my former service career within RMP. During my career within RMP and now civilian life I have always strived to excel in whatever roles I do. I am an extremely adept professional, with a demonstrable track record with an infectious enthusiasm and passion for improving things where possible. An effective communicator and influencer at all levels, as well as a motivated leader, always leading by example. I am capable of developing and driving strategy, and able to identify opportunities for improvement.

I have a wide and open approach to my service and to those who are serving today, I am keen to promote the Association to all, to ensure that it grows from strength to strength and an organisation people are proud to be members of and associated with.

What do you think you can bring to the role?

I remain extremely dedicated and passionate about my service career and our Association, and the role it has supporting our Veteran community and maintaining the esprit de corps. I have maintained close ties with the RMP veteran community and those serving and will continue to do so, which will help maintain our bond.

I believe that I would bring a considerable amount to the role of National Chair. I am an extremely motivated individual and would work closely with the Trustees to improve how we do things and what we offer to our members and the wider RMP community.

I am honest, reliable and extremely dependable and I would look to bring focus and strategic direction to the Association, promoting equality for all members and look to encourage younger members to help develop and grow the branches and their representation across the wider AGC RMP family. I would also look to ensure that we fully support our existing membership, who have been the backbone of the Association since its foundation.

What do you feel the Association can do better?

Our Association is rooted in collective identity, national sacrifice, and an ethos of mutual aid that mirrors the camaraderie of military service. Over recent years there has unfortunately been a widening gap between the Association and the generation of younger veterans. The veterans it was originally established to serve are ageing, while a new generation emerges with different needs, expectations, and identities.

- I believe that unless the Association continues to adapt, it risks losing relevance for the very people it was created to support.
 - The Association can certainly improve promoting itself with the serving RMP family and wider veteran community, strengthening the work of those who have worked to put the association on the map and kept it active over the years.
 - There are areas that we need to look at modernising whilst ensuring that we do not alienate our existing community.
 - Recent changes i.e. the RMPA website I believe have helped improve our visibility and engagement, and we should look to continue improving what and how we do things right across the board and where we can add value to our membership.
 - Communication is a critical factor. We need to actively and continuously engage with the wider RMP family to encourage greater participation and engagement with the Association and its activities. This includes families of those serving and people we have lost along the way.
 - Younger veterans are digital natives, accustomed to using smartphones, social media, and online networks for information and support. Some of our older veterans may be the complete opposite so there is also a need to ensure that we continue to engage and support them by other means.
- Be more proactive engaging with Branches with regular communication to find out possible problems they are experiencing and work with them to resolve them. An example of this would be falling membership in a Branch, at present the first thing we know as an Association is when the Branch notify us, they are closing.
- I believe that we need to look at our existing Branch structures and locations, some may benefit from merging with neighbouring Branches to create Regional hubs.
 - We need to encourage more people to become more actively involved with improving things and use members skills and possible support to greater effect.

- More proactive and ongoing recruitment of new membership and not expect people to come looking for us.
- Look at complimentary formats for Branch activities, engaging with other Veteran based organisations such as Breakfast Clubs, other military Associations
- Increase the number of events / activities throughout the year, these can be regional, national, theatres of service (i.e. Northern Ireland) to bring us together.
- Develop a clear strategy to provide the Association with a roadmap.

What do you feel should be included in a strategy for the Association?

- More joint activities to bring serving and our veteran community closer together. This will hopefully encourage younger and more serving members to become involved in the day to day business of the association.
- Survey our existing active membership on what they want from the Association, what works well and what doesn't and what else they feel we can do better or offer.
- Survey our RMP Veteran and serving community not actively involved with the Association to establish their understanding of the Association, what we have to offer, what they would like us to offer and how we can encourage them to become involved.
- Continuous improvement on what we do and what we have to offer and not sit back and be fully happy with what we currently have. The Association has to be far more proactive in what we are doing to improve the value and what we can provide to our community.
- We need to continue to look at ways to engage with our wider RMP veteran community who are not actively involved with the Association, so they can see the potential value add of becoming involved with the Association either now or at some point in the future.
- We should also look at engagement with the families of our fallen and those that supported us in our service career including dependant.

Alex Flach.

Full Name:

Alexander Otto Stuart Flach

RMPA Branch:

London

RMP Related Service:

RMP TA / Reserves;

What Years did you Serve?

April 1992 to May 2021

What Units did you serve with?

253 Provost (London) Coy, 160 Provost Coy, 227 Provost Coy.

Please provide details of your involvement with the RMPA?

Chair of RMPA London from 2016.

Member of RMPA London from 1993

Do you have prior experience as a Trustee or working with a Charity?

No

Please confirm you are happy to be appointed as a Trustee of the Association?

Yes

Please provide a brief biography (pen picture) of yourself?

I have been part of the RMP family for many years, combining operational service as a reservist with a civilian career in NHS nursing. As Chairman of the London Branch, I have strengthened engagement, refreshed branch activity, and provided continuity, dependability, and a consistent presence in the Association's life. I am known for my veteran-focused approach, good humour, and ability to bring people together. I have represented the Association at numerous events, supported branch members through challenge and change, and demonstrated the character and composure expected of a National Chair. Professionally grounded in service, teamwork, and safeguarding, I bring a calm, balanced leadership style and a vision centred on unity, stability, and building a stronger, more modern Association for the future.

What do you think you can bring to the role?

I believe I will bring the following to the role: Leadership and; Governance.

- Proven leadership as Chairman of the London Branch, delivering long-term continuity, branch growth, and member engagement.
- Demonstrated ability to support and guide committees, chair meetings, and resolve issues with fairness and transparency.
- Comfortable with governance, safeguarding, risk awareness, and Charity Commission compliance expectations. Strategic Contribution
- Deep understanding of the RMPA, its ethos, history, and future direction.
- Committed to strengthening branch collaboration and elevating the strategic relevance of the Association nationally.
- Experience providing direction and continuity during periods of transition. Operational and Service Experience
- Long-serving reservist with operational experience, bringing authenticity and credibility to the National Chair role.
- Highly respected across the RMP family for professionalism, conduct, and reliability. Ambassadorial Capability
- Well-known figure across the Association and wider RMP community.
- Comfortable representing the RMPA at ceremonial, commemorative, and stakeholder events.
- Confident communicator with empathy and strong interpersonal influence. Professional Background.
- Civilian career in NHS Nursing, reinforcing a character built on service, compassion, resilience, and ethical responsibility.
- Skilled in leadership under pressure, problem-solving, and coordinating teams in complex, people-focused environments.

Commitment to RMPA Objectives.

- Long-term commitment to the Association's presence, values, and mission.
- Vision for growth, unity, transparency, and improving communication between branches and Trustees.

- Seek to maintain stability while modernising the Association's governance and member engagement.\

What do you feel the Association can do better?

Without close scrutiny I dont want to commit myself fully, however I continue to believe in the importance of greater engagement with serving personnel, Regular and Reservist.

What do you feel should be included in a strategy for the Association?

I feel the following should be included a strategy for the Association:

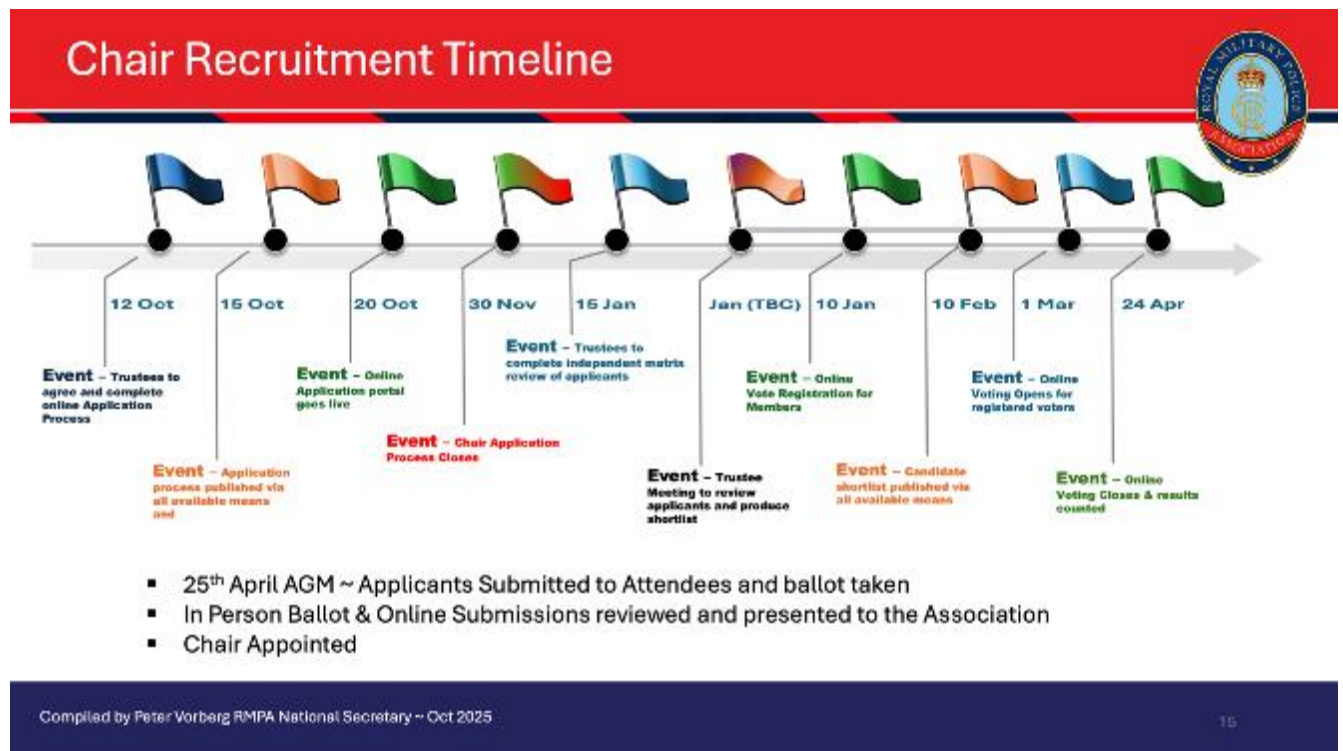
1. Strengthening Our RMP Family. The heart of the RMPA is its members - past and present. I want to bring branches closer together, improve communication, and ensure every member feels heard and valued. We are stronger when united.

2. Governance That Protects Our Future.

- strong financial oversight
- clear decision-making
- compliance with the Charity Commission
- safeguarding of our assets and reputation Good governance is not bureaucracy — it is the foundation of trust.

3. Supporting Veterans and Their Families. I believe that it is fundamental to any association to be there for veterans and their families, especially those who have recently left the Service and need signposting to the correct support service.

4. Focus on Continuity The organisation should respect continuity but also be prepared to embrace change to ensure that it prospers. For the last twenty-five I have not only been an exponent of personal continuity but continued to support the Association in its activities.



National Memorial Arboretum.

If the weather is keeping you inside at the moment, it could be a great time to start planning day trips for your group – and there is plenty to see and do at the National Memorial Arboretum in 2026.

Whether it's the first time your group has visited the Arboretum, or you like to get together here regularly, here are our top five recommendations for a group visit in 2026:

1. Armed Forces Memorial - this iconic memorial features the names of all Armed Forces personnel that have died in service since the Second World War and is truly moving no matter how many times you visit.
2. Guided walks and talks – our volunteer experts share many poignant, historic, and lesser-known stories of service and sacrifice connected to some of the 420+ memorials at the Arboretum.
3. Land Train tour – a trip in our covered Land Train, with its accompanying 50-minute pre-recorded commentary, is a comfortable way to see a large portion of our 150-acre inspirational living landscape
4. New memorials – if you are regular visitors, why not look for some of the six new memorials dedicated in 2025? These include the Royal Air Force Armourers Memorial, the Le Paradis Massacre Memorial and the LGBT+ Armed Forces Community Memorial
5. Treat yourselves - for an extra-special lunch, you can book our two-course lunch package and enjoy reserved seating and dressed tables ready for your group's arrival

With our award-winning facilities and welcoming team, we will make sure that your group has a day out to remember.

All groups get free entry to the Arboretum, free coach and minibus parking, meet and greet on arrival and complimentary meal vouchers for coach drivers.

Why not contact our groups team on 01283 244 896 or groups@thenma.org.uk to discuss what your group could do on a visit to the Arboretum? Or you can visit our website to find out more.

<https://thenma.org.uk/.../plan-your.../visiting-with-a-group>

Whenever you visit, you're welcome to take part in our daily Act of Remembrance in the Millennium Chapel of Peace and Forgiveness to reflect on the sacrifice of those who have given their lives in the service of the country.

The Chapel welcomes people of all faiths, and is the only place in the country where an Act of Remembrance is observed every day. The Act, consisting of the Last Post, the two-minute silence and the Reveille, is held at 11am.

If you would like to join us, please could you be seated in the Chapel by 10.50am.

Is finding a rewarding volunteering role on your 2026 to do list?

From helping keep the Arboretum's gardens beautiful and sharing stories of service and sacrifice, to looking after visitors in the shop, restaurant and exhibitions, there are so many ways that you can volunteer at the National Memorial Arboretum.

If you're passionate about the work of the Arboretum, are keen to help us grow and develop, and have regular time to commit, please get in touch via our website. We look forward to hearing from you!

RMP Journal

The RMP Journal is published three times a year (April, August, and December) and is packed with a diverse range of interesting articles. A full-colour publication, it is available in print form and online. However, I am amazed how few former RMP subscribe to the Journal - less than 450 from a potential readership of 20K - when it only costs £15 per year (and even less if one subscribes to the on-line version.) The RMP Journal keeps everyone up to date and lets people know of forthcoming regimental and Association events too and if more took it, then they would certainly be far better informed. If you wish to subscribe for a print edition, email Clare Kelly-White at pa@rhqrm.org

Gary Mills RBL Gloucester

You are invited to participate in the RBL Gloucester City Branch fully guided Normandy Battlefield Tour 2026 . After a hugely successful trip to Ypres last year, the branch has organised a battlefield tour to Normandy over 10th to 13th September 2026. We have the services of a tour guide too. Details in the image. Want to go? You don't need to be an RBL member. Get in touch to book and pay the deposit



Gloucester City Battlefield Tour to Normandy

September 10th to 13th 2026

Cost £500 pp includes:

**Luxury Coach,
Ferry, Road Tolls and
Hotel IBIS with Bed and Breakfast
stay in a Double /Twin Room**

Based from Caen, the itinerary will include Pegasus Bridge, British Normandy Memorial, The Overlord Museum, The Bayeux Cemetery, the main beaches; Gold, Juno & Omaha, and a visit to Arromanches

**A £50 non refundable deposit is required, contact
raymondpass@gmail.com**

Birmingham Central Branch

On Sunday 17 January the Branch held its post-Christmas dinner at the Plough and Harrow hotel in Birmingham. We were joined by friends and guests from other branches, and our Guest of honour Andy Mudd delivered a very interesting talk on his life post the terrorist attack which changed his life. An excellent afternoon / evening was enjoyed by all who attended.



Seating plan all left to right, three rows.

Back row; Ruth Freeman, Trevor Bassett, John Yoward, Mike Clark, Kath Potts, Iain Martin, Davy Paynter, Rick Lavis and Steph Lavis.

Middle row. Sheila Paynter, Bob Potts, Peggy Bassett, Fiona Yoward, Anne Clark, Joyce , Bill Daniels, Diane Smith, Steve Lee, Derek Platt, Des O'Connor

Front row . Margaret Freeman, Jennifer Hood, Andy Mudd, John Hood, Pauline Daniels, Lorna Lee, Debbie O'Connor

Meritorious Service Honoured.

Congratulations to WO1 Lewis Hughes and WO1 Dave Batterham on receiving their Meritorious Service Medals from the Chief of the General Staff. This prestigious award recognises their exceptional professionalism, sustained dedication, and outstanding contribution to the Service over many years. A thoroughly well-deserved honour — congratulations to both.



The Chelsea Pensioners.

We have a new experience available at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, and we are excited to share it with you

The Chelsea Pensioner Tour of the Wellington Hall Museum gives visitors the chance to explore a private regimental museum that is rarely seen by the public!

Led by a Chelsea Pensioner Museum Guide, the tour offers a close look at significant objects including the Sovereign's Mace, the Queen's Parade Chair, a new Napoleonic era display and a large collection of regimental cap badges. These items reflect centuries of military tradition and the stories that have shaped the Royal Hospital Chelsea

This is a truly unique experience and an opportunity to see remarkable artefacts up close while learning directly from those who have lived the military tradition themselves. The Wellington Hall Museum holds deep meaning for our Chelsea Pensioners, and we are delighted to share it with you!

Learn more and book your place today: <https://loom.ly/883KELU>



Our very own **Scouse Godwin** receiving the donation. We'd like to say a huge thank you to these Chelsea Football Club supporters who once again chose to mark Remembrance by raising funds for the Chelsea Pensioners. Their continued generosity and commitment mean a great deal, and we're incredibly grateful for the time, effort and care that went into supporting us.

The funds raised by supporters from the community, like these, support life at the Royal Hospital Chelsea. They help ensure that Chelsea Pensioners can continue to enjoy later life with dignity, companionship, and the respect they so richly deserve, while strengthening the sense of community and care at the heart of the Royal Hospital.

If you'd like to get involved and support the Chelsea Pensioners through community fundraising, you can find out more here: <https://loom.ly/6NRFYB0>

Royal Airforce Police (Snowdrops)

The following article was taken from The National Memorial Arboretum website. I thought that some of you may find it interesting. I certainly did!

Did you know that 'snowdrops' played a crucial role in the largest British military police investigation in history?

On 24 March 1944, 76 Royal Air Force and Allied airmen made a break for freedom from Stalag Luft III, a Nazi prisoner of war camp, in one of the most famous escape operations of the Second World War.

More than 600 personnel had been digging tunnels and planning the escape over 15 months. On the night of 'The Great Escape,' 200 chosen men were waiting in Hut 104 to crawl to freedom through a tunnel codenamed 'Harry'. Disaster struck when the first man out realised the tunnel ended 10 feet short of the woods, leaving the escapees exposed to a guard tower. A rope-tug signal system was hastily improvised, and 76 prisoners crawled out in a bid for freedom. As the 76th man neared the woods, a German patrol spotted him. Chaos followed and prisoners in Hut 104 rushed to destroy evidence, burning maps and forged IDs, and devouring escape rations. All but three escapees were recaptured in the days after the breakout. Hitler ordered 50 of them executed and they were taken in pairs and small groups to different locations and shot, staged to look like deaths during attempted recapture. Immediately after the end of the Second World War, @Royal Air Force Police - who are also known as 'snowdrops' thanks to their white hats – led the investigation into the killings. They identified 72 Nazis involved in the executions, 38 of whom were tried and sentenced. Throughout the subsequent 30-year 'Cold War', the RAF Police provided security protection for the RAF's nuclear deterrent. More recently, the branch specialises in aviation security, counterintelligence, protective security, law enforcement, and information and cyber security. It has been a very chilly winter so far this year, but snowdrops are appearing around the Arboretum, an early sign that warmer days are around the corner. And, if you look closely at the Royal Air Force Police Memorial at the Arboretum (pictured), you'll also spot these pretty flowers engraved around its edges.



The RAFP Memorial service is normally held in March, I will publish details of date and times when I receive them.

RMPA Gazebo

The association has purchased a Gazebo for use at Association events. Its first outing will be at the AGM 80th anniversary Reunion in Cardiff. Any requests for its use at other events should be directed to the National Chair or Secretary for consideration.



3d Visual.



Rear Panel



Royal Military Police Association

The Royal Military Police Association was formed in 1946, to maintain contact between past and present members of the Royal Military Police and its antecedents, fostering 'esprit de corps, comradeship and welfare of the Royal Military Police and preserving its traditions.



www.RMPA.Org.UK

Side Panel.



Table.

Still a Little Damp at our Plot.



Warning Order - Northern Ireland Reunion & NI Veterans Parade at the NMA

The Northern Ireland Veterans Association (NIVA) hold an annual Remembrance Parade at the NMA, which is attended by Veterans from All Arms. The RMPA normally has a good contingent on parade. We also felt that we should look to hold a Northern Ireland Reunion in Derby on the same day, with no specific unit just Op Banner operational service. We will post further details later but just wanted to put the diary date out there in case you need to apply for a leave pass.

Northern Ireland Reunion
Sat 12th Sept 2026 at Derby
& NMA NIVA Parade

Advance Warning - Diary Date:

This years Northern Ireland Veterans Association annual Remembrance Parade will take place at the National Memorial Arboretum on Sat 12th Sept 2026. Association members attend the parade alongside other NI Veterans. It is proposed that we hold an informal gathering of those that served in Northern Ireland in Derby town centre after the event. Further details will be published later.

And Finally.

Kevin John (TANKY) Walker Celebration Of Life Tribute By Graeme Woodcock

It is a profound honour to stand here today to celebrate a man who for more than 4 decades was, quite simply, the beating heart of the Northern Ireland Branch of the Royal Military Police Association. Kevin John Walker - our beloved **Tanky** - was a man of unpretentious warmth and kindness that endeared him to everyone he came into contact with.

To hear him tell it, he was just a simple Somerset lad, a self-described 'yokel' who famously claimed the title of his village's best young idiot. But we all knew the truth. While the Royal Military Police may have provided the polish and the intellectual rigor that transformed him into the leader we admired, the core of the man was always pure gold. And though the actual origin of that legendary nickname, **Tanky**, remains a mystery, and dare I say it, even to his devoted Eileen, the man himself was never a mystery: he was a beacon of selflessness and a titan of service; he commanded the utmost affection of all who met him.

Tanky didn't just serve; he led with an unremitting commitment to others that bordered on the extraordinary. In 1981, during the darkest and most perilous days of the Troubles in Northern Ireland, **Tanky** looked at a disbanded Branch of the RMP Association due to personal security risks and saw a need to reconnect serving and veteran colleagues. At a time when his roles as a veteran and a serving Prison Officer made him a very real terrorist target, he set out to rebuild the Northern Ireland Branch. With a breathtaking disregard for his own safety, over the next four long years **Tanky** fought through insurmountable obstacles, fuelled by nothing but a dogged determination and an unwavering commitment to rebuild a Branch. His endeavours established a safe and welcoming Association home where serving and veteran RMP comrades and their families were, and to this day remain protected, supported, and never, ever forgotten.

It is a testament to his character that from the moment the Branch was officially reinstated in 1985 until his very last breath **Tanky** was re-elected Chair every single year. For four decades, there was no opposition, only unanimous encouragement for him to continue in his office. In contrast over the same period our Branch has registered no less than 14 elected Presidents!

Tanky most certainly was the gold standard of leadership. He was punctilious, tireless, and profoundly generous. He travelled the length and breadth of the country for welfare visits, organised social event after social event, and safely navigated the varying political uncertainties of life in Northern Ireland with the quiet determined grace of a respected and trusted leader.

Following the 1998 Peace Process, **Tanky** worked unrelentingly to integrate the Association into the wider public consciousness. In 2015, under his careful stewardship our Branch forged historic bonds of friendship with the Republic of Ireland, assisting the Irish Defence Forces Military Police to establish their own Veterans' Association. Since 2021, this hand of friendship has earned our Branch the prestigious honour of providing the wreath laying escort to the President of Ireland at that Nation's Annual Service of Remembrance.

I'm so incredibly grateful that our Branch got to share our 40th anniversary celebrations with **Tanky** at the Europa Hotel in Belfast last August. As I spoke of his 40-year tenure, the room didn't just applaud; it erupted. A thunderous, spontaneous and prolonged standing ovation washed over him, bringing tears to his eyes. It was a rare moment where **Tanky**, the man who always put others first, was forced to feel the staggering depth of the affection and respect in which he was universally held.

Tanky lived our Corps motto - By Example Shall We Lead - in every waking moment. But he didn't do it alone. At the centre of his life was the incredible Eileen. Together, they were a force of nature -resilient, loyal, and utterly dedicated to their immediate family and extended military family. For a Somerset Yokel, **Tanky** you remain an outstanding example of one who more than earned and deserved a lasting State recognition. Your life was a testament to altruistic commitment, improving the lives of others until the very end.

You leave behind a Branch that is vibrant, inclusive, and strong – a living monument to your life's work. **Tanky** bequeathed us his living legacy. It is a warm, welcoming, vibrant and proactive Branch of the RMPA with a substantial membership both on the island of Ireland and internationally. It is now our responsibility to honour his legacy with a shared commitment to uphold and preserve his most cherished Branch.

In closing, and with an earnest desire to adequately sum up the life and friendship **Tanky** gave to so many, I have chosen words from **Matthew Chapter 25**. After much soul searching, I hope everyone will recognize in these remarks the true spirit of how **Tanky** lived his life.

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in. I needed clothes and you

clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. The King will reply, Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.

I am certain of two things. First, **Tanky's** arrival at the Pearly Gates will surely result in a new branch of the RMPA being formed. Second, he now occupies a distinguished place on our Roll of Honour, serving as a permanent reminder for us and future generations to honour his remarkable legacy.

Thursday 22 January 2026
Capt (Retd) Graeme Woodcock
Honorary Life President
Royal Military Police Association (Northern Ireland Branch)

Obituary (Footnote) Sergeant Kevin John Walker.

On a miserable, wet afternoon on Thursday, 22 January 2026, more than 300 mourners gathered to bid Kevin John "Tanky" Walker farewell at his funeral service in Trinity Methodist Church, Lisburn. Those wishing to pay their final respects included Maj M. Keenan RMP, OC 174 Pro Coy RMP, who represented his CO, Lt Col M. Boyd RMP, and all ranks of 1 Regt RMP. Also in attendance was Mr. Freddie Hall QGM OBE, DL, retired RUC/PSNI Assistant Chief Constable and former Deputy Lord Lieutenant of County Antrim. An exceptional turnout of more than 100 RMPA members included many Branch and wider Association colleagues who travelled from across the UK mainland.

As befitting his status and in accordance with his family's wishes, Tanky was afforded the solemn dignity of a military funeral, which included the appropriate military accoutrements adorning his coffin. On arrival at the church, the funeral cortege was greeted by a formal RMPA Honour Guard, before the coffin was carried into the church by pallbearers from **Tanky's** immediate family. The RMPA NI Branch Standard preceded the coffin, while **Tanky's** medals were carried by the Branch President in the procession behind.

The service to celebrate Tanky's life was conducted by the RMPA NI Branch Chaplain, the Rev. Dr. Brian Black. A reading was delivered by Eden Walker, one of **Tanky's** grandchildren, followed by a tribute from the President of the RMPA NI Branch, honouring **Tanky's** decades-long, outstanding, and selfless commitment to the RMPA. Brian's worshipful remembrance and eulogy for his long-standing friend were delivered with a light but reverential touch that Tanky would have heartily approved of. Mr. Stewart Leach, former National Secretary of the RMPA and lifelong friend of the Walker family, recited the Corps Collect before a pastoral prayer and the Benediction brought the service to a close.

The pallbearing recessional from the church was performed by members of the RMPA NI Branch Committee, aided by Mike Llewelan-Jones and Steve Otter - two mainland members and lifelong colleagues of Tanky. Once more, the Branch Standard and personal military accoutrements accompanied the procession, followed by **Tanky's** family.

That same afternoon, the funeral cortege moved to Roselawn Cemetery, Belfast, where, in strict accordance with **Tanky's** written instructions, only members of his family and the RMPA were permitted to participate in the cremation service.

A formal Guard of Honour once again greeted the funeral cortege before the RMPA pallbearers carried the coffin into the cremation chapel, accompanied by the Branch Standard and military accoutrements. The Branch Chaplain led the large congregation through the short, dignified service, which included a one-minute silence punctuated by the Last Post and Reveille, played by the HM King Charles III military bugler for Northern Ireland. The President of the RMPA NI Branch read the Corps Collect before returning **Tanky's** military accoutrements to his widow, Eileen. A pastoral prayer announced the solemn end to the service, which concluded with an audio rendition of 'Time to Say Goodbye' sung by Andrea Bocelli and Sarah Brightman.

A fitting end to an otherwise mournful and reflective day found members of the RMPA joining with **Tanky's** beloved Eileen and her family in the Royal British Legion Club, Lisburn, where Tanky and Eileen first met more than 50 years ago. Happy memories and stories of past escapades abounded to enliven **Tanky's** spirit.

Graeme Woodcock.
President RMPA NI Branch



Farewell.

Compiled by Bob Potts
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