ROYAL MILITARY POLICE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

#38 JUNE 2021

President: Brigadier Vivienne Buck
Chair: Bob Eggelton
Vice Chair: Bob Potts
Secretary: Stewart Leach MBE
Treasurer: Ron Campbell-Smith

Dear colleague,

I see that a number of branches are unfurling from a long hibernation and life is beginning to seep into the veins of the members but slowly does it and stay on the side of the 'law'. Northern Ireland Branch have been out on a recce and Tanky Walker sent in the following photograph showing the Branch committee members, Tanky Walker, Jim Walker, Alan Officer, Graham Chipperfield and Paul Jones who met at the Hilden Brewery in Lisburn to discuss plans for the re-opening of the branch following uplifting of Covid 19 restrictions. Apparently no alcohol was involved.



Depot Branch members have also been escaping into the open world and some met up for a breakfast/brunch at Hayling Island recently. Sadly someone forgot to take a photograph.

The following was received from Tanky Walker on behalf of the Northern Ireland Branch and refers to the refurbishment of a headstone which was mentioned in the last edition.
'With regards to your latest RMPA Newsletter. Cpl Holman's grave refurbishment, although Colonel Green agreed to pay, the Branch decided that we would not burden RHQ and paid for it ourselves.'

I do not often include funnies in my newsletters but now and again one catches my eye and seems appropriate, this is one.

If you have not reached this stage in life one day you will!
I am a Seenager. (Senior teenager)

I have everything that I wanted as a teenager, only 60 years later. I don't have to go to school or work. I get an allowance every month. I have my own pad. I don't have a curfew. I have a driver's licence and my own car. The people I hang around with are not scared of getting pregnant and I don't have acne. Life is great. I changed my car horn to gunshot sounds. People get out of the way much faster now.

Gone are the days when girls used to cook like their mothers. Now they drink like their fathers.
I didn't make it to the gym today. That makes five years in a row.
I decided to stop calling the bathroom the "John" and renamed it the "Jim". I feel so much better saying I went to the Jim this morning.
Old age is coming at a really bad time.

When I was a child I thought “Nap Time” was a punishment. Now it feels like a small vacation.
The biggest lie I tell myself is”I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it."
I don’t have grey hair; I have "wisdom highlights"! I’m just very wise.
If God wanted me to touch my toes, He would’ve put them on my knees.
Last year I joined a support group for procrastinators. We haven’t met yet.
Why do I have to press one for English when you’re just going to transfer me to someone I can't understand anyway?
Of course, I talk to myself. Sometimes I need expert advice.
At my age “Getting lucky" means walking into a room and remembering what I came in there for.
I have more friends I should send this to, but right now I can’t remember their names.
Now, I’m wondering: did I send this to you, or did you send it to me?
Ed: I know this just about sums me up, what about you?



Western Australia Branch keep me well stocked with photographs and over the years there has been a many words communicated over the weather, normally I am freezing and they are under blue skies and speaking of lazing in the pool with a tube of XXX. I knew that one day I would have a chuckle and it arrived in a report from Brian Griffiths when he used the words, “Thank you to our local members and BESA friends who braved the **chilly weather** *(Ed:I have waited a long time to hear such words)* and attended our lunchtime meeting on Friday 25 June 2021. It was a great afternoon together with lots of camaraderie!
The raffle was also well supported and good fun having raised $175 amongst our small group. Derek Butler (BESA) won the bottle of whisky and Bernard Bartolome (Benny) (BESA) helped Pauline with the photography and I have combined the selected shots.”









Having due regard to the restrictions currently imposed upon us I was somewhat surprised that here in Portsmouth, primarily home of Royal Navy there was no mention of Armed Forces day (AFD). I noticed on social media that one or two small events took place to mark AFD but the day was recognised by a larger event in East Sussex and was attended by the East Sussex Branch who manned a stand on the day.



Derek Meade (Branch Chair) said, 'It was a great day and well attended. The Lord Lieutenant of the County was very impressed with both the stand and the history of the Corps.'

I congratulate East Sussex branch - where did you find that red tent? Just a thought, maybe it is time the Association held a pool of display material for such events, I shall raise that point with the Trustees.

REUNION 2020/1 - UPDATE

This is an important message for those of you that booked accommodation with The Royal Beach Hotel, Southsea in respect of the Reunion 2020 which of course as you know was cancelled.

The hotel is slowly returning to some form of normality and if you paid a deposit for accommodation you can now claim that deposit by contacting Davina Playford (Events Manageress) at:

events@royalbeachhotel.co.uk

Davina will forward your claim to the finance department of at the hotel. Please allow some time as the staff are not as yet on full working hours.

If you have any problems please contact me.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2021

16th October 2021. 253 Provost Company (V) Reunion. To be held at the Hickstead Hotel, Jobs Land, Bolney, West Sussex RH17 5NZ. For further information please contact me.

16th October 2021. RMPA North East Branch Annual Dinner. To be held at the Copthorn Hotel Newcastle, The Close, Quayside, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 3RT
Cost is £25 for a 3 course meal
Arrive 18:30 for 19:30
Dress is Black Tie or Lounge Suits

Rooms can be booked at the hotel at the cost of £120 per double room. This includes a full English breakfast.
Rooms should be booked ONLY AFTER 20th June using Reference ROYA161021

Anyone wishing more information contact the North East Branch Secretary Bob Hodgson. bobhrmpa@mail.com

Saturday 30th October 2021 The Depot Branch long overdue dinner. To be Held at The Royal Beach Hotel, Southsea. Non-Branch members are welcome but numbers may be restricted. Please contact me if you require further information.

At the time of writing there is no information on Remembrance Weekend. All I can say at this stage that Bob Potts will be carrying out the administration for the Cenotaph Parade, assuming that one goes ahead.

2022

Sunday the 9th January 2022, Depot branch Post Christmas Lunch at the Royal Beach Hotel, Southsea. If you are interested in attending please contact me.

Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd April 2022. SIB Branch annual reunion at the Holiday Inn, J7 M6 Birmingham. Point of Contact is the Branch Entertainments member Martin Warnes who you can find at entertainments@rmpasib.co.uk; or the Branch Secretary, Phil Ellis on secretary@rmpasib.co.uk. The main event and meal will be on the Saturday 23rd.

ANNUAL REUNION 2022

The Association's Annual Reunion will be hosted by Hull and East Riding Branch between the 20th and 22nd May 2022.
The location is the Royal Hotel, Hull.
Further details will be distributed just as soon as possible.

If your branch has a forthcoming activity which you would like publicised then let me know, but let me know in good time.

If you require further details about any event then please contact me via e-mail or telephone.

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