



*"The appointment of Conductor is fundamental to the army's future, technical ability and status of the Corps"*

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Master General of Logistics

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*The Honourable and  
Ancient Appointment of  
Conductor*

Issue: September 2020

Branch Newsletter

Formed 24<sup>th</sup> September 2005



The Conductors Branch would like to extend its best wishes to Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, on the occasion of her 70th birthday.

Her Royal Highness began undertaking public work at the age of 18, with her first engagement being the opening of an educational centre in 1969. Since then, she has established significant and ongoing relationships with over 300 charities and organisations across the Commonwealth and has one of the busiest working schedules of any member of the Royal Family.

The Princess Royal attended the 2003 Conductor Parchment Ceremony in the HQ WO's & Sgt's Mess, Deepcut.



HRH The Prince Royal at the Conductors' Parchment Ceremony 2003, Deepcut

Happy Birthday Ma'am and congratulations on your promotion to the rank of General.



David Patterson  
Branch Chairman

Welcome to the September edition of your newsletter. I sincerely hope you and yours are keeping well, during these difficult times.

I have been carefully monitoring events related to the COVID 19 restrictions and after consulting the Branch Management Team and wanting to keep the safety of all members at the heart of any decisions, I have decided it is in all our best interests to cancel face to face branch events for the rest of the year. I apologise for the current 'On the Bus, Off the Bus' scenario and hope you understand. Having said that, it is important the branch AGM goes ahead and so we will shift to video conferencing for this event, please see 'The show must go on' piece below.

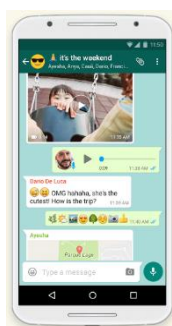
### ALL ADDS UP TO THE END OF AN ERA



Charlie McClure

Having scrutinised branch accounts for many years, branch member Charlie McClure has made his final crunch of the numbers. Charlie has always given sound advice, making sure branch accounts add up. On behalf of all members, a big thank you for all that you have done, to help make our branch the success it is.

### BRANCH SIGNS UP TO 'WHATSAPP'



Keep in touch with the groups of people that matter the most, like family, friends, and other branch members. With group chats, you can share messages, photos, and videos with up to 250 people at once. For more info click [What is 'WhatsApp'](#)

From a Branch perspective, 'WhatsApp' is another great tool (in addition to the bi-monthly newsletter, Dropbox, and emails) which will help to keep 2-way Comms flowing between branch members and the Branch Management Committee.

If you are already a 'Whatsapp' user, then you will know just how easy it is to use. If not, click - [How to Use WhatsApp](#)

One of the main barriers to good Comms, is the lack of correct contact details held for members. Now would be a good time, to reconfirm your details by completing the AGM form at the back of this newsletter. **If we don't hear from you, you won't hear from us!**

## CANCELLED BRANCH EVENTS



**29<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

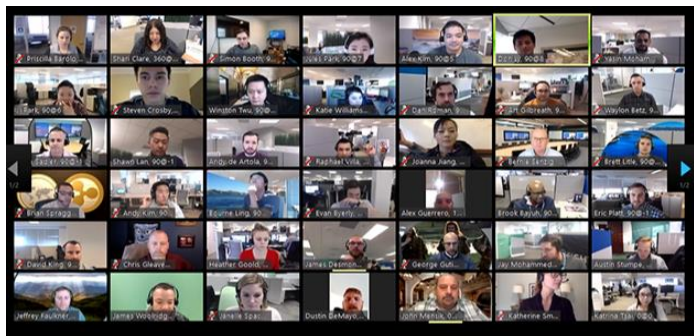
AGM & Dinner Night  
&

**30<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

Day 2 activity

## THE SHOW MUST GO ON

Despite the cancellation of our normal range of events, the **2020 AGM will take place, via video conferencing.**



To this end, the branch will host a test run on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 2pm. This will allow plenty of time to sort out any raised issues before the actual AGM on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020, also starting at 2pm. All members are encouraged to join in.

The branch will be using the Microsoft 'Team' platform for video calls. As we know any 'Change' no matter how small, must be handled with care, giving the best possible chance of a smooth transition from the current to the new. The good news is, there is plenty of time for setting things up, please following the guidance below.

1. Make a note of the above dates in your diary.
2. Complete the attached Video Conference form.
3. Download Microsoft (MS) Teams App.
4. Have a practice using MS Teams with others
5. Prior to the AGM, read the Minutes of the 2019 AGM. Copy held in Branch Dropbox.

## CORPS PARCHMENT CEREMONY

The rescheduled Parchment Ceremony for 29<sup>th</sup> October is still going ahead. Branch members are invited, but numbers will be limited. If you wish to go, please let Gordon know ASP.

## BRANCH SURVEY 2020

It's said, soldiers are only happy when they're moaning. This may well be true, and now the branch 2020 survey offers another opportunity to have your say, good or ...

The last branch survey was held in 2014. Sadly, despite much time and effort being made, getting the survey out to members, the take up was incredibly low. None the less, the result did show up a few areas for improvement, which were immediately put into place.

The one good thing about COVID 19 restrictions, is that there is more time spent in the home so, no excuses for not completing the 2020 survey. Even if you not been to a branch event before, we still want to learn about your suggests for improvements.

## NOT FORGOTTEN – VJ DAY 2020

With official parades cancelled to commemorate this year's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VJ Day and the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ending of hostilities in Malaya, Bob Le Vaillant and his family gathered first in their garden to share memories of Malaysia, before Bob walked to the Burma Star Memorial opposite Deal Castle to lay a wreath on behalf of the National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association (NMBVA).



Bob and his girls

Bob was stationed in Borneo during Confrontation with Indonesia, before moving to Singapore to finish his first Far East tour. A decade later, he served in Seoul, Kowloon and Hong Kong Island. After leaving the Army in 1986, Bob founded and ran a Children's Charity at Toynbee Hall in London's East End and became a Magistrate.



In 2011, he learnt about the British Army's tribute ("Sabah Salute") to the 2,434 Allied Forces Prisoners of War who died in the atrocious 'Sandakan to Ranau Death Marches' in 1945. 14 soldiers from the Royal Artillery retraced the prisoners' 164-mile route through the jungle, carrying bags of rice which they donated to an orphanage.

At his home in Kota Kinabalu, the President of the Sabah Justices of the Peace, Datuk Seri Panglima Dr Clarence Malakun JP was also impressed by the British soldiers' selfless efforts. Bob and Clarence corresponded, and became friends. In 2013, Clarence invited Bob and his family for an unforgettable holiday with the Malakuns in Kota Kinabalu.

Bob's daughters, Anna, Chantelle & Louise, are Girl Guides. Bob's wife, Valerie, was UK's Chief Guide in 2016/17. Before leaving for Borneo, the girls paraded at the town's Remembrance Day Service with their Guide Unit. They took the Malaysian flag to show their friends and the poppy wreaths and bouquets which they would eventually lay at the Commonwealth War Cemetery on Labuan Island where their father served when he was 18.

Valerie has since taken the girls to the International World Guiding Centres (London, Mexico, India, Switzerland). At the Sangam Centre in Pune, they met Malaysian Guide Commissioner Noor Lina, whose friendship, kindness and smile they have not forgotten.

In 2005, Bob retired as Toynbee Hall Deputy Warden and moved with his family to the seaside town of Deal in East Kent.



## **FOR THE FALLEN** By Robert Laurence Binyon

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,  
We will remember them.*

*They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;  
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;  
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;  
They sleep beyond England's foam.*

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## **ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL!**

One of our members, Tom Davies, asked us to help contact Fred Prickett, a 91-year-old colleague of his, who is living in Germany. Tom was concerned not to have heard from him for some time and had difficulty making contact.

We tried several times to contact Fred by email and telephone, without success. Eventually we wrote to him asking him to contact us and confirm he was in good order. In due course we were contacted by Fred's son who received the forwarded letter in England.

Fred had suffered a fall, which because of other complications, meant he had to lose his leg below the knee and had spent some time in hospital. He was now residing in a comfortable Care Home in Wilhelmshaven, Germany. Fred is in fine form and eager to be mobile again. He has been making arrangements for a prosthetic leg.

Since making contact, Tom has been in regular touch with his old mate. If you think we can help find a long-lost colleague, do not hesitate to get in touch.

## BRANCH FUNDRAISING



Through easyfundraising we have raised **£412.41** for the Branch. **£15.21** in the last 30 days.

# THANK YOU!

## ARE YOU SHOPPING ONLINE?

### Have you bought anything online recently?

Almost 34% of all retail sales during May 2020 were carried out online, and new research suggests that only 16% of UK consumers intend to return to their old shopping habits post-lockdown

### Online shopping fraud during lockdown

Action Fraud, the UK's national reporting centre for fraud and cybercrime, received **over 16,000 reports** relating to



online shopping and auction fraud during the lockdown, with losses totalling over **£16m**. Members of the public have reported buying mobile phones (19%), vehicles (22%), electronics (10%) such as games consoles, AirPods and MacBooks, and footwear (4%) on sites such as eBay (18%), Facebook (18%), Gumtree (10%) and Depop (6%), only to have the items never arrive.

## Top tips for shopping online securely

### 1. Choosing where to shop

If you're making a purchase from a company or seller you don't know and trust, carry out some research first. For example, by checking to see if others have used the site and what their experience was.

### 2. Email accounts

Use a strong, separate password for your email account. Criminals can use your email to access other online accounts, such as those you use for online shopping and more.

### 3. Scam messages

Some of the emails or texts you receive about amazing offers may contain links to fake websites. Not all links are bad, but if you're unsure don't use the link, go separately to the website. And remember, if a deal looks too good to be true, it probably is.

### 4. Payment method

If you decide to go ahead with the purchase, use a credit card if you have one as other payment providers may not provide the same protection.

## What to do if you've fallen victim to online shopping fraud

We all make mistakes and these days the scams can be incredibly convincing. If you think you've visited, or made a purchase on, a bogus website, you should first, take a note of the website's address, then close down your internet browser. You should then report the details to Action Fraud and contact your bank to seek advice.

Whether you have been a victim of fraud will depend on how much information you've provided to the website, so keep an eye on your bank transactions, if you can.

Criminal will often make a small transaction, hoping you won't notice. Contact your bank immediately about anything that you don't recognise, even small amounts.

*For more information about how to stay safe online, please visit*

[www.actionfraud.police.uk/cybercrime](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/cybercrime)



## **NEW RLC CORPS STRATEGY LAUNCHED**

By [rhqrlccomms1](#) | 7th August 2020

**The Royal Logistic Corps has launched a new strategy to ensure it can adapt and react to rapidly changing global and strategic influences so it can support Defence and wider commitments, from today to 2025 and beyond.**

Defence is faced with an increasingly uncertain global and strategic outlook. Threats to our nation are complex and dynamic and are proliferating and intensifying rapidly.

The pervasiveness of information and pace of technological change has transformed the commercial sector and is transforming the character of warfare – providing new ways and means to achieve objectives. Defence must also respond to the threat of climate change, future pandemics and natural disasters and play its part in promoting 'Global Britain' and UK prosperity.

New Defence and Army level concepts set out the strategic response to these challenges & opportunities.

Defence Support underpins this global activity and must do so whilst balancing resilience, effectiveness and efficiency. But maintaining today's arrangements to support a force that will be persistently engaged, more integrated and operating at greater reach, tempo and more dispersed is not an option. Transformation is required, particularly the need to embrace resilient data-centric technologies and critically, develop a digitally skilled and innovative 'Whole Force'.

What is true for Defence Support is true for the Royal Logistic Corps. So the Corps can play its part, the Master General of Logistics, Lt Gen Sir Mark Poffley KCB OBE, has launched a new strategy, which will enable The RLC to adjust to the needs of the Army, Defence and the Nation.

The Corps' vision for 2025 and beyond is bold:

**A world-class, innovative and adaptable Corps, sustaining continuous activity at home and around the globe. All underpinned by a people-focussed ethos and the exploitation of data and cutting-edge technology.**

The RLC is a unique Corps in terms of size, diversity and experience. It has been at the heart of every major operation the Armed Forces have been involved with since the Corps' formation in 1993. To achieve the Corps' vision for 2025 and beyond, the Corps' methods, capabilities and required skills must change, but its mission – what it does – endures:

**The Royal Logistic Corps sustains Army and wider Defence activity, at home and overseas, as a core component of a global, integrated logistic enterprise**

Critical to success is the strategy implementation. To achieve this, four objectives have been set, each to be led by a Brigadier. They are:

- People & Ethos,
- Exploiting Technology,
- External Integration and,
- Communication and Influence.

**BRANCH AGM VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING**  
**SUNDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2020 – Test Run**  
**SUNDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2020 - AGM**



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**Please provide the following information:**

Name:

Email address:

Telephone:

Mobile:

**Please answer the following:**

I will/will not be joining the Test Run on 25 Oct 20 at 2pm.

I will/will not be joining the AGM on 01 Nov 20 at 2pm.

**The AGM will be run by Gordon Webster, Branch Secretary.**

**Video Conferencing Etiquette**

Ensure you have a drink of water to hand to clear your throat.

Ensure there is nothing between you and the webcam.

Close curtains and blinds if you've a sunny window directly behind you.

Have a copy of the Agenda and Minutes of the AGM 2019 to hand.

**Do's and Don'ts**

Do be logged into your computer at least 5 minutes before the scheduled start time.

Do introduce yourself before speaking, so that participants know your name.

Do Keep your body movement as minimal as possible.

Do check your audio equipment and other connections before the start.

Do speak clearly.

Don't shout, instead try adjusting the sound levels.

Don't interrupt other people. To comment, raise your hand.

Don't engage in other side conversations, texting or using the phone.