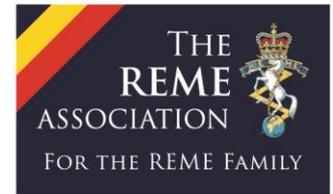




REME ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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NUMBER 23 – Oct 19

REME Roadshows. You may recall Colonel REME has kindly extended an invitation to REME Veterans to attend his regular Roadshows across the UK. These will be a mixture of Soldier Roadshows/Corps Conferences open to all and trade specific events aimed at our various trade groups. I will do my best to keep you informed of his programme. The first two in the schedule are Corps Conferences North and South. Catterick on Thu 21 Nov 19 and Tidworth on Thu 28 Nov 19. Please let me know with as much notice as possible if you would like to attend. These are all day events and may be behind the wire so photo ID and card details may be needed in advance.

REME Association Functions. A reminder that should you wish to invite a Corps representative as a guest to your Branch or Group function please give me as much notice as possible and I will discuss your invitation with Colonel REME, Col Andy Rogers and the Corps ASM, Paul Hembery. They will then endeavour to ensure an appropriate officer or senior soldier of the Corps attends as the RHQ REME representative where invited. Thank you.

REME Reunion 2020. The REME Reunion next year will be held in the Eastwood Hall Hotel, outside of Nottingham, from 8 to 10 May. This is the VE Day Bank Holiday weekend. The Eastwood Hall Hotel is significantly better than the hotels we've used in recent years and tickets are selling fast. Therefore, the organisers of the Reunion have stopped the sale of 'Gala Dinner Only' tickets, in order to prioritise those who wish to participate in the whole weekend. If you wish to attend, you should book your tickets quickly, in order to avoid disappointment. Further details and booking forms are available from our agents, Isle Of Wight Tours on 01983 405116 and sales@iowtours.com

Professional Linkages. The Corps focal point for Professional Engineering Institutions (PEIs) is Lt Col (Retd) Dave White. Dave works here in Lyneham and is the Professional Registration Adviser (PRA) for serving REME personnel and exceptionally, those within 2 years post discharge. Dave advises our officers and soldiers on their professional institution membership applications at all levels (Eng Tech, IEng and CEng) and has established strong links with the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE), the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) and the Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS). The Society of Operational Engineers (SOE) has its own Military Committee but Dave can signpost the SOE as required. I am sure you will all understand that this fills his day but he is willing to advise all former members of the Corps on the merits and processes for PEI membership.

The Corps has agreements with PEIs; the IMechE 'Specially authorised process' and IET 'Special registration agreement' but these, as previously mentioned, are intended for serving individuals. Please be aware that if you are not serving or within 2 years of discharge Dave can provide no more than a quick chat or an email exchange. His contact details are: Lt Col (Retd) Dave White – 01249 894508 – david.white159@mod.gov.uk

Lt Col (Retd) Stuart Cowen 🦿 association@reme-rhq.org.uk 🦿 07590 848766
RHQ REME

Professional Linkages (Contd). Our aspiration is for a network of ambassadors and mentors and I am sure there are many professional engineers, who are able to act in a similar role to Dave for former members of the Corps. Provided an individual is already a PEI member, the PRA course is free, takes one day and Dave can advise the best way to obtain a place. Once registered as a PRA, an individual is then empowered by the PEI to help others through the membership process. In other words – act as a mentor. If you are able to or know someone who is able to perform this role for the REME Association please get in touch with Dave. Similarly, I am sure there are many former members of the Corps able to act as mentors for other professional institutions such as Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport, Chartered Management Institute, etc. the list is endless. If you can help – please give Dave a call or email or let me know. I am delighted to say we already have 2 volunteers so far to help form this network, David Naylor and Chris Emmett have stepped forward – sincere thanks to both. Our vision is for Dave White and ASM Craig Ham the raja in RHQ REME, to have a network of mentors throughout the UK and world if possible, they can call on to help our former servicemen and women with their careers in civilian life, in particular advice on Professional Institution memberships and applications. Please let me know if you or you know of others that may be able to help in a similar manner.

Amazon and REME Charity Links. A reminder of this terrific initiative. The REME Charity now has a direct link with smile.amazon.co.uk. This is Amazon's charitable arm and provides the opportunity for all to choose a charity that receives a donation to the value of 0.5% for any purchases made on Amazon. For those that wish to support The REME Charity, go to Amazon Smile and select The REME Charity as your chosen charity and the donation happens automatically for any purchases made. There are no additional charges and item prices are the same as when entering the Amazon site via normal channels. There is no need to change your Amazon account but you must access it via Smile. If we all did it that would be a heck of a lot of 0.5% donations rolling in. I won't provide a link as it may be different for those with and without accounts currently. Just type 'smile amazon' in your search engine and go from there.

IAM RoadSmart. Don't forget the exciting initiative with The Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM RoadSmart) which was featured in the June 2018 Craftsman magazine. All members of the REME Association can benefit from significant discounts - just visit: www.iamroadsmart.com/remessn.

Romans and REME. Former REME soldier John Richardson, has penned an interesting article for us highlighting the similarities between the craftsmen of ancient Rome and REME of today. I wonder if they had the Roman equivalent of a Machy Wagon to drink their yellow handbags in? John has also published a book and all details are attached. Many thanks John and good luck.

Waterloo Uncovered. This is a charity conducting archaeological digs on Waterloo battlefield and surrounding areas. Fascinating stuff and three REME Veterans joined the dig this summer. Watch out for the story in December's Craftsman Magazine from Jim Howdle, Trevor Rafferty and Ben Mead. Well done lads.

Veterans' Badges. I am sure you are all aware that by virtue of your service you are entitled to receive a Veterans' badge to mark your service to the Crown. You may not have received yours or you may have mislaid it. To apply for your badge or a replacement follow the link <https://www.gov.uk/apply-medal-or-veterans-badge>

By the way, still no word on the process for applying for our Veterans' ID Card!



KEEP IN TOUCH STAY INFORMED

Veterans' Survey. We are all, I am sure, aware of the Veterans' Gateway set up following the Veterans' Transition Review in 2014. It recommended that a single contact centre, open 24/7 was required to ensure veterans and their families have accessible, relevant and appropriate information. Funded by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and launched in June 2017, the Veterans' Gateway is a "one-stop service" to support veterans and their families in need. The Veterans' Gateway aims to be the first point of contact for veterans and their families who require help, advice and support from a network of organisations. A survey has been launched to measure the Gateway's relevance and effectiveness now it has been running for 2 years and your participation would be appreciated.

Here's the link to the MoD notice regarding the Gateway launch

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/veterans-gateway>. A further link to the Gateway if you need a refresher <https://www.veteransgateway.org.uk/> and finally a link to the survey if you are able to participate. https://ulsterhealth.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1zgFL5NLzORBnKd

Armed Forces Pensions. Firstly, the CPI uplift for the next financial year has been announced. All Armed Forces Pensions in payment will be increased by 1.7% from April 2020. This applies to all schemes i.e. AFPS75, 05 and 15.

Secondly, you may be interested in this article picked up from Pathfinder Magazine published by the Resettlement Service. It is of particular interest to those recently left or about to leave the service and affected by the compulsory move to AFPS15.

<https://cloud.3dissue.com/6374/7271/15135/PFOct19/index.html?r=23>

LE Officers' Pensions. There are many instances of LE officers with less than 5 years commissioned service receiving incorrect pension payments on retirement. Any LE officer with more than 2 years but less than 5 years commissioned service is entitled to an uplift but some have slipped through the net and are only receiving their WO rated pension. If you are, or you know of anyone, in this category – check it out.

Forces Pension Society. I am sure you are all aware of the good work the Society does on our behalf but if not check out their website. There is a charge for membership but you never know when you might need them. <https://forcespensionsociety.org>

Summary. That concludes the latest Newsletter. A slight delay this time as I awaited the pensions uplift announcement. Got to get your priorities right! Please keep your feedback coming.

Arte et Marte.

Lt Col (Retd) Stuart Cowen
RHQ REME



association@reme-rhq.org.uk



07590 848766