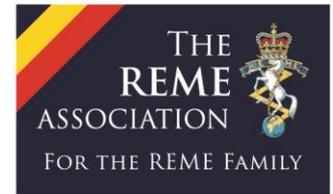




REME ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Connect 🇬🇧 Support 🇬🇧 REMEMBER

NUMBER 27 – May 20

Here's the latest news from RHQ REME amid the response to the COVID 19 emergency. As warned in my previous email we are sending these updates quite frequently but you will notice that this one has arrived in your InBox via Mailchimp. Much easier. It follows the Newsletter format as that is our template on the platform. Here goes.

1. **Covid 19 – RHQ REME Response.** For those of you receiving your May Craftsman Magazine you will see the messages from Colonel REME, Andy Rogers and the Chief Executive of The REME Charity, Mike Tizard. Thank you once again to all our volunteers that have stepped forward and are now on standby to help any member of the REME Family that may need assistance or reassurance at this difficult time. Demand may be low but we know you are there ready to help any member of the REME Family that slips through the various nets in the weeks perhaps months that follow so do please remain on standby and if you or anyone you know may need help please do not hesitate to let us know. All contact details were published in previous updates and are available on the REME Charity website at the link below. Thank you all once again. <https://remecharity.org/coronavirus/>

2. **Craftsman Magazine Editor – Mrs Kate Birch.** Whilst on the subject of our magazine I am sure you will join me in extending a warm welcome to Mrs Kate Birch who is our new Editor. Kate managed to fit in a few weeks in the Lyneham office but since the lockdown has been producing the magazine content largely from home. Welcome on board Kate and she has wasted no time in producing the following pleas to you all:

a. **Be part of The Craftsman's Covid-19 Chronicles.** How are you coping during the Covid-19 lockdown? Have you learnt new skills? Advanced your technological prowess? Helped those in need, or been helped yourself? The Craftsman Magazine wants to tell your positive stories of coping in a crisis. Let us know what changes you've made, what new skills you've learned, how you're adapting, and importantly, what you're doing to stay positive. We would love to hear from you! Please send your stories (and a photo, if you can) to Kate.

b. **How did you celebrate VE Day? I know it is not until 8th May but I need to be prepared for this in the earliest edition I can.** With celebrations for the 75th Anniversary of VE Day cancelled due to Covid-19, The Craftsman Magazine is looking for your alternative celebration stories of VE Day 75. We would love to hear how you marked this very special occasion and how you found a way to pay your respects and celebrate. Maximum 100 words and 1-2 photos. Deadline: May 15

Further to Kate's VE 75 message see Item 4 below for how the Royal British Legion would like to see the nation commemorate.

Send your stories and photos to Kate at craftsmaneditor@reme-rhq.org.uk

Lt Col (Retd) Stuart Cowen
RHQ REME

🇬🇧 association@reme-rhq.org.uk

🇬🇧 07590 848766

3. **ANZAC Day.** I am sure you are all aware of Anzac Day, 25th April each year. Barbara Howard of our South Australia branch has provided the following information to share with you.

On the 25th of April 1915, Australian and New Zealand soldiers formed part of the allied expedition that set out to capture the Gallipoli peninsula. These became known as Anzacs and the pride they took in that name continues to this day and Anzac Day is observed each year to commemorate this action. Over the years the Anzac Day March has been expanded to include all servicemen and servicewomen and the REME Association in South Australia have always marched with great pride representing those who went before us. Obviously, this was not possible this year as the March was understandably cancelled but the Howard family were not deterred and commemorated the day themselves within the confines of their back garden. They also prepared a video which can be accessed through YouTube and the link is as follows:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HGja1gSuGU4&feature=youtu.be>

I am sure you will join me in thanking Barbara, Chris and all the family for sharing their poignant and deeply moving commemoration with us all.

4. **VE Day – 8th May 2020.** In similar vein please spread the word of the Royal British Legion's plans for a national commemoration here in UK on VE Day 75. As you all know the national event in Whitehall has been cancelled but the RBL is now working in collaboration with others to appropriately mark this significant WW2 anniversary within the challenging constraints of social distancing. The plans are at the link below and the RBL is calling on us all to mark the sacrifice of those that did not come home and the selfless service to the nation of those that did and are no longer with us.

At 1100hrs on Friday 8th May 2020 the RBL is calling on us all to join others by marking this important moment with two minutes silence. Standing on your doorstep or in the garden wearing headdress and medals is suggested but of course your own circumstances will deem if this is appropriate or not. In this significant anniversary year, and at this very unsettled time, it would be a poignant symbol of hope and solidarity to all members of our community to see us visibly acknowledging the contribution of a generation to whom we owe so much and will act as a timely reminder to those of our comrades who may need our collective support that they are not alone. <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/remembrance/remembrance-events/ve-day-75> Send your photos to Kate as above at Item 2.

5. **Army Benevolent Fund - The Soldiers' Charity.** RHQ REME has received an update from ABF. As you know the ABF supports all regimental and other military charities and the REME Charity benefits from a significant grant each year. The ABF is working closely with COBSEO (the service charities confederation) and government on the impact on military charities and how the sector can assist with the nation's response to Covid 19. Many are struggling to provide increased support to the Armed Forces Community within the necessary constraints imposed by the government. Many have also highlighted their financial difficulties as the normal interaction with the public has largely ceased and fundraising activities have been curtailed. The Cobseo Executive, which now meets weekly, will continue to do all that it can to fight for financial assistance from the government and the ABF will also continue to highlight how funding that is available can be accessed. Rest assured, Lt Col (Retd) Mike Tizard, Chief Executive of The REME Charity will remain in close contact on our behalf with ABF and all services charities in these unsettled times.

KEEP IN TOUCH STAY INFORMED

6. **Groups.** As more members of the REME Family join this mailing list a number of new Groups has emerged. A quick reminder of what a 'Group' is. Under the REME 75 Rules, REME Assn Group is the title given to any informal grouping of the REME Family that wishes to get together as frequently or as infrequently as they wish under the banner of The REME Assn. No structure, no appointments, no formalities just a bunch of like-minded people with a shared back-ground within the Corps or with a connection to the Corps who want to get together every once in a while. If you think about this, dozens maybe hundreds of these 'groups' already exist and are communicating and meeting regularly as trade groups, Wksp/LAD groups, REME Sport groups, tiffy courses, class one courses etc. If you are already getting together in this manner and would like us to include your group in communications all we need is someone to act as a point of contact to cascade and co-ord information. Just like you did when you were a Full Screw! The advantage to your group is you won't miss out on any information to cascade and you are invited to bid for funding for events etc. If you don't ask.....

Since we started this initiative new groups have emerged from our branches that found it difficult to find willing volunteers to fill the branch appointment slots so they decided that rather than close they would reform as a Group. Examples of this are Birmingham, Scarborough and Mid-Anglia. Similarly, new groups have emerged with volunteer points of contact in Cumbria, IOW, IOM amongst others – even Florida now has a group. For more information – please give me or your regional rep a shout.

7. **REME 75 Rules.** For anyone unaware our REME Association Rules were revised in 2017 and are now published as the REME 75 Rules available on the REME Charity website. These are deliberately loose and much less restrictive than the former Jubilee Rules from 1977. We thought 40 years was probably long enough for a review! <https://remecharity.org/the-reme-association/>

8. **REME Veteran's 100th Birthday.** One day later than Captain Tom Moore but we have our own 100 year old hero today. James Lindsay, founder member of REME is 100 today, Fri 1st May 2020. Listen to BBC Radio Tees Breakfast Show between 0900 - 1000hrs today, a special birthday message from us to James. Catch up later on BBC Sounds if you miss it. Get a teenager to show you how.

9. **Corps Ball 2020.** You will recall the Corps Ball scheduled for 4th July 2020 was postponed. The revised date is now **Saturday 23rd January 2021**. More details to follow.

10. **We Will Remember Them.** Sadly we have lost many members of The REME Family during 2020 and I am afraid rather more than would be expected over the last few weeks. We have lost one of our Chelsea Pensioners amongst others and not all these dreadful losses are due to the Covid 19 virus. Too many are of course and it has certainly taken its toll on us as it has throughout the nation. I will avoid listing the brothers and sisters we have lost, not least because some scammers are looking out for names to set up fake profiles for donations and we all need to be on our guard. Please be very careful. Finally, please do join in at 2000hrs every Thursday with the clap for our carers and key workers, including the REME officers and soldiers working on behalf of the nation building hospitals, conducting tests or transporting kit and equipment, and take the time to remember all REME Family members as they grieve the loss of their, and our, loved ones.

Stay safe, look after your loved ones and further information will follow when available.

Arte et Marte.

Lt Col (Retd) Stuart Cowen
RHQ REME



association@reme-rhq.org.uk



07590 848766