



# The Conductor

*The Honourable and Ancient Appointment of Conductor*

Summer 2026



Corps Parchment Ceremony 2026 - full write up pages 3 to 6

## A REMARKABLE START TO 2026

They say good things come in threes, and the first six months of 2026 have certainly demonstrated that for our Guild.

The first highlight has been the launch of our new seasonal newsletter, which has already seen a fantastic increase in contributions from members. A sincere thank you to everyone who has taken the time to share their stories, experiences, and memories. Your contributions help make this publication both engaging and meaningful, ensuring that the voices of our membership remain at its heart.

Our second milestone was the launch of the new Guild website. Designed as a central hub for members, it provides easy access to event information, the latest news, our merchandise store, and much more. The website is already proving to be a valuable tool in helping us stay informed, connected and involved in Guild activities.

The third highlight was the hugely successful Guild Parchment Weekend 2026. The weekend brought members together for two memorable days of friendship, tradition, and celebration. Day one featured the RLC Annual Parchment Ceremony and the Conductors' Dinner, while day two included a visit to the D-Day Museum followed by a delightful Afternoon Tea at the

Spinnaker Tower in Portsmouth. These events were a wonderful reflection of the pride, camaraderie, and enduring traditions that make our Guild so special.

And the momentum continues.

The second half of the year promises an equally exciting programme of events. Members can look forward to the John Buckley VC Remembrance Service in London, Graduation Parade at the Army Foundation College, Harrogate, the first church service at St Barbara's Church, Deepcut since being refurbished and the RLC move to Worthy Down and it's not just Guild members that are invited, but former Corps members as well and we finish off the year with our AGM in Thirsk, which will also

include a visit to The World of James Herriot.

These occasions provide valuable opportunities to meet old friends, make new connections, celebrate our shared heritage, and strengthen the bonds that unite us.

There is much to look forward to, much to celebrate, and every reason to be proud of what we continue to achieve together. A thriving Guild is built on the enthusiasm, dedication, and commitment of its members. If you have ever considered becoming more involved, there has never been a better time. Joining the Guild Management Committee is a rewarding opportunity to help shape our future, support fellow members, and ensure that everything we value continues to grow and flourish.

## **GUILD ENGAGEMENT, FUTURE GROWTH & OUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY VISION**

Members will be aware that we recently carried out an audit of Guild engagement, reviewing areas such as membership records, use of the Members Area on our website, and participation in fundraising activities.

The findings provided some useful insights and highlighted opportunities for all of us to play a greater role in supporting the Guild as we look ahead to an exciting milestone, our 25th Anniversary.

### **Building a Stronger Guild Together**

The Guild's success over the past twenty-one years has been built on the enthusiasm, commitment, and generosity of its members. As we plan for the future, every member has an opportunity to contribute in ways that require little effort but can make a significant difference.

### **Keeping Membership Information Up to Date**

Accurate membership records help us communicate effectively, organise activities, and provide the best possible service to members.

Of our 69 members, only four have fully completed all sections of their Membermojo profile. If you have not yet completed your details, we encourage you to take a few moments to update your profile. It is a small task that helps the Guild operate more efficiently and ensures you receive all relevant information and opportunities. Go to <https://membermojo.co.uk/conductorsguild>

### **Making the Most of the Members Area, [www.conductorsguild.co.uk](http://www.conductorsguild.co.uk)**

We are delighted that 66 members have access to the Members Area of our website. However, only 12 members have visited it so far.

The Members Area is designed to be a valuable resource, providing Guild news, information, documents, and updates. As we develop new content and prepare for our 25th Anniversary celebrations, we hope more members will take advantage of this facility and stay connected with Guild activities.

<https://conductorsguild.co.uk> Your email address and army number recorded in Membermojo are your login credentials.

### **Supporting Guild Fundraising**

Fundraising income helps us invest in the Guild's future, support activities, and develop new opportunities for members.

We are grateful to those who currently support our fundraising initiatives:

- Easyfundraising – 13 member supporters and 34 family and friend

- Guild Lottery – 14 supporters
- Utility Warehouse – 2 member supporters and 7 others.

It is particularly encouraging that several Easyfundraising and Utility Warehouse supporters are family members and friends of Guild members, demonstrating how support can extend beyond our membership and into the wider community.

If every member were to support just one fundraising initiative, the additional income generated could have a meaningful impact on what the Guild is able to achieve over the coming years.

### **Looking Towards Our 25th Anniversary**

Our forthcoming 25th Anniversary is not only an opportunity to celebrate our achievements but also to shape the next chapter of the Guild's development.

Whether by updating your membership profile, visiting the Members Area, supporting a fundraising scheme, volunteering your skills, or simply promoting the Guild to others, every contribution helps strengthen our organisation.

Together, we can ensure that the Guild enters its next 25 years with a strong membership, secure finances, and an active, engaged community.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the Guild.





## PARCHMENT WEEKEND 2026

### DAY ONE – CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT AND SERVICE

The 2026 Corps Parchment Ceremony was a tremendous success, bringing together HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO, senior Royal Logistic Corps personalities, Guild members, Families, and friends for a memorable occasion celebrating achievement, service, and Corps tradition.

Prior to the arrival of HRH and the commencement of the Corps Parchment Ceremony, Guild President Major General (Retd) Malcolm Wood CBE presented Guild Chairman David Patterson with the prestigious Master General of Logistics Commendation.



The award recognised David's professionalism, dedication, and outstanding service to The Royal Logistic Corps.

The ceremony was attended by 67 senior RLC personalities, Guild members, family, and friends.

During the event, HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO presented parchments to four newly selected Conductors:

- **Conductor Barry Lloyd**  
Army Photography
- **Conductor David MacKay**  
Mariner
- **Conductor Patrick Osei-Konadu**  
Supply Specialist
- **Conductor Paul Whiteley**  
Petroleum Operator

As many readers will appreciate, selection as a Conductor represents one of the highest professional achievements available to a Warrant Officer Class 1 within the Corps. The presentations marked a significant milestone in the careers of the recipients and reflected the exceptional standards, leadership, and professionalism for which the RLC is renowned.

We extend our sincere appreciation to Major (Retd) Simon Walmsley, Director of the RLC Museum, for generously granting the use of this prestigious venue for the event.

We also wish to thank the Corps Adjutant (Capt Rachel Humphrey for her invaluable cooperation, guidance, and support, which contributed significantly to the successful planning and execution of the ceremony.



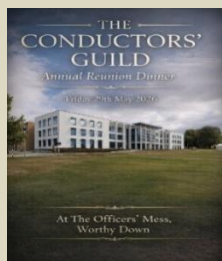
[BFBS footage](#)



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view\_RLCCConductor



PaulWhiteleyIntervi  
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Following the Parchment Ceremony the celebrations continued in the Officers' Mess with an excellent

Conductors' Dinner attended by official guests including Colonel Jax Powell ADC, Major (Retd) Simon Warmsley, Director of the RLC Museum, WO1 (Corps Sergeant Major) Wayne Marquis, Victoria Parkes, RLC Veterans, Families & Civil Engagement Officer, together with their partners and guests.

The guest speaker for the evening was Hari Budha Magar MBE, a former Gurkha soldier whose remarkable story of courage, determination, and resilience captivated the audience. Hari spoke about his childhood in Nepal, surviving the Nepalese Civil War, and his service with the 1st Royal Gurkha Rifles. He also recounted the life-changing injuries he sustained whilst serving in Afghanistan, where he lost both legs following an explosion.

Despite these devastating injuries, Hari refused to let adversity define him. His inspirational journey culminated in becoming the first double above-knee amputee to summit Mount Everest, an achievement that earned worldwide recognition and highlighted the capabilities of disabled people and injured veterans alike. His presentation was both humbling and motivating, leaving a lasting impression on all who attended.

Entertainment for the evening was provided by the much-admired RLC Corps of Drums, whose spectacular light display was performed to perfection and thoroughly enjoyed by all present.

One of the evening's most memorable moments came just as Guild Chairman David Patterson was preparing to deliver his speech. Vice-Chairman Gordon Webster intervened and invited David to take his seat. Unbeknown to David, members of the Guild had arranged a special presentation in recognition of his service and dedication. He was presented with a cast-iron Guild coat of arms and a French mantel clock dating from around 1800, a period contemporary with the formal recognition of the appointment of Conductor by Royal Warrant in 1879.



The evening concluded with an excellent meal, great company, and the camaraderie that has become a hallmark of Guild events. The final act of the night was the raffle, supplemented by the auction of two rare bottles of whisky, which together raised an impressive £1,025 for Guild funds.



WhatsApp Video  
2026-05-31 at 21.17.





### Thank You Message From Victoria Parkes, RLC Veterans, Families & Civil Engagement Officer

I just wanted to write and extend my sincere thanks to the Conductors' Guild for allowing Kevin and me to attend the Corps Parchment Ceremony and the Conductors' Dinner Night on 29<sup>th</sup> May.

It was a truly memorable occasion, and we are very grateful to have been included. The Guild's efforts in organising such a special event certainly did not go unnoticed, it was clear how much thought and care had gone into every detail.

The evening itself was superb, and the talk from the guest speaker, Hari, was truly inspirational. It was a highlight of the night and something that will stay with us for a long time.

Thank you all once again for your kindness and all the work you put into making the event such a success.

*With best wishes*

*Vic*

## DAY TWO – D DAY MUSEUM & SPINNAKER TOWER



As tradition dictates, the second day of Parchment Weekend was dedicated to visiting places of interest, and this year proved no exception.

The first stop was the D-Day Story in Portsmouth, the United Kingdom's only museum dedicated to the Allied invasion of Normandy in June 1944. Through immersive exhibits, personal accounts, and the opportunity to explore the restored Landing Craft Tank (LCT) 7074, which participated in operations shortly after D-Day, members gained a deeper appreciation of the sacrifices and achievements of those who served before us.

Reflecting on the visit, many were reminded of the debt owed to previous generations. As the saying goes: *"We will remember them."*







The group then moved on to Portsmouth's iconic Spinnaker Tower for Afternoon Tea. Standing 170 metres above

Portsmouth Harbour, with spectacular panoramic views stretching up to 23 miles across the south coast and surrounding countryside. The combination of refreshments, and good company provided a fitting conclusion to the weekend's activities. Sadly, as with all good things, the weekend eventually came to an end and it was time for everyone to head home. However, the friendships strengthened, memories created, and traditions upheld during the weekend will remain long after the event itself.



## INTRODUCING FOUR NEWLY APPOINTED CONDUCTORS

We are thrilled to welcome four newly selected Conductors Baz Lloyd, David MacKay, Ozzie Osei-Konadu, and Paul Whiteley as the newest members of our Conductor team! Each brings exceptional leadership, deep expertise, and a genuine dedication to the proud traditions of the Conductor role.

We are confident they will serve as inspiring ambassadors for the Corps, fostering excellence and passion within their groups. All four have joined the Guild and we eagerly anticipate spending quality

together at upcoming Guild events and celebrating their contributions to our community.



**Conductor Baz Lloyd RLC**  
**A Distinguished Career in Military**  
**Photography and Information**  
**Operations**

Barry "Baz" Lloyd joined The Royal Logistic Corps in 2004. On Completion of phase one training at ATR Pirbright, he attended The Princess Royal Barracks, Deepcut, where he trained to be a Supply Controller. Initially serving in 9 Regiment RLC in Buckley Barracks during which he deployed to Iraq during Op TELIC 9 and 12.

Becoming an Army Photographer was always his primary goal, and so in 2008 he successfully attended Army Photographer Selection, before starting 28 weeks training at the Defence School of Photography. On completion, he was assigned to the Defence Media Operations Centre and deployed on Combat Camera Teams to Afghanistan during Op HERRICK 12, 16 and 18.

Post HERRICK he was briefly posted to 160th Brigade in Wales

as the sole Army Photographer in the country before he was promoted to Sergeant to return to DSOP this time as an instructor of Surveillance Photography. Keen to get back on the tools he was assigned as a Videographer to the Army Media & Communications Branch, during which he was deployed to 13 countries including Op TANGAM (Somalia), the initial Op CABRIT (the Baltic States) and Op RUMAN (disaster relief operation to the Caribbean post hurricane Irma). After 7 extremely eventful months at AMC he was promoted to SSgt and returned to DSOP as the senior military instructor.

In 2020 he was promoted to WO2 as Chief Photographer for the Joint Information's Activities Group and in 2022 he was selected to become the first Company Sergeant Major of 202 Production Coy within 101 Information Operations Taskforce, 77th Brigade. An incredibly busy posting that eventually saw him deploy to deliver Information Operations as part of Op SCORPIUS.



**Conductor MacKay RLC**  
**A Career Dedicated to Maritime**  
**Excellence**

Following completion of basic training at ATR Pirbright in 2006, where he was awarded the prestigious Soldier's Soldier Award, Conductor MacKay began his Army career with the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment. Training as a Mounted Dutyman with the Blues and Royals, he quickly established the high standards that would become a hallmark of his service, earning awards for Best Turned Out Soldier on both Khaki Ride and Ceremonial Kit Ride.

While proud of his time in the Household Cavalry, MacKay's passion for maritime operations led him to seek a career more closely aligned with his lifelong interest in sailing and the sea. After carefully exploring maritime opportunities within the Army, he transferred to 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RLC in 2008, retrading as a Seaman Navigator, now known as the Mariner trade.

Determined to master his profession, MacKay gained experience across every vessel platform in service, developing the technical expertise and operational knowledge that would later see him appointed as the Class 3 Mariner Instructor at 73 Squadron, Defence School of Logistics and Administration. Throughout his career he has remained passionate about his trade, particularly in his favoured role as a MEXE coxswain.

His career has included a number of key appointments within 17 Port and Maritime Regiment, including Operations SNCO at 53 Squadron and Maritime Operations Warrant Officer at 51 Squadron. These roles broadened his operational experience and developed a passion for the diverse challenges

of operational planning and delivery.

In 2021, MacKay was appointed Harbour Master, British Forces Cyprus, where he held responsibility for advising on 42 nautical miles of coastline and three harbour facilities on behalf of British Forces Cyprus. During this demanding appointment, he supported multiple operations, including YELLOW HAMMER, POLARBEAR, PITTING, CHAMBREY and ARENGA. His leadership delivered significant infrastructure improvements, including the replacement of the Malta Ramp and Slipway at Akrotiri Mole, while securing £1.2 million in funding to enhance accommodation and future-proof maritime operations and exercises. His exceptional contribution was recognised with a Vice Chief of the Defence Staff Commendation. Currently serving as the Mariner Head of Trade and Regimental Operations Warrant Officer (Maritime) at 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RLC, WO1 MacKay is the Army's principal subject matter expert for maritime capability. He also plays a vital role in assuring Army maritime units on behalf of the Army Maritime Inspector and Advisory Team.

Married to Emma and a proud father to Finley and Rohan, MacKay enjoys spending time outdoors with his family and dogs, undertaking practical refurbishment projects, and pursuing his interests in longevity and performance optimisation.





**Conductor Patrick Osei-Konadu RLC**  
**Leading the Future of the**  
**Supply Chain Operator Trade**

Patrick “Pat” Osei-Konadu enlisted into the Royal Logistic Corps in 2006 through the Milton Keynes Army Careers Office, beginning a distinguished career as a Logistic Supply Chain Operator (SCO). His early service included postings to 9 Regiment RLC and 6 Armoured Close Support Battalion REME, where he gained extensive operational experience across a range of logistics disciplines. Between 2007 and 2013, he deployed on four Operational HERRICK tours to Afghanistan, supporting vital supply chain activities. During this period, he also deployed on Operation OLYMPICS, where he established SEESUPS2 accounts and delivered initial user training in support of the London 2012 Games. Other notable achievements included leading the relocation of the Medical Supplies Squadron from Kandahar to Camp Bastion, serving as a Trade Instructor at Supply Training Facility South, and overseeing 6 ACS Battalion REME’s e-COMPENDIUM preparations ahead of the Afghanistan drawdown. In 2014,

he played a key role in the BATUS Repair Programme, leading efforts to reconstitute repairable equipment during Exercise PRAIRIE STORM.

Following promotion to Sergeant in 2015, he joined 74 Support Battery Royal Artillery, where he led a team of Logistic Specialists during the Regiment’s Watchkeeper Uncrewed Aerial System operational trial on Ascension Island. He was responsible for establishing and managing the deployment’s supply accounts and supporting its successful year-long operation.

In 2018, he assumed command of the inaugural 1st Line Optimisation Team within 47 Regiment Royal Artillery, supporting deployments including Exercise ATHENA REBUS, Operation RESCRIPT and Operation DEVERAN. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he led the distribution of critical Force Health Protection equipment across Joint Helicopter Command, helping maintain operational capability during national lockdowns.

In 2021, WO1 Osei-Konadu was appointed Logistic Supply Chain Trade Analyst at Headquarters Defence College for Logistics, Policing and Administration. In this role, he was responsible for the governance, development and modernisation of approximately 90 Tri-Service, All Arms and RLC-specific courses. His work delivered significant improvements to logistics training across Defence, including support to military and civilian personnel through MJDI and Defence BIWMS training initiatives. In July 2024, he was appointed Divisional Ordnance Warrant Officer for 3rd (United Kingdom) Division. Building on this success, he assumed the dual roles of

Command Ordnance Warrant Officer and Head of Trade for the RLC Supply Chain Operator trade in April 2026, becoming a key figure in shaping the future of supply chain capability across the Corps.

Married to Jo and father to Afua-Marie and Abbie-Alexia, WO1 Osei-Konadu balances a busy family life with a passion for sport. An enthusiastic footballer, he also organises a weekend football league for service personnel across the Tidworth, Bulford and Larkhill garrisons. Away from the pitch, he enjoys a range of racquet sports, particularly lawn tennis and badminton.



**Conductor Paul Whiteley RLC**  
**Three Decades of Service and**  
**Fuels Expertise**

Paul Whiteley began his military career on 10 November 1991 when he enlisted into the Royal Army Ordnance Corps TA as a Petroleum Operator. His first posting to 514 Petroleum Platoon in Paderborn, Germany, marked the start of a distinguished career spanning more than three decades of service to Defence.



Throughout his career, WO1 Whiteley has served under a variety of engagements, including Territorial Army, FTRS, NRPS and Regular service, gaining extensive experience across the petroleum and logistics sectors. Early operational deployments to Bosnia LODESTAR provided valuable experience and set the foundations for a career characterised by adaptability, professionalism and technical expertise.

In 1999, he moved into a training role at 5 Training Regiment RLC, where he played a key role in developing Reservists through Recruit Induction Training, NCO Cadres and Pre-Officer Courses. He later continued this commitment to developing future soldiers at 25 Training Regiment RLC while maintaining close ties to the petroleum trade.

Promoted to Sergeant in 2006, WO1 Whiteley joined 10 Transport Regiment, Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment, deploying on Operation TOSCA in a civil-military liaison role. A subsequent posting to 13 Air Assault Support Regiment saw him deploy on Operations HERRICK 8 and 13, earning promotion to Staff Sergeant during his first Afghanistan tour. Returning to his specialist trade, he was appointed Permanent Staff Instructor at 126 Petroleum Squadron RLC (V), where his leadership and expertise resulted in promotion to WO2 and appointment as Squadron Sergeant Major at 27 Regiment RLC in 2014.

In 2017, WO1 Whiteley joined the Commando Logistic Regiment Royal Marines, contributing to fuel planning for Operation RUMAN and deploying to Norway to work alongside the Norwegian Army on

petroleum doctrine and capability development. These experiences further cemented his reputation as a leading fuels specialist.

Following promotion to Warrant Officer Class 1 in 2019, he assumed the role of Regimental Sergeant Major at the Defence Engagement School in Shrivenham, later the Advanced Faculty. During this period, he played a significant role in supporting Advanced Command and Staff Course officer education throughout the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and Operation RESCRIPT.

In 2021, WO1 Whiteley was appointed Warrant Officer in Command of the Regional Command Petroleum Inspectorate, bringing a wealth of operational, technical and leadership experience to a role central to Defence fuels assurance. His expertise led to his appointment in 2025 as the Army's senior Petroleum Operator and Head of Trade, serving as the Command Petroleum Warrant Officer and providing strategic leadership for the petroleum profession across Defence.

Away from work, Paul enjoys life with his wife Sarah and their five Belgian Malinois. A keen angler and rugby union supporter, he also enjoys painting Warhammer 40,000 miniatures, a hobby that reflects the same attention to detail that has defined his military career.



## UP AND COMING EVENTS 2026

### ARMY FOUNDATION COLLEGE (AFC), HARROGATE

#### 5<sup>th</sup> August Guild Certificate Presentation

The Conductors Guild Certificate will be presented to the top-performing RLC Junior Soldier at the Army Foundation College. Selected by training staff at AFC. The award recognises outstanding achievement, professionalism, and commitment throughout training, and reflects the high standards expected of future Royal Logistic Corps soldiers.

The presentation highlights the strong relationship between the Conductors Guild and the Army Foundation College, celebrating excellence among the next generation of logisticians as they begin their Army careers.

#### 6<sup>th</sup> August Graduation Parade

Members are afforded a rare opportunity to attend the Army Foundation College Graduation Parade, witnessing almost 1,000 junior soldiers and staff on parade. The impressive display of discipline, teamwork and achievement provides a fitting showcase of the Army's future talent. Following the parade, guests can enjoy a buffet-style lunch, offering an excellent opportunity to meet fellow attendees and reflect on the occasion.

#### RETURN.

[Army Foundation  
College Harrogate \(AFCH\) -  
August 2026 – Fill in form](#)

## GUILD AGM WEEKEND 2026, THIRSK

### 26<sup>th</sup> September

#### The World of James Herriot

The Guild will visit the World of James Herriot Museum, the award-winning visitor attraction located in the original home and veterinary practice of Alf Wight in Thirsk, North Yorkshire. This unique and authentic setting is where the much-loved *All Creatures Great and Small* stories were inspired, written, and brought to life. The visit will offer members a fascinating insight into the life and work of one of Britain's most celebrated veterinary surgeons and authors, while exploring the rich history behind the internationally acclaimed books and television series.

### 27<sup>th</sup> September

#### Guild AGM

Members are warmly invited to attend the Guild's Annual General Meeting (AGM).

The agenda will include a review of Guild activities over the past 12 months, a look at future aspirations for the Guild. discussion of a proposed Guild motto, different types of membership and the election of the Guild Management Committee (GMC) 2027.

It also provides members with the opportunity to contribute ideas, share their views, and help shape the continued growth and success of the Guild.

Your participation is greatly valued, and we encourage all members to attend and take an active role in the future direction of the Guild.

### RETURN.

[26th - 27th Sep 2026 AGM Weekend \(AGM26\) – Fill in form](#)

### 16<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

#### CHURCH PARADE, ST BARBARA'S CHURCH, DEEPCUT

Guild members are warmly encouraged to attend this special service at St Barbara's Church, commencing at 1330 hrs.

Following a short service, refreshments will be served, providing an opportunity to meet fellow members and reconnect with an important part of our heritage. This will be the first time back in the former Corps Church since being refurbished.

The event is expected to attract many former RAOC personnel. However, strong representation from Guild members is equally important and will demonstrate our continuing commitment to preserving the traditions, history, and legacy of both the RAOC and the RLC.

We hope as many members as possible will take this opportunity to support this significant occasion and help reaffirm our enduring link with St Barbara's Church.

#### Message from Guild President Major General Malcom Wood CBE

*"I feel quite strongly that RLC representation needs to enter St Barbara's sooner rather than later, just to show that we care and to remind the new parish that they are custodian of some key elements of both Former Corps and RLC heritage. St Barbara's was the RAOC's Church for about 50 years and the RLC's for around 30.*

*As custodians of a rich and shared heritage, it is important*

*that we continue to maintain our connection with this historic place of worship."*

**RETURN.** This will be in the Autumn edition.

### 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

#### REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



As we look ahead to

Remembrance Day, the Guild is already preparing to honour those who gave their lives for peace.

For several years, members laid wreaths with Guild labels in tribute to all those who have fallen in previous wars. The labels include information about the appointment and the Conductors' Guild. To see the text behind the QR code click > [QR Code Text.docx](#)

If you would like to receive a Guild label to accompany your wreath this year, please reach out to

[chairman@conductorsguild.co.uk](mailto:chairman@conductorsguild.co.uk).

#### CENOTAPH PARADE AT WHITEHALL ON SUNDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 26

From Victoria Parks, RLC  
Association

Dear members of the Conductors' Guild, I am delighted to inform you that The RLC Association has again been allocated tickets to march at the Cenotaph Parade 2026.

Please note that tickets are limited. If you wish to attend,



please send the following details; Service number, Name, retired rank and number of years served, to me by replying to this email [vfceo@rhqtherlc.org.uk](mailto:vfceo@rhqtherlc.org.uk)

I must stress that tickets to march in the parade are only open to, Veterans who have served in The RLC and are RLC Association members, Partners of those who have died in service or as a result of their service in HM Armed forces, and Carers who must accompany a veteran requiring wheelchair assistance.

This is an ex-service personnel march; therefore, family representatives and civilians will not be eligible to participate unless they meet the criteria above. Serving personnel cannot march, this includes reservists.

Once I have received these details, you will be added to the ballot and if successful you will be sent a link to the RBL Portal where you will be asked to complete an online accreditation form (this may go into your spam, so please check regularly). Do not use autofill as it does not populate the form correctly. **This must be completed by Fri 21st August 2026.**

Please be aware that due to extensive interest last year, we did not have enough places to accommodate all. Should this be the case, we will let you know and ask if you would like to be added to our reserves list, where, fingers crossed, we will be able to offer you a place at a later date.

When you have completed your accreditation/registration, you should receive a confirmation from The Royal British Legion (please check your spam). If your circumstances change and you discover you can no longer attend, please let me know ASAP so that I may open the place to someone

else. Unfortunately, this cannot happen once the portal has closed at the end of August, so please be sure you can attend before applying.

E-tickets and joining instructions will be sent by The RBL at the end of October. You will however receive more detail from this office prior to your ticket issue.

Finally, on completion of the Parade, lunch has been arranged at The Victory Services Club, W2 2HF, where you can also bring any family and friends that may be with you, should you so wish. We will be asking for a small contribution per person towards the lunch, and more details will follow in due course regarding this.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

*Kind regards*  
*Vic*

## MEMBERS STORY'S

### PROMOTION By Dave Patterson

*I wanna tell you a story*" a phrase coined by the late Max Bygrave.

"Patterson!"

"Yes, Staff?"

"The OC wants to see you in his office."

A few minutes later, I'm standing in front of the Capt Nigel Wild, OC Stores Section 12 AD (Rapier) Regiment RA, trying to figure out what this is all about. The OC looks up from his desk with a massive grin and

says, "*Congratulations, you're number one on the Pte to L/Cpl promotion board!*"

Now, as strange as it may seem, I didn't quite grasp the full magnitude of this news. I mean, I knew it meant I was getting my first stripe, but beyond that, *Eh, not so much.*

Then the OC dropped the bombshell: "*You can expect to be posted to a new unit in the next few months or so.*" And that's when it hit me like a ton of bricks. *Noooooo, this can't be happening!* After all, I was perfectly happy where I was, thank you very much.

Fast forward just a few weeks, and my posting orders arrived. Guess where? HQ 1 Armd Div, Supply Branch. *Whatever that was...* in Verden.

After a few days of getting settled in my new surroundings, the Adjt (the one and only future Maj Gen Tim Cross) pulls me aside and says, "*You're scheduled to meet with the CRAOC next week. Anything you'd like to say to the Colonel?*"

I said, "*Well, sir, I've just been promoted, and expected a bit more responsibility. In my last unit, I was responsible for an entire Batteries worth of Rapier stores accounts. Now? I'm just opening letters. A Staff Clerk's job, this is not a Supply Clerk's job!*"

The Adjt nodded thoughtfully and reminded me of my date with the Colonel the following week.

When the big day arrives, I'm sitting in front of the Colonel. I honestly can't remember his name, but he seemed like a decent chap. After a few pleasantries, he says, "*So, the Adjt tells me you're not too happy here?*" Without missing a beat, I blurt out, "*No, sir! I'm a Supply Clerk, not a Staff Clerk!*"

The Colonel, acknowledging my frustration, says, "*Would you*

*like to go back to a Field Force unit?"*

Without any hesitation, I respond, "Yes, sir!" And just like that, two weeks later, I'm off to 1 ADOC in Soltau. *Happy days!*

And the moral of the story? **If you don't like something, don't just sit there stewing, let people know.** You never know, it might just work out in your favour.

## DEAL MEMORIAL

**BANDSTAND** by Bob Le Vaillant

We are very fortunate to live directly opposite the Memorial Bandstand on Walmer Green. We moved here from London in 2005 and set up my wife's Architectural Business overlooking the green and seafront. Each summer we are pleased to sponsor a visiting band and contribute towards the July rededication by one of the famous Royal Marine Bands. Every concert is free to the public.

The Deal Memorial Bandstand stands today as one of Kent's most resonant symbols of remembrance, community resolve, and musical heritage. Its origins lie in the tragic events of 22 September 1989, when the Provisional IRA bombed the Royal Marines School of Music in Deal, killing 11 musicians and injuring many more. The attack devastated the town, whose identity had long been intertwined with the Royal Marines Band Service.

In the months that followed, local groups raised funds to support affected families, but there was also a growing desire for a permanent memorial. A pivotal moment came when Dennis Atkinson, a former miner and band musician, wrote to the *East Kent Mercury* proposing a memorial bandstand—a living tribute befitting men whose lives had been dedicated to music. His idea gained traction, and the Deal Round Table, local council, the Royal Marines, and community

musicians began shaping the project.

To demonstrate the concept's viability, a series of Memorial Concerts was launched in June 1991, attracting strong public support and proving that a dedicated performance space would be well used. By mid-1992, with the guidance of former Royal Marines Principal Director of Music Lt Col Graham Hoskins, plans were finalised and construction began on 18 August 1992.

The Bandstand officially opened on 2 May 1993, inaugurated with a fanfare by Royal Marines trumpeters. Its twelve-sided structure includes eleven engraved tablets, each bearing the name of one of the fallen musicians. Construction costs were met through local fundraising, led initially by Deal Round Table, then by the Memorial Bandstand Committee, with donations from residents, businesses, and community groups. Running costs today are met by committee fundraising, individual bands sponsorship and public donations.

The Bandstand has become a cherished cultural landmark on Walmer Green, hosting free summer concerts from May to September. Each July, the Royal Marines Band returns for a rededication performance, ensuring that the memory of the eleven musicians endures not in silence, but in the music they loved.

## EXTRACTED FROM HANSARD, HOUSE OF



## COMMONS DEBATE 15

**AUG 1882** By Mike Coyle

Full reference.

ARMY (INDIA)—CONDUCTOR BENNETT.

HC Deb 15 August 1882 vol 273 cc1831-2 1831

MR. SEXTON

*Asked the Secretary of State for India, "Whether he is aware that a Warrant Officer of the Indian Army, Conductor J. J. Bennett, of the Bengal Ordnance Department, was recommended by three general officers, in consequence of services rendered during the Afghan War, to receive an honorary Commission as Deputy Assistant Commissary, and whether that distinction has been refused to him; and, if so, why; whether there are any instances of a Warrant Officer similarly recommended being refused the honorary Commission; and, whether he will consider the case of Conductor Bennett, and lay upon the Table a Copy of any correspondence which has taken place with reference to his case?"*

THE MARQUESS OF  
HARTINGTON,

*In reply, said," that there was no Correspondence affecting Conductor Bennett except a letter from himself urging his claims to the award of a commission as honorary lieutenant. That request would not, however, be complied with in the absence of any recommendations in his favour from the proper military authorities in India. It did not appear necessary to him that the India Office should take any further steps in the matter.*



## ROYAL HOSPITAL – GOVERNOR’S LECTURES ‘THE CONFRONTATION,

1962-66” By Bob Le Vaillant

1965, Labuan, a tiny island off the coast of North Borneo. Six thousand miles from home, struggling to cope with the equatorial heat and my first “Mans’ Service” posting, I had no idea that sixty-one years later I’d be sitting in the Royal Hospital’s State Apartments hearing a lecture that finally explained what on earth I was doing in Borneo. Or, to adapt a quote from Spike Milligan - ‘Sukarno: My Part In His Downfall!’

“**The Confrontation**” remains one of the least-known yet most strategically important conflicts of the post-war era. Between 1962 and 1966, Indonesia, led by General Sukarno, mounted an undeclared campaign to break apart the new Malaysian Federation by seizing the northern Borneo states. What followed was a four-year struggle fought in dense jungle, remote kampongs, and along a vast, porous border. At its height, 15,000 Commonwealth troops were deployed — including Lance Corporal Le Vaillant, Airdrops Clerk, 50 Supply Depot, Royal Army Service Corps.

The lecture traced:

- The conflict’s origins in the Brunei Revolt
- Life and operations in the jungles and villages of northern Borneo
- How Commonwealth forces prevented a full-scale guerrilla war
- The defence of northern Borneo against Indonesian incursions
- The launch of top-secret Operation CLARET, taking the fight across the border
- Acts of gallantry and key engagements that shaped the campaign
- The political shifts that finally brought the conflict to an end

Often called a “secret war,” The Confrontation wasn’t hidden, simply under-reported. With few journalists willing to trek to remote jungle bases, the campaign unfolded largely out of sight. That absence of scrutiny allowed Commonwealth forces to conduct one of the largest clandestine operations in modern military history without compromise.

The intriguing lecture was delivered by Richard Currie CBE, an expert Military Historian, Diplomat and Speaker. The talk was hosted by the Hospital Governor, Sir Adrian Bradshaw KCB OBE DL, a distinguished Special Forces General and fascinating character in his own right. Look them both up. Almost 60 people attended including a dozen or so In-Pensioners resplendent in their scarlets, all veterans of Borneo or elsewhere in Malaysia. The indefatigable Master of Ceremonies was In-Pensioner Mike (Taffy) Vowles. Mike and I joined the Army together as Junior Tradesmen. Mike is forgiven for being a Gunner!

The £30 entrance fee was well spent, and the 6–8pm timing allowed attendees from out of London to go home if they wanted to. In my case, Mike kindly invited me for a convivial drink in the Pensioners’ Club. I stayed overnight in the Union Jack Club, a simple tube ride from the hospital.

## FAREWELL TO A TRUSTED FRIEND

(Adapted from BFBS News, by Bob Le Vaillant)

Having written in the Spring Edition about my life with Land Rovers, I am saddened to read that the Army is making them redundant, like I am...

It’s funny how some things feel like they’ve always been there. For the British Army, the Land Rover has been precisely that - a familiar

silhouette on training grounds, airfields, parade squares and dusty tracks since 1949. But now, after more than 70 years of faithful service, the old workhorse is finally beginning its long goodbye, with the last of them expected to bow out by 2030.

For generations of soldiers, the Land Rover wasn’t just a vehicle; it was a companion. Simple, dependable, and endlessly



An Original SAS Prototype  
Land Rover Series I

adaptable, it ferried troops and kit, carried commanders from A to B, and trundled along on patrols in every climate imaginable.

You probably have a story involving one, usually muddy, occasionally heroic, and often held together by optimism, cable ties and duct tape.

In March, a commemorative event at Bovington’s Armoured Fighting Vehicle School, marked the moment with a rather touching send-off. Defence Minister Luke Pollard summed it up neatly, calling the Land Rover “truly iconic”, and you could sense the affection. Still, he made it clear: the future beckons, and the race to find a modern replacement had officially started.

Not every chapter in the Land Rover story is fondly remembered. The Snatch variant, originally designed for Northern Ireland, became tragically notorious in Iraq and Afghanistan, where its light armour offered little protection against IEDs. Between 2004 and 2006, it was involved in nearly half of all UK fatalities from hostile action. It’s a sobering

reminder that even the most trusted machines can be pushed beyond what they were ever meant to endure. Eventually, the Foxhound took over, offering crews the safety they desperately needed.

But the Land Rover's history isn't just about hardship — it's also full of wonderfully eccentric creations. There was the Series IIA Ambulance, which could carry four stretchers; the legendary Pink Panther, beloved by the SAS and painted that peculiar dusty rose to blend into desert light; even an amphibious prototype and a half-track hybrid that looked like someone had tried to cross a Rover with a Scorpion tank after one too many late nights in the workshop. Only the British Army could dream up such things with a straight face.

Now, as the Army looks ahead to its next generation of Light Mobility Vehicles, the Land Rover and its sturdy companion, the *Pinzgauer*, are preparing to hand over the reins. The new programme hasn't officially launched yet, but it promises opportunities for British industry and, hopefully, a worthy successor to a vehicle that has been part of the Army's identity for decades.

It's the end of an era, really. But if there's one thing the Land Rover has taught us, it's that good service leaves a long memory. And this old icon has earned its place in the Army's story for a very long time to come.

## YOU COULD NOT MAKE IT UP

By Kevin Hartley

I was to fly West to Dharan. The plane was one of the two obsolete RAF Aircraft donated to the Nepalese Airlines. I was at the bulkhead, with plenty of legroom. Next to me was a Nepalese Gentleman, and against the window, in uniform, was another Nepalese man. I introduced myself and realised

they both spoke impeccable English. It appeared that the man next to me was the first person in Nepal to obtain a commercial pilot's licence. The man next to him was the King of Nepal's Pilot. The air hostess came along. I offered both men a drink and ordered three Gin and Tonics. When the lady went through the curtain, the man next to me told me she was the King's niece. The pilot of the plane was the King's nephew, and the navigator was the King's cousin.

I couldn't believe it, a Raggy Arsed Kid from the Manchester slums flying with royalty. The King's niece brought the drinks and spoke to the King's pilot in Nepalese. She asked a question because he nodded. He then invited me to join him through what I assumed was the first class. Not only was I flying with royalty, but I was also offered a courtesy upgrade. We went through the curtain, and there was a white plastic garden table, four white plastic garden chairs and a garden umbrella that was open inside the aircraft. As we flew along, the King's pilot nudged me and nodded his head to direct me to look out of the window. There we were, Hartley and royalty, sipping by now our second G & Ts, looking across at Mount Everest. You couldn't make it up.

Having landed without any problems, I bade farewell to my two travelling companions. I settled into the mess and went for an interview on Armed Forces Radio Dharan. During the interview, I mentioned I had brought my squash rackets because I was aware Dharan Garrison had an open squash court. It was terrific how people had a thirst for knowledge of the outside world. The following morning, I had 30 invites to play squash and talk about the outside world.

## THE DIO CHEF VETS TEAM SUCCESSFULLY CONQUERED THE WALKING WITH THE WOUNDED (WWTW) CUMBRIAN CHALLENGE

Demonstrating the power of military teamwork, perseverance, and community spirit. Composed of Army veterans now serving within the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO), the two-man squad took to the rugged peaks of the Lake District to raise vital funds and awareness for fellow veterans transitioning to civilian life.

### Conquering the Fells

The [WWTW Cumbrian Challenge](#) is the flagship annual fundraising event for [Walking With The Wounded](#). It requires teams to navigate intense elevation and demanding terrain across the Cumbrian fells.

- **The Team:** The **DIO Chef Vets**, represented by Army veterans **Colin Slade** (Team Leader) and **Darren Garwood**, both members of the Conductor' Guild.
- **The Location:** Based out of **Grasmere**, Cumbria.
- **"The Tougher" length:** 27km
- **Ascent:** 1,570m
- **The Purpose:** Raising funds for WWTW's critical mental health, employment, and care coordination programmes.

Colin Slade







**Setting the Tempo on Tough Terrain, Colin Slade** and partner **Daz Garwood** faced a combination of steep ascents, unforgiving weather, and long hours on their feet. For the **DIO Chef Vets**, this challenge was deeply personal. Having experienced the complexities of transitioning from the Armed Forces to civilian life first-hand, **Colin** and **Darren** hiked with a clear focus on supporting vulnerable veterans who are fighting to find their purpose.

Through their fundraising efforts on their official [DIO Chef Vets Donation Page](#), the team raised over £1,300 that feed directly into life-changing veteran support structures. Their performance perfectly mirrors the Conductors Guild's commitment to leadership, collaboration, and community impact.

**There still remains the opportunity to sponsor the team, please visit there donation page.**

## RLC TRADES

It is often assumed that members understand the roles and

responsibilities of the wide range of trades within the Royal Logistic Corps (RLC). However, questions such as how many trades exist, what they involve, and how they differ from one another are all valid and worth exploring.

The Corps currently comprises 12 core trades:

- Air Despatcher
- Ammunition Technician
- Chef
- Driver
- Logistic Specialist Suppliers
- Marine Engineer
- Maritime (water-based roles)
- Movement Controller
- Petroleum Operations
- Postal & Courier Operator
- Systems Analysis
- Driver Tank Transporter

### [Life in the Royal Logistics Corps \(RLC\)](#)

Over the coming editions we will take a look at what each of the trade is about, starting with Air Dispatcher, Driver Tank Transporter, Movement Controller and Logistic Supply.

## AIR DESPATCHER



The RLC Air Despatcher is a specialist role responsible for preparing, loading, and delivering supplies by air. This includes rigging

loads for parachute drops, managing drop zones, and ensuring aircraft deliveries are safe and balanced. Trained in parachuting and logistics, Air Despatchers enable the RLC to supply troops in remote or hard-to-reach locations quickly and reliably.

### Key Responsibilities:

- Packing & rigging loads
- Preparing supplies (food, ammo, vehicles, fuel) for safe air delivery
- Aerial delivery operations  
Dispatching supplies from aircraft via parachute or drop platforms
- Aircraft loading. Ensuring loads are balanced and safely secured inside aircraft
- Drop zone operations. Marking and managing drop zones on the ground
- Parachuting. Many Air Despatchers are trained military parachutists

### Types of Deliveries

- Airdrops:  
Supplies dropped by parachute to remote or frontline troops
- Air landing:  
Delivering supplies when aircraft can land
- Humanitarian aid:  
Disaster relief and emergency supply missions

### Where They Work

- Onboard aircraft such as RAF transport planes
- At airfields and logistics hubs
- In operational environments worldwide

### Skills & Training

Air Despatchers receive specialist training in:

- Parachute rigging
- Load safety and aircraft procedures
- Drop zone coordination

- Logistics planning

### Why the Role Matters

This trade is critical because it allows the Army to:

- Supply troops in remote or inaccessible areas
- Operate without relying on roads or infrastructure
- Respond quickly to crises

## DRIVER TANK TRANSPORTER

Take a look at [RLC Driver Video](#)



A Tank Transporter Driver is a specialist driver role within the Royal Logistic Corps of the British Army. It focuses on moving heavy armoured vehicles like tanks using massive transport trucks.

### What the Role Involves

RLC drivers:

- Transport tanks and armoured vehicles: like Challenger 2 or Ajax over long distances
- Use Heavy Equipment Transporters (HETs): Huge tractor-trailer systems
- Load and secure vehicles safely
- Plan routes that can handle extreme weight and size
- Support deployments, exercises, and operations.

### Typical Vehicles Used:

- Oshkosh-style Heavy Equipment Transporters (HET)
- Low-loader trailers designed for tanks

- Support recovery and logistics vehicles

### Key Responsibilities

- Driving oversized military loads across the UK and overseas
- Vehicle maintenance & safety checks
- Working in convoys and logistics operations
- Supporting frontline units by ensuring equipment arrives ready

### Skills Needed

- Advanced driving ability
- Strong awareness of safety and load handling
- Mechanical understanding
- Ability to operate under pressure and in difficult environments

### Training Path

- Join as an RLC Driver
- Complete Phase 2 driver training
- Gain licenses (including HGV Class C+E equivalent)
- Progress to specialist roles like Tank Transporter Driver

### Where You Might Work

- UK bases and training areas (e.g. Salisbury Plain)
- Overseas deployments
- NATO exercises across Europe

### Why This Role Matters

- Tanks can't always drive long distances (they wear out tracks and use lots of fuel)
- Transporters ensure:
  - Faster deployment
  - Less wear on vehicles
  - Better operational readiness

**In short:** RLC Tank Transport Drivers are the backbone of moving heavy vehicles safely across any terrain, ensuring the Army's mobility and operational readiness.

## MOVEMENT CONTROLLER



A Movement Controller is responsible for planning, coordinating, and managing the movement of:

- Troops
- Vehicles
- Equipment
- Supplies
- Across land, sea, and air.

### Core Responsibilities

- Transport coordination scheduling and routing personnel and cargo
- Deployment planning ensuring units arrive where they're needed, on time
- Port & terminal operations working at airfields, seaports, and rail hubs
- Tracking & documentation monitoring movements and maintaining records
- Operational support helping missions run smoothly during training or real deployments

### Where They Work

Movement Controllers can operate in:

- Military bases in the UK
- Overseas deployments
- Airports and seaports
- Conflict zones or humanitarian missions

### Skills Required

- Strong organization and planning
- Good communication



- Ability to work under pressure
- Understanding of logistics systems
- Attention to detail (timings, loads, routes)

### Training

Training is provided by the Army, often through:

- Logistics and transport courses within the RLC
- On-the-job experience in real operations

### Why It Matters

Without Movement Controllers:

- Troops could arrive late or unprepared
- Equipment might not reach the battlefield
- Operations could fail due to poor coordination

They're essentially the “**traffic managers**” of military logistics.

## LOGISTIC SUPPLY SPECIALIST



A RLC Logistic Supply Specialist is another key role within the RLC. It's focused on managing and supplying everything soldiers need to operate from food and fuel to ammunition and equipment.

### What a Logistic Supply Specialist Does

They are responsible for making sure the right supplies get to the right place at the right time. That includes:

- Stock control managing inventory of military equipment

- Warehousing, storing and organising supplies
- Issuing kit giving troops their gear (weapons, clothing, tools)
- Supply chain coordination tracking items from depot to frontline
- Using logistics IT systems to manage stock and movements

### Typical Responsibilities

- Receiving deliveries and checking goods
- Packing and dispatching equipment
- Managing supply requests from units
- Supporting operations and exercises
- Working in depots, warehouses, or field supply points

### Where they Work

- UK military bases
- Large supply depots
- Field environments on exercise
- Overseas operations and deployments

### Skills Needed

- Strong organisation and attention to detail
- Basic IT and data handling skills
- Teamwork and communication
- Ability to work in fast-moving environments

### Training

- Phase 1 training (basic soldiering) at Army Training Regiments
- Phase 2 RLC training in logistics and supply systems
- Ongoing courses for promotion and specialisation

### Why This Role Is Important

Without supply specialists:

- Soldiers wouldn't have food, fuel, or ammo
- Equipment wouldn't be tracked or maintained

- Operations could stall or fail

### Simple Way to Think About It

A Logistic Supply Specialist is like a warehouse manager + supply chain coordinator, but in a military environment, sometimes under pressure or on operations.

Together, these trades form a **seamless logistics network**, keeping the Army supplied in any operational environment.

## HOW THEY WORK TOGETHER

### 1. Supply Chain Start:

Logistic Supply specialists prepare stores, fuel, ammo, or food.

2. **Ground Transport:** Drivers and Tank Transporters move these supplies to distribution points or airfields.

### 3. Coordination:

Movement Controllers schedule and plan how these resources will reach operational units.

### 4. Air Delivery:

Air Despatchers ensure supplies reach units in remote or contested areas by air.

## GUILD MOTTO

A club motto is a short phrase that expresses the Guild's purpose, values, or goals. Having a club motto offers several benefits:

1. **Creates Identity** – It gives the club a unique character and helps members feel connected to a common purpose.

2. **Provides Direction** – A motto reminds members of the club's mission and guides decisions and activities.
3. **Builds Unity** – Sharing a common slogan can strengthen teamwork and a sense of belonging.
4. **Inspires Members** – A motivating motto can encourage members to stay committed and enthusiastic.
- Improves Recognition** – It makes the club more memorable to potential members, sponsors, and the community.
5. **Communicates Values** – A motto quickly tells others what the club stands for and aims to achieve.

#### Example:

The RLC motto “**We Sustain**” means that the Corps provides the support that keeps the army operating.

This includes:

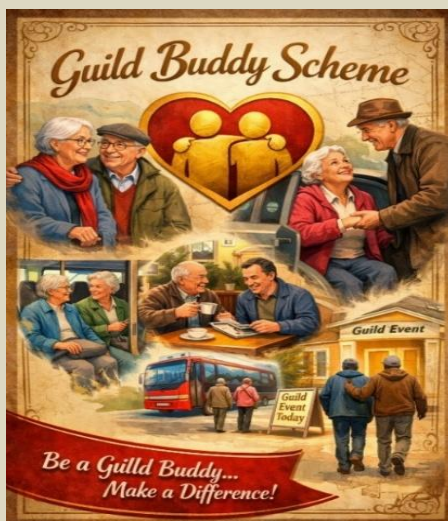
- Supplying food, fuel, ammunition, and equipment.
- Transporting soldiers and supplies where they are needed.
- Managing logistics, storage, and distribution.
- Ensuring military operations can continue over time.

In short, a Guild motto will serve as a source of identity, motivation, and unity while clearly communicating the Guild aims.

Members are encouraged to submit their suggested motto(s) by NLT 1pm 1<sup>st</sup> September using the form below. We welcome creative ideas that

reflect the values, spirit, and purpose of our guild. [Guild Motto – Fill in form](#)

## GUILD BUDDY



In the Spring issue, we introduced our new **Guild Buddy Scheme**, designed to help members stay connected and continue enjoying Guild activities together.

The scheme provides friendly support and companionship. A Guild Buddy might travel to events with another member, attend activities together, offer a helping hand when needed, or simply enjoy a chat and some company.

We are pleased to say that several members have already expressed an interest in taking part. Whether you would like to volunteer as a Guild Buddy or would welcome support from a fellow Guild member, we would love to hear from you.

To register your interest, please complete [Guild Buddy Scheme – Fill in form](#)

## WE'RE HERE TO SUPPORT MEMBERS

Supporting our members is an important part of Guild life. If you

are aware of a member who is in hospital, unwell at home or in need of support, please get in touch so we can explore ways to provide support and encouragement.

Email:

[welfare@conductorsguild.co.uk](mailto:welfare@conductorsguild.co.uk)

## BUILDING RESILIENCE FOR THE FUTURE

One of the topics highlighted in the Guild's Register of Issues and there's a few, is **resilience**. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, several members have not returned to active participation, most likely due to ill health or the natural effects of ageing. It is therefore important that we consider how best to strengthen the Guild's resilience and ensure its long-term sustainability.

A factor that contributed significantly to the success of the recent Conductors' Dinner Night was the excellent attendance. Whether this was a one-off occurrence or the result of inviting friends and family members to attend is open to debate. However, the event demonstrated the value of broadening participation and engaging with the wider Conductors' community. The Guild is considering the introduction of three categories of membership, they are:

- **Full Membership** would be open to all serving, commissioned and retired Conductors. Members would pay an annual subscription of £30 and enjoy full voting rights.
- **Honorary Membership** would be offered to Conductors from the Australian Army and New Zealand Army. This category



would be free of charge and would not include voting rights. Should Honorary Members be visiting the UK and wish to attend Guild events, they would be charged the applicable non-member rate.

- **Affiliated Membership** would be open to spouses, as well as widows, widowers, sons, daughters and others who can demonstrate a connection to a serving or former Conductor. Affiliated Members would pay an annual subscription of £30 and would not have voting rights. They would, however, benefit from subsidised attendance fees at Guild events. Any accompanying partners would be charged the non-member rate.

The Committee welcomes members' views on these proposals as we continue to explore ways of strengthening the Guild's future and maintaining the strong sense of fellowship that has always been at the heart of our organisation.

We will be discussing this issue at the September AGM, for now please let us know what you think by completing [Untitled form – Fill in form](#)

## GUILD & RLC MUSEUM UNITE

Thanks to the excellent efforts of GMC members Daz Garwood and Mike Coyle, the RLC Museum has agreed to sell Guild merchandise both through its website and in its museum shop. This is a significant step in increasing the visibility and availability of Guild merchandise.

## FUNDRAISING

The Guild is built on community, shared history, and mutual support. Our fundraising schemes help preserve our heritage, support members, and fund Guild activities. Thanks to the generosity of members and the GMC, we have been able to cover website, IT, and merchandise costs, as well as help reduce expenses for those attending events.



With greater participation, we could provide even more support, including further reducing accommodation and travel costs for members. Guild events offer valuable opportunities to connect, learn, share ideas, and build friendships within our welcoming community.

Please take a few minutes to complete our survey and help shape the future of Guild fundraising.

[GUILD FUNDRAISING SURVEY – Fill in form](#)

Our Guild thrives on inclusion, bringing together retired, serving, and commissioned Conductors.

## JOIN THE GUILD MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (GMC)

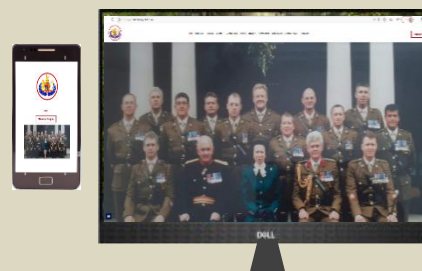
Your ideas, experience, and energy is what keeps us going  
By joining the GMC, you'll:

- Help organise activities
- Contribute to important decisions
- Support the growth and success of the Guild
- Work alongside a friendly, supportive team

It's rewarding, enjoyable, and a real chance to make a difference. Take part, help shape the future of the Guild today!

To confirm your interest in joining the GMC either in a lead role or assist, click [GUILD MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE \(GMC\) 2027 – Fill In Form](#)

## GUILD WEBSITE



[www.conductorsguild.co.uk](http://www.conductorsguild.co.uk)

The Guild Website continues to serve as a valuable and accessible resource for both members and the wider public. Thoughtfully presented and easy to navigate, it reflects the dignity and heritage of the Guild while embracing a modern and user-friendly approach.

Visitors can explore the history and purpose of the Conductor's appointment, stay informed about

upcoming events, and access key information about the Guild's activities. The website plays an important role in strengthening two-way communication, between members and highlighting the enduring relevance of this ancient and honourable appointment.

Members are encouraged to visit regularly and share the site with others, helping to extend the Guild's reach and visibility.

## NEW EVENTS WHATSAPP GROUP



We are delighted to announce the launch of a new Guild Events WhatsApp group, created to keep event attendees informed with the latest updates and important information.

To ensure communications remain relevant, membership of each group will be limited to those attending the event. The group will be activated shortly before the event and closed shortly afterwards.

The purpose of the group is to provide attendees with timely information about event arrangements and any changes that may arise.

Questions such as "Where are we meeting?" or "What time does the coach leave?" Should become a thing of the past, as all key details will be available in one convenient location, accessible whenever needed.

Members do not need to take any additional action to join. Simply ensure that your mobile phone number is included on your event return form, and you will be added to the Event WhatsApp group for that event.

This new communication channel will help ensure that attendees receive important updates quickly and can stay fully informed before and during Guild activities. We encourage all members attending events to take advantage of this useful new service.

## CHANGE TO GMQs

We are pleased to announce a small change to the schedule of our Guild Members' Question Time sessions.

To make it easier for members to attend and to provide greater consistency in our calendar, Guild Members' Question Time will now take place on the **2nd Tuesday of each month**.

These sessions are a valuable opportunity for members to ask questions, share ideas, raise concerns, and hear updates from the Guild. We encourage everyone to take part and make the most of this open forum for discussion and engagement.

Ironically, the **2nd Tuesday in July falls on the 14th**, which clashes with the planned John Buckley VC Commemoration Service. Therefore, as a one-off exception, the July Question Time session will be held on **7th July** instead.

We look forward to seeing you at our next Question Time and continuing the positive conversations that help strengthen our Guild community.

## REQUEST FROM THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM



Thank you, members of the Conductors' Guild, for visiting the Arboretum. Following the Guild's visit to the National Memorial Arboretum in September 2025.

We're always looking to improve our experience for our group visitors and would love your feedback on your visit, and insight into how we might develop our offer in the future.

We really value your input, if you are able to spare the time, please complete our survey here: [Group Visit Feedback Survey](#)

As a thank you, you have the option at the end to be entered into our competition to win a half day Tailor Made Tour, for you and four guests aboard one of our buggies with a personal host. The prize will be drawn on Monday 13 July 2026.

## GUILD MERCHANDISE

Discover our exclusive range of Guild merchandise, including stylish mugs, elegant ties, sophisticated cufflinks, our beautiful **2026 Christmas Cards**, and much more.

Whether you're looking for the perfect gift or a way to showcase your professional pride, our quality merchandise has something for everyone.





*Love, laughter, and Christmas cheer,  
wishing you and yours all three this season!  
From our home to yours, merry everything  
and happy always!  
Season's greetings and warm hugs all  
around!*

**Inside Card**

Share Your Story in

# The Conductor

Your community. Your news. Your newsletter. ♥

**AUTUMN NEWSLETTER**  
goes out on  
**1ST OCTOBER!**

Have you attended an event, achieved something special, taken a great photo, or have an interesting article to share?

Whether it's a short update, a feature story, or a favourite picture, we'd be delighted to include it in *The Conductor*.

**Photos bring our stories to life!**

**Your contribution makes our newsletter great!**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 15TH SEPTEMBER**

Please send in your articles, photos and updates by this date.

**SEND US:**

ARTICLES

NEWS ITEMS

PHOTOGRAPHS

EVENT REPORTS

COMMUNITY UPDATES

*We'd love to hear from you!* ♥

**Please send your contributions to:**

Let's make this Autumn edition of *The Conductor* informative, inspiring and full of local interest. ♥



***Wear it. Use it.  
Represent your Guild  
with pride***

**Order yours today!**

**Visit:**

[www.conductorsguild.co.uk](http://www.conductorsguild.co.uk)

**Email:**

[merchandise@conductorsguild.co.uk](mailto:merchandise@conductorsguild.co.uk)