

CONDUCTORS' GUILD TOGETHER

Stronger together. Today and always.



AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2026

Honouring our heritage, supporting our members, inspiring the future

Autumn is here, the leaves turn gold,
And news from the Guild is waiting to be told.
From events and stories to things yet to come.
There's something inside for everyone.



So grab a cuppa, sit back and read,
The Autumn *Conductor* has all that you need.
Guild news, fundraising and members galore.
And plenty of reasons to come back for more!

CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Autumn Edition of the Conductors' Guild Newsletter

Our theme, "**Together**", reflects what the Guild is all about. Together, we share our heritage, support one another, maintain friendships and look to the future. Whether serving or retired, we remain part of the same Conductor family.

It has been another busy and successful year, with a range of memorable events and continued development of our communications through the website, WhatsApp groups and newsletters. Thank you to all our members for your continued support and involvement.

As we look ahead, the Guild faces some important challenges. With an ageing membership and fewer new members joining, we must continue to remain relevant, connected and financially sustainable. Our fundraising activities are an important part of this, and I encourage everyone to support them wherever

possible. **Small contributions from many members can make a significant difference.**

We must also continue to preserve the proud traditions and heritage of the Conductor, support serving personnel and maintain the unique bond between serving and retired Conductors. Encouraging eligible family members to become **Affiliated Members** will also help us strengthen the wider Conductor family and ensure that our connections continue into the future.

My thanks go to the Guild Management Committee, our volunteers and everyone who gives their time, ideas and enthusiasm to keep the Guild active.

Inside this edition, you will find news and updates from around the Guild, reports from recent events, details of forthcoming activities, fundraising initiatives and information about how you can get involved. There are also stories and photographs from members, helping to capture the friendships,

memories and traditions that make the Guild what it is today.

The future of the Guild is in all our hands. By working together, keeping in touch and supporting one another, we can build a strong, vibrant and sustainable Guild for the years ahead.

Thank you for your continued support, and I hope you enjoy this edition.

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YOUR GUILD MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (GMC)

Behind the activities, events and communications of the Conductors’ Guild is a small team of volunteers who make up the **Guild Management Committee (GMC)**.

The GMC has an important role in ensuring the Guild continues to operate effectively, supporting our members and delivering the programme of activities that we all enjoy. The Committee regularly considers membership, finances, events, communications, fundraising and the future development of the Guild.

However, the GMC is not simply about administration and meetings. Its primary purpose is to **serve the membership** and ensure that the Guild remains relevant, active and sustainable for the future.

Over the past year, the Committee has worked hard to develop the Guild in a number of areas. This has included

the launch of our website, improving communication with members, organising a varied programme of events and introducing new fundraising initiatives to help strengthen the Guild’s financial position.

To continue this great work, the following members have volunteered to serve on the GMC in 2027. Their combined skills, experience and enthusiasm will help ensure the Guild continues to move forward and build on the progress made over the past year.

GMC 2027

President	Maj Gen Malcolm Wood CBE
Chairman	Dave Patterson
Vice-Chairman	Gordon Webster
Secretary	Stephen Swales
Assist secretary	Simon Nock
Treasurer	Louise McMeniman (Designate)
Media Outlets	Mike Coyle
Transport	Brummie Hillyard
Conductor Rep	Paul Whiteley
Webmaster	Daz Garwood
Member	Colin Slade

But the Guild Management Committee cannot do it alone!

Every member has a part to play. Whether it is attending an event, keeping your contact details up to date on Membermojo, contributing to the newsletter, supporting our fundraising schemes, checking the website, or simply keeping in touch with another member, these small contributions collectively make a big difference.

The Guild belongs to all of us, and its future depends upon members continuing to support and participate in it.

The GMC would therefore like to thank all members for their continued support and encouragement. We look forward to working with you over the coming year as we continue to **strengthen the Guild, support our members and build for the future.**

RECENT GUILD EVENTS

The past few months have been particularly busy for the Conductors’ Guild, with members taking part in a number of important and enjoyable events. These occasions provide a great opportunity to represent the Guild, maintain our links with the wider RLC family and, importantly, catch up with old friends and colleagues.

John Buckley VC Remembrance Service

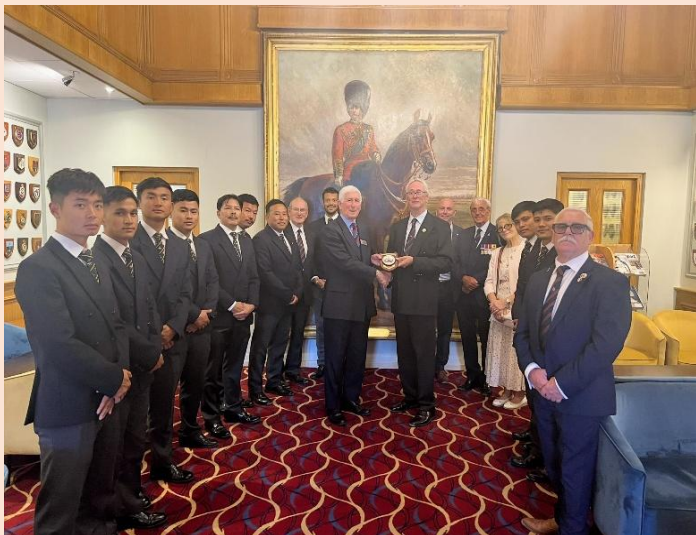
In July, Guild members and soldiers from 9 Regiment RLC attended the **John Buckley VC Remembrance Service at the Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park in London**, to remember and honour a remarkable Conductor and the sacrifice made by service personnel throughout time.

The service provided a fitting opportunity to reflect on John Buckley VC's courage and contribution, while ensuring that his name and story continue to be remembered by future generations.



Padre Maj Andy White, Officiating Chaplain

Following the service, members gathered together at the Union Jack Club, providing an opportunity to socialise and share memories. A **Conductor's plaque** was also presented as part of the occasion, creating another lasting reminder of the contribution made by Conductors who served in the RAOC and RLC.



Hugh Player CEO UJC receiving a Conductors' plaque from Dave Patterson, Guild Chairman

The Army Foundation College – Harrogate



The Guild was delighted to visit the **Army Foundation College, Harrogate, twice in 2026**, where we had the opportunity to meet and engage with Junior Soldiers (JS) and permanent staff.

It was particularly encouraging to see the **enthusiasm, commitment and professionalism** of those beginning their Army careers. Visits such as these provide an important opportunity for the Guild to maintain contact with serving personnel and demonstrate that the **relationship between serving and retired Conductors remains strong**.

We were also pleased to present the **Conductor Certificate** to **JS Pte A Duffin** and **JS Pte Mewton-Daley**, recognising their achievements and marking an important milestone as they begin their military careers.



Steve Swales presenting the Conductors' Guild certificate to JS Pte A Duffin - February 2026



L to R: JS Pte Mewton-Daley, Dave Patterson, Steve Swales and serving Conductor Paul Whitely August 2026

The Guild Certificate Presentation and Graduation Parade is always a **proud and memorable occasion**, and we would encourage as many members as possible to attend and show their support.

For those of us who have already travelled this road, it is also a chance to reflect on our own time in uniform and the traditions, friendships and experiences that come with being a Conductor.

Your presence will help make the occasion even more special for the graduating Junior Soldiers, their families and the permanent staff. **Let's turn out in good numbers, demonstrate the continued strength of the Guild and proudly support the next generation of Conductors.**

Whether attending as a participant, supporter or simply to enjoy the parade, **please make every effort to be there.** It promises to be an excellent occasion and one that should not be missed.

RLC Association Lunch - London

Members also attended an **RLC Association Lunch at the Victory Service Club, London**, another excellent opportunity to meet fellow members of the Corps community in a relaxed and friendly environment.

These occasions are about much more than simply getting together for a meal. They provide an opportunity to renew old friendships, make new ones and maintain the strong sense of camaraderie that has always been such an important part of army life.



Keeping the Connections Strong!

Heads Of Trade Cabal

Guild Chairman Dave Patterson and Guild Secretary Stephen Swales were invited to attend the **Heads of Trade Cabal at RLC RHQ on 28 September.**

The meeting provided an excellent opportunity to promote the Conductors' Guild, highlighting its aims, heritage and the benefits of Guild membership.

Our discussions centred on the **origins and history of the Conductor appointment**, information about the Guild and its aims, and identifying **mutual issues where improvements could be made.** We also explored opportunities to promote both the Conductor appointment and the Guild, while strengthening the links between serving and retired Conductors.

A further area of discussion was the Guild's potential to **support the 2027 Corps Parchment Ceremony**, helping to ensure that the long-standing traditions and heritage of the Conductor appointment continue to be recognised and celebrated.

The meeting was extremely positive and provided a valuable opportunity to strengthen cooperation and develop closer links with the serving Conductor community.

Summary

Each of these events demonstrates the value of the Guild's involvement in the wider RLC community. Whether we are remembering those who have gone before us, supporting serving Conductors and young soldiers, or simply getting together with old friends, **maintaining these connections is at the heart of what the Conductors' Guild is about.**

A big thank you to everyone who attended, supported or helped organise these events. We look forward to seeing many more members at Guild and RLC events in 2027.

STAY CONNECTED

We encourage all members to **regularly visit the Conductors' Guild website** to keep up to date with the latest news, events, information and opportunities.

The website is continually being updated, with new articles, event details, newsletters, fundraising initiatives, photographs and useful members' information being added throughout the year.

Make the website your first port of call for all things Conductors' Guild!



Visit: www.conductorsguild.co.uk.

CONDUCTOR MARTIN FOULDS STEPS DOWN



*Senior Conductor
Martin Foulds RLC*

It has been a genuine honour and privilege to serve as the Serving Member of the RLC Conductors' Guild since March 2025.

When I assumed the appointment, I understood its importance in maintaining the connection between serving members of the Corps and those who have gone before us. What I perhaps did not fully appreciate at the time was the amount of work that

takes place behind the scenes to sustain the Guild and preserve those vital links.

One of the highlights of the appointment has been contributing to the delivery of two Conductor Parchment Ceremonies. These occasions are always special, not only for those receiving their parchment, but also for those entrusted with upholding the traditions, standards and values associated with being a Conductor. Seeing new members welcomed into the Guild, alongside serving and retired Conductors, is a powerful reminder of the heritage that underpins the appointment.

For me, one of the greatest privileges has been acting as the link between our serving and retired members. The Guild provides a unique connection across generations of the Corps, and I have seen first-hand the value of maintaining those relationships. Our retired membership holds an extraordinary depth of knowledge, experience and history, and it is important that we continue to draw upon and preserve that wisdom.

Over the last 18 months, I have also gained a far greater appreciation of what happens in the background. Much of the work that keeps the Guild functioning is rarely visible, from maintaining relationships and organising events to managing the countless details that ensure everything runs smoothly. It is easy to see the finished product without appreciating the effort required to make it happen.

I would like to make a special mention of our Chairman, Dave. In many ways he is the unsung hero of the Guild and, in my view, the glue that holds it together. His commitment, energy and passion for the Guild should never be underestimated. Without his continued efforts, I genuinely believe the Guild would not be the strong and thriving organisation it is today.

His determination to preserve the appointment of Conductor and ensure the Guild remains relevant for future generations is unwavering. That passion is infectious and serves as an example to us all.

It has been a privilege to serve in this role. Through the appointment, I have developed a much deeper

understanding of what the Guild represents, but more importantly, an even greater appreciation of the people who make it what it is.

The appointment of Conductor carries a responsibility to those who have gone before us, to those who serve alongside us today, and to those who will follow. I hope that, during my tenure as Serving Member, I have played a small part in maintaining that connection and helping to ensure the Guild remains strong, relevant and valued by future generations.

MEMBERS INPUT

Royal Hospital Chelsea Veterans' Picnic 13th August 2026 *By Bob Le Vaillant*



This was my first annual garden party in the spectacular, if parched, grounds of the Royal Hospital Chelsea, and on London's hottest day.

The event brings together veterans (all classed as 'Out Pensioners') from across the Armed Forces and Merchant

Navy for a relaxed day of food, music, entertainment, and camaraderie, while helping develop the still-young Outreach scheme. Although 550 members and friends had booked, the heat left a few empty seats. But that did nothing to dampen the spirit, I travelled to London the day before to welcome the new Chief Executive of Toynbee Hall where I spent my second career.

A stroll then through the West End, watching the eclipse from Trafalgar Square, a nightcap (or two) at the Union Jack Club (yes, our Conductor Plaque is on display!), big breakfast next day, then a sweltering tube ride to the Royal Hospital. I'm always struck by the sight of the famous 'Home of the Chelsea Pensioner,' several of whom were at the gate to greet us, sensibly in shirtsleeve order. I've never imagined myself wearing the famous scarlet coat, and never will, but I always feel instantly at home among them.

It was a terrific day: generous buffet food delivered to the tables, endless supply of bottled water, VIP visitors (including Seamus, the Irish Guards Regimental Mascot!) and a sing-along programme with nostalgic wartime and rock 'n' roll singers (a flavour here:

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/P0ZpYiBKZm4>).



*Seamus,
Irish Guards Regimental Mascot*

I had to leave early - trains gone to pot, nothing running beyond Ashford - so I reluctantly missed the finale by the Chelsea Pensioners' Singers. There are many clips and pictures on YouTube and Facebook.

The need for an effective Buddy Scheme came sharply into focus when a veteran friend of mine -

ex- Royal Signals Junior Leaders, Denbury - died suddenly in a local care home. We'll call him Jim. He left three ex-wives, an estranged son living three hundred miles away, a house full of debt, damp, and accumulated junk, and a confused, last-minute Will, naming an unsuspecting executor who promptly declined responsibility. His son 'Mike,' who barely knew him, is left now to sort out the chaos. I wrote and delivered Jim's eulogy and, as I am presently managing some of those issues for my ex who died last year, I am probably in a good position to help Mike drive most of the practical aftermath.

I know there are many well-funded forces' welfare agencies, but in my experience, those hereabouts seem to do little more than 'signpost' each other. As they did to Jim's life, and I doubt they'll rush to help in the afterlife. Only the creditors are keen. Quite a few of them.

So, I continue as Jim's buddy, maybe more now in death than in the decades that I knew him. Jim is not an isolated case. I am sure there are lonely, frightened veterans all over the country, some of them leaving bewildered relatives in Mike's position. The challenge for the Chelsea scheme, and for our own Conductors' scheme, is identifying those most in need and linking them with those who are best placed to befriend them. Right to the end, and beyond if that's necessary. Can it work? It must. [*Retired RLC Lt Col Johnny Lowe heads the Chelsea Veterans' Outreach Scheme]

Digital Inheritance, Digital Legacy

by Mike Coyle



First of all, I'm not a lawyer, or an advocate, or an expert. Here's my thoughts anyway. When my Dad died, his

last words to me were, 'Tell Mum, I'm sorry I've left her in a mess'. He hadn't left her or us in a mess but we did have jobs to do, sort out his 'Stuff', bills, accounts, banking, etc. Thankfully he didn't have a digital 'footprint'.

If he had, I would have referred to: 'Model Rules on Succession and Access to Digital Remains', European laws introduced in July this year to help with the problems of Digital Inheritance and Legacy.

First the difference, Inheritance refers to the 'Tangible' assets left behind like online photos, documents, copyright, digital wallets, etc, and the Legacy the 'Intangible', the permissions, subscriptions, you've agreed to online to use software, tools, etc.

It will be the job of your Executor to close or change accounts you hold, to inform the suppliers of assets and holdings. There is Government help via the 'Tell Us Once' arrangements, where you inform one Gov source and other links are automatically told. Otherwise it a long job identifying all the suppliers and letting them know you are no longer here.

Some of the Internet companies try to help with pre-authorised 'Digital Executors' Deletion of assets and 'Memorialisation'. Apple, Android, Amazon, Google and Meta have their own arrangements too.

Where to begin.

Catalogue every digital presence you have, however old or unused; Nominate someone to help and take responsibility and make it clear what you want them to do; Securely store all your passwords and login details, programs are there to help - 'Dashlane' is one I use; Tell all that matter, what you are doing!

I wish you best of Luck!

There's help at:

- deathhelp.wordpress.com
- mywishes.co.uk/
- digitallegacyassociation.org/
- gov.uk/after-a-death/organisations-you-need-to-contact-and-tell-us-once

Operation SENTINEL JUSTICE (OSJ)

By Conductor Paul Whitley



*Op Sentinel Justic
2026 Patch*

UK Petroleum Operators Support US Army Exercise in Mississippi. Three Petroleum Operators from 48 Commando Royal Marines deployed to Mississippi to work alongside US counterparts during Operation SENTINEL JUSTICE, sharing expertise, developing interoperability and

demonstrating UK fuel-handling capabilities.

Operation SENTINEL JUSTICE (OSJ) was a Corps-level exercise for the US Army Reserve, centred around Camp Shelby, Mississippi, involving more than 15,663 US Army personnel.

Three Petroleum Operators, Conductor Paul Whieley, WO2 (SQMS) Brad Wootton and Sgt Sidney Henry from 48 Commando Royal Marines deployed to operate alongside their US partners. The team comprised the CPWO, Operations WO and Troop Staff Sergeant. The CPWO had been involved in the US fuels planning and implementation since October 2025.

The aim of the deployment was to further align UK Petroleum Operations with their US counterparts, LO Team working with the UK Pet Ops. The team exchanged ideas, knowledge and practices covering fuel operations and deployed infrastructure, providing valuable opportunities for both nations to learn from each other.

As part of the exercise, the US undertook wet and leak testing of Vehicle Bulk Fuel (VBF) assets as they were brought out of storage. This provided the UK team with the opportunity to participate alongside US Active Duty Petroleum Operators and work with Laboratory Technicians in the testing of fuel.



US Pop Up bunds with a 186m3 tank

A single Bulk Fuel Installation was constructed, comprising four 180m³ collapsible fabric tanks, positioned within pop-up bunds.



*Conductor Paul Whitley and
WO2 Brad Wootton wishing
a US Pet Op Happy Birthday*

During this phase of the exercise, the UK Petroleum Operators prevented the potential contamination of 180m³ of F-34 fuel following an extreme rainfall event, which saw approximately 12 inches of rain fall within the first hour. Their knowledge, experience and application of operating procedures ensured the fuel remained protected.

In the final phases of the exercise, the 48 Commando Petroleum Operators demonstrated a capability not yet established with their US counterparts. The tanks

were under-run and decommissioned, allowing them to be recovered for future use.

The deployment was a highly successful opportunity for the UK and US Petroleum Operators to share knowledge, develop new skills and strengthen their professional relationship. The experience has further enhanced interoperability between the two nations and has the potential to lead to further cooperation and joint opportunities in the future.

A Rather Wet Moment!

The only real moment of note came when the UK team found themselves knee-deep in the bunds, happily wading around draining water while the tanks floated serenely in the background!

One tank had actually sunk, with the water level getting to within about 2 cm of entering the dip/vent tube and contaminating the AVTUR inside. Clearly, this was not something we wanted to happen, so the UK team simply got on with it – getting wet in the process – and improvised a way of draining the tank after the bund pump had packed up.

The US Petroleum Operations team seemed genuinely amazed that we were quite happy to get wet in order to save the fuel. They were even more impressed when their replacement pump, which they had just purchased, turned out to be electric and promptly shorted itself out!

At this point, someone gently reminded them that electrical equipment and AVTUR in a hazardous environment aren't exactly the best combination. Lesson learned – hopefully!

The journey back to the accommodation after finally draining the bunds was equally eventful. We passed a church where the car park had been completely submerged, with the emergency services attempting to rescue the occupants of a car that was rapidly disappearing beneath the water.

By the end of the day, it was difficult to work out whether we had been conducting a fuel operation or had inadvertently signed up for **a rather soggy military swimming exercise!**

Down Time and a Taste of Mississippi

There was certainly no time for R&R during the trip, with the team having only the evenings to experience some of the local delights of Mississippi. Fortunately, we managed to find an excellent BBQ shack, where the portion sizes were generous enough to feed a family of four! The coffee was equally memorable – reputedly the best coffee in the world. However, Conductor Whiteley was subsequently banned from drinking the stuff after discovering just how potent it was. One cup was enough to send him into full Energizer Bunny mode, leaving him talking at a rate of knots and seemingly capable of powering through the night without stopping! Needless to say, the rest of the team enjoyed the coffee – but kept a very careful eye on Whiteley!

The Right Hole *by Bob Le Vaillant*



1993 – Children & their leaders at one of Bob's summer camps in Kent.

“If fitted into the correct hole, this young soldier should do well...”

(CO's comments, Leaving Report, Junior Tradesman's Regiment (Rhyl), April 1965)

Not sure about ‘correct hole’, but I certainly served in a few ‘right holes’ during my service! Did I ‘do well’? Well enough, I suppose. And I might have done better if an accident in Sardinia hadn't downgraded me. But that opened fresh opportunities in civilian life.

Now pushing eighty, a dinosaur amongst our Guild's younger members, I wonder if we have anything in common. One thing, maybe? Resettlement, and the trepidation I think most of us felt when it came to leave the Army. I'm sure today's resettlement process is a vast improvement on mine. During the last weeks in Whitehall, a disinterested Royal Signals Lieutenant Colonel told me that as a Warrant Officer, my only two options were

Queen's Bodyguard to the Yeoman of the Guard, or ‘Security’.

Clearly taken aback when I said I already ran a children's charity off duty and was presently setting up and would be running the Children's Department for a major Universities Settlement – with salary sponsored for the first 5 years by British Petroleum (BP) - he huffed, ‘That sort of job should be for officers!’ That was it. No further contact with the Army after I walked out of Main Building as ‘a civvy’.

What took me into the Youth & Community world? For much of my service, a rich mix of on- and off-duty experience. In the Army I was a voluntary Scout Leader. Not the traditional ‘Russ Abbot’ type with a pointed hat and stave - rootless British & international forces children could be challenging. Having honed my outdoors skills running groups in Naples, Kowloon and Hong Kong Island, then in the East End where I lodged during my last years in London, I was ready to devise, develop and run innovative programmes for some of UK's most disadvantaged young people and their families.

The needs of those young people were much the same as my sixties generation, which was recruited into the Boys Regiments. Many of the London children were out of school, abused, neglected and into or on the brink of crime and offending. There weren't ‘my’ opportunities in the eighties. Those that fell below statutory safety nets were written off by society. There were valuable transferrable skills I could adapt from the Army, and it wasn't hard to obtain civilian accreditation. But I had to do that myself. The Army wasn't good at ‘selling’ us to civilian employers.

London desperately needed magistrates in the Juvenile (Youth) and Families (Care) Courts. People with direct experience of working with inner-city communities were especially sought after. My main referee was the Chief Scout, Major General Mike Walsh, late Para, who served in Borneo when I did. For the next 27 years I sat on the Youth & Families Courts benches in London, then East Kent Adult Crime until I retired in 2017. The magistracy, along with special school governorship and other community roles, provided truly invaluable insights into how ‘the system’ works, doesn't work, and should work.

I have been an employer for many years, in both professional and voluntary sectors. I am not looking for trades, ranks, war stories, or hosts of unintelligible military acronyms. I want integrity, trust, clear communication, emotional intelligence, resilience, adaptability, empathy, strategic vision. Those are the qualities of leadership I know you possess already. Be sure to demonstrate them clearly in your job applications.

[Bob left the Army in 1986. He retired from Toynbee Hall in 2005 as Deputy Warden and Head of Services for Children & Families. He is now Co-Director of his wife's Architectural Practice.]

AGM PROPOSALS – CARRIED!

At the 2026 AGM, members were invited to consider and vote on three important matters concerning the future of the Conductors' Guild: the adoption of a **Guild Motto**, the introduction of clearly defined **membership categories** and **Annual Subscriptions**.

Our Guild Motto

Members voted on the proposed Guild Motto, recognising the importance of having a simple phrase that reflects the values, traditions and camaraderie of the Conductors' Guild. The adoption of a Guild Motto provides us with a common identity and a reminder of what the Guild stands for, both today and as we look towards the future.

Guild Motto:

'Honouring our heritage, supporting our members, Inspiring the future'

Guild Membership New Categories

Members also voted in favour of establishing three clearly defined categories of Guild membership. These categories recognise the different relationships individuals have with the Guild, while ensuring that the benefits, rights and responsibilities of each category are clearly understood.

During October, the Guild will begin contacting two groups of potential new members:

- Retired and Commissioned Conductors – inviting those who are not currently Guild members to join as Full Members.
- Partners and Spouses – inviting partners and spouses to join as Affiliated Members, strengthening their connection with the Guild and its wider community.

This initiative will help the Guild broaden its membership, strengthen its community and ensure that those with a connection to the Conductors' tradition have the opportunity to be part of the Guild.

Full Member - Open to serving, commissioned and retired Conductors. Full Members pay the annual subscription of £40 and have **full voting rights** at Guild meetings, including the AGM.

Honorary Member - Available to Conductors from the Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps (RAAOC), the Royal New Zealand Army Logistic Regiment (RNZALR) and Canadian Armed Forces (CAF). Honorary Membership is free of charge and does not carry voting rights. Where an Honorary Member attends a UK Guild event, a non-member event charge will apply.

Affiliated Member - 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 £40 and would not have voting rights. They would, however, benefit from subsidised attendance fees at Guild events.

Easy Steps to Join the Conductors' Guild

Joining the Guild is easy and only takes a few minutes.

Once your application has been processed, you will receive your membership details and information on how to access the **Members' Area** of the Guild website. The Members' Area is your gateway to Guild news, events, photographs, documents and other members-only information.

How to Join

1. Visit the Guild website:
www.conductorsguild.co.uk
2. Select the **Membership** tab.
3. Scroll down to **How to Apply**.
4. Click on the membership link, which will take you to Membermojo, our membership system.
5. Click the orange **Join Us / Renew** button.
6. Complete your personal and membership details.
7. Select your preferred method of paying your annual subscription.
8. Submit your application.

Any issues email:
secretary@conductorsguild.co.uk

Annual Subscriptions

Members agreed to increase annual subscription fees to £40. Subscriptions are due on 1st January 2027. Your membership subscription is vital in helping the Guild meet its running costs, organise events and activities, support members and maintain the services and communications

available to everyone. There are three convenient ways to pay your annual subscription:

- MemberMojo – payment can be made online through your membership account.
- Bank Standing Order – set up a recurring annual payment of £40.
- BACS Bank Transfer – make a direct payment to the Guild bank account.

For those paying by BACS or setting up a Standing Order, please use the following Guild bank details:

Account Name: Conductors' Guild

Bank: Lloyds Bank

Sort Code: 30-90-77

Account Number: 01236218

Reference: [enter your surname Subs 2027]

Guild Rules

The new Guild Rules, effective from 1 January 2027, provide a clear and up-to-date framework for how the Conductors' Guild operates.

They clarify membership, responsibilities, decision-making and governance, while recognising how the Guild has evolved and its ambition to welcome a wider Conductor family.

The Rules are not about bureaucracy; they are about **providing** clarity, fairness and confidence in how the Guild is run, protecting its traditions while giving it a strong foundation for the future.

In short, good rules provide the foundation for a strong Guild, protecting our heritage while allowing us to move forward together.

Summary

The GMC would like to thank all members who took part in the AGM discussion and voting process. These decisions are an important step in ensuring that the Guild continues to develop while maintaining the traditions and camaraderie that have served us so well. AGM Minutes are available to view at www.conductorsguild.co.uk

Together, we can build on what has already been achieved and make the Guild even stronger for the future

MEMBERMOJO & YOUR INFO!

We are currently updating our MemberMojo membership records and would like to ensure that all members have a photograph and that their personal details are up to date. We would be grateful if members could please sign in to MemberMojo, check that their details are correct, and save any amendments that may be required. If you do not currently have a photograph on your profile, please also upload or send us a recent passport-sized portrait photograph at your earliest opportunity.

Having a photograph of each Guild member helps put a face to a name, strengthen friendships and foster a sense of belonging. It makes the Members' Area more personal, helps members recognise one another at Guild events, and, importantly, provides a valuable historical record of the Guild and its membership for future generations. Thank you for helping us keep our membership records current and for contributing to our sense of **"Together"** because **every member matters**.

To upload your photo follow: **Step-by-step instructions below:**

1. **Go to MemberMojo.**
2. **Sign in** using your email address and password for membermojo.
3. Once signed in, click **"Your Membership"**.
4. Select **"View/Edit"** or the option to edit your membership details.
5. Scroll down until you find the **Photo** section.
6. Click **"Change Photo"**
7. Click **"Select Photo"** or the equivalent upload option.
8. Find the photograph on your computer, tablet or phone and select it.
9. **Crop the photograph** if necessary so that your head and shoulders are clearly visible.
10. A **recent passport-style portrait** is recommended. MemberMojo supports portrait, square and landscape photo formats; for the Guild, a portrait-style photograph is most appropriate.
11. Check that the photograph is clear and that **you are the only person in the picture**.
12. Click **Save/Update** to save your changes.
13. Your photograph should then appear on your MemberMojo membership record.

Alternatively, send your photo to secretary@conductorsguild.co.uk

Tip: You do not necessarily need to have a passport photograph taken professionally. A clear, recent head-and-shoulders photograph taken with a smartphone is suitable, provided it presents you clearly.

OUR HISTORY

Kent Police Officer's Victoria Cross

by Bob Le Vaillant



Visitors to the Kent Police Museum in Faversham can now see one of the most prestigious honours in British history, awarded to a former Kent Officer. The Victoria Cross awarded to Sergeant Harry Wells posthumously is now on display, for members of the public to enjoy.

Sergeant Wells joined Kent Police in 1911 and served in Ashford, having previously served in the army in India. When the First World War broke out, he rejoined the military to fight for his country. During the Battle of Loos in September 1915, Sergeant Wells took command of his unit after his platoon officer was killed on the first day of fighting in September 1915. Under sustained heavy fire near Le Rutoire, he led his men to within yards of the enemy lines, before being killed during the final advance. He was just 27 years old. For his exceptional bravery, he was awarded the Victoria Cross, the nation's highest award for valour. The medal was presented to his mother by King George V in 1916.

From the RASC and RAOC to the RLC – A Proud Logistic Heritage

The RLC Corps has a long and distinguished history, with its heritage stretching back centuries. Today's RLC is the successor to several famous Army Corps, including the **Royal Army Service Corps (RASC)** and **Royal Army Ordnance Corps (RAOC)**. At the heart of this history is the ancient appointment of **Conductor**, which has provided senior logistic leadership to the British Army for almost 700 years.

The RASC – Serving the Army



The origins of the Army Service Corps can be traced to the development of organised military transport and supply. The **Army Service Corps (ASC) was formed in December 1888**, bringing together a number of existing transport and supply

organisations. Following its service during the First World War, the Corps was granted the Royal prefix in November 1918, becoming the **Royal Army Service Corps**.

The RASC was responsible for many of the essential services that sustained the Army, including the provision of food, fuel, water, clothing and other supplies, as well as transport. During the Second World War, RASC personnel served in virtually every theatre of operations, keeping armies supplied by land, sea and air.

The RASC also had a proud tradition of senior Warrant Officers. The appointment of **Conductor of Supplies** was formally established in 1879, although it was subsequently replaced by the appointment of Staff Sergeant Major 1st Class in 1892. The expertise and leadership of these senior logisticians nevertheless remained an important part of the Army's supply organisation.

The RAOC – The Army's Stores and Ordnance Specialists



The history of the RAOC reaches back much further. In 1299, the Keeper of the King's Wardrobe at the Tower of London was given responsibility for warlike equipment and military expenditure. By 1415, the Master of Ordnance had been established, overseeing the provision of weapons, ammunition and other military stores.

The modern foundations of the Corps developed during the nineteenth century. The Ordnance Store Corps was established in 1881, followed by the Army Ordnance Department and Army Ordnance Corps in 1896. In 1918, these organisations were amalgamated and granted the Royal prefix in recognition of their service during the First World War, creating the Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

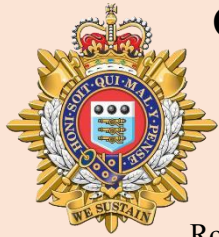
The RAOC was responsible for the procurement, storage, maintenance and issue of an enormous range of military equipment, including weapons, ammunition, vehicles, clothing and general stores. In 1965, following the reorganisation of Army logistics, the RAOC also assumed responsibility for many supply functions previously undertaken by the RASC, becoming in effect the Army's principal Supply Corps.

It was within the RAOC that the Conductor appointment became particularly prominent. Conductors were senior Warrant Officers who provided experience, authority and professional leadership across the Ordnance Service. In 1915, Conductors and Sub-Conductors became Warrant Officers Class I, and the Conductor remained one of the most senior soldier appointments in the Army.

The 1965 reorganisation fundamentally changed Army logistics. The transport functions of the RASC transferred to the newly formed Royal Corps of Transport (RCT), while many of its supply responsibilities transferred to the RAOC. The Army Catering Corps was also established as a separate Corps.

Despite these organisational changes, the professional traditions and expertise of the RASC and RAOC continued to influence the development of Army logistics – including the distinctive role of the Conductor.

1993 – The Royal Logistic Corps



On 5th April 1993, the RLC was formed through the amalgamation of five former Corps: the Royal Corps of Transport, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, Royal Pioneer Corps, Army Catering Corps and the Postal and Courier Branch of the Royal Engineers.

The creation of the RLC brought together generations of logistic experience under a single cap badge. The new Corps inherited the traditions, skills and customs of its forming Corps, including the ancient appointment of Conductor.

Importantly, the Conductor appointment continued into the RLC and was opened to Warrant Officers across the Corps' various trades, rather than being restricted to the traditional Ordnance supply roles. The appointment therefore evolved from its historical roots while retaining its fundamental purpose: recognising outstanding senior logistic leadership, experience and professional knowledge.

An Unbroken Tradition

From the Conductors of Ordnance recorded at the Siege of Boulogne in 1544, through the RASC and RAOC, to today's RLC Conductors, the appointment represents one of the Army's most enduring logistic traditions.

While Corps names, structures, equipment and methods of working have changed dramatically, the fundamental requirement has remained the same – to ensure that the Army has what it needs, where it needs it, when it needs it.

The RLC's motto, "**We Sustain**", neatly captures this enduring responsibility. For Conductors, it also represents a proud legacy of leadership and professional service stretching across generations of Army logisticians.

HISTORY OF COMMONWEALTH CONDUCTORS

We recently reached out to the Canadian Army AND New Zealand Army to find out whether the appointment of Conductor is still part of their military structure. We were surprised to discover that it is no longer the case for

Canada! Read on to learn more about the history of the Canadian and New Zealand Conductor.

History of the Canadian Conductor

by Dan Thomas Chief Warrant Officer (CWO)



So, what happened to the Canadian Army Conductor, and how did they replace this long-standing appointment with the **Chief Warrant Officer**?

Read on to discover how the role evolved and the fascinating history behind the change.

On 1st February 1968, the Canadian Forces Reorganization Act came into effect, creating the modern Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) by unifying the three environmental commands, the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN), Canadian Army (CA), and Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF), under a single command structure. As part of this reorganization, the Logistics Branch was established by integrating the following corps and services:

1. The Royal Canadian Navy Supply Branch.
2. The Royal Canadian Army Service Corps.
3. The Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps.
4. The Royal Canadian Army Pay Corps.
5. The Royal Canadian Postal Corps.
6. The Royal Canadian Air Force Mobile Support Equipment Branch.
7. The Royal Canadian Air Force Supply Branch.
8. The Royal Canadian Air Force Finance Branch.
- and
9. The Royal Canadian Air Force Food Services Branch.

The amalgamation of these nine corps and branches resulted in a unified Logistics Branch composed of several non-commissioned member occupations: Traffic Technician, Mobile Support Equipment Operator, Supply Technician, Ammunition Technician, Finance Clerk, Cook, and Steward, supported by the Logistics Officer occupation.

Over the past five decades, the Logistics Branch has evolved significantly, including integration with the Canadian Armed Forces Personnel Branch in 1998. In 2018, on the Branch's 50th anniversary, it received its Royal designation, the Branch became the Royal Canadian Logistics Service (RCLS). Today, it comprises nine occupations: Logistics Officer, Traffic Technician, Mobile Support Equipment Operator, Supply Technician, Ammunition Technician, Financial Services Administrator, Cook, and Human Resources Administrator.

History of the Royal Canadian Logistic Service (RCLS) Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) by Dan Thomas CWO

From 1968 until 1988, the Logistics Branch did not have a designated senior non-commissioned advisor at the Branch level. In July 1988, CWO G. Smith (Cook occupation) was appointed as the inaugural Logistics Branch Chief Warrant Officer. Since that time, 18 Chief Petty Officers First Class and Chief Warrant Officers have served in this role, either as the Logistics Branch CPO1/CWO or, following its evolution, the RCLS CPO1/CWO.

The RCLS CPO1/CWO serves as the senior enlisted advisor for the logistics profession within the CAF. In this capacity, the incumbent represents the interests, welfare, and professional development of all non-commissioned personnel across the service. The role includes providing strategic advice to senior leadership on matters such as culture, discipline, training, morale, and career progression, informed by extensive experience and regular engagement with personnel across the organization.

The RCLS CPO1/CWO also acts as a critical link between senior leadership and the enlisted force, ensuring that the Commander RCLS intent is clearly communicated while relaying feedback, concerns, and insights from units and members. The appointment carries responsibility for upholding professional standards, ethics, and institutional values, while fostering an inclusive, respectful, and high-performing environment. This includes mentoring personnel, supporting succession planning, and contributing to the long-term development of the logistics workforce.

Additionally, the RCLS CPO1/CWO collaborates closely with the broader senior enlisted network to promote consistency in standards, professional development, and leadership approaches across the logistics community.

Biography – CWO Dan Thomas, CD

Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) Thomas was born in Toronto, Ontario, and raised in the Ottawa area. In 1996, he joined The Brockville Rifles as an Administration Clerk. After five years in the Primary Reserve, he transferred to the Regular Force in September 2001 as a Resource Management Support Clerk, with his first posting to the Canadian Joint Signals Regiment.

In the summer of 2005, CWO Thomas was posted to the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment in Petawawa. He was promoted to Sergeant in January 2006 and, shortly thereafter, posted to the newly formed Canadian Special Operations Regiment as one of its founding members. Following four years with the Regiment, he was posted to Ottawa, where he served for nine years in a variety of organizations, including the Strategic Joint Staff (SJS), Director of Military Pay and Allowances Processing (DMPAP), Joint Personnel Support Unit (JPSU), and Canadian Armed Forces Transition Group Headquarters (CAF TG HQ).

In 2016, CWO Thomas transferred to the newly established Financial Services Administrator occupation. He subsequently served as Financial Manager and Headquarters Sergeant-Major for both JPSU and CAF TG. In 2018, he was posted to 2nd Canadian Division Headquarters, where he served as the Division's Senior Financial Services Administrator and Corporate Services Sergeant-Major.

In 2021, then, Master Warrant Officer Thomas, returned to Ottawa for a short posting with Associate Deputy Minister(Finance) prior to his promotion to Chief Warrant Officer and appointment as Regimental Sergeant-Major (RSM) of Personnel Support Services in Borden, Ontario.

In May 2025, CWO Thomas was posted to the Canadian Armed Forces Joint Logistics Group as the inaugural Group Chief Warrant Officer, while also serving as the Royal Canadian Logistics Service Chief Warrant Officer.

He has deployed twice during his career: to Bosnia in 2002 and to Afghanistan in 2006.

CWO Thomas is married to his wife, Chelan, and they have three children: Sophie, Wyatt, and Rayne.

History of the New Zealand Conductor Appointment by WO1 Conductor Terence McGeogh



The story of the appointment in **New Zealand** is particularly significant. It is a story of an appointment that has been introduced, discontinued, revived and, most recently, reintroduced into the **Royal New Zealand Army Logistic Regiment (RNZALR)**.

The Conductor Comes to New Zealand

New Zealand's connection with the appointment began during the **New Zealand Wars of the 1860s**, when Conductors accompanied British Imperial forces in support of military operations.

It was, however, during the **First World War** that New Zealand formally adopted the Conductor appointment within its own forces.

The experiences of the Gallipoli campaign highlighted significant weaknesses in the management of military supplies and equipment. In response, the **New Zealand Army Ordnance Corps (NZAOC)** was established within the New Zealand Expeditionary Force (NZEF) in late 1915, with formal recognition in January 1916.

The NZEF adopted the British appointments of **Conductor and Sub-Conductor**, providing experienced senior Warrant Officers to oversee stores, ammunition and equipment. Their responsibilities included the receipt, storage, accounting and distribution of ordnance supplies, as well as advising commanders and maintaining the vital supply chain to operational units.

Conductors served across theatres including Egypt, Sinai, Palestine, France and Belgium. Their technical

expertise, leadership and determination were fundamental to maintaining the effectiveness of New Zealand's forces.

Notable NZEF Conductors

Among those who served as Conductors during this period were:

- **William Coltman**, the first New Zealand Conductor, who subsequently received a commission.
- **Charles Gossage**, appointed Conductor in 1916 and later promoted to Major.
- **Arthur Gilmore**, who received the Meritorious Service Medal for distinguished service.
- **Walter Geard**, who provided ordnance support across several campaigns.
- **William Simmons**, also recognised with the Meritorious Service Medal.
- **Clarence Seay**, who died from influenza while serving as a Conductor in 1919.

Their contribution established a tradition of professional excellence and accountability that would influence New Zealand military logistics for generations.

The NZAOC — 1917 to 1949

The permanent **New Zealand Army Ordnance Corps** was established for home service on **1 February 1917**. The Conductor became a senior Warrant Officer appointment within the organisation, responsible for stores, munitions, accountability and the leadership and mentoring of subordinate personnel.

The prestige of the appointment was reflected in its insignia. Following British Army Order 305 of 1918, New Zealand Conductors wore the **Royal Arms within a Laurel Wreath**, symbolising their authority and professional expertise. Their seniority was subsequently confirmed in New Zealand Defence Regulations.

The appointment survived the First World War but was affected by the economic pressures of the Great Depression. Following reductions in defence expenditure and the civilianisation of many logistics functions, new Conductor appointments effectively ceased after 1931. The appointment was eventually removed from the New Zealand Army rank structure in **1949**.

Revival — RNZAOC, 1977 to 1996

Almost three decades later, the Conductor appointment was revived within the **Royal New Zealand Army Ordnance Corps (RNZAOC)** in 1977.

The revival reflected a recognition that the appointment remained a valuable means of recognising professional mastery, leadership and technical expertise. Appointments were made on merit, with up to five Conductors serving at any one time.

The first three Conductors appointed following the 1977 revival were:

- **WO1 George Thomas Dimmock** — Chief Ammunition Technical Officer, 3 Supply Company, Burnham Camp.
- **WO1 Brian Arthur Gush** — Regimental Sergeant Major, Ordnance School, Trentham Camp.
- **WO1 Barry Stewart** — Stores WO1, 1 Base Ordnance Depot, Trentham Camp.

Between 1977 and 1996, **21 Warrant Officers** held the appointment of Conductor within the RNZAOC.

One particularly notable former Conductor was **WO1 Tony John Harding BEM, MNZM**, who subsequently commissioned into the RNZALR and went on to serve at senior officer level.

Reintroduction into the RNZALR

The formation of the **Royal New Zealand Army Logistic Regiment** in 1996 saw the Conductor appointment discontinued as the newly amalgamated Regiment sought to develop a unified identity.

Almost three decades later, the appointment returned. Following concerns regarding professional standards, leadership pathways and trade identity within the Logistic Specialist and Ammunition Technician trades, a formal proposal to reintroduce the Conductor appointment was presented to the **RNZALR Regimental Matters Conference on 30 October 2024**. The proposal was unanimously adopted.

The reintroduction was designed not simply to restore a historic title, but to provide a senior professional leadership and mentoring role within the Regiment. It also brought the RNZALR into closer alignment with allied organisations, including the **Royal Logistic Corps** and the **Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps**, where Conductors provide senior trade mentorship and specialist advice.

Three senior WO1 appointments were initially designated as Conductors within **Defence Logistics Command (Land), G4 Branch**:

- two Logistic Specialist appointments; and
- one Ammunition Technician appointment.

Selection was based upon professional mastery, leadership reputation and commitment to the Regiment.

The First RNZALR Conductors

The first three Conductors appointed following the 2024 reintroduction were:

- **WO1 Te Whaea Edwards** — DLC(L) G43 Ammunition Technician
- **WO1 David Alexander** — DLC(L) G43 Quartermaster

- **WO1 Terence McGeough** — DLC(L) G46 Supply Chain

Their appointments represented the latest chapter in a tradition that stretches back almost seven centuries.

Subsequent changes have seen the Conductor roles evolve, including changes to the Supply Chain and Quartermaster appointments. The Guild is particularly pleased to welcome **WO1 Phil Wakely**, who took up the **Conductor Supply Chain appointment in December 2025**.

What Does the Conductor Represent Today?

The modern Conductor appointment is about far more than rank or title. It represents the pinnacle of professional achievement within the logistics trades and carries significant responsibilities for the future development of military logisticians. The RNZALR Conductor provides:

- **Leadership and Mentorship**
Conductors provide senior professional leadership, technical guidance, mentoring and career development to those serving within their trades.
- **Professional Standards**
They act as custodians of technical, professional and ethical standards, setting an example for others to follow.
- **Heritage and Regimental Pride**
The appointment reconnects today's logisticians with generations of military professionals who have carried the Conductor title before them.
- **International Alignment**
The reintroduction strengthens the links between New Zealand and allied logistic organisations, including the British Royal Logistic Corps and the Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps.

Conductors are also incorporated into wider leadership and trade-development structures, including the **Senior Trade Advisory Board (STAB)**, ensuring that their experience and expertise contribute to the future development of the RNZALR.

A Tradition That Continues

The history of the Conductor appointment in New Zealand has been one of evolution and renewal.

From the NZEF Conductors of the First World War, through the NZAOC, the revival within the RNZAOC in 1977, and finally the reintroduction into the RNZALR in 2024, the underlying principles have remained remarkably consistent: **professionalism, leadership, technical mastery, stewardship and service**.

The appointment may have changed with the times, but its purpose remains clear, to recognise the most experienced and trusted members of the military logistics profession and to use their knowledge and leadership to develop those who follow.

For almost 700 years, Conductors have adapted to changing armies, technologies and operational demands. The return of the appointment to the RNZALR demonstrates that this long tradition remains relevant today.

The Conductors of New Zealand stand proudly within that history and, through their leadership and mentorship, are helping to shape its future.

GUILD WELFARE – HERE TO SUPPORT YOU

The Guild is committed to supporting its members, whatever life may bring.

Gordon Webster is the Guild's Welfare Contact and is here to help when you or a fellow member may need some support. Whether it's illness, a period of difficulty, or simply knowing that someone is there to listen, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Equally, when a member take their **final turn to the right**, the Guild is ready to offer whatever support it can to the member's family and friends.

Please remember, you are not alone. If you or a fellow member needs support, get in touch with Gordon or a member of the Guild Committee.

FUNDRAISING

Fundraising – Together, We Can Make a Difference

The Guild is proud to offer a range of events, activities, welfare support and opportunities for members to stay connected. Behind all of this is a simple fact: the Guild needs your support to continue doing what it does.

There is no single answer to improving fundraising, but it is an important part of securing the Guild's resilience and sustainability for the future. The good news is that supporting the Guild doesn't necessarily have to cost you anything extra. By getting involved with our fundraising schemes, members can quickly make a significant difference.

Whether it's taking part in the Guild Lottery, using Easyfundraising when shopping online, or considering Utility Warehouse through the Guild's fundraising scheme, every contribution helps. Even small amounts, generated regularly, can help us continue to support members, organise events and maintain the Guild for future generations of Conductors.

We would love to see more members getting involved. If you haven't already supported one of our fundraising

schemes, why not give it a try? It's an easy way to support your Guild while helping to build a stronger and more sustainable future.

Members and Guild Supporter Testimonials

Utility Warehouse

"A 30-year UW customer. I have all services and have found UW easy to deal with, with any minor issues resolved quickly and courteously. Monthly single clear and accessible bills. While I cannot say whether UW is the cheapest, I am very happy with the service"
- Bob Le Vaillant, Guild Member

"I've been a Utility Warehouse customer since 2007 and have always been very happy with the service. Over the years, I've received £3,000+ in cashback, which is a fantastic bonus. I'm pleased to have remained a customer for nearly 20 years and would happily recommend Utility Warehouse to others."
- Dave Patterson, Guild Member

Easyfundraising

"I'm not a Guild member, but a family supporter. Easyfundraising really is easy! A few clicks to sign up, use the app to activate your donation, and you're done. Minimal effort from us, but maximum benefit for the Guild."
- Sarah Clout, Guild Supporter

Guild Monthly Lottery

*"I have won the Guild Lottery twice and see my £5 payment more as a donation than a gamble. **My first win effectively covered my annual subs**, while the second was a welcome surprise. I encourage others to support the Guild, with the added possibility of getting a return on Guild events."*
- Kevin Hartley, Guild Member

*"I have won two seconds and a first prize. Unexpected luck and at the same time **supporting our wonderful guild**. Thank you"*
- Simon Nock, Guild member

Fundraising Information Sessions

It is important that members have a clear understanding of how the Guild's fundraising schemes operate and, more importantly, how easy it is to join them. To help, we are holding a series of online fundraising demonstration sessions in October. Each session will cover the same information and will last no more than one hour. Sessions:

- Thursday 1 October – 1400hrs
- Thursday 1 October – 1900hrs

- Tuesday 6 October – 1400hrs
- Tuesday 6 October – 1900hrs

All sessions are identical, so simply choose the date and time that suits you best. To register, please complete the online registration form, click on the link below or scan in the QR code.



[Conductors' Guild Fundraising Sessions – Registration Form](#)

***Your Guild – Your Support**
The Guild belongs to all of us, and its future depends on all of us. Every member who gets involved makes the Guild stronger.*

Thank you to everyone who already supports our fundraising activities – your contribution really does make a difference. And to those who haven't yet joined in, there's never been a better time to start! Together, we can make a difference.

Amazon Prime Big Deal Days – 6th to 7th October

Thinking about getting a head start on your Christmas shopping? Amazon's **Prime Big Deal Days** returns to the UK on **6–7 October**, giving Prime members 48 hours of exclusive deals across a wide range of products.

With Christmas now only a few months away, this could be a great opportunity to pick up gifts or household items at reduced prices. As always, it is worth checking prices before buying to make sure that a bargain really is a bargain!

And don't forget to support the Guild!

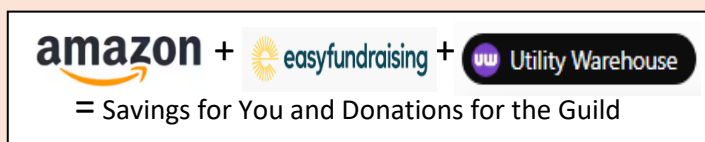
If you are planning to shop on Amazon during the event, **please remember to shop via Easyfundraising first.**

Amazon purchases made through the appropriate Easyfundraising link can generate a **small donation to the Conductors' Guild**, at no extra cost to you. And there is another way to make your shopping work a little harder for you...

Pay using your Utility Warehouse payment card and you could earn further savings that can be used towards your **Utility Warehouse bills**.

So, if you're going to shop at Amazon on 6–7 October:
Shop via Easyfundraising → Pay with your Utility Warehouse card → Save money → Help the Guild!

Every little bit helps, and collectively these small donations and savings can make a real difference to the Guild.



Happy bargain hunting – and thank you for supporting the Conductors' Guild!

DEFENCE INVESTMENT PLAN (DIP)

A Challenge

by Bob Le Vaillant. Details from BFBS Forces news.

In June, the government introduced its long-awaited Defence Investment Plan (DIP). It's impressive. An extra **£15bn** for defence, taking total spending to **almost £80bn by 2029** - 27% real-terms jump from the previous government's £54bn. The then Prime Minister, Keir Starmer called it the biggest sustained boost since the 1980s. Big numbers. Big promises. Big ambitions.

But does it really fix today's problems for today's serving soldiers? I've been out of the Army too long to know the true answer. But I strongly suspect that it doesn't.

Where 's the money going?

The DIP pledges billions for future kit, not that I recognise most of it:

- **£8.2bn** for the Tempest/GCAP sixth-generation fighter.
- **£64bn** for nuclear deterrence — Dreadnought subs, SSN-Aukus, a new warhead, and **12 F-35A** aircraft for NATO's nuclear mission.
- **£26bn** for the biggest naval base upgrade in 45 years.
- **£5bn** for drones, including **£650m** for expendable autonomous systems.
- **£11bn** for munitions stockpiles and six new energetics factories.
- **£790m** for base protection - radars, sensors, directed-energy weapons, Sea Viper upgrades.

- **£100m** for rapid-delivery AI systems.

Phew! That is clearly a plan built for the conflicts of 2030 and beyond - drones, autonomy, long-range fires, hybrid navy concepts, and digital targeting webs. As the document puts it: *"The £5bn drone package is the largest in UK history."*

But what about the wars being fought today - the personal ones?

When he was PM, Starmer insisted that he hadn't forgotten people. He repeated his **£9bn** pledge to upgrade **90% of military housing**, and the Defence Secretary pointed to three above-inflation pay rises, extended free childcare, and home upgrades. Good, necessary steps. But ask any of today's soldier if they are enough?

I think most would say no.

Today's "real needs" aren't theoretical. They're lived daily. They are hardly new. I recognise most of them from my days:

- Sub-standard single and families' accommodation.
- Uncoordinated mental health support.
- Overstretched medical services.
- Families carrying the load during endless postings.
- Veterans navigating transition with too little guidance.
- Barracks, in fact much of the military estate, that hasn't seen meaningful investment in decades.

So, here's this edition's **Conductors' Challenge**:

If YOU had the power, what would you spend money on right now? And where would you find it?

[Send in your answers to Stephen Swales at secretary@conductorsguild.co.uk. You might win a coconut!]

RLC TRADES

In the summer edition of the *Conductor*, we began our look at the wide range of trades and specialist roles within the Royal Logistic Corps, highlighting the important work carried out by Air Despatchers, Driver Tank Transporters, Movement Controllers and Logistic Supply Specialists.

In this edition, we continue our journey through the RLC family by taking a closer look at four more specialist trades: Chefs, Ammunition Technicians, Photographers and Systems Analysts.

Each of these trades brings its own unique skills, expertise and challenges, but all play an essential part in supporting the Army and ensuring that the RLC continues

to deliver operational effect wherever and whenever it is needed.

We hope you enjoy discovering a little more about these fascinating trades and perhaps even remembering some of the people you served alongside during your own career.

“An Army may have the finest soldiers in the world, but without skilled tradesmen to support them, it cannot fight for long.”

RLC Chefs



Chefs provide healthy, high-quality food for British Army units in the UK and worldwide, working in both permanent kitchens and field conditions, with no formal qualifications required to start [The British Army | Army Jobs and Recruitment+1](#).

Role and Responsibilities

Royal Logistic Corps chefs cook for soldiers in the field, at base, and during deployments, from state banquets to humanitarian missions. Duties include:

- Preparing nutritious meals in any environment, including austere or improvised kitchens
- Managing food administration, finance, storage, and hygiene standards
- Supporting units across the UK, Northern Ireland, and overseas wherever the Army operates.

Entry Requirements

- **Age:** Regular Army chefs: 16–36 years; Reserve chefs: 18–43 years.
- **Fitness:** Mid-thigh pull (50 kg), medicine ball throw (2.7 m), 2 km run in 11 min 30 sec
- **Education:** No formal qualifications needed
- **Other:** Must meet Army recruitment standards; some roles offer a £6,500 bonus on completion of training.

Training

- **Basic military training** at the Army Foundation College (Harrogate) or adult basic training.
- **18-week Defence Food Service Wing course** at Worthy Down, covering food preparation, hygiene, health & safety, and operational cooking in field and permanent kitchens
- Opportunities to earn qualifications up to degree level, including culinary, nutrition, and facilities management
- Reserve chefs may complete basic training in flexible modules, including a 15-day Battlecamp

Career Path and Benefits

- **Deployment:** Worldwide, including UK, Northern Ireland, and overseas missions
- **Skills development:** Leadership, logistics, and specialist culinary training.
- **Perks:** Travel, adventurous training, industry partnerships, and potential to earn a Category B (and C+E) driving licence
- **Reserve option:** 167 Regiment RLC (Grantham) offers catering support roles with similar training and deployment opportunities

RLC Ammunition Technician (AT)



Ammunition Technicians (ATs) are specialist soldiers responsible for the **safe management of ammunition and explosives**. Their work includes receiving, storing, inspecting, maintaining, accounting for and issuing ammunition.

They also provide specialist advice on explosive safety and deal with **damaged, unsafe or unexploded ammunition**, including its safe disposal. ATs can serve in depots, logistic units and on operations, where their technical expertise is essential.

In short, Ammunition Technicians ensure that ammunition is safe, serviceable, properly managed and available when the Army needs it.

Key Responsibilities

- The Army's expert in explosives engineering by completing the world's leading ammunition training programme.
- Work alongside every aspect of the military - including Airborne and Commando Forces.
- Deployed worldwide- wherever the British Army has a presence.
- Hold Category B and C+E Driving Licences, plus specialist vehicle driving and bomb disposal qualifications.
- Complete a Level 4 Apprenticeship in Ordnance Munitions and Explosives and join the Institute of Explosives Engineers.

Training

Step 1

Initial basic military training at AFC Harrogate for **JS entry** (under 17 years and 6 months) and adult basic training at an Army Training Regiment.

Step 2

Complete a 29-week Class 2 Ammunition Technician course which is split between the Defence Academy in Shrivenham, the Defence EOD Munitions, Search Training Regiment in Kinton and driver training (Cat B and C+E licenses) at the Defence School of Transport in Leconfield.



RLC Photographer (Photo)

Army Photographers provide worldwide media capture, documenting the British Army's operations, exercises and humanitarian missions. Highly trained and deployable in challenging environments, they produce powerful imagery that tells the Army's story, supports its reputation and captures moments of historical significance.

Entry Requirement

Direct entry into the Army Photographic Trade is not an option. Soldiers must re-trade within the RLC or transfer from another Regular Arms or Service. The rank requirement is Corporal with a minimum of 8 years left to serve.

Training

A small and much needed Specialist Trade. Training comprises of a 24-week Defence Visual Communication Specialist course held at the Defence School of Photography (DSOP) in RAF Cosford. This is a tri-service

course where training is taken alongside Royal Navy and Royal Air Force photographers.

The course covers core photography skills such as; exposure, focus, workflow, flash techniques, portraits, PR/event coverage along with video production including audio, sequencing, storytelling, editing in Premiere Pro, lighting, action capture, social media content and more.

After completing training at the Defence School of Photography and some on-the-job work, [Level 4 Photographer Apprenticeship](#) is achievable.

This is a higher-level qualification which is equivalent to foundation degree or HNC standard and it's fully recognised in the civilian world.

RLC Systems Analyst (SA)



RLC Logistic Information Service Specialists provide technical support across Defence, keeping networks, servers, hardware and software running effectively. They use skills in networking, systems administration, hardware maintenance and service management, with opportunities to work across the UK and overseas in support of Tri-Service operations.

Entry Requirement

As with photographer, direct entry is not an option. applicant must be an substantive Sergeant or higher rank with at least 8 years left of service at the time of the Transfer. They must also meet the following criteria:

- **Medical Category:** Medical Fully Deployable (MFD).
- **Colour Perception:** CP 2 Normal
- **Minimum Assessment of Military Conduct:** Exemplary
- **Security Clearance Level:** SC.
- **Drivers Licence:** Category B.
- **Functional Skills:** Literacy and Numeracy Level 2

Training

After completing aptitude tests and passing the interview stage, the Systems Analyst probation period begins. During this period, a number of in-house training objectives are taught. Towards the end of the probationary period, trainees are given an area of study to research within a project sphere, with the work culminating in a final presentation.

ACCESSING THE RLC APP



One of the jewels in our effective communications is the RLC App. It is therefore important that all Guild members know how to access and use the App.

The RLC App provides an excellent way for serving personnel, veterans and families to stay connected with the wider Corps family. It includes news, groups, events, search and connect, chat and access to a range of support information.

Step 1 – Download the RLC App

Apple iPhone / iPad

1. Open the App Store on your iPhone.
2. Search for “RLC App”.
3. Select RLC App, provided by Allegr Ltd.
4. Tap Get and install the app.

Android

1. Open Google Play Store.
2. Search for “RLC App”.
3. Select RLC App, provided by Allegr.
4. Tap Install.

Step 2 – Open the App

1. Open the RLC App on your phone.
2. If you are a new user, select “Register”.
3. You will be asked for the RLC Group Access Code.

RLC Group Access Code is: SUSTAIN

Important: The Group Code is case-sensitive, so enter it exactly as shown.

Step 3 – Register Your Account

1. Enter the Group Access Code.
2. Enter your name and email address.
3. Create a password when prompted.
4. Select the appropriate information about your service and RLC connection.
5. Submit your registration.
6. Check your email for your six-digit Unique Verification Code.
7. Enter the verification code into the App to activate your account.

If you do not receive the verification email:

Check your Junk/Spam and Focused/Other folders. Also check that the email address you entered is correct.

Step 4 – Complete Your Profile

Once your account is activated:

1. Sign in to the RLC App.
2. Complete your profile information.
3. Add a photograph if you wish.
4. Check that your service details are correct.
5. Save your changes.

Completing your profile will make it easier for other members to find and connect with you.

Step 5 – Explore the RLC App

You can now use the App to:

- Read RLC news and updates.
- Join relevant Groups.
- View and register for Events.
- Search for and connect with other members.
- Use Chat to communicate with other members.
- Find information and signposting to support.

Accessing the RLC App on a Computer

The RLC App can also be accessed through a web app on a laptop or desktop computer. The RLC confirms that the web app is available through MODNET as well as for general computer access.

If you already have an account, use the Sign In option rather than registering again.

If You Have Forgotten Your Password

1. Select “Forgotten my Password” on the login screen.
2. Enter your registered email address.
3. A password-reset code will be sent to you.
4. Enter the code within the permitted time and create a new password.

If You Need Help!

For technical problems with registration or access, contact the Military App support team at help@militaryapp.org.

Tip: The RLC App is intended for UNCLASSIFIED information and is not an official MOD platform; it should not be used for OFFICIAL or above communications.

GUILD MERCHANDISE

Show Your Support – Conductors’ Guild Merchandise

Why not show your support for the Conductors’ Guild by wearing or displaying some of our official Guild merchandise?

We have a growing range of items available, including Guild ties, cufflinks, mugs and other items, making them ideal Christmas, birthday or special occasion gifts for yourself, a fellow Conductor or a family member.

Every purchase not only gives you something to be proud of, but also helps raise valuable funds for the Guild. By purchasing Guild merchandise, you are helping to support our activities, events and the future of the Guild.

Our merchandise, including the Christmas card, is available through the Guild website, where you can browse the current range and place your order. Whether you're looking for something to wear at a Guild or Corps event, a useful gift, a Christmas card or simply a memento of your association with the Conductors' Guild, please take a look at what is available. Show your colours. Support your Guild. Visit the Guild website and place your order today!

Guild Christmas Card 2026

Our 2026 Conductors' Guild Christmas Card is now available to order. It is a great way to send your Christmas greetings while also showing your support for the Guild

 ***Guild Christmas Card – Order Now!***
Pack of 5 only £10 incl P&P.



Last date for orders 1st November 2026. Don't leave it until the last minute – put your order in now! Supplies are limited, so make sure you order yours in good time for Christmas.

A Little Christmas Surprise!

This December, we'll be sending our **Christmas cards** to Guild members and there'll be a little something inside, **just for you!** 🎁

To make sure your card reaches you, please take a moment to check that your **address and contact details are up to date**. Simply sign in to the **Conductors' Guild Members Area** and check your details:

https://membermojo.co.uk/conductorsguild/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Please check your details before the Christmas post goes out!

LOOKING AHEAD WITH CONFIDENCE

As we look towards the remainder of 2026 and beyond, there is much to be positive about within the Conductors' Guild. The Guild continues to develop, strengthen its links with the wider Conductor community and provide opportunities for members to meet, share experiences and maintain our unique traditions.

The launch of our **new Guild website** earlier this year has been a significant step forward. It provides members with easier access to information, news, events, and our growing range of Guild merchandise. The website also gives us an excellent platform from which to promote the Guild and attract new members.

Our programme of **events and activities** continues to be one of the Guild's greatest strengths. From the successful Parchment Weekend and visits to military and historical venues, to social gatherings and our Annual General Meeting, these occasions provide an opportunity to renew old friendships, make new ones and, importantly, ensure that the spirit of the Conductor community continues.

Planning for 2027 is already well underway, and the Guild will once again play its part in organising and supporting a **variety of events and activities throughout the year**.

These will include the **Corps Parchment Ceremony (CPC27)**, the **presentation of Guild Certificates**, the **Conductor Annual Dinner**, the **John Buckley VC Remembrance Service**, and our **Annual General Meeting**. We also plan to arrange a number of **visits to places of interest**, providing members with further opportunities to socialise, learn and enjoy time together.

To help ensure that our events are organised consistently and efficiently, **detailed Administrative Instructions (AIs)** are also being developed. These will provide clear guidance on the planning and administration of Guild events and activities. **The AIs will be published on the Guild website once they are finalised and ready for use.**

These events are an important part of what makes the Guild special. They allow us to celebrate our traditions, recognise the achievements of Conductors and, above all, maintain the friendships and camaraderie that have always been at the heart of the Conductor community.

We are also strengthening our relationship with **serving Conductors**. Maintaining close links with those currently serving is essential to the future of the Guild, ensuring that the experience and traditions of our past are shared with the next generation. We look forward to developing this relationship further over the coming year.

Another area of focus is **membership and fundraising**. The Guild has introduced a number of initiatives designed to make it easier for members to support the organisation, while also helping to ensure that we remain financially sustainable. Every contribution, however large or small, makes a difference and helps us continue providing events, activities and support for our members.

Looking ahead, new members are coming forward to support the **Guild Management Committee**, bringing fresh ideas, skills and enthusiasm while retaining the considerable experience already within the team. This balance will be important as we continue to move the Guild forward.

Most importantly, the Guild remains **a community of Conductors, for Conductors**. Whether serving, commissioned or retired, every member has a part to play. By supporting one another, attending events, contributing ideas and encouraging former colleagues to remain connected, we can ensure that the Guild continues to thrive.

There is undoubtedly work to do, but there is also a great deal to be proud of. With the continued support and enthusiasm of our members, **the future of the Conductors' Guild looks very positive indeed.**

CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

As we bring this Autumn edition of the newsletter to a close, I would once again like to thank all our members for your continued support of the Conductors' Guild. The Guild is only as strong as its membership, and it is encouraging to see so many members getting involved in our events, activities and fundraising initiatives.

Over the past year, we have continued to develop the Guild, strengthen our links with the Corps and improve the opportunities for members to stay connected. Our website, events programme, fundraising activities and new membership arrangements are all helping to ensure that the Guild remains relevant, active and welcoming to Conductors, past and present.

Looking ahead, there is plenty to be positive about. We have an exciting programme of events planned, opportunities to meet old friends and make new ones, and further plans to develop the Guild for the benefit of all our members. I would encourage everyone to play their part, whether by attending an event, supporting one of our fundraising schemes, contributing to the newsletter or simply keeping in touch with fellow members.

Most importantly, the Guild is about people. The friendships, shared experiences and traditions that have been built over many years remain at the heart of what we do. Let us continue to support one another and ensure that the proud traditions of the Conductor are carried forward for future generations.

Thank you for your continued support, enthusiasm and friendship. I look forward to seeing many of you at our 2027 events and activities.

*Stay safe, stay together
and, above all, stay proud
to be a member of the
Conductors' Guild.*

The Conductors' Guild

The Royal Logistic Corps Association

Our Plans for 2027

Building on our past • Supporting our people • Securing our future

Events & Fellowship • Corps Parchment Ceremony & Annual Dinner • Continue to support traditional Guild events and gatherings • Build on the success of AGM weekend and other social opportunities	Membership • Grow and engage our membership • Support new and serving Conductors • Keep membership information up to date and accessible
Our Heritage • Preserve and promote the Conductor tradition and history • Build our Commonwealth Conductor network • Share our story through presentations, articles and digital media	Support & Welfare • Look after our members and families • Provide a point of contact for welfare and support • Encourage friendship and inclusion across all our community
Fundraising & Finance • Increase fundraising activity • Support Guild events and reduce costs • Maintain a sustainable financial future • Keep members informed on progress	Communications • Keep the website current and informative • Grow our social media and WhatsApp groups • Share news, stories and achievements • Make the Members Area easy to use
Outreach & Partnerships • Strengthen links with the Corps, RLC and wider military community • Work with museums and associations • Support the RLC App and wider promotional activity	Looking to the Future • Plan for long-term sustainability • Explore new opportunities for engagement • Inspire the next generation of Conductors • Ensure the Guild remains relevant, active and inclusive

Honouring our heritage • Supporting our members • Inspiring the future