Royal Army Veterinary Corps Association Newsletter

Issue No. 1 – August 2025 From: RAVC Regimental Secretary, Lt Col (Retd) Chris Ham MBE

Dear RAVC Association Members – Serving and Veteran,
Welcome to the first edition of a new RAVC Association Newsletter series. This publication will be circulated every 2–3 months (as content allows) and shared via email and social media. It's intended to keep you informed about developments, events, opportunities, and general updates relevant to all members, past and present. Your feedback is most welcome, to help shape future editions. Here goes!

PROJECT VICTORIA – Update

Project VICTORIA, a strategic review of the Army Medical Services' regimental structures, has confirmed that the RAVC will remain an independent Corps, distinct from the RAMS (formerly RAMC, RADC, QARANC), which focus on human healthcare. This decision recognises the RAVC's unique combatant and specialist role, and a formal Memorandum of Understanding has now been signed, outlining future support arrangements.

PROJECT IRONSIDE – Future Operating Model

As part of Project IRONSIDE, the British Army's structural transformation programme, a new RAVC Operating Model is being developed. This model will modernise how the Corps is managed and led; enhancing governance, operational effectiveness, and readiness for the future.

Social Media – Recently on Facebook, two key RAVC-related social media pages have seen strong engagement:

- The 'RAVC' group, ably set up and administered by John Corbin BEM, continues to be a very valuable hub for news and discussion.
- The 'RAVC Past and Present' group, established just over a year ago by Mickey Greenhalgh, is also gaining momentum and receiving plenty of positive interaction.

Updating the Association Mailing List

If you are receiving this email you're on the list. If you know others who are not, please ask them to message me directly so they can be added. I posted that if you were not in receipt of a hard copy of Chiron Calling and you required one, please Direct Message me and I would add your details to the Distribution Database. I thank those who responded and your names have been duly added, sadly this was too late for this year's edition but you should be in receipt of the next one. To remedy this issue of the non receipt for this year's magazine, Type Start who kindly produces the Corps magazine has kindly created a 'Bookcase' where the last nine edition of Chiron Calling can be found. Chiron Calling Archive

We hope to digitise earlier editions too. If you have spare or duplicate copies (especially light green cover, locally duplicated versions of Chiron Calling versions or the older maroon covered RAVC Journals), please get in touch, these will be loaned and returned once digitised.

Deadline for next Chiron Calling submissions: Fri 6 Mar 2026.

Articles and photos from both serving and veteran members are encouraged.

Serving personnel: please submit articles via your Chain of Command.

Email submissions to: regtsecravc@hotmail.co.uk

Upcoming Events – 2025-2026

- 24 Oct 2025 – RAVC Remembrance Service and Curry Lunch, St George's Barracks, North Luffenham. (Open to RAVC Veterans as well). Further details will be sent out by late September 2025
- Sat 25 Oct 2025 – Egerton Garden Dedication, Melton Mowbray
- Thu 6 Nov 2025 – St Margaret's Field Remembrance Service, London (nominated personnel only)
- Fri 7 Nov 2025 – Animals in War Memorial Service, Park Lane, London
- Sun 9 Nov 2025 – Remembrance Sunday Parades
    - Cenotaph (London) – Veterans only (15 RAVC places allocated) For Veterans only. (Sadly a very limited response this year, normally 15 places are allocated to the RAVC, let's hope next year there will be more of an uptake by our RAVC Veterans, a calling request will be sent out in the early summer of 2026 for- Sun 8 Nov 2026)
    - Melton Mowbray Parade
- Tue 11 Nov 2025 – RBL Act of Remembrance, Melton Mowbray
- Fri 6 Mar 2026 – Chiron Calling Submission Deadline
- Sat 9 May 2026 – Liam Tasker Memorial Rugby Match, Melton Mowbray
- Thu 5 Jun 2026 (TBC) – Founder's Day, Royal Hospital Chelsea
- Sat 6 Jun 2026 (TBC) – The Gathering, Melton Mowbray (organised by Bill Jarvis)
- Fri 19 Jun 2026 (TBC) – Annual RAVC Golf Reunion
- Mon 22 Jun 2026 (TBC) – Fly the Flag Day, Melton Borough Council
- Sat 27 Jun 2026 – Armed Forces Day
- Sun 5 Jul 2026 – RAVC Morning Service, Royal Hospital Chelsea
- Fri 24 Jul 2026 – LCpl Ken Rowe's Family visit to NAM, Shropshire, wider attendance by serving and RAVC Veterans very welcomed by the Rowe Family

Regular Events

- Old and Bold Lunch – Last Wednesday of each month, Bowls Club, Melton Mowbray
- Veterans Breakfast Club – First Saturday of each month, Harboro' Hotel, Melton Mowbray
- The Gathering – Annual social event, so well organised by Kevin O'Flinn in the past, is being organised by Bill Jarvis for next year, the date likely to be Sat 6 June 2026. Further members are more than welcome to attend.
- Scotland – An RAVC Veteran is keen to meet RAVC either serving or veterans who are local to Edinburgh. Please kindly make contact with Ian Mcleish his email is ian_mcleish@talktalk.net

RAVC Benevolence – Support Available

I recently posted on Fb a very brief guide to RAVC Benevolence. I hope to submit a more detailed guide in the next edition of Chiron Calling. We offer support to Serving, Retired (Veterans) Regular and Reserve, who are all eligible for financial assistance if they have completed one day's service and that their request fits and fulfils the Benevolence committee criteria. The Association does not take any cold cases nor direct requests. All cases are referred to other partner organisations TRBL (The Royal British Legion), OA (Officers' Association) and SSAFA via a Dimensions System incorporating COBSEO (Combined Service Charities). The trained Benevolence Manager has sole access to this secure system and will set up cases and control the cases throughout the system including their appearance at the Corps' Committees.

Project ALBERT – Museum Relocation

The Museum of Military Medicine (MMM) is due to vacate Keogh Barracks by 26 Nov 2025 and relocate to Whittington Barracks, Lichfield. There are hopes that key artefacts may be redistributed to RAVC-related locations (e.g., 1 MWD Regt, DATR, HCMR, RE Museum and Carnegie Museum). If anyone has artefacts that they feel should/could be exhibited donated or loaned please contact the undersigned who will pass on your details etc.

The History of the RAVC 1962 - 2021

The History of the RAVC 1962-2021 book is on sale for £19.99 per copy, kindly subsidised by the RAVC Association and Wagtail UK Ltd. Copies are available from both RAVC PRIs and also from the undersigned. Copies can be signed on request. Postage is £8 per copy, (Royal Mail postage allows two copies to be posted to the same address for the price of one parcel at £8).

Volunteers Wanted – RAVC Association Committee

We are seeking new volunteers for the RAVC Association Committee. Meetings are held twice yearly (Spring and Autumn) at the DATR. Fresh ideas and input are always welcome. One of the meetings also includes the AGM. If you wish to be involved please contact me.

Governance – Constitution and Rules

The RAVC Constitution and Rules have recently been updated and are currently under review. We aim to circulate these documents to all members for feedback and formal ratification in 2026.

Day's Pay Giving (DPG) Please Support

Day's Pay Giving provides essential funds to support our welfare, sport, adventurous training, and other activities for Serving and Veteran members.

Administered via JPA, with tax benefits for contributors

Funds distributed monthly to Corps charities and associations

The Regimental Secretary will review contributions during Oct 2025

Thank you to all serving members who currently contribute, you make a real difference.

Royal British Legion Membership – Get Involved

RBL membership offers a chance to connect, support, and represent our Armed Forces community locally and internationally. Members provide friendship, camaraderie, and support in every community, whether national, local or overseas. There are many ways in which member can become involved fundraising perhaps by assisting with the RBL Poppy Appeal, attending events at your local RBL, with over 2300 branches across the UK, and stretching as far as Germany, Spain, South Africa, Thailand and Hong Kong to name a few. It is most pleasing to see ex RAVC members heavily involved in Spain and Thailand as well as in the UK. Further details on membership can be found at membershipservices@britishlegion.or.uk

Officers' Club Dinner

A date and venue for the next RAVC Officers' Club Dinner (Serving and Veterans) will be confirmed in due course.

Coming Next Year – Member Questionnaire

We aim to distribute a survey in early 2026 to gather feedback on Association activities, priorities, and engagement. Your views will help shape the way forward.

For Overseas Veterans – Life Certificate Reminder

If you live abroad and receive a Service Pension, don't forget to complete your Life Certificate from Equiniti/DBS promptly to avoid payment disruption.

That's all for now! Thank you for reading and for your continued support of our Corps and Association. Please feel free to share this newsletter, and as always, comments and suggestions are warmly welcomed.

With my very best regards, Lt Col (Retd) Chris Ham MBE - RAVC Regimental Secretary.