Welcome to the fourth RAVC Newsletter – April 2026

Dear Friends,

The third RAVC Newsletter, sent out in January 2026, appears to have been very well received again, thank you again for the kind comments. As a result, I have decided to introduce a secondary distribution list for personnel who may also have an interest in RAVC activities.

The previous three newsletters have been attached to this email along with the current edition. Should you wish not to receive further email communications from the RAVC, please let me know and I will remove your email address from the mailing list. Please also feel free to forward this newsletter to others who may have a genuine interest in the Corps.

This newsletter is primarily intended to inform every one of upcoming RAVC-related dates and activities which may be of interest to many. Please note that two dates have changed and a couple of new dates have been added.

Chiron Calling Articles – Thank you to everyone who responded to the recent requests for articles. A wide variety of submissions has been received, and readers can expect to have their copy by late June early July 2026. Please remember Chiron Calling remains the Corps' primary publication for sharing news, events and updates, please kindly contribute to your magazine.

Appeal for info Mabel Birkbeck – Dr Graham Winton is seeking information regarding Mabel Birkbeck, who served as Superintendent of the Russley Park Remount Depot (1914 -1918). Anyone with relevant information is invited to contribute. Please also look out for Dr Winton's forthcoming articles in the next edition of Chiron Calling.

ADU NI Association Reunion – This Association will hold its annual reunion at the RBL Alrewas near to National Memorial Arboretum on Sat 2 May 2026, a short Remembrance Service at the Ulster Grove on Sun 3 May 2026.

RAVC Sunday Church Service Royal Hospital Chelsea now Sunday 12 July 2026 – Veterans wishing to attend should note there are seats are available on a coach travelling from the DATR departing at 0530hrs and returning at approximately 1800hrs from RHC. Those wishing to take this kind opportunity offered by CO DATR, please liaise with the undersigned.

RBL Newsletter – Please note the link below to the RBLs Newsletter dated February 2026
https://e-britishlegion.org.uk/t/cr/AQjrxgQQ1I6sBxjc5empBjjWzT2f1T-vphznu-MisG164z9Asss105XL3xRynqIp?dm_i=1LKB,95A8F,AQAPAR,12BHCP,1,0,0,0

Note the RBL is hosting a daytime commemorative event at 1200hrs at the National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire, on Fri 22 May 2026 – the 15th anniversary of the end of Operation TELIC. Those interested are encouraged to register as soon as possible.

'10 things to know about Veterans and their Families' – A useful poster titled "10 Things to Know about Veterans and Their Families" can be found on the final page of the newsletter.

The Cenotaph Parade Sun 8 Nov 2026 – Details concerning the application process will be sent out by the Regimental Secretary in the summer of 2026 to apply on line, and confirmation of those selected to attend is provided in early October 2026. Remembrance dates for 2026 are listed further.

RAVC Stable Belts – The long awaited delivery of Corps Stable belts should be received by late April 2026. Those wishing to purchase belts please kindly liaise with RSM DATR.

RAVC Ties – The Regimental Secretary will place an order for RAVC ties in the next few weeks, once a quality check has been completed. Hopefully ties will be delivered mid June 2026, ties will cost in region of £9 - £10 each, much cheaper than online sites.

UK Military Working Dog capability during the First World War – A Presentation by Emma Worrall.

Emma Worrall from the National Army Museum will kindly give an online presentation of her work concerning the Army's Military Working Dog capability during the First World War. This presentation should be of interest to serving and RAVC Veteran personnel who retain a strong interest in the history and development of MWD capability. A final date for the presentation is yet to be set, but it will be a recorded presentation so those unable to attend the initial brief can access later.

Find a link to the National Army Museum of which a member of staff discusses the Improvised Explosive Detection Dog harness. https://fb.watch/FNn7wa7eL1/

Please note the National Army Museum is very keen to receive interesting Oral Histories from those who have served in the RAVC. Further details can be obtained from the undersigned if you wish to participate

Key RAVC Dairy Dates for 2026/2027

- Sat 2 May 2026 – ADU NI Reunion, National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire
- Sat 9 May 2026 – Liam Tasker Memorial Rugby Match, Melton Mowbray
- Fri 22 May 2026 – RBLs 15th anniversary of the end of the Iraq War (Operation TELIC) 1200 hrs National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire
- Sat 6 June 2026 – 'The Gathering' held at the RBL All welcome to attend. Tickets still available
- Jun 2026 (TBC) National Army Museum – A Presentation by Emma Worrall regarding the Army's Military Working Dog capability during the First World War
- Fri 12 Jun 2026 – Annual RAVC Golf Reunion ably organised by Sgt Dan Gregory and his team, Sgt Gregory will send out details at a later date. We thank him for great work and hope many will join the day. We also must thank George McGregor for kindly supporting this event financially in the past. Thank you George
- Mon 22 Jun 2026 – Fly the Flag Day, Melton Borough Council
- Sat 27 Jun 2026 – Armed Forces Day
- Sun 12 Jul 2026 – RAVC Morning Service, Royal Hospital Chelsea. All are welcome to attend the prestigious Church Service in the Royal Hospital Chelsea and join the RAVC for lunch

afterwards. Personnel need to in situ by 1030hrs. Further details to follow. (It's an ideal opportunity to visit the National Army Museum just next door)

- 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
- Sat 19 Sep 2026 – RAVC Corps Reunion at DATR. All welcome to attend. Further details to follow in the summer
- Thu 5 Nov 2026 – St Margaret's Field Remembrance Service, London (nominated personnel only)
- Fri 6 Nov 2026 – Animals in War Memorial Service, Park Lane, London
- Sun 8 Nov 2026 – Remembrance Sunday Parades
    - Cenotaph (London) – Veterans only (12 RAVC places allocated). (Sadly very limited RAVC attendance during 2025, let's hope for 2026 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
- Wed 11 Nov 2026 – RBL Act of Remembrance, Melton Mowbray
- Fri 5 Mar 2027 – Chiron Calling Submission Deadline
- Sun 4 July 2027 – RAVC Morning Service, Royal Hospital Chelsea

Please note the 'Old and Bold' Meet in Melton for lunch normally on the last Wednesday of each month. Please see the 'RAVC' and also 'Past and Present' Facebook sites for details.

Veterans Breakfast Club – First Saturday of each month, Harboro' Hotel, Melton Mowbray.

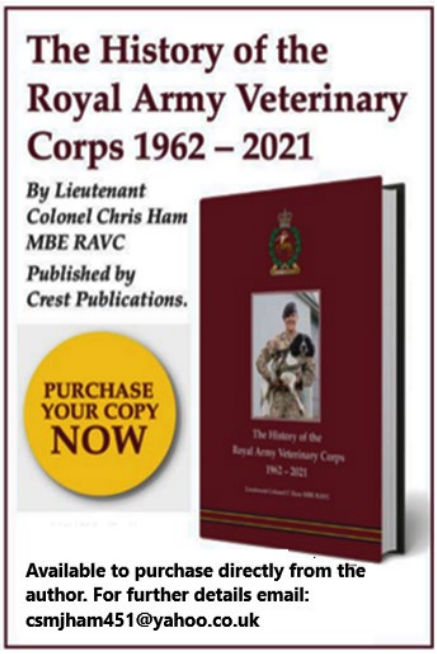
Personnel wishing to have other dates included please contact the undersigned.

With my very best regards,

Chris Ham.
Lt Col (Retd) Chris Ham MBE - RAVC Regimental Secretary (Interim).

The History of the RAVC 1962 – 2021

The History of the RAVC 1962-2021 is on sale for **£20.00** per copy, kindly subsidised by the RAVC Association and Wagtail UK Ltd. The RAVC book is still 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 three copies to be posted to the same address for the price of one parcel at £8).



Non RAVC Events

Non RAVC events but for diary consideration and attendance may be worth noting. The ex RAVC Organiser will offer five free tickets on a first come first served basis for the below event.



Office for Veterans' Affairs

Scan here to go to Veterans Gateway website.

10 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

1. Definition and self-identification

A veteran can be of any gender, sexuality, ethnicity and nationality, with an age of 16 or above. They will have had a variety of experiences. If you engage with veterans, you should consider asking about previous military service alongside other data.

2. Experience of Service

Veterans' experience of service will be unique. Most have a positive experience but some may not, which can have implications during transition and post-service.

3. Identifying as a veteran

Some veterans are less likely to identify themselves as such. This is particularly true for those who may have had a negative experience of service. Veterans from the LGBTQ+ community may also find engaging with services a challenge due to the historic ban on serving in the armed forces.

4. Families

It is important to ensure veterans' families are supported when seeking employment, or accessing education or healthcare. Veterans' families may have had to move house many times in support of a military career with long periods of time without a family member being present.

5. Armed Forces Covenant

Organisations that have signed the Covenant, or have a legal duty to consider the Covenant, should ensure that veterans and their families are treated fairly.

6. What is transition from service?

Transition from service is the adjustment from the armed forces to civilian life. If you are interacting with someone needing help adapting to civilian life, resources and advice can be found at the Veterans Gateway. Those who have just left service may have access to additional training and funding to support re-training from the Ministry of Defence.

7. Asking for help and military culture

Military values are focused on self-reliance, service to others and a strong team ethos, which many veterans will carry with them into civilian life. If you provide a service or work with veterans, you might find that veterans are reluctant to ask for help and might downplay the support they require.

8. Telling their story

Think carefully about why you are asking a question that you or anyone else might find difficult to talk about or that could be traumatic. Avoid, where possible, asking veterans or their families to repeat their story multiple times.

9. Accessing services and expectations

Military service can leave veterans with limited experience of accessing public services, often because these are done for them during their service. They might not know what is available, how to access it or where to go.

10. Challenges and barriers

There could be a range of challenges or barriers that veterans will face when accessing your service or engaging with your policy. It should be recognised that as with anyone affected by a life changing event, there will be a period of adjustment to be experienced not just by the veteran, but also by their families.

This poster has been produced by the Office for Veterans' Affairs in conjunction with a range of partners. We hope you find it useful - any feedback can be sent through to veterans@cabinetoffice.gov.uk. This guidance will be the first in a range of products designed to help you support the veteran community.