Welcome to the third RAVC Newsletter – January 2026

Dear Friends,

The second newsletter, sent out in December 2025, appears to have been very well received—thank you 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 two 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 one date has changed and a couple of new dates have been added.

Honours and Appointments

Congratulations to Major Amanda Hewitt RAVC, who was awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours List. A well-deserved recognition and no surprise given your outstanding commitment Amanda.

Congratulations also to Lieutenant Colonel Mark Gibbs RAVC on being awarded the King's Commendation for Valuable Service. Very well done Mark.

It has also been announced that Colonel Mark Morrison KHVS, who has ably directed the Corps since 2020, will be replaced by Lieutenant Colonel Mike Robinson on promotion to full Colonel in early summer. Congratulations, Colonel Mike.

Colonel Mark will be greatly missed by the Regular Officer cadre, the Corps, and Defence as a whole, and we look forward to seeing him continue his service when appointed as Deputy Colonel Commandant RAVC. We also extend our sincere and heartfelt thanks to Colonel Neil Smith for his kind stewardship over recent years and wish him well for the future.

Buster PDSA Dickin Medal is now on prominent display in the Soldier Gallery at the National Army Museum. Buster's Dickin Medal is displayed alongside an image of Sgt Danny Morgan RAVC.

Buster, an AES dog, was awarded the PDSA Dickin Medal on 9 December 2003 for his actions in Iraq. While being expertly and bravely handled by Sgt Danny Morgan, Buster helped discover a large insurgent weapons cache in Safwan during March 2003—an action that undoubtedly saved numerous military and civilian lives.

Please note: Should you wish to visit the National Army Museum it is closed on Mondays.

Key RAVC Dairy Dates for 2026/2027

- Fri 6 Mar 2026 – Chiron Calling Submission Deadline – Few articles received to date please 'put pen to paper'
- Sat 9 May 2026 – Liam Tasker Memorial Rugby Match, Melton Mowbray
- Thu 4 Jun 2026 (Tickets only by invitation) – Founder's Day, Royal Hospital Chelsea
- Sat 6 Jun 2026 – 'The Gathering,' to be held in Melton Location TBC. All very welcome to attend

- Fri 19 Jun 2026 – Annual RAVC Golf Reunion ably organised by Sgt Dan Gregory and his team, Dan 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 (TBC) – 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 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 (15 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
- 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

With my very best regards,

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