



## Diary of Events

### Branch

Fri 11 June (tbc):

REA Gib Committee Zoom Call

Tue 27 July:

REAW22 Planning Call REAHQ / REHQ

July:

REA Gib Summer Function (TBC)

Sat 13 Nov:

Cross-laying North Front Cemetery

Sun 14 Nov:

Remembrance Parade + function

December:

REA Gib Xmas Function (TBC)

### REA Gib Monthly Meeting

Tue 01 Jun (1772 Club)

Tue 06 Jul (1772 Club)

Tue 07 Sep (tbc)

Tue 05 Oct (1772 Club)

Tue 02 Nov (1772 Club)

Tue 07 Dec (1772 Club)

### Gibraltar Notable Dates 2021

14 Jun: Queen's Birthday

20 Jun: Father's Day

30 Aug: Late Summer Bank Holiday

10 Sep: Gibraltar National Day

30 Nov: St Andrew's Day

27 Dec: Christmas Day (in lieu)

28 Dec: Boxing Day (in lieu)

### Other

Sat 26 Jun: Armed Forces Day (TBC)



# The Times TUNNELING

June 2021

004

President Maj Josh Wardman RE  
 Chairman WO1 Nic Edmeades RE  
 Secretary Capt (Retd) Jack Noble RE  
 Treasurer Capt (Retd) Richard Tomlinson RE

## ROCK ROUNDUP

### REAW22 Update

Planning continues at pace, and thankfully, the planets are starting to align! We are pleased to confirm that several venues have already been secured for next year, including the **JPDU at Gun Wharf** (for our Meet n Greet); the **Khaima Suite in the Rock Hotel** (for our Gala Dinner), **Kings Chapel** (for our Church Service) and of course, most importantly, **Grand Casemates Square and Main Street** (for our parade and march through town).



We still have a few other venues to tie-down, but we are hoping to finalise these over the next few months. Underpinning all the events is the strength of our guest list ... and is it strong! At the time of writing, we have had **184** confirmed guests attending, and so look well on our way to a record turnout ... and we still have almost 12 months to go!

In order to manage guest numbers accurately, **Jack** will shortly publish an *initial attendance proforma* with details of payment – you are kindly requested to complete and return the proforma, and make payment to secure your place no later than 31 July 2021.

### Travelling to Gibraltar?

If you have only been in countries or territories on the green list in the 14 days preceding your arrival in Gibraltar, you must book a free COVID-19 lateral flow test before arriving in Gibraltar. The test must take place within 24 hours of your arrival. If you are remaining in Gibraltar for more than 7 days, you must also take a second test on day 5. You do not need to provide evidence of vaccination, or self-isolate.

Please see the official Gibraltar Tourist Board website <https://www.visitgibraltar.gi/covid-19> which provides comprehensive information about the requirements in respect of COVID-19 for travelling to Gibraltar, including information on how to book your COVID-19 tests before you arrive.



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Gibraltar 'open for British tourism', says chief minister  
 'We are totally ready to receive British tourists'.

The Hon Fabian Picardo told Sky News: "When you're coming to Gibraltar you're coming to a part of Britain. It's thanks to the UK Government that Gibraltar can proudly say that all of our adult population is now vaccinated. A British staycation in the Mediterranean".



## Royal Engineers Association

The Aims of The Association are to promote and support the Corps of Royal Engineers among members of the Association by fostering esprit de corps and a spirit of comradeship and service, and by maintaining an awareness of Corps traditions. The Association also acts as a link between serving and retired members of the Corps and it provides financial and other assistance to serving and former members of the Corps, their spouses, widows and dependents who are in need. Grants, within Association Guidelines, are made to the Army Benevolent Fund and to other charities that further the objectives of the Association.

## Gibraltar Branch

Located in the birthplace of The Corps, the Gibraltar Branch was officially formed on 01 October 1914. Now in its 107<sup>th</sup> year, the branch continues to strengthen its position within the Association and the wider Sapper family.

The Branch is honoured to be able to support the military community, raise awareness and Esprit de Corps from The Rock of Gibraltar.

Monthly branch meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month at 1930hrs (COVID pending) in:

**The 1772 Club**  
**First Floor**  
**Central Office Block**  
**Her Majesty's Naval Base**  
**Gibraltar**  
**GX11 1AA**

Please come and join us ...

*"there are no strangers here;  
only friends we have yet to meet"*

## Port: what's it all about? PART 4

So what's it going to be: Ruby, Tawny ... or do you in fact have slightly more choice? Port does come in several styles, all of which are regulated by the *Institute of Douro and Port Wine*. And when is a Port not a Port? Well, according to the *European Union Protected Designation of Origin* guidelines, only Portuguese wine can be labelled "port" or "Porto." However, *Port-style wines* are also produced in countries like the US, Australia, Argentina, Canada, India, Spain, and South Africa. A winemaker of *Port-style wine* cannot label it as "Port" (unless made before 2006), but the wine may be named after a *Port style*. So, something labelled "Tawny" was probably made similar to a Tawny



Port, and has been long aged in a cask.... but it's not Port! So what choices do you have for the Sapper Special? Sit back – top up your glasses – unwrap your Stilton – pick your crackers – scan the room to find HRH's location – and choose a wee tippie of either: **Ruby Port** (including Reserve Ruby Port) ■ **Tawny Port** (including Colheita Port) ■ **White Port** ■ **Rosé Port** ■ **Vintage Port** ■ **Single Quinta Vintage Port** ■ **Late Bottled Vintage** ■ **Crusted Port** (sometimes called Vintage Character Port) ■ or **Garrafeira Port** .....

Confused.....? No problem – check our next newsletter for more info, starting with our traditional **Ruby** ... and of course if you are not too sure which type of Port to drink, you really should purchase a bottle of each ... purely for research purposes only, of course!!!

### President's Thoughts

Good day gentlemen of the Corps, I trust that life is starting to treat you better with the gradual easing of restrictions. So this month saw some major events: the visit of the QE carrier to Gibraltar; tunnel tours restarting; the grand reopening of the REA Welfare Facility (aka the 1772 Club); **WO2 Pete Weightman** got his marching orders and **Andy Holder** finally made it back to the UK.

The QE apparently paid a rapid pit stop to the bay, however as I am either usually strapped to a desk or living in a mosquito infested bunker, I never actually saw her! But I did hear she was in stealth mode, so who knows ... she might be in this picture 😊



This month has seen a rapid increase in the number of tunnel tours being undertaken. The obvious favourite of "terranauts" is generally the *Great North Road* but challenging it for popularity is the *Project C* tour....



Anyone interested in a trip down memory lane please do contact the team and we can orchestrate a tour. **WO2 Weightman** has recently stepped up the Corp's role in the tunnels, having taken over from the Royal Gibraltar Regiment as the Treasurer and "Key-master" – well volunteered Q, I'm sure your replacement (**Nev Boyd**) will be thrilled at the new job you have secured for him!

The visit of **20 Sqn** to the Rock was clearly an indicator of a return to normality and it was good to see so many of you back in the 1772 Club. Thanks to Bucky for his continuing efforts there and the guys for making the event a success.

So as is the way, we are preparing for another departure, this time it is **WO2 Pete Weightman** who is leaving us to return to the Chilwell mothership. We now know that **WO2 Nev Boyd** will be replacing him, so doubtlessly Jack will be sharpening his pencil for his 60 secs with Nev. We already know that Q will be thrashed on his return to Chilwell, he is deploying to that arduous location know as Belize ...



And finally ... **Andy H** took off, and got himself back to the UK, following the longest stay over since the RAF's technical issue in Ibiza!!! **Andy** finally returned to the northwest. I didn't think we would hear from him for a little while, but fortunately **Andy** is active on twitter and has volunteered the Gib REA for active roles in the upcoming Armed Forces Day here in the Naval Base on the 19 June .... thanks **Andy**!

## Meet a Member

This month we say hello to Kevin “Dinger” Bell



Enlistment Date? 23 September 1980

Trade/discipline? Design Draughtsman

Any nicknames? Dinger

Person who has inspired you the most? My Dad, definitely!

Favourite meal? KFC

Beer or wine? Both ...!

Military career highlight? Resettlement course ☺

Military career lowlight? Being on exercise on the Brecon Beacons

Favourite piece of military equipment, and why? The old Chinese Fighting Suit – quilted; soft and very very warm!

If your house was on fire, what one thing would you save? The wife...

Best advice you have ever been given? Saving the wife if there was a fire in your house ....!

Worst piece of advice you have ever been given? “yep ... you should volunteer for that ...!”

Favourite country visited, and why? Canada. It's just a great place

What's the best thing about Gibraltar? The weather

Person you would most like to meet? Jimmy Hendrix

What couldn't you live without? The motorbike ... (and the wife!)

Favourite music? Punk and heavy metal (Stiff Little Fingers; Sex Pistols etc)

What your biggest regret? I don't have any ☺

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be? My age!

If you hadn't been a soldier what career would you have followed? A musician

If you had a Super-power, what would it be and why? To live forever ... so I could ... live forever!

What would like on your headstone/be remembered? Get the bar open – I'm on my way!

## Sgt Maj Henry Ince (part 1)

Henry Ince (1736–1808) was a Sergeant-Major (and later Lieutenant) in the British Army who achieved fame as the author of a plan to tunnel through the North Face of the Rock of Gibraltar in 1782, during the Great Siege of Gibraltar. As a result of his work, by the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century Gibraltar had almost 4,000 feet (1,200m) of tunnels in which dozens of cannons were mounted overlooking the isthmus linking the peninsula to Spain.

Ince spent most of his life in the Army and served for 36 years in Gibraltar before retiring to Devon four years before he died at the age of 72.

Born in Penzance in Cornwall in 1736, Ince first worked as a nail-maker, before turning his hand to mining. He enlisted in the 2nd (The Queen's Royal) Regiment of Foot in 1755 and served in Galway, Ireland. The Regiment remained in Ireland until June 1765, when it was posted to the Isle of Man. It was subsequently sent to Gibraltar in March 1768, where Ince was able to put his mining skills to use.

According to Gibraltar Methodist tradition, the colony's first regular Methodist meeting place was Ince's old home on Prince Edward's Road – a claim which is made on a plaque that was originally mounted in the Methodist Church on Prince Edward's Road and is now in the modern Gibraltar Methodist Church on Main Street.



He was one of the first members of the Soldier Artificer Company and rose to be the Company's senior non-commissioned officer. On 26 June 1772, Ince joined the Army's first unit of military artificers and labourers, the Soldier Artificer Company, and was promoted to

Sergeant on the same day. The Company was established by Lieutenant Colonel William Green to assist his programme of improvements to the fortifications of Gibraltar.



Lieutenant Colonel William Green

Ince was posted to the fortress in 1761 as its Senior Engineer and in 1769 he put forward improvement plans which were eventually approved. The works were initially carried out by civilians recruited from England and elsewhere in Europe, but this proved slow, expensive, and unsatisfactory. To resolve these problems, Green was authorised to raise a 68-man company .... more to follow next month in Part 2!

## Army Rules

Simple enough....?







## PLAQUE CHAT

Keightley Way connects Rosia Road at Little Bay to the Ibrahim-al-Ibrahim Mosque and Nun's Well at Europa Point. Dug in 1960 by 1<sup>st</sup> Fortress Sqn RE, it was the last surface tunnel to be built in Gibraltar. The tunnel was originally



designed to take a two-lane road with sufficient space for pedestrians, although now it is one-way and only carries traffic southbound to Europa Point. It was named after General Sir Charles Keightley who was the Governor of Gibraltar at the time.



## In Memorandum

Thankfully, we have no farewells to bid this month.



*They shall grow not old,  
as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them,  
nor the years condemn;  
At the going down of the sun,  
and in the morning,  
We will remember them.*

"Once a Sapper, always a Sapper"

## Need support or just a chat?

### Sapper Support

Need Help to alleviate the suffering caused by PTSD and associated mental issues.

Call **0800 0407873** [www.sappersupport.com](http://www.sappersupport.com)

### Combat Stress

For over a century we've been helping former servicemen and women deal with issues like post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety and depression.

Call **0800 138 1619**

You can also text on +44 **(0)7537 404719** and E-mail [helpline@combatstress.org.uk](mailto:helpline@combatstress.org.uk)

### Veterans and Reserves Mental Health Programme

(VRMHP) provides assessment and treatment advice for veterans. Call **0800 032 6258** or

E-mail: [dphce-dcmhcol-vmrhp@mod.uk](mailto:dphce-dcmhcol-vmrhp@mod.uk)

### SSAFA

SSAFA does not provide medical or counselling services, but we can help you get in contact with those who can

Call **0800 731 4880** or **+44 (0)207 463 9292**

### Clubhouse Gibraltar

Call **+350 200 68423**

E-mail: [info@clubhousegibraltar.com](mailto:info@clubhousegibraltar.com)

### GibSams

A confidential helpline is open every day from 1800hrs to midnight by calling 116 123

E-mail: [info@gibsams.gi](mailto:info@gibsams.gi) <http://www.gibsams.gi>

### GHA Community Mental Health Team and Facility

Community Mental Health Team 0800-1700hrs; call **+350 200 42307 / +350 200 41659 / +350 200**

## Branch Welcomes

We have no branch welcomes this month.

## Branch Farewells

We have no branch farewells this month.

## Thought for the month

*Some people live an entire lifetime and wonder if they have ever made a difference in the world ....*

*.... Veterans do not have that problem!*

## REAHQ emails

If you are not already aware, both **Ken** and **Iain** have changed their job titles and their REA emails:

- **Ken** is now Chief Executive Officer contactable on:

[chiefexecREA@rhqre.co.uk](mailto:chiefexecREA@rhqre.co.uk)

- **Iain** is now Operations Manager contactable on:

[operationsmanagerREA@rhqre.co.uk](mailto:operationsmanagerREA@rhqre.co.uk)

## Contact

**Jack Noble** (Secretary)

e: [jacknoble40@hotmail.com](mailto:jacknoble40@hotmail.com)

m: +350 58008085

**Richard Tomlinson** (Treasurer)

e: [rdtomlinson@hotmail.com](mailto:rdtomlinson@hotmail.com)

m: +350 54028355

**WO1 Nic Edmeades** (Chairman)

e: [nicholas.edmeades153@mod.gov.uk](mailto:nicholas.edmeades153@mod.gov.uk)

m: +350 54073449

**Maj Josh Wardman** (President)

e: [Josh.Wardman372@mod.gov.uk](mailto:Josh.Wardman372@mod.gov.uk)

m: +350 58009\*719

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