
 <p>The Royal Engineers Association</p> <p>RIPON BRANCH NEWSLETTER</p>	 <p>December 2023</p>
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MERRY CHRISTMAS!



We would like to wish all our members and their families a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR,

May 2024 bring you happiness, excitement, and joy.



Registered Charity 258322

www.reahq.org.uk

President — Lt Col P Bishop
RE,

CO, 21 Engineer Regiment

Honorary Secretary –

WO1 (RSM) Donald Campbell
CGM RE

Chairman — Kenn Hart BA
(Hons)

Vice-Chairman — Ian Smith

Secretary — Hamish
Hamilton

riponreasec@gmail.com

Treasurer — Jeremy Banyard

	EASTERN GROUP ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION	
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EVENTS 2024

January		February		March	
Tue 9 Jan	75th Meeting at 1900 hrs in the Ripon Inn.	Fri 16 Feb	Branch Meeting	Fri 15 Mar	Branch Meeting
Fri 19 Jan	Branch Meeting				
April		May		June	
Fri 19 Apr	Branch Meeting	Fri 17 May	Branch Meeting	Sat 8 Jun	Demonstrations etc on the Market Square.
				Sun 9 Jun	75th Freedom Parade & Mayor Making
				Fri 21 Jun	Branch Meeting
July		August		September	
Fri 19 Jul	Branch Meeting		No Meeting	Fri 20 Sep	Branch Meeting
Fri 26 Jul	Sapper 75th Concert				
Sat 27 Jul	75th actual date Anniversary Dinner				
October		November		December	
Fri 18 Oct	Branch Meeting	Sat 02 Nov	Memorial Garden of Remembrance, opposite the Ripon Cathedral		No Meeting
		Sun 10 Nov	Remembrance Sunday		
		Fri 15 Nov	Branch Meeting AGM		

RIPON REA AGM 2023

This was held on Fri 17 Nov 23 in the WOs & Sgts Mess, 21 Engr Regt in Claro Bks, Ripon.

The Branch were honoured with the presence of Lt Col P Bishop RE who gave an enlightening talk, supported by photos and videos of the unit on exercise. Duty “Cameraman” was WOI (RSM) Don Campell CGC, RE, who also welcomed us to the Mess.

There was a good turnout and the Ladies Section, well, Detta Hamilton and Edna Smith managed to raise £108 from the generous contributors.

The following were elected for 2024:

Chairman: Kenn Hart

Secretary: Hamish Hamilton

Treasurer: Jeremy Banyard

The many other positions will be confirmed at the meeting on 19 Jan 24.

The CO presented Duke Dukalskis with his Group Directors Commendation because bad weather had stopped this being done at the same time as Mike O’Reilly was presented with his, earlier this year.

Note: A Group Directors Commendation is awarded to those members who have done outstanding works, support etc on behalf of the Branch and are put forward by the Committee.

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75th FREEDOM ANNIVERSARY – 2024

It is planned to finalize the Freedom events, as previously discussed, at the meeting on Tue 9 Jan 24 in the Ripon Inn.

The Ripon Parish Council had decided to commemorate the D-Day [actually took place on 6 Jun 44] on 7, 8 & 9 Jun 24. The council are responsible for the road clearances etc on such events within the city and are therefore in charge. The Mayor Making was therefore delayed until Sun 9 Jun 24 and the RE 75th Freedom Anniversary parade brought forward from 27 Jul [the actual date] to 9 Jun 24.

Full details of the events will be published directly to all REA Branches once they have been confirmed at 9 Jan 24 meeting.

For 20 years when Ripon REA ran the RE Weekend, there was financial support from Chatham and this was vital for allowing standard bearers from wide-spread branches to attend. We, Ripon REA, can no longer assist with accommodation because the barracks are no longer available. However, by going on-line then hotels etc can be obtained in the local area by individuals and branches. Book early!

We plan to have a presence, as usual, at the actual Freedom Parade on Sun 9 Jun 24 and would like to welcome all members to attend this unique event, with their standards. Due to age, illness etc members are unable to march, in the parade, so for the last two years Ripon REA have formed an Avenue of Honour outside the Cathedral for the congregation and Mayoral party. Please feel free to join us.

The 50th anniversary was an excellent occasion and received the vital support from Chatham, bringing 40+ standards to the city. It worked out that if every standard bearer, having his transport costs as part of a National Event, brought an extra three members in his car, this gave a 120+ REA members on parade that day. Every standard bearer was presented with a commemorative label badge and their branches a small banner. We unfortunately, do not have the finances with which to do this so at this very unique occasion, which we were planning to do.

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THE RIPON SAPPER TREE

As part of the 75th Freedom Anniversary celebrations we had, in liaison with the now defunct Harrogate Council, agreed to purchase a tree to replace one in Spa Gardens which had to be cut down.

We agreed to purchase the tree and have got 21 Engr Regt to have two young Sappers to “plant” it on behalf of the Corps. A plaque will be laid at the foot of the tree giving a brief, of Sapper history in Ripon. We were originally quite chuffed with this extremely unique memorial to the Corps and will now have to raise the money to pay for it. Contributions will be gratefully accepted by Ripon REA’s Branch.

The tree will be planted on **12 Dec 23 at 1100 hrs** in Spa Park, which is just across the road from Spa Gardens. All are welcome along with members of 21 Engr Regt, the Ripon Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

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RIPON REA HISTORY

In 2024 it will be the **75th Anniversary of the Corps of Royal Engineers being granted the Freedom of a city** and **Ripon was the first city to do so.**

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50th Anniversary ribbon for our Branch Standard. HQ REA have kindly donated a blue ribbon with “1974 – 2024” in gold lettering, for which we thank them. This will be placed on the Branch Standard for 2024, so it will be on show for the future.

There is a chequered history behind this award; well, it is Ripon! The Ripon and District REA was formed and then closed down after a few years. It was resurrected by the late Bill Rudd and maintained by the current Branch for the continuous 50 years duration noted on the ribbon. The next ribbon will be yellow, we believe, and it will be for 75 continuous years’ service. Who will be around for that?

It is important that all members understand that we honour the memory of all Sappers, former serving Sappers and Branch members who have passed away.

Please note: That attendance at Branch funerals is purely voluntary and dress is medals, berets etc. We parade outside the Cathedral, church or Crematorium and our Branch standard is always present. We acknowledge the entrance of the deceased and then disperse unless invited into the actual service. All are most welcome.

Anyone in Ripon suffering from grief or loss or worried about losing someone:

www.griefandlosswyh.co.uk

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SICK PARADE. Best wishes for a full recovery to all those who are undergoing treatment at present. A special "Get Well" also to all those who may just be feeling off right now. Of course, our thoughts are also with their often-hard-pressed spouses and families.

[illegible]

FORM 8: [Please ensure that the Branch has a current copy of your **Form 8**; this is sent to HQ REA on your demise and contains information only you know, makes mine and Hamish's job easier and less strain on the family at a very sorrowful time. A **Demise Form** also is essential for funeral arrangements. Contact Hamish for a copy of both. Kenn

On his way home from a boozy Christmas party a Glaswegian man sees his neighbour tinkering with the engine of his car. He asks him: "What's up?" The neighbour replies: "Piston broke" Man says: "Yeah, me too."

RIPON REA CHRISTMAS PARTY

This was held on Fri 24 Nov 23 with the usual start in the RAFA Club to drop off raffle prizes etc and then we moved to the Hot Lava for a truly excellent meal. This has become the annual tradition and of course we ended up back in the RAFA Club for mince pies and port plus the most important Ripon Raffle. The Ladies Section raised £105 with the outstanding support of the members and this will help us to assist various charities and organisations in the future.

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Scots father rings his daughter in London at Christmas to tell her he's divorcing her mother.

The shocked daughter replies: "What! You can't do that. I'm coming right up."

Father turns to his wife and says: "Sorted. She's coming home for Christmas and paying her own way."

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21 ENGR REGT XMAS PANTO 2023.

This was the first one that the Branch has actually attended, although we have supported them in the past. Ian Smith and grandson, Charlie (who really got into it) were accompanied by Kenn Hart with his three grandchildren of Frankie, George, and Lacey. We were allocated front row seats and this was possibly a *setup*, in that Kenn was dragged into the cast and constantly involved in the panto of "Dick Whittington". Ian really enjoyed that bit. 😊

All the children obviously enjoyed the performance and so did their parents. Congratulations to Yvonne Adamson and all the members of 21 Engr Regt for their hospitality and we appreciated being allocated such close seats.

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"It takes only one drink to get me drunk. The trouble is, I can't remember if it's the thirteenth or the fourteenth. "

George Burns

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Christmas Cracker "funnies":

Tongue twister: How many deer would a reindeer reign if a reindeer could reign deer?

What do Santa's little helpers learn at school? The elf-abet.



**All the best to you and your families
in 2024**

from

KENN HART & HAMISH HAMILTON



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