



THE SAPPER CHARITY

#17 - May 2025

Welcome to the May edition of the REA - Sapper Charity newsletter.

A little earlier this month we celebrated the 150th anniversary of the Royal Engineers winning of the FA Cup. It was an amazing day with thousands of visitors enjoying the glorious weather, some great entertainment and exciting displays from across the Corps. The prelude to the big game was the dramatic delivery of the game ball from 15000 feet by the Parachute Regiment's Red Devil's. Honours were taken by the Corps once again with a 4-0 victory over the Old Etonians. See more images from the day later in the newsletter.



The Spirit That Binds Us - Esprit de Corps in the Royal Engineers

Ask any Sapper what it means to be part of the Royal Engineers, and you'll likely hear a story - not about equipment or operations, but about people, shared hardships, and pride in a tradition that stretches back over 300 years. That enduring sense of connection is what we call esprit de corps - the spirit of the Corps and it's alive and well in every corner of our community.

From our earliest days in 1716, the Royal Engineers have played a unique and vital role across every theatre of war and peace. We've earned our place through sweat, ingenuity, and courage - not just in combat zones, but in the countless unseen moments of service that define the Sapper ethos. Our motto, Ubique, means "Everywhere" and it's not just a reflection of where we serve, but how deeply we serve, together.

Today, that same esprit de corps continues to thrive - not just among those in uniform, but across the wider REA family. It's in the conversations at local branch meetings. It's in the mutual support shown between veterans, serving members, and their families. It's in the ongoing work of the Sapper Charity, which ensures lifelong support to the Sapper Family.

The Sapper spirit is built on more than shared service - it's built on trust, humour in the face of adversity, and a quiet confidence in our ability to solve problems, big or small. Whether building a bridge under fire, clearing roads after floods, or mentoring the next generation of soldiers, Sappers get the job done - and we do it together.

That sense of unity doesn't fade with time. If anything, it deepens. Many of you will agree: once a Sapper, always a Sapper. And through the work of the REA - the Sapper Charity, that bond remains strong long after we've taken off the uniform. Whether it's helping a comrade in need, organising a regimental reunion, or simply sharing a brew and a story, we honour the spirit that binds us.

As we look forward through changing times, evolving challenges, and the growth of our community - we can take pride in knowing that our esprit de corps remains as resilient and relevant as ever. It's the foundation on which everything else is built.

To all Sappers, past and present: thank you for keeping the flame alive. Let us continue to stand together.

Why not share your story?

The Sapper Charity is collecting personal stories from across the Sapper Family - funny, moving, or simply meaningful. Whether you served in uniform or supported from home, your experiences matter.

We want to hear from veterans, serving Sappers, and family members - especially those with memories of Northern Ireland, Iraq, or Afghanistan. These stories will be recorded and archived to preserve the spirit of the Corps for future generations.

If you'd like to share your story or take part in an interview, get in touch **here**.

Help us keep the Sapper spirit alive - one story at a time.

The membership survey is still open.
Don't miss this opportunity to shape the
future of the REA - The Sapper Charity.

Take the survey



Keep up to date with the latest events

Sign up by going to:

<https://www.sappercom.com>



Sapper News

28 Engr Regt (C-CBRN) - Visit by the PM



28 Engr Regt (C-CBRN) provided the back drop for the Prime Ministers brief about the ongoing UK support to the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

23 Para Engr Regt - Army FA Challenge Cup



23 Para Engr Regt have become the Army FA Challenge Cup winners by beating 7th RHA by two goals. The game is available to watch [here](#).

B2 Combat Engineer Prize Winners



Winning the Resilience Award (left) is 21 year old Sapper Hannah Ferdinand - Building and construction finisher from Mon Repos, St. Lucia.

Winning the O'Rourke - Best Combat Engineer (right) is 18 year old Sapper Thor Smith - Plumber from Mansfield.

Congratulations to you both on this great achievement!

36 Engr Regt - Wins Corps Operational Shooting!



36 Engr Regt won the Corps Operational Shooting Competition held at Pirbright. 42 Engr Regt (Geo) proved they have an eye for detail in marksmanship as well as cartography by winning the falling plate competition.

Upcoming Events

30th – 31st May 2025
Grave Restoration Workshop, Fort Pitt

6th – 9th June 2025
Gibraltar Weekend and AGM

19th June 2025
REA Charity Golf Day, Bradford

28th June 2025
Armed Forces Weekend, National

13th – 14th June 2025
Grave Restoration Workshop, Fort Pitt

1st - 3rd July 2025
Sapper Games, Carver Barracks, Wimbish

24th July 2025
Chilwell Families Day

16th July 2025
Vehicle Painting RAF Wittering

25th – 26th July 2025
Grave Restoration Workshop, Fort Pitt

26th July 2025
Swinton Barracks Open Day, Tidworth

26th August 2025
Houses of Parliament Tour

31st August 2025
Armed Forces Fair, March (Cambs)

5th – 6th September 2025
Grave Restoration Workshop, Fort Pitt

19th - 21st September 2025
Corps Memorial Weekend, Brompton Barracks

2nd October 2025
Royal Hospital Chelsea Tour

Keep up to date with all events on **SapperCom**



RE FA Cup 150

Festival of Football



Want to donate to the Sapper Charity?

Use our Enthuse page [here](#) or the donate button on our [website](#).

Thank you!



RHC Governors Parade

FINAL CALL



This formal parade will feature the Chelsea Pensioners on parade in full ceremonial dress, inspected by the Governor of the Royal Hospital Chelsea, General Sir Adrian Bradshaw KCB OBE DL.

Following the parade there is the option for Regimental Associations and their guests to join the Chelsea Pensioners for a curry lunch in the Chelsea Pensioners' Club dining room. This will be priced at £15 per person and can be paid for using card or cash on the day, please indicate if you wish to attend the lunch when booking your tickets so that we can ensure sufficient levels of catering and seating is available on the day.

The Sapper Charity has been allocated 24 tickets for the Governor's Review. To book your tickets go to:

<https://chelsea-pensioners.co.uk/governorsreview>
Your Access Code is **RB84B1**.

Corps Memorial Weekend

Join us for the REA Corps Memorial Weekend from September 19-21, 2025, at Brompton Barracks! The weekend provides the opportunity to catch up with old acquaintances and make new friends.

The weekend starts on the Friday night with a darts competition; the next day sees a Corps and Sapper Charity update coinciding with the Brompton Barracks Families Day. On the Saturday evening there is the Sapper Charity annual dinner kindly hosted in Brompton Barracks, Warrant Officers and Sgts Mess.

The weekend culminates on the Sunday with a parade for all Sappers, old and new, through Rochester High Street. It's a fantastic opportunity to reconnect with fellow Sappers and celebrate our shared history. Don't miss out on this memorable weekend. Secure your tickets now on **Eventbrite** and be part of the tradition!

Group Transport to the Corps Memorial Weekend.

Following discussions held during the combined Operations and Management Committee meeting, it has been decided that the rental costs of group transport to Corps Memorial Weekend will be supported by the Sapper Charity HQ. To be eligible the transport must carry 12+ REA members who are attending Corps Memorial Weekend. An invoice and fuel receipts must be sent to the Sapper Charity Business Manager fiona.louch@reahq.org.uk no later than 30 September.

Get involved



Rediscover purpose through grave restoration

Join fellow veterans and volunteers at Fort Pitt Military Cemetery in Chatham for a unique, hands-on experience restoring neglected military graves. Led by ex-soldier Steve Davies, this free initiative offers training in grave-cleaning techniques while fostering camaraderie and confidence.

Open to veterans, service-leavers, and community members, sessions run on select Fridays and Saturdays from May to September 2025. Spaces are limited.

Book now to reconnect and learn new skills. More details can be found **here**.

REA - Annual General Meeting

FINAL CALL

This years Annual General Meeting will be taking place in Gibraltar as part of a weekend of events on Saturday 7th June at 1200hrs local, 1100hrs UK.

As always, members are welcome to attend and for those of you unable to attend in person, you will be able to attend via a live link where you will also have the opportunity to put questions to the President and CEO.

Further details will be made available to those registering for the event via the following link:

Register here

Get Noticed

If you want your unit news to feature in this newsletter, send us the link to your social media **info@reahq.org.uk** and we'll share it. It's that easy.

Get pictures and your event published! HQ REA can advertise it. Send to **info@reahq.org.uk** (excludes branch meetings)

Newsletter direct to your inbox

Use the QR code or this **link** to sign-up.

