



Welcome to this edition of the newsletter!

This month started strong with the 2025 Sapper Games, and not even the heatwave could slow things down. The competition was fierce, but the camaraderie - especially in the evenings - was even better.

Well done to everyone who took part, and a special thanks to **35 Engineer Regiment (EOD&S)** for hosting such a fantastic event.

Check out the photos later in the newsletter to see some of the highlights!



From Sapper to Spotlight Stars of Stage and Screen

The Corps of Royal Engineers has trained many skilled soldiers. Some have gone on to be leaders, innovators, and influencers, whilst many quietly contribute to civilian life by using the skills and values they learned in service. This article highlights the story of two former Sappers who found success in a surprising place: on stage and screen.

Sir John Mills, a British cinema legend, enlisted in the Royal Engineers at the start of the Second World War. He served until his discharge in 1942. Mills brought the Corps' discipline and quiet confidence to his acting career. On screen, he often portrayed steady British characters in uniform. His authentic performances likely stemmed from his own experiences.

Kenneth Williams, known for his sharp wit and pompous comic delivery, also started with the Royal Engineers. Serving in the Survey Section as a cartographer in Bombay (now Mumbai), he discovered his talent for performance through the Combined Services Entertainment unit. This sparked a successful career in radio and film.

Their stories are remarkable and less common today. Careers are now more specialised. The military and entertainment worlds rarely overlap. This makes crossovers quite rare. Few modern actors have military backgrounds, and even fewer are Sappers.

Mills and Williams stand out even more. Most Sappers take on civilian jobs, such as in engineering, construction, or public service. But these two took the Corps' resilience into the spotlight. They remind us that the knowledge and ideals

forged in uniform can lead to unexpected stages, both literal and metaphorical.

Mills and Williams exemplify how adaptability, discipline, and determination can shine. The qualities learned in the Corps can lead to success in many ways, even under the bright lights.



John Mills



Kenneth Williams

Do you know of any others?

As we prepared for this edition of the newsletter we came across various other showbiz names that proved a little harder to firmly attribute to the Sapper Family. Perhaps you know of a few. If you do, we'd love to hear from you.

Email us on this or any other topic to info@reahq.org.uk

Calling all Sports Officers!

Send us the details of your sporting events. We can then whip up support for you and your team. Drop us a line with your sports fixtures: info@reahq.org.uk

Keep up to date with the latest events

Sign up by going to:

<https://www.sappercom.com>



SAPPER GAMES 2025



Remember that heat wave at the start of the month? Well that's when Sappers from across the UK descended on Carver Barracks to take part in the Sapper Games. The Sapper Charity Team were there in force; talking, listening and generally getting to know the serving Corps and understanding what they need from their charity.





#Sapper Strong



Thanks again to our amazing sponsors!

**Forces
Mutual**

DISCIPLINE
ATTITUDE WINS THE GAME

**HIVE
GROUP**

PINKY'S
FLOWERS • CAMBRIDGE

ACROW

KNDS

QUICKBLOCK®

Corps Memorial Weekend

It's Almost Here!

The weekend commences on Friday evening with the Dove Cup (Darts Competition) in the Corporal's Club. Saturday morning sees a Corps and Sapper Charity update, then the Standard Bearers take to the Square to compete for the shield and title of National Standard Bearer. After all that, it's the Sapper Charity Annual Dinner hosted in the WO's and Sgt's Mess. And that's just the Saturday!

Sunday sees the Corps (serving and retired) exercise the **Freedom of Medway** with a parade in Rochester and a debrief / social afterwards.

Single accommodation is available on camp. Tickets cost £35 and are available from [here](#).

Sapper Charity - Annual Report

The Sapper Charity Annual Report was presented to 60+ members at the AGM during the annual Sapper pilgrimage to Gibraltar.

The report which provides an overview of the last 12 months can be found here: **Annual Report** and the minutes here: **AGM Minutes**

Cenotaph March Past



The Sapper Charity contingent, which leads the Sappers on parade, was allocated 50 places in this year's Cenotaph parade. We recognise that demand to take part has outstripped availability and we will be applying for a larger allocation next year.

Look out for details on how to apply in Spring 2026

Vehicle Painting

Final Vehicle Painting at the museum... and that's a wrap (...or brush). REA members from South Wales (predominantly Cwmbran) made their way down to the Corps Museum to take part in the final painting event of the year.

The Gaelic gang got hands helping to make the MGOB (portable lightweight bridge) look spick and span. The Sapper Charity is now standing by to further assist with preservation tasks at the Corps Museum.



In other news...

Chilwell Winter Dinner

Details of the Chilwell Winter Ball are out. The event will take place in the WOs and Sgts Mess on the 29th of November.

Tickets will be available after Corps Memorial Weekend so keep your eyes open.

Lancashire Victory Ball

For those in the North-West there's a chance to have a day and night out in aid of the Sapper Charity. The champagne reception, four course meal, music and dancing is taking place at the **Dunkenhalgh Hotel & Spa** Lancashire on the 9th August.

Tickets are £65 and can be booked [here](#).

Malta Memories

Did you serve in Malta between 1971 - 1979? If yes, author Andrew Southam wants to hear your experiences.

Contact: andrew2southam@yahoo.co.uk

Jackson Club

Earlier this year the 'Jacko' Club closed - it will be reopening - more details coming soon.

Event Booking

For those more eagle eyed you'll have noticed that we've changed the way people can access events. Why? We've done this because the old system meant you had to belong to a branch to apply to attend any event.

Upcoming Events

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

9th November 2025
Remembrance Sunday - Cenotaph March Past

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

Newsletter direct to your inbox

Use the QR code to sign-up.

