

**GRAVESEND & DISTRICT**

**ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION**

**SERVICE NOT SELF**

**Issue No. 40**

**UBIQUE**

***gREAtimes***

**GRAVESEND and DISTRICT  
REA NEWS LETTER**

**August 2017**



**BRANCH NEWS**

**BRANCH MEETING DATES 2017  
1930 HRS. AT GRAVESHAM COURT  
Tuesday 5th. September.  
Tuesday 3rd. October.  
Tuesday 7th. November.  
Tuesday 5th. December.**



**and**

**Branch Website,  
[www.gravesendsapper.uk](http://www.gravesendsapper.uk)**

**Group Directors Commendation**



**On Tuesday 6th June 2017 our  
Welfare Officer Ken Trevor was  
awarded the prestigious Group  
Directors Commendation by the  
Gravesham Member of  
Parliament**

**The following events for 2017  
have been notified to HQ REA:**

**15 - 17 September Corps Memorial Weekend\*  
14 October REA AGM and Annual Dinner \*  
15 October Sapper Sunday at Royal Hospital Chelsea  
\*National Events**

**President  
Richard Bardsley  
01634850185**

**COMMITTEE  
MEMBERS**

**Chairman  
Mick Dobson  
01474568198**

**Hon. Secretary.  
and Standard Bearer  
Ray Ellis  
07803052960**

**Hon. Treasurer  
Press Officer  
David Spurgeon  
01474711199**

**Welfare Officer  
Ken Trevor  
01322669017**

**Entertainments Officer  
Vacant**

**Relief Standard Bearer  
Vacant**

**SSAFA Representative  
Mary Walker  
01474 812184**

**Branch Padre  
Rev. Graham Herbert  
01474 533434**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO**

**Dave Spurgeon in June  
and Ray Ellis in July.**

## BRANCH NEWS CONTINUED

### **Armed Forces Day on the 24th June 2017**

Branch members, military veterans, service association standards, serving soldiers and cadets all paraded for Armed Forces Day on the 24th June, which was held at the Great Lines Heritage Park Gillingham. The City of Rochester Pipe Band provided the music for the parade and the Drumhead service. The main contributor was 1 RSME, but there were also many other regiments and groups represented around the arena. The afternoon was packed with entertainment which included, Ferrets Scout cars on parade, Swingtime Sweethearts singing wartime songs, the BAE Brass Band and the Brompton Military Wives choir. The RSME trade village was the hub of the day with many trades on display along with the REA recruitment tent, there were many static displays which included military vehicles and helicopters. The Help For Heroes cycle ride finished in the main arena after their cycle ride around Kent raising money for H4H. Beat Retreat ended the day with 6 Standards paraded, and the City of Rochester Pipe Band did a marching display.



### **Major General's Review Horseguards 3rd June 2017**

The custom of Trooping the Colour dates back to the time of Charles II in the 17th. Century when the Colours of a regiment were used as a rallying point in battle and were therefore trooped in front of the soldiers every day to make sure that every man could recognise those of his own regiment

Over 1000 officers and men are on parade, together with two hundred horses; over two hundred musicians from six bands and corps of drums march and play as one. Some 113 words of command are given by the Officer in Command of the Parade.

A wolfhound named Domhnall, the Regimental Mascot of the 1st Battalion Irish Guards lead the parade.





## Group Directors Commendation

On Tuesday 6th June 2017 our Welfare Officer Ken Trevor was awarded the prestigious Group Directors Commendation by the Gravesham Member of Parliament Mr Adam Hollaway.

As we know Ken was previously Branch Chairman and Welfare officer. Ken stood down as Chairman but continued in the roll of Welfare officer which he diligently carries out helped his “Girl Friday” Mary.

As Welfare Officer he is in constant contact with those members who are infirm and have required welfare support, keeping us all briefed (notebook in hand) on the way forward for those members and their families.



## Railway Squadron

The Royal Engineers grave at Railway Wood, near Ypres, marks the site where twelve soldiers [eight Royal Engineers of the 177th Tunnelling Company and four attached infantrymen) were killed between November 1915 and August 1917 whilst tunnelling under the hill near Hodge during the defence of Ypres. The men were trapped underground and their bodies not recovered, and after the war, the memorial was erected on the hill. The site is unusual for being both a cemetery and a memorial. Because the bodies remain underground, the cemetery has no individual gravestones, and the names of the twelve men who died are inscribed on the Cross of Sacrifice instead. The inscription across three sides of the Cross of Sacrifice reads: Beneath this spot lie the bodies of an officer, three NCOs and eight men of or attached to the 177th Tunnelling Company Royal Engineers who were killed in action underground during the defence of Ypres between November 1915 and August 1917. The Liverpool Scottish Memorial is a World War I memorial erected in Belgium in 2000. It is located in Railway Wood on the Bellewaerde Ridge near Zillebeke, about 4 kilometres east of Ypres, and a little north of Hodge. The area was the site of intensive fighting in the First World War. Near the memorial is the site of RE Grave, Railway Wood. Several mine craters are still visible in the wood.



Item provided by Don Allen

## Fun Fund Raising Evening

On Saturday 23rd. September St.Peter & Paul Church are hosting a Fund raising Fun evening, raising money in support of the REA and RNA. Detail will follow later in the year, and hopefully many of you will come along and support the event.

Whilst all the funds raised will be divided equally between the two organisations churches are supporting the “Coventry Cross of Nails” appeal during the WW 1 centenary events, and, we have asked that your organisations consider making, at our discretion; some donation to the Cross of Nails appeal, out of our share of the proceeds.

## Easy fish pie

Ingredients 2 servings

- 250g bag washed leaf spinach
- 450g small new potato
- 2 egg
- 300g skinless, boneless white fish fillet, cut into large chunks
- 100g half-fat crème fraîche
- juice ½ lemon
- 1 tbsp olive oil



### Method

Heat oven to 220C/fan 200C /gas 7. Tip the spinach into a colander sitting in the sink and tip the potatoes into a saucepan. Bring a kettle full of water to the boil and pour enough over the potatoes to cover and slowly pour the rest over the spinach to wilt it. Bring the potatoes to the boil and cook for 8-10 mins until tender, then drain and roughly mash.

Leave the spinach to cool, then squeeze out excess water with your hands. Scatter the spinach over the bottom of 2 individual or 1 small ovenproof dish leaving two gaps for the eggs. Crack the eggs into the gaps, then season with salt and pepper. Distribute the fish over the spinach and eggs.

Spread over the crème fraîche and drizzle with the lemon juice. Loosely spoon over the potatoes, drizzle over the olive oil, then bake for 20-25 mins until the top is crispy and golden and the sauce is bubbling at the sides. Leave to stand for a few mins, then serve straight from the dish.

### PLACES OF INTEREST TO VISIT IN KENT

Close to Bromley in Kent, are Chislehurst Caves. Miles of dark mysterious passageways hewn by hand from chalk, forming a maze covering more than 6 hectares, 30 metres below the woodlands and houses of Chislehurst.

Guides takes you on a 45-minute lamp-lit tour and tells stories of Druids, Romans and Saxons. The tunnels used as a shelter during WWII. See the Caves Church, Druid Altar, Haunted Pool and much more.

You will have your own guide explaining everything and you can ask questions as well. The caves should hold the imagination of even the most easily bored child and if nothing else, there are 20 miles of tunnels to wear them out!

Where else can you carry a hurricane lamp underground? You may even get the chance to experience total darkness if the tour is not too big!

Concession ticket £3.00 Adult ticket £5.00 Child aged 5-15 £3.00



### Oh no!!

The fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference.

He acquired his size from too much pi.

I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.

A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class,  
because it was a weapon of math disruption.

No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.

A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was fined for littering.

Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

Thanks Jamie

If you have any thoughts, anecdotes, jokes or notices for inclusion in our October News Letter, please contact  
Dave Spurgeon on 01474711199 or by email,  
david\_spurgeon@outlook.com

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Dave Spurgeon  
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