



SEASONS GREETINGS

Welcome

Welcome to this the first QARANC Association Newsletter, an initiative that we plan to publish and disseminate quarterly to supplement 'The Gazette'. The Board of Trustees, in recent meetings with representatives from the Branches, agree that regular communication to our members will be a vital component in navigating our way forward since our former Corps, the QARANC was disbanded in November 2024. The compelling and overwhelming support by our membership to endure as a charity has required some review and revision of our legal framework and policies and we are, of course, committed to ensuring we support the Royal Army Medical Service personnel and their charity in their establishment and on-going development.

It is important, therefore, to keep everyone as up-to date as we can - to ensure that information is promulgated promptly and any 'red herrings' dispelled before any angst and misconception take hold.

Please remember that any suggestions and ideas that are presented and agreed by the Trustees do take a while to take effect and it does, therefore, sometimes seem that change is slow. However, we as an organisation like to do things properly and it sometimes takes us a while to navigate our way through red tape to deliver what we believe is right.

Do bear with us, we are totally committed to supporting you as members, promoting our Association and increasing membership and thereby extending the arm of friendship, especially to those who might find themselves in need.



Updates

Compliance

Our Association Trustees are awaiting an update from the Charity Commission regarding its application to amend its governing document. The Governance and Finance Committee continue to ensure our policies remain compliant and with any legislative or regulatory changes and as a fundamental component of best practice, plan to review all services and contracts to assure ourselves of value for money and maximum efficiency. The Committees remain busy in progressing their work – more details will be reported in the next newsletter. We very much look forward to further liaison and communication with you all in the new year and hopefully seeing you at an event.

Membership

Early 2026 we will be reaching out to all members to have 'your say' on the Association and its membership. We want to do our very best to get this 'right' for you,

A survey will be sent out and this is your opportunity to inform us on how we can make important changes.

We are going to be offering a membership to former QARANC who are now serving in RAMS. Hopefully many will still continue to be apart of our 'family' and keep in touch with us!

Branches

Our branches are your branches and we need your support to help run them. Many of the branch chairs and secretaries are looking to hand over the responsibilities to someone else in 2026.

If you have the time please reach out to your branch and offer your support. It really would mean a great deal to us and the branches.

Communication Changes

Website. We are going to refreshen our website in 2026 and members will be able to log into their 'own area' and update their details and set alerts for events. We hope this will assist in staying up to date with news and events.

Have no fear we will provide guidance on how to do this.

The Gazette. The next edition will be out in April 2026. You can still submit articles for this up until 31 January.

Send into editor@qarancassociation.org.uk.

We would welcome your views on how we can improve the Gazette. So do let us know via Tracey, Gen Sec, if you would like to see something new introduced to the Gazette.

In-Pensioner - Welcome

We now have a another In-pensioner at the Royal Hospital Chelsea. Edith Canty (on the left in the photo) joined in November. This is fabulous news as we slowly grow our prescence there and gives Barbara Whilds (on the right in photo) some QA company.

We took the opportunity to visit them both and to wish them both a Merry Christmas.



Highlights

Branch Anniversaries - 75 Years

The **Scottish Branch** celebrated its 75th Anniversary in May. In true Scottish style they had a celebration and were joined by our former Chair Col (Rtd) John Quinn OSTJ.

Did you know the Scottish Branch was the very 1st Branch to be formed.



In November the **Midland Branch** joined in the activities and celebrated their 75th Anniversary.

The Midland Branch were the 3rd Branch to be established. The 2nd branch to be formed was the Australian Branch, sadly no longer in existence. We do however have 4 Association members who live in Australia.

News Notes from the Branches

no. 3 is now firmly established, you will be delighted to hear. It is known as the Midland Branch and already shows signs of independent activity.

As a matter of fact, we have not received any notes for the GAZETTE from our branches. They are so busy being independent that, apparently, they have not had time to think of such things. Both the Scottish and the Midland Branch have taken over any benevolent work in their areas, and they dealt with their own members for Christmas gifts, too. Next issue they will probably tell us a little more about their activities. We hope so.

Reunion

The reunion, as always, was a successful event and the noise of laughter and chatter at The Victory Services Club could have almost lifted the roof off.

For some members this was their first reunion and we do hope it was not their last.

We obtained some super feedback and we are taking this on-board and integrating it where we can into future activities.

News Notes from the Branches

THERE still aren't any branches, but there is a little news. Scotland is to the fore as No. 1 Branch. The inaugural meeting of the Scottish Branch—that is what it is most likely to be called—is to be held on Monday, 15th May, 1950, at 2.30 p.m., at the Highlanders' Institute, 27, Elmbank Street, Glasgow. The Administrator expects to attend to give the first-born her blessing. The branch will have about seventy members to start off, and it is hoped a large number of them can manage to be at the first meeting.

Several London members have said that they would like a branch, and the suggestion is to be discussed. The Central Committee are a little dubious for various reasons, but we'll see what comes out of the discussions.

Which area is going to be No. 2 Branch?

Remembrance Events

The weather was on everyone's side this November and certainly helped with morale for those marching as part of the QARANC Association Contingent at the Cenotaph. It was a memorable experience for those marching for the first time. You will be able to read more about this in the next edition of The Gazette.

If you want to take part in the Cenotaph March in 2026 then look out for the application that will be out in January 2026.



Look Forward

2026 Reunion

Following feedback from many members we plan to be more mobile with our reunions. The intent is to hold more events in various locations throughout the Summer of 2026. These will be smaller and varied therefore allowing gatherings throughout the year.

Members can therefore attend as many reunions as they wish - a fantastic opportunity to catch up with friends and old acquaintances across the country.

Gatherings might be less formal than historical events but none the less it will be an opportunity to chat.

Details of the events will be published as soon as dates and locations are confirmed.

80th Anniversary Event

SAVE THE DATE

Amongst other activities we are busy planning for our commemorative 80th Anniversary in March 2027. To celebrate this we will be holding an event at:

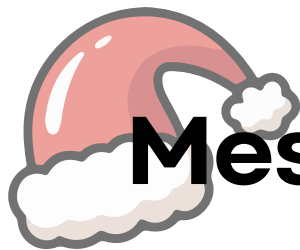
The National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire

Wednesday 24 March 2027



As we enter in 2026, we are taking a pause to reflect on those we have 'lost' this year. Each and everyone of our of QA Family are in our thoughts.





Message from the Chair

I wish to thank the Board of Trustees for their commitment and dedication to the Association this year. Their energies and support have been unwavering during a time that challenges have been plentiful. The Trustees could not function without the drive and relentless support of Tracey who has led us with patience and wise guidance along with the team, Alison, Sally and Steve and on behalf of the membership we thank them all.

To all those in the Branches who have taken on roles required to ensure their Branches can continue to operate – notably the Chairs, Secretaries and Treasurers – our thanks to you for making a difference and, albeit what sometimes seems a thankless task, your contribution to the Association is so appreciated and without doubt, lives have been improved and made more worthwhile by the hand of friendship being extended.

And finally to all the members, our thanks for your ongoing support in whatever form works for you – however you choose to retain involvement is fine by us – we value any involvement or interest and very much hope this will be retained long into the future.

Wishing all our members a very happy Christmas and very best wishes for 2026. Thank you for your ongoing support over the year – one that has seen great change – but in true QARANC style one that we have professionally demonstrated determination in identifying and articulating our aspirations for the future.



Christmas Office Hours

The office will close on Friday 19 December 2025.
We will reopen on Monday 5 January 2026.