



# Welcome

Welcome to our 2<sup>nd</sup> Newsletter – intended to keep our membership up to date with the activities of the Association.

I trust you have all received your copy of The Gazette which seemed to reach most members around the easter period. A second Gazette for this year is still planned and it is anticipated that it will arrive with you late October/early November – however please remember that articles for inclusion need to be submitted no later than the end of July to allow for the editorial and publishing requirements to happen.

There is much to update you on but will be brief...

Our congratulations to Brigadier Helen Winder, the former Chief Nursing Officer (Army) on her promotion and posting. We offer a warm welcome to Colonel Caroline Vincent OBE L/RAMS who has now assumed this role with her primary role, Commanding Officer Royal Centre for Defence Medicine. We hope Caroline will be able to continue to support the Association in whatever form is appropriate going forward.

Our revised Constitution for the Association was ratified by the Charity Commission in February and this remains the regulatory framework by which we operate. Basically it was amended to acknowledge that we no longer have serving QARANC and obviously the Ex Officio Appointments on the Board of Trustees were removed.

We have continued our dialogue with the Royal Army Medical Service (RAMS) Charity and offered our support and assistance as required. The unspent monies we received through the Service Days Pay Giving from former QARANC personnel has now been transferred to the RAMS following written receipt of their assurance that proper and appropriate financial controls are in place. Our Association has now ceased managing the grant and benevolence requests made by serving personnel.

Our Book of Remembrance is now housed in a new display cabinet at Westminster Abbey alongside books for the RAMC and RADC. A book for the RAMS will also be added in time. The Turning the Page Ceremony was a poignant and historic occasion – more detail is available online.

I am delighted to advise you that the response to our survey sent to all the membership earlier in the year is good and we are assured that the current response rate and data collection equates to trustworthy results. That said if you still have not completed the survey – please do – it is important that as many members as possible contribute their views relating to the shaping of our strategy as we negotiate the future. Further details on how to access the survey are included later. We are also talking to all Branches on how we might offer assistance in the future. It appears the greatest concern is the ability of Branches to fill their key appointments. It appears that once individuals are appointed to these roles and of course doing a great job, it is difficult for them to step down due to a reluctance by other branch members to take on the responsibility. Please do embrace the need for key appointments to be filled and encourage others to step in and take a turn. The Branch appointments are well supported by both Tracey and Alison in the Office and are an essential component of governance arrangements and the good practice that we are recognised for.

As you will appreciate our membership numbers and income have reduced due to the loss of serving personnel. We have offered access to membership for our former QARANC personnel now serving with the RAMS albeit not many have elected to continue their membership term. Hopefully these numbers will increase and ensure the Association retains its diverse membership.

The Board of Trustees are currently undertaking Role Reviews to ensure the services required to maintain the efficient and proficient running of the charity are appropriate and value for money. These are specifically targeted on our financial and administrative support and these pieces of work will be reported on later in the year.

There is much to look forward to as we continue to navigate the future – it is lovely to see the Branches undertaking their events. Please do support the Branch events as you are able – a lot of effort goes into planning these occasions and, without a doubt I have never heard too many grumbles about what there is not to like about a few hours of food, drink, reminiscing and of course ‘friendship’. Plans are already well underway for our 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event next year. This event to be held on 24 March 2027 at the National Memorial Arboretum (to be known as the Royal British Legion National Remembrance Gardens from September 2026) and has already received a lot of interest - I urge you to book soon should you wish to attend. Further information on how to do this is included in this Newsletter. Don't forget also that if you wish to participate by marching with the QARANC Association contingent at the Cenotaph this year – applications need to be made to the Office.

# Updates

## Benevolence

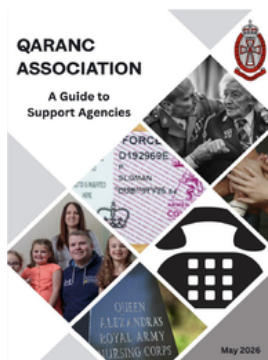
The Benevolence Committee of the Association meets monthly to consider applications for assistance from former QARANC (or predecessor organisations) personnel or their dependents. This could be for a number of reasons - perhaps to purchase household items or mobility equipment - but we will be happy to consider any application from someone who is in need and requires our help.

Please do spread the word as applicants do not need to be members of the Association to be eligible for assistance - anyone who has served in the Corps, either Regular or Reserve with one days paid service or more.

Applications cannot be made directly to the Association but should come via The Royal British Legion, Poppy Scotland or SSAFA all of whom are happy to help. We have the details of the process on our website if you want to know more.

We always try and signpost people to other charities or organisations that we feel may be helpful for them to contact. Some of these are on our website but we plan to include a link to a document that you can access that may be of help if you need specific advice or assistance from a number of sources.

Please do get in touch if you or anyone you know would like to know more.



## 80th Anniversary Event

### Come along to the party

Places are still available for the 80th Anniversary Event at the National Arboretum on 24 March 2027, and we would be delighted if you were able to join us.

Applications to attend can be made via the [website](#), or by contacting [info@garancassociation.org.uk](mailto:info@garancassociation.org.uk).

## Membership Survey

### Have your say

The membership survey is open until 30 June 2026, and we would warmly encourage you to take part. It is a valuable opportunity to share your views on the QARANC Association and your membership.

If you have not already completed the survey, we hope you will take a few moments to do so. You can access it online at [Membership Survey](#).

## Association Award

### And the winner is.....

The QARANC Association Award is presented each year to a member who has made an exceptional contribution to the Association by promoting esprit de corps and comradeship, supporting the welfare of the Corps, preserving its traditions, or helping to relieve need, hardship, or distress.

If you know someone who fits these criteria, we warmly encourage you to nominate them using the [Nomination](#) form.

# Highlights

## Turning of The Page

9 May 2026 was a very special occasion as we attended Westminster Abbey to witness the Army Nursing Services Book of Remembrance being blessed and placed on display alongside the RAMC and RADC Books of Remembrance. It is especially fitting that our book now has a permanent home and will form part of the regular Turning of the Page ceremonies at Westminster Abbey.

The dates of the forthcoming ceremonies are:

- 4 July 2026
- 5 September 2026
- 3 October 2026
- 12 December 2026 (TBC)



The ceremony is free to attend and begins at 1030 hrs. You would be very welcome to join us.



## Oral History Project

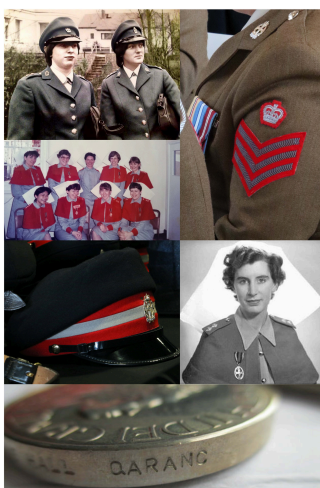
As part of protecting the heritage of British Army Nursing, we are collecting oral histories. An oral history is simply a structured account of someone's career, and each one helps preserve our shared story for the future.

We would like to speak to as many Army nurses and healthcare assistants as possible, regardless of when, where, or for how long they served. Every one of us has a story to tell, and by sharing yours you will be adding to the growing body of knowledge about Army Nursing.

If you are happy for someone to come and speak with you, we will contact you directly—or, if you prefer, we can liaise with a member of your family or a carer.

We would be happy to visit you wherever you live and have a conversation with you, which we would record so that it can be transcribed later.

Contact via [info@garancassociation.org.uk](mailto:info@garancassociation.org.uk).



# Your Help



## The Gazette

### New Feature

The Gazette will be introducing a new feature, and we would love to hear from you if you would like to:

- Search for someone
- Advertise a reunion or event
- Ask a general question to the Trustees

Please contact Tracey at

[generalsecretary@qarancassociation.org.uk](mailto:generalsecretary@qarancassociation.org.uk).

Submissions should be sent in by 31 July 2026.

## Your Branch Needs YOU .....

### Can you help?

Do you have the enthusiasm, time, and willingness to take on a role within your branch?

If the answer is yes, please do get in touch—your branch would be delighted to welcome your support.

### CONTACT US AT



[infor@qarancassociation.org.uk](mailto:infor@qarancassociation.org.uk)



0300 365 0120



## Final word from the Chair.....

I hope you all enjoy the warmer summer months and please do continue to support the Association. We will of course keep you updated and look forward to hopefully seeing some of you at events over the summer months and hopefully many of you next year at our 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event.

My thanks to the Board of Trustees who offer their time to ensure the Association is able to fulfil its role and of course to everyone in the Branches who manage and coordinate their members and events at a local level. And to conclude, my thanks to Tracey and Alison are always at the end of the telephone to answer any questions or deal with any issues – and it does keep them busy!!

