



Welcome

On behalf of the Trustees and our valued staff, welcome to the third edition of the QARANC Association Newsletter. Its purpose is to keep you informed about Association business between issues of our flagship journal, 'The Gazette'.

What a summer it has been. We hope that those of you who enjoy the sunshine and were able to get out and about had a lovely time. Those who prefer cooler conditions can now breathe a sigh of relief, as cooler weather—and some rain—has returned. Where would we be without the vagaries of our weather?

Throughout the year, the Trustees have used several ways to understand how you, our valued members, would like the Association to support its membership as times change. Feedback from last year's Reunion, meetings with Branches and the recent Membership Survey has provided many excellent suggestions and proposals, which the Trustees are now using to update the Strategy. There will be more about the Survey in the next edition of 'The Gazette', but I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the excellent response. Several key questions emerged, and we have included some of them here to give you a flavour of what members are asking. The feedback gives us confidence in the future: there remains strong support for the Association to continue in its current, or a slightly adapted, form. The Trustees and staff are working hard to keep the Association up to date and compliant with all statutory and regulatory obligations. We are also reviewing the services we purchase to ensure that they remain appropriate, offer value for money and meet our needs in a changing landscape. We will, of course, report any changes as they are agreed.



Another priority is preparing and planning for our celebratory 80th Anniversary event next year. As you will have seen in the publicity, the event will take place at the National Memorial Arboretum on 24 March 2027. You may also be aware that this remarkable venue will be renamed the 'Royal British Legion National Remembrance Gardens'. We have already received an overwhelming response from members applying for tickets. If you have not yet applied, please do so soon to secure your place or places and avoid disappointment.

As you may have seen online, and as reported more fully in 'The Gazette', the Trustees were delighted to adopt and share a new strapline for our Association:

'Rooted in heritage. United in Service. Stronger in friendship'.

We believe this strapline embodies our Association and everything it stands for: respect for those who came before us and for our shared history, recognition of the service we have each undertaken, whatever its duration, and celebration of the valuable and unique friendships we now share.

As Chair, I extend my sincere thanks to all our Trustees and staff, who work so hard to ensure that the Association continues to flourish. Their commitment and dedication are exceptional, and we should all be proud of what we have achieved together. I hope you enjoy this edition of the Newsletter and the next edition of 'The Gazette' when it lands on your doormat shortly.



Q

When will the survey results be out?

A

A summary of the membership survey findings will appear in the next edition of The Gazette. Once the final analysis is complete, we aim to share the full findings with members by the end of 2026.

Q

To reduce costs, could we reduce Gazette expenditure, move to one publication a year, or provide more online access?

A

We are exploring the possibility of using a different quality of paper for The Gazette. However, with a busy year ahead in 2027, including the 80th Anniversary event, we have decided to keep the current arrangements in place for now. The wider review of The Gazette will take place in 2028 and will consider options for members to opt in or out of receiving a paper copy, as well as opportunities to access the publication online.

Q

Question - How do I get to attend a Buckingham Palace Garden Party?

A

Response - We receive a limited number of tickets, often at short notice, to attend a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. These tickets are kindly offered to us by the Not Forgotten Association. When tickets are received, they are offered through the membership to individuals who have made a significant contribution to the Association. This provides a valued opportunity to thank members for their support and recognise their service to the Association.

Q

Can we have more reunions and events?

A

Yes. We would very much like to offer more than one event each year. We are currently considering how best to achieve this within our financial means. We would also welcome support from members who may be able to help organise events. If you have time to spare or ideas to share, please contact us at info@qarancassociation.org.uk.



Q

How many members do we have?

A

There are currently 1,503 members in the QARANC Association.

Q

Why do we need so many staff to run the Association

A

The Association has two employed office staff, and neither role is full time. The General Secretary works four days a week and the Administration Officer works three days a week. These roles are essential to the day-to-day administration of the Association and help ensure that work is progressed on behalf of members. The Gazette Editor and Treasurer are contracted roles.

As part of our financial review, and in response to feedback from members, we are actively reviewing our staffing requirements. However, for the foreseeable future, we do not expect the office staffing structure to change; in fact, the demands on the team may increase

Q

Can I join the Association if I am serving RAMS but was in the QARANC?

A

Yes, of course—you are welcome to join the Association. Our membership includes serving members of the Royal Army Medical Service (RAMS), as former members of QARANC.

Serving RAMS members already play an active role in the Association, with some holding key appointments within our branches or as Trustees.

To join, please apply through our website or contact us at info@qarancassociation.org.uk.

Thank
you!

It has been a busy time of farewells across the Association, and we would like to offer our sincere thanks to those who have given so much of their time and support over many years.

- Alison Roberts – Admin Officer
- Keiron Spires – Curator
- Christine Duchemin – Chair, Millbank Branch

We are very grateful for their dedication and contribution to the Association, and we wish them all the very best for the future. We hope to see them again at future events.



The countdown is on to 24 March 2027, and preparations are progressing well behind the scenes. We are delighted to announce that we have been able to increase the number of places available, so there is still an opportunity to join us for this special occasion.

For further information, including event details and the application form, please visit the [80th Anniversary Event Application](#).

Have You Moved

If you have recently moved home, please let us know so we can update our records. Keeping your details up to date ensures that you continue to receive Association correspondence, including the latest edition of the Gazette. We frequently receive returned copies, and without current address details we cannot guarantee that post from us will reach you.

Benevolence Update

Over the summer months the Benevolence Committee has continued to meet regularly to discuss applications made to us for financial assistance. As always these are variable and range from help with household debt to the purchase of specific items, often household appliances and furniture but sometimes mobility equipment to help people get out and about.

We are happy to receive applications for assistance from anyone who has served in the QARANC or its predecessor organisations and there is no need for the applicant to be a member of the Association. So if you know someone who needs help please do signpost them to SSAFA or the Royal British Legion who will be able to help with their application as we cannot accept direct applications.

There is a lot of information on our website including a Guide to Support Agencies which we hope will be of help. If you have any specific queries regarding benevolence assistance, please do contact the General Secretary or the Chair of the Benevolence Committee.

Did you know..... there is a QARANC Tartan

The QARANC tartan was designed around 2000 by Arthur Mackie of Strathmore Woollens for the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps (QARANC). It was formally entered in the Scottish Register of Tartans on 31 January 2023, thereby securing official recognition for a design that embodies the heritage, traditions and identity of the QARANC.

The registration of the tartan provides the Association with a distinctive and exclusive design for the production of commemorative items. To mark the Association's 80th Anniversary, members will have the opportunity to purchase a commemorative item featuring the QARANC tartan.

Further information regarding the QARANC tartan and the commemorative item available will be announced shortly.

[Tartan Details - The Scottish Register of Tartans](#)



Contact us at.....



info@qarancassociation.org.uk



0300 365 0120



QARANC Association Office
Room 22, Robertson House
Slim Road
Camberley, Surrey
GU15 4NP