

FUSILIERS NEWS

Be Tough – Be Infantry – Be Fusiliers



The 5 FUSILIERS
Band is the official
Regimental Band

The Band's concert at Widdrington Village Church with a programme ranging from Puccini to Stephen Schwartz and highlighting the talents of several soloists from within the ranks

The 1 April 2026 Fusilier Newsletter

In this edition, read about support for the Fusilier Museum (Bury), a dedication ceremony in Middleton, 5 FUSILIERS' activities, and a variety of other Fusilier family events across the country.

Help the Fusilier Museum (Bury) with Artefacts, Images and Documents

The Fusilier Museum (Bury) is in the early days of re-designing the Fusilier gallery in the Museum. This is a long term project which will hopefully see the new gallery open in 2028 – the 60th anniversary of the creation of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

The design team selected to deliver the project has looked at the available artefacts from the period 1968 to the present day and have commented that the post-1968 FUSILIERS collection available to display is



quite limited. However, there are some stand-out exceptions, for example the 'Dragon's Lair' wooden sign from Afghanistan, which is a remarkable object with a powerful story, backed up by personal testimony. There is also there is a Warrior gun breech from one of the destroyed friendly fire vehicles from OP GRANBY currently in the Sergeants Mess of 1 FUSILIERS. However, more objects like this are needed especially from the operational theatres where the Regiment since 1968 – Northern Ireland, Cyprus, The Gulf, the Balkans, Iraq and Afghanistan, Estonia.

We hope that there are likely many objects out there which have the potential to be as significant as the 'Dragon's Lair' sign from the 2nd Battalion's tour of Afghanistan. So this is an appeal to members of the Regiment and their families who may have an object, image or document that tells a story, which they would be prepared to loan to the Museum so the re-designed Fusilier gallery is able to accurately and personally tell the story of the Regiment from 1968.



If you think that you have something of interest, or know of any items, please get in touch with Ria Bagshaw at the Museum at the following address:

ria.bagshaw@fusiliermuseum.com



A special dedication ceremony in Willow Park, Middleton

The Park and several streets have been named in honour of Fusilier Lee Rigby

FUSILIERS, Joel Halliwell VC Lancashire Fusiliers and Lance Corporal Scott Hetherington, 2nd Battalion, Duke of Lancaster's Regiment.

All three had links to the local area in Middleton and there was unanimous support from the community to commemorate their service. Willow Park is now named the **Joel Halliwell VC Park** and two adjacent streets have been named **Rigby Way** and **Hetherington Way**.



The dedication service in their memory included speeches, poetry, music and the playing of the Last Post by the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers Band Lancashire, the laying of wreaths and a parade through the Park itself. Relatives of the fallen attended along with local dignitaries and the wider veteran community.

Joel Halliwell VC Park

Rigby Way

Hetherington Way

Out and about with 5 FUSILIERS

Supporting Ex SHARPSHOOTER

In early March, Reservists from C Coy 5 FUSILIERS based in Balham and Blackheath, supported Ex SHARPSHOOTER, an Employer Engagement competition held at the barracks of the Honourable Artillery Company.



Teams from organisations including London Stock Exchange, Babcock and Daniel Cobb Estate Agents took part.



On Exercise

In early March, Fusiliers from A and C Companies 5 FUSILIERS, based in Sheldon and Balham have



been on exercise, conducting section and platoon attacks in complex terrain such as forests. This develops individual soldiering skills, teamwork and communication and also tests commanders in a challenging environment.



They also learned and developed other skills such as battlefield casualty drills, artillery target indication and the capabilities of the 81mm mortar.

On the Ranges

Last weekend, 5 FUSILIERS Reservists from Newcastle, Northumberland and Bolton participated in a series of ranges, starting with the ACMT. The ACMT is a Soldier's Annual Combat Marksmanship Test, which every soldier must pass to be qualified.



They have now just finished their Individual Battle Shooting Range package which focuses on engaging enemy targets from multiple positions and weapon systems at a range of distances. This prepares the Reservists for the Individual Fire and Manoeuvre packages.

Ex HACKLE BLOOM

5 FUSILIERS have just returned from their Annual Training Exercise (ATE), comprising ranges and a field exercise, as well as a Physical Training Leader course.



Each year, Reservists from 5 FUSILIERS attend a two week ATE, maintaining their skills and contributing towards their Certificate of Efficiency or 'Bounty' - a tax-free lump sum of up to £2,298.



The Fusilier Band

The Fusilier Band's Brass Quintet was in Durham supporting the RFCA Chairman's Dinner. It was followed by a busy few weeks for the Band's small ensembles, with two Lord Lieutenant's Presentation Ceremonies before the end of March and a dinner night at RAF Boulmer at the beginning of April.



The Quintet at the start of a busy March

Fusiliers on International Women's Day



Northumberland Fusilier Veteran Jack Hearn awarded BEM

In early March, representatives from the Fusilier Club (Northumberland) visited former Northumberland Fusilier Jack Hearn who was awarded the British Empire Medal for services to judo and the community.

Jack who is the grand old age of 102 was presented the medal by the Lord Lieutenant of Northumberland, Caroline Prior, alongside John his son and Carolyn his daughter.



Maj Chester Potts with Jack Hall

Jack is a real character and is fiercely proud of having been a Northumberland Fusilier, so it was a huge honour to be part of the ceremony. A massive well done from all of us in the Regiment Jack and we are very proud of you!



Chris Finn organised a Fusilier meet, which involved a subsidised beer and curry. Get in touch with Chris or watch Fusiliers Connect for the next one coming soon to a curry house near you...

Lancashire remembers Op GRANBY

Pioneers from the Fusilier Club (Lancashire) represented the Regiment at the Op GRANBY Gulf War remembrance service on Sunday 1 March. Capt (Retd) John Jones took over as Parade Commander to ensure all went well.



The Warwickshire & West Midlands Fusilier family weekend

On 6 March, Captain Rollins, PSAO A Coy 5 FUSILIERS, hosted the Warwickshire and West Midlands Fusilier family weekend.

Regular and Reserve Fusiliers were joined by both Fusilier Veterans and Fusilier Cadets on a visit to the National Memorial Arboretum. That evening Col Steve Burton, Colonel Warwickshire hosted the Warwick Fusilier Officers Club Dinner at Gamecock Barracks in Nuneaton.



Success in the Cadet shooting competition

The following day, a cohort of Regular, Reserves, Veterans and Cadets deployed to Whittington Barracks near Lichfield to compete in a shooting competition. This was a great opportunity for Fusiliers both young and old to meet, share their experiences and build relationships across the wider Fusilier family.

Fusilier Sport

Following recent success at the Army Inter Corps Cross Country Championships, members of 1 FUSILIERS continued the momentum at the Army Trail Championships in Winchester.



1 FUSILIERS winners !

CSgt Urwin competed in the 20km race, securing Gold with the Veteran Team and Gold with the Senior Team after a recount confirmed the Infantry victory.

Sgt Beck ran the 10km race, earning Silver with the Infantry Senior Team.

Sgt Sophie Smith (Royal Army Medical Services, currently attached to 1 FUSILIERS as a Nurse, ran the 10km race, finishing 2nd fastest female overall and securing Silver with the RAMS team.

At RHQ FUSILIERS

The Cordwainers sign the Armed Forces Covenant

On Wednesday 11th of March, our friends and allies, the Worshipful Company of Cordwainers, were joined by Major General Jon Swift Colonel of the Regiment, on the occasion of the Cordwainers signing of the Armed Forces Covenant.

The Master Cordwainer, Mr Andrew Peal, and the Colonel spoke to the gathered Cordwainers and Armed Forces guests expressing the importance and value of the Covenant. After the Covenant signing, annual awards were presented to members of C (City of London Fusiliers) Company, 5 FUSILIERS. The recipients were:

- LCpl Joe Judd
- Fus Lily Bradshaw
- Fus James Comer



The Col of the Regt and the Master Cordwainer

Geoff's Fundraising Result

On Wednesday 18 March, former Fusilier Geoff Green proudly presented Col James Denny, Regimental Secretary, a cheque for £1,000 for The Fusiliers Aid Society.



The funds were raised through his extremely impressive charity cycle ride in February, from Paris to Regimental Headquarters at HM Tower of London. An amazing achievement.

Thanks so much Geoff!

NOTICES

The 2026 Battle of the Marne Commemoration

Assembling the Fusiliers party for the annual commemoration of the 1st Battle of the Marne in France from 10 to 14 September 2026 is well underway. The number of Fusilier veterans wishing to attend or seeking details, is growing, unsurprisingly due to this Fusilier Club event being so enjoyable, spending time with those who have served together.

We base ourselves in Epernay in the glorious Champagne region of France. Wives and partners are always welcome.



The tour at At La Fuerte in 2025

The luxury coach is filling quite fast so do get in contact as soon as possible to ensure you are with us. The modest cost (depending on total number of attendees) is about £300 fully inclusive. Contact Richard Adams on:

mondement1@gmail.com

or

[07961 452182](tel:07961452182)

Supporting two Charities



Eileen, Marian and Paul

Former 2 FUSILIER Paul 'Brown 55' and his wife Marian, are walking 215 miles of the Southern Upland Way for the **Fusiliers Aid Society** which is very close to Paul's heart.

Marian is also raising money for the charity

Brain Tumour Support that supports patients and their families with a range of services including counselling.

The walk will begin on St George's Day, Thursday 23 April. The couple will be accompanied by their loyal dog Fynn and moral support from friend Eileen.

If you would like to donate, please click:

<https://givewheel.com/fundraising/12897/paul-and-marian-walking-the-southern-upland-way/>

We are sure you will join us in wishing this group all the very best and we look forward to updating everyone on their progress and the finished challenge.



With Fynn - you just can't go wrong with a Springer Spaniel...

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HOW TO CONTRIBUTE

Contributions are welcome from anywhere in the Fusilier Family. As a guide, articles should be about 150-300 words, but these are not absolute limits. An accompanying good photo and caption are recommended. Get them to fusiliernews@outlook.com by the 25th of each month.

Archive copies are held in the Regiment's Dropbox account.

Please note that the Editor and RHQ make every effort to ensure factual accuracy and whilst we might edit articles for reasons of space, we do not censor them. Any mistakes are purely accidental and no harm or slander is ever intended.

EDITORIAL POLICIES

Photos

The Editor accepts photographs for publication on the understanding that those submitting them have, where required by data protection legislation, obtained consent to publication from those depicted. Anyone who believes this is not the case or has a DPA related concern should contact the Editor.

Non Endorsement of products or services

The Newsletter is not a place for personal or classified adverts as we do not want to be seen as endorsing or approving the product or service in question.

The only endorsements / adverts allowed in the Newsletter are those from Fusiliers Direct or those that directly benefit the Regiment.

Obituaries and Deaths

Obituaries are published in the annual Fusilier Journal, not this Newsletter. Significant deaths of Fusiliers during the year are reported by a Notice sent out by RHQ FUSILIERS.



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