

FUSILIERS NEWS

Our hackle - the badge of history and heroes



Z Coy 1
FUSILIERS
practice urban
combat

"Stacked, prepared, and deliberating next steps..."

The 1 May 2026 Fusilier Newsletter

In this edition, read about St George's Day with the Battalions, the Fusilier Club, 5 FUSILIERS in Sennybridge, remembering Cpl Donald Traynor and news from across the Fusilier family

St George's Day with the Battalions

With 1 FUSILIERS in Tidworth...



With 5 FUSILIERS in Newcastle ...



The Fusilier Club

April sees the evolution from the **Fusilier Association** to the **Fusiliers Club**.

The reason for the change ? To make the organisation more attractive to younger members of the Regiment - both serving and recent leavers - whilst honouring our existing traditions and values.

The purpose of the Fusilier Club is simple and remains the same: to bring people together, create networks and enable people to stay in contact. All of this is made possible through our **Fusiliers Connect** website and app.

<https://www.fusiliersconnect.com/>

The Chairman of the Fusiliers Club from 1 April is Major (ret'd) Chester Potts, taking over from Maj Gen (ret'd) Paul Nanson who has held the post of Chairman Fusilier Association since 2020.

We'd like to take this opportunity to welcome Chester into his role as Chairman and to thank Paul for his continued support, dedication and leadership over the years. We are all looking forward to working with Chester and ensuring the Club continues to grow in the future.



Recognising the commitment of 5 FUSILIERS



In early April, the Lord Lieutenant of Northumberland presented members of 5 FUSILIERS with the Certificate of Meritorious Service.

Celebrating the exceptional dedication of our Army Reservists is vital for morale and retention. This award provides the prestigious, public recognition of such dedication. It's more than an award; it's a formal salute to those who master the balance of civilian life and military duty.



5 FUSILIERS in Sennybridge

Recently, soldiers from 5 FUSILIERS deployed to Sennybridge training area to conduct training on complex terrain, focusing their efforts on Fighting in Woods and Forests (FIWAF), trench warfare, and anti-armour ambushes.

This training develops crucial skills and enables our personnel to operate effectively and decisively in complex environments whilst under pressure, fatigued and in unknown terrain.

Meanwhile, the **5 FUSILIERS Band** entertained the crowds at a special event organised by 5 Fusiliers at Newcastle Train Station one April Saturday. The crowds loved it!



Remembering Corporal Donald Traynor

Early in March, the Regiment hosted a special service of remembrance at the graveside of Corporal Donald Traynor in Swinton Cemetery to commemorate the 50th anniversary of his death in Northern Ireland.

Donald was just 28 years old and serving with 3 FUSILIERS when he was killed in an IRA booby-trap bomb at the Orange Hall in Ballygargan (near Portadown, County Armagh) on 30 March 1976.

The Remembrance service was held in the Chapel within the cemetery before moving to the graveside for the act of Remembrance. The service was attended by Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Greater Manchester, Mrs Mary-Liz Walker, and Deputy Ceremonial Mayor of Salford Cllr Robin Garrido. Both



Cllr Robin Garrido, Deputy Ceremonial Mayor of Salford; Lt Col Mike McDonald; Mrs Mary-Liz Walker, Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Greater Manchester; Standard Bearers; Alan Noble; Sean McGarr; Reverend Alan Kennedy, Walkden Congregational Church

laid wreaths along with representatives from the Regiment, the Fusilier Club (formerly Association) Northwest as well as friends and family.

Following the service guests then gathered for an informal gathering at the Morning Star Pub to reflect and remember Donald.



Warwick School CCF

On 20 March 2026, Colonel Warwickshire and West Midlands visited Warwick School.

Every year the Year 11 Cadets have the opportunity to remain in the CCF and begin their training to become JNCOs. Capt Keith Davenport revised the Leadership Cadre in 2024 and, to recognise the increased rigour and higher standards, Warwick School have begun to celebrate the achievements of those Cadets who complete the course with an awards and promotions ceremony, along with a Passing Out Parade to which their parents, guardians, family, friends and teachers are invited.

Col Steve Burton, along with Maj Chris Grant, presented the newly promoted Cadets with their rank slides and then took the salute during the march past.



Warwick School CCF JNCO passing out parade

He also watched an extremely impressive Drill Demonstration and presented a sword to the top student.

Ten Heroes from a City at War

On Saturday 21 March, a dinner was hosted at the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery by the Army Benevolent Fund to commemorate the ten servicemen from Birmingham who were awarded the Victoria Cross in the First World War.

The event was attended by the Colonel of the Regiment, Regimental Secretary, Colonel Warwickshire and West Midlands, Dep Comdt Warwickshire and West Midlands ACF, Lt Col Richard Gale, Maj John Lam, Lt Gareth Owen and representatives from Fusiliers Direct.

The Volunteer Band of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, Warwickshire also attended this high profile event and provided excellent musical support.



Fusiliers Club (North East) Ypres Battlefield Tour

A recent battlefield tours to Ypres, organised by the Fusiliers Club North East and supported by RHQ, is a brilliant example of how Fusiliers Connect enables these events to happen.



The four day trip saw 43 people take part (veterans as well as wider Fusilier family members), ranging from 21 to 82 years old. The group visited Tyne Cot Cemetery to pay their respects before heading into Ypres where they were the Guard of Honour at the daily 'Last Post' ceremony at the Menin Gate Memorial.

Chairman Robin Greave gave the exhortation, Jools McGabe gave the Kohima Address and Veteran Fusilier Ritchie Watson laid a wreath.

They also managed to squeeze in visits to Ghent and Haarlem as well as undertake a history walk of Ypres as part of the itinerary. Those who took part said it wasn't just about honour, and remembrance It was also about connection, friendship, dialogue, laughter and so very much more.

Senior Cadet Instructors Course Pass Out Parade

S Sgt Steve Goddard, Rochdale Detachment Commander, No 1 (Minden) Company writes:

I had the honour of attending Altcar Training Camp on Sunday 12 April to see Cadet SSgt Woods and Cadet Sgt Bradley successfully pass out from their Senior Cadet Instructors Course (SCIC).



The SCIC is a demanding and highly regarded course designed to develop senior cadets into confident instructors and leaders. It focuses on building their ability to plan and deliver lessons, lead teams effectively and take on greater responsibility within their detachments. Successfully completing the course is a significant achievement and reflects a high standard of commitment, maturity and leadership potential.

We were fortunate to have fantastic weather for the occasion and it was great to see parents, relatives and fellow Detachment Commanders in attendance to support the cadets on this important milestone.

The course was delivered by the North West Cadet Training Centre (NW CTC), led by Captain John Hughes, whose team provided an excellent and professional training package throughout.



Colonel Catherine Harrison, Regional Col Cadets North (W), took the salute during the parade and presented awards and certificates, marking a proud moment for all involved.

Learning about Drones in 1 FUSILIERS

Y Company 1 FUSILIERS ran a Small Unmanned Aerial Systems (SUAS) aka drones, course in Tidworth, qualifying the majority of the Company.

A solid week focused on using SUAS to support the Company and build understanding of counter-UAS techniques.



PEOPLE AND PLACES

Fusilier Dave 'Blu' Sheaf honoured

A special ceremony was held recently at the National Memorial Arboretum to award former Fusilier Dave 'Blu' Sheaf Honorary membership of the RRFRC. This is for Dave's service to the club, and in particular, services to the Ride the Wall event which takes place every October. Dave salutes every single rider into the event which equates to about 8,000 for the last 12 years.



Lt Col Mike McDonald presents the Medal Box to Dave Sheaf

Lt Col Mike McDonald, Regimental Secretary North, also presented Dave with a Regimental Medal Box as part of the event.

Huge Congratulations Dave and thank you for your contribution and commitment over the years.

New 5 FUSILIERS RSM

On 13 April, WO1 Brooks handed over as RSM 5 FUSILIERS to WO1 Miller at Anzio House.

As RSM, WO1 Brooks deployed on Op TOSCA with the Battalion last year, and is leaving with best wishes from the Battalion for his future career.



WO1 Miller returns to 5 FUSILIERS having previously served as a Permanent Staff Instructor with Zulu Company in Cramlington.

The new Lord Lieutenant's Cadet for the West Midlands

Regimental Secretary in his other role as Honorary Colonel Cadets for the Warwickshire and the West Midlands presenting Maj Gen Paul Nanson's book '*Stand Up Straight*' ten life lessons from RMAS, to the incoming Lord Lieutenant's Cadet for the West Midlands, Cadet Sergeant Anthony Bygrave. The presentation event took place in Birmingham Council House on 15 April 2026



L-R: John Bartlett, Lt Col Angela Notice, Cdt Sgt Bygrave and his father, Regt Sec and Lt Col Richard Gale



Cllr Dr Kethan Sheth, Ms Mei Lei Simm (Regt Auditor), The Regt Sec, Capt (retd) Malcom Johnston – dressed in the Light Cavalry uniform, and Mr Gary Langley, Consort to the Lady Mayor of the City of London and also Hon Col Cds NW ACF Sector attending the ABF Big Curry Lunch at The Guildhall, City of London in aid of the ABF

St George's Day in Benidorm

The Sunderland Branch Fusilier Club (Northumberland) hosted their St Georges Day celebrations at the 3 Amigos Armed Forces Club (RBL), Benidorm for the third year running.

A meet and greet was held the day before, whilst final preparations were completed. The day started with a group photo with the fantastic backdrop of Benidorm island. A champagne breakfast was then held for 80 Fusilier veterans and families.

Prior to proceedings a moment's silence was observed for Fusilier Lee Morris who lived in Benidorm.

Speeches and a grace was given by Branch chairman Dave McKenna and Sean Hodgson. Breakfast complete and the Regiment and St George toasted with fine local port, the Fusiliers then retired

to the patio to enjoy the sun. The day finished of with a dance and sing along in a variety bars in the town. A good day was had by all.



Fusiliers Gray and Smith passed out from the Infantry Training Centre, Catterick on the 3 April

New Arrivals to the Regiment

We welcome them all and wish them all the best in their future careers



Our three new Fusilier 2Lts completed Ex DYNAMIC VICTORY earlier this year

Fusilier Golf Day - 22 April

The 1 FUSILIERS Golf Society very generously hosted the Fusiliers Golf Society (Vets) to a St George's Day competition on 22 April at Bramshaw Golf Club in the New Forest.

Six x 4 ball matches were played in fantastic weather on a challenging course. At the end of the match the veterans were the winners. More important was the friendship and Regimental pride displayed. Many thanks to the organisers for a great golfing day.

Anyone interested in joining the Fusiliers Golf Society should contact the FGS group on Fusiliers Connect or RHQ.



Senior Fusiliers get on their bike...

Brig (retd) David Paterson and Lt Col (retd) Mark Hiskett cycled the **Etape de Loch Ness** road cycle sportive on Sunday 26 April. A 66 mile route with a climb of 4100ft.

Over 6,500 others took part including Fiona Paterson and Morag Hiskett, their wives – who were not included in the photo. They should have been as it is believed they finished well in front of David and Mark !

It is noted that Mark is correctly dressed in Regimental cycle dress.

NOTICES

Talk: Finding Peace of Mind with Jonathan Kemp



Date: Tuesday 5th May 26

Time: 2.30pm

Venue: The Fusilier Museum (Bury)

Our President, Jonathan Kemp, brings over 40 years of lived experience with mental health and neurodiversity. He is currently undertaking an extraordinary journey walking 4,200 km around the UK and Ireland over 296 days to raise awareness of mental health and support four charities: Scottish Action for Mental Health, Mind, Aware Northern Ireland, and Aware.

As part of this journey, Jonathan will be visiting the Museum on Tuesday 5 May to deliver a powerful and personal talk. He will share his own experiences with mental health, as well as the story behind this remarkable walk.



Johnathan Kemp

Jonathan has spent more than four decades managing his mental health and neurodiversity. For over 20 years, he attempted to navigate these challenges alone before ultimately seeking professional medical support.

In his early 40s, he was diagnosed with bipolar disorder, depression, and addiction, followed by a diagnosis of dyslexia six years later.

His talks are deeply honest and compelling, reflecting on a life rich with experience from being a punk rocker, a cowboy in Australia, and a frontline police officer in London, to later becoming a mature student and successful entrepreneur.

Jonathan is 3rd Viscount Rochdale and 4th Baron Rochdale. His Great Grandfather, George Kemp was a Lieutenant Colonel with the Lancashire Fusiliers in Egypt and Gallipoli.

This talk is ideal for any military or local history enthusiasts as well as mental health professionals/ organisations or those on their own mental health journey.

To book your place visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1987065023977?aff=oddtcreator>

or to make a group booking contact:

gini.wilde@fusiliermuseum.com

Camouflage and Deception in War - 1 May at 1800hrs

There will be a talk on the subject of 'Camouflage and Deception in War' by Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) James Porter at 1800hrs on Friday 1 May via ZOOM (the talk will be recorded and may be sent to you electronically if you are unable to tune in on 1st May). James says:

In this talk, I will explore how camouflage and deception have been used in warfare generally in the 20th Century. I cover the various schemes to camouflage individual soldiers, vehicles, equipments, tanks, combat aircraft and ships in order to make them 'disappear'.

I also explore the science and skill in deceiving the eye of an enemy, confusing or distracting him. I do this first on land, exploring the principles of camouflage and concealment.

Next I look at camouflage and deception regarding aircraft: the superiority of Luftwaffe night fighter paint schemes over that used by the RAF, the purpose behind spiral or segmented black paint on propeller spinners, and why the USAAF did not bother with camouflage paint.

I then discuss the seemingly insuperable task of camouflaging a ship, looking at the various schemes to conceal a ship by day and night, to confuse an enemy as to its course and speed, and to disguise it as a completely different ship. The range of colour schemes and patterns used on ships in both World Wars is extraordinary and my talk is lavishly illustrated with very many photographs and diagrams.

The talk is a salute to human ingenuity, and I think you will find it fascinating!

Discover Your Future Role Within the Army

ARMY

ARMY Jobs Fair 15/05

- Date: Fri 15 May 2026
- Time: 0900–1400 hrs
- Location: Aldershot Garrison Sports Centre
- Dress: MTP for serving personnel
- Complete QR Code for registration

Supporting Veterans who are considering in re-joining the Army by showing what the Army has to offer and how to Re-join the British Army

Officers Cocktail Party for June

The Officers' Regimental Cocktail Party will be held outside RHQ at HM Tower of London at 1830 to 2030, Thursday 25 June 2026.

Tickets are now available, please go to the events page on Fusiliers Connect to book. The last order date for tickets is 1600hrs on Friday 19 June 2026.

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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.



020 3166 6909

www.fusiliersconnect.com

RHQ RRF, HM Tower of London, EC3N 4AB