



Newsletter

July 2021



Hello All Stations, This is Rocket.

So finally, out of the Covid restrictions, and reporting on what we've done since February, and what we have planned for the next few months.

Onion '21

Our reunion 2021, held at the Boars head in Middlewich at the end of June, was very well attended, despite not being given complete freedom from restrictions, meaning a few things needed to be juggled around.

Friday 25th,

After all arriving in party spirit, we welcomed 3 new RSA Members to the branch, Those being **Dawn Connor**, **Claire O'Toole** and **Damian Wells**. We also welcomed for the first time attending an Onion **Tony Burton**. Landlady of the Boars Head **Liz McGuinness**, was presented a Branch plaque to confirm the pub as HQ

Dawn, whilst being Rocket's better half, is ex WRAC, RCT and RLC, and currently a training officer in Cheshire ACF. Whilst in regular service, Dawn spent most of her postings with various R.Signals units. Her biggest "claim to fame" is actually being a "Real White Helmet" delivering motorbike dispatches to the Palace and Westminster. Her support to Alpha 5 in the background logistics and admin was also recognised with a presentation of a Certificate of Appreciation From the President.

Claire, ("Griff's" better half), whilst not having regular service, has many connections to the Army, and was a very valued Adult Instructor with Cheshire ACF, with her last post being the detachment commander of the R.Signals badged detachment in Halton, where she really instilled the "esprit de corps" to the cadets in her charge. Claire also assists our Treasurer (Martin Griffin) with the accounts and other support to background admin.

Damian, is ex REME, a VM (A) and whilst looking after the welfare of Len Bibby (thats a hard job!) is assisting in helping track down the few from the fitter section that were members of the Troop back in the day (Kev Pettit for example) .

All three were awarded, RSA cards, Membership Pins (RSA and Branch) and scarfs/ties by our President. (**David Whimpenny**)

As the drinks flowed, the buffet was served and a few of us went off, "Doontoon" in search of the open air gig of "**The Assets**" (unfortunately not being able to play specifically for us, due to covid restrictions) Music was great, the drinks flowed, Alpha 5 were in fine voice (allegedly)

Saturday 26th, (ARMED FORCES DAY)

The day was spent mainly catching up with each other, visiting various canal side pubs around Middlewich.

Our President, having had to depart, to chaperone **HRH the Princess Royal** around the NMA for the second time in a week. Handed over his "pastoral" duties to the Chairman (**Steve Clements**)

In the Evening we welcomed the **Corps RSM, Richard “Kiwi” Scarcliffe**, who before he’d even entered the Boars head, ran into a young, local ex Signaller, who was under his command when he was an SSM.

Kiwi, spent the next hour or so meeting all of the assembled, hearing our “sandbag stories”, before we all sat down to a very enjoyable Dinner together at our tables of social distanced bubbles of 6.

He then gave a speech, about the state of the Corps, how somethings have changed but other things are still very much the same. This was very well received, and he praised the Branch for its camaraderie, ethos and spirit and thanked us all for our hospitality.

Kiwi was presented with honorary Branch membership, including the Tie, Pin and various PRI branded items. He then drew the raffle, and was devastated to pull out his own ticket as the very first! (winning the bottle of Penderyn whisky) despite his embarrassed protests, the Branch insisted with cries of “you paid for a ticket, you won the prize”, that he kept it.

Kiwi has since messaged me, once again thanking the Branch, for the gifts and hospitality, wishes us well, and looks forward to seeing us all again.

Another fantastic weekend, The Committee and Branch would like to thank **Angela Parker** for her hard work in organising it.

Future events

August - online (Facebook) Election for the offices of Branch **Chairman**, and **Vice Chair**. followed by appointment of President, Treasurer and Secretary by the above.

should any member who is not on social media, please inform the Secretary for both nominations, and “proxy” vote.

September - 4th, Royal Signals annual remembrance and rededication at the NMA.

November - 11th onwards, Remembrance events, including opening of Garden of Remembrance, and Cenotaph parade, London. (Details to follow to those who have been selected as required).