

ONCE A GUNNER ALWAYS A GUNNER



KEY FACTS

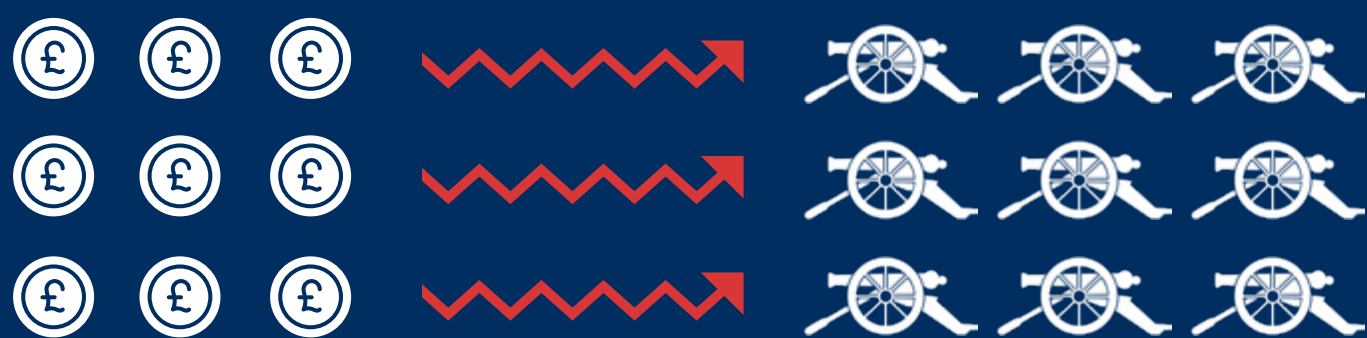
TOTAL CHARITABLE
SPEND 2019 / 2023

£12,413,000

INCOME
£12.547M



EXPENDITURE
£12.413M



DEMONSTRATING A BALANCED CASHFLOW OVER TIME
— ALWAYS IN SUPPORT OF THE GUNNER FAMILY

IN 2024 OVER £1.9 MILLION WAS SPENT IN SUPPORT OF OUR CHARITABLE CAUSES, THE HIGHLIGHTS WERE:



WELFARE SUPPORT TO VETERAN & SERVING GUNNERS:

OVER £733,000
WE SUPPORT OUR REGIMENTAL
FAMILY, VETERAN & SERVING



DIRECT SUPPORT TO THE SERVING REGIMENT:

OVER £367,000
IMPROVING LIVES OF SERVING
SOLDIERS, EVERY YEAR



DIRECT SUPPORT TO VETERANS:

OVER £278,000
ONCE A GUNNER
ALWAYS A GUNNER



SUPPORT TO REGIMENTAL SPORT & LEADERSHIP TRAINING:

OVER £188,000
INVESTING IN DEVELOPMENT OF
SERVING SOLDIERS, YEAR ON YEAR



SUPPORT TO THE PRESERVATION OF REGIMENTAL HERITAGE:

OVER £265,000
OUR HISTORY INFORMS WHO
WE ARE & SHAPES OUR FUTURE



THE PERSONAL EFFECT OF OUR WORK

LIFE-CHANGING IMPACT

“The Royal Artillery Charities have always been there for me and leave me with a feeling that there is always someone there for me. The charities could not do more to support me and I will always be eternally grateful.”

“I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for the financial support you have extended to my family. My brother’s sudden death came as a shock to all of us.

I had been saving to apply for British citizenship and to prepare for my transition out of the Army; as I approach 22 years of service next year.

However, I had to use those savings to cover the costs of my flight and my brother’s funeral arrangements.

Your generosity will play a crucial role in helping me achieve one of my personal goals this year — and that is obtaining British citizenship. I am sincerely thankful for the assistance of my Regiment and will always remember your support.”

“I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for the generous financial support you have provided to me during this difficult time. Your kindness has made a significant difference in my life, and I am truly thankful for the help.

The challenges I’ve been facing have been overwhelming, and your contribution has alleviated some of the financial burden, allowing me to focus on regaining stability. It’s comforting to know that there are organizations like yours that step in and support soldiers and individuals like me, when they need it most.

I will hopefully be able repay the favour, so you are able to continue supporting soldiers who need it. Thank you!”

“We can’t thank the RA Charities enough for giving us the opportunity to live in our Colchester house.

The tenancy is a ‘lifetime tenancy’ which gives us enormous comfort to know we can remain in one place in our older years.”

Would you please be so kind as to pass on my thanks to all the people who have in some way contributed to providing me with the scooter. I now have a true sense of independence.

Now I am fully independent and able to come and go as I please, I can attend my Armed Forces and Veterans coffee mornings and my monthly Parkinson’s Club. Please convey my sincere thanks to all those involved in making this possible, you have prevented a year that was turning out to be a “Annus Horribilius” as our late Queen stated — and transformed it into something special. You have made a veteran very happy and given me my independence back which has reduced the amount of stress that I was suffering. Once again THANK YOU, THANK YOU. Once again, I can’t stop saying it! Thank you from one very happy veteran.”

“I would like to personally thank you from myself and my family for your generous contribution to support my son in gaining an assessment of his additional needs.

Your help will hopefully improve his future and open more opportunities and support for him that is much needed. Seeing first-hand as a serving soldier what the RA Charities can offer has been eye-opening as I was previously unaware of it even being an option for my situation. I will be sure to spread the word on the good work and support the charities can offer. Thank you again.”

“I served in the Royal Artillery for 24 years, deploying to Northern Ireland, Cyprus, Iraq and several tours of Afghanistan.

Towards the late stages of my colour service ending, I lost my mother to cancer, then a year later went through a difficult divorce where my life became very bleak. I began to suffer with severe anxiety, depression, trust and mental health issues; ‘thinking what was the point?’

On the date of my colour service ending, I was no longer entitled to accommodation and was therefore homeless. Nowhere to live, no job, divorce ongoing, alone, life was very bad.

A close friend and colleague advised me to contact the RA Charities for assistance. It was one of the hardest things to do, but I asked for help.

I was only homeless for a week and living in a cheap hotel, when the charities contacted me, informing me that I had been accepted to live in one of the Royal Artillery Houses.

This has been so positive and amazing.

It is taking me time, but I am slowly rebuilding my life, after losing everything.

The Royal Artillery housing has helped me to find a job, and this has enabled me to help others in education, get a dog — which is a great emotional support, and having a home gives me purpose, security and helps keep my anxiety and depression in check.

I cannot thank everyone enough for the help, assistance and kindness they have shown continuously shown. Without the support of the RA Charities, I believe I may not have been here today.”

2024 SUPPORT

HOW WE HELP THOSE IN NEED

OVER **£647,000**

IN WELFARE GRANTS TO

INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES

£86,300

IN WELFARE GRANTS TO

UNITS

WHICH SUPPORTS:
1,118 TOTAL CASES



BREAKDOWN:
91 SERVING* / 1027 VETERANS*
*INCLUDING FAMILIES & DEPENDANTS



SUPPORTING ALL

THANK YOU FROM A SERVING OFFICER

THE RA CHARITIES ARE THERE FOR ALL

FROM THE WORDS OF A RA OFFICER

"I am a serving Royal Artillery Officer with over 40 years service. My wife was diagnosed with stage four colon cancer in February 2023. It came as a huge shock and changed our lives overnight.

She was offered standard treatment from the NHS; which we knew was not going to change the outcome, but hopefully would prolong her life. As time went on, it was clear that we needed something in addition to the standard NHS course of treatment.

We researched private treatment options which were available. A clinic in Frankfurt offered to care for her, although very expensive, we felt we had no choice but to take it.

My Commanding Officer asked why I had not made any enquires for financial assistance from the RA Charities. I personally felt that it was there to support soldiers and their families — not officers like me.

I was encouraged to make contact with the RA Charities and when I did, the support was both immediate and very welcome.

We received financial support which assisted with our travel and hotel expenses; which took the pressure off us both at a very difficult time.

We visited the clinic in Frankfurt for treatment five times over the course of five months; each with the support of the welfare charity. Sadly my wife lost her life in May 2025.

On reflection the support we received was outstanding — always helpful and extremely dignified. If I have learnt anything from my recent experience, it is that the RA Charities are there for all of us and all ranks 'must' be encouraged to ask for assistance when they need it."

"OUR CHARITIES ARE THERE FOR ALL OF US. ALL RANKS 'MUST' BE ENCOURAGED TO ASK FOR ASSISTANCE WHEN THEY NEED IT."



SUPPORT TO SOLDIERS RETURNING FROM OPERATIONS

EX UBIQUE BOOMERANG

Wherever the Army and Defence deploys, you will find Gunners. Our battle honour "Ubique" (Latin for "Everywhere") reflects that.

The diverse nature of our capabilities means we support operations on land, from the sea, and in the air. This means we continually have soldiers deployed on operations around the world. Deployments are intense and demanding, so ensuring our soldiers have time to decompress and are better able to integrate into life back in the UK is essential.

"THE RA HAS BEEN AT THE FOREFRONT OF DESIGNING A PROGRAMME, NOW USED BY OTHERS, TO DELIVER THIS; WHICH HAS BEEN ENABLED BY SUPPORT FROM THE RA CHARITIES."

Through Ex UBIQUE BOOMERANG we provide a safe and controlled environment for personnel to rest, relax and recover from the operational tempo. Additionally, Ex UBIQUE BOOMERANG aims to provide an opportunity for personnel to recognise the importance of reflection whilst understanding the signs and symptoms of stress and moral injury in themselves and others.

Ex UBIQUE BOOMERANG takes place at Thorney Island Sailing Club where attendees take part in various water sports and other restorative activities.

This allows them to confide in each other in a secure setting and share experiences which they likely have been unable to do since return to the UK.



ABOUT

THE ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION

105 YEARS OF



The Royal Artillery Association was started on 26 May 1920 by the RA War Commemoration Fund to create a 'Gunner Friend' network in every part of the United Kingdom and Commonwealth; in essence to create and foster a bond of comradeship irrespective of rank, between all who are serving or who have ever served as artillery men and women and to maintain and promote the proud traditions of 'Ubique'.

It was also designed to help those in need or distress and maintain contact with old comrades.

PATRON

His Majesty the King, our Captain General

SECRETARY

Davies, Richard Maj (RA RHQ-RAA-Sec)
Richard.Davies557@mod.gov.uk

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Thoburn, Cas Contractor (RA RHQ-RAA-AsstSec)
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MEMBERSHIP CLERK

Chapman, Fay CON (RA RHQ-RAA-Mem-Clk)
Fay.Chapman107@mod.gov.uk

CARE

COMRADESHIP

The RAA provides the opportunity, through direct support or providing links across the whole Gunner community — to ensure the serving can learn from and appreciate those that have gone before; and our veterans can feel connected to, and valued by, the entire Gunner family.

ASSOCIATION

13 Regions, 71 Branches with international reach into Germany, France, Spain and Australia. Support Networks including Commonwealth and Female Gunners, Old Comrades and Past and Present Member Associations linked directly to their serving counterparts. Interest groups bringing sports, hobbies and pastimes into the wider Gunner community. Whatever, wherever and whenever activity is taking place, the Association is there to support and bring the family together.

REGIMENTAL FAMILY

Every Battery in the Royal Artillery is also a branch of the Association creating a unique network of serving and retired Gunners and families that support and engage with each other on a regular basis. These relationships continue when serving personnel transition out of regular service cementing the Gunner family; Once a Gunner...always a Gunner.

ESPRIT DE CORPS

Gatherings and parades, sports and social, fetes and funerals — the Association is pivotal to all of these and is the go-to organisation for international relations, a national program of events, regional ceremonial engagement, and Battery level support. Whether fundraising or simply having fun, conducting individual challenges or collective comradeship, the Association is always there and will always support.

THE RA CHARITIES

ENHANCING MORALE

We believe that sport and adventurous training are far more than recreation — they are vital to sustaining fitness, building resilience, developing leadership and teamwork, and strengthening the ethos and esprit de corps that define the Royal Artillery. Together, these experiences forge a powerful sense of belonging and pride among Gunners, directly enhancing morale and operational effectiveness.

THROUGH OUR GRANTS AND DONATIONS, THE ROYAL ARTILLERY CHARITIES ENABLE SERVING SOLDIERS TO TAKE PART IN A WIDE RANGE OF SPORTS AND EXPEDITIONS THAT CHALLENGE, INSPIRE AND UNITE.

In 2024, we proudly supported 24 Royal Artillery sports teams, helping them to develop, compete and represent the Regiment across the UK and overseas — including in Asia, Africa, the United States and Europe. We also funded numerous adventurous training expeditions at home and abroad, giving participants opportunities that test their limits, build confidence, and create lifelong memories.

IN 2024 THE RA CHARITIES GRANTED OVER

£188,000

TO SPORTS AND ADVENTURE TRAINING

In total, we awarded over £188,000 in 2024 to sustain these exceptional opportunities — an investment in people, potential and pride. We are committed to increasing this support in the years ahead, ensuring that every Gunner has the chance to grow, achieve and excel.



EMPOWERING WORLD CLASS SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT

ROSIE WILDE

ELITE TRIATHLETE

Rosie was fortunate enough to receive a grant from the RA Charities to support her goals of competing in the elite field of the 2024 Ironman World Championships in Nice, France.

Up until then Rosie had been self-funding her professional career in the sport; to a detriment of her performances.

Rosie was hindered by a lack of competitive equipment, freedom of travel and a limited budget.

The RA Charities stepped up to support her endeavours and as such she was not only able to qualify for, but compete in the World Championships. She was also able to upgrade some of her bike kit and put herself in a competitive enough position to finish 30th in the world at her first world championships. Rosie said:

"Without the support of the RA Charities I would have not been able to travel to Nice early to recce the course; and I would have been staying in shared, less hospitable accommodation."

"THE RA CHARITIES TOOK THE STRESS OF COST AWAY FROM ME, SO THAT I WAS ABLE TO FOCUS ON REPRESENTING THE ROYAL ARTILLERY, THE BRITISH ARMY AND GREAT BRITAIN ON THE WORLD STAGE."

Rosie Wilde



MARCUS BOLIN WEBB

GB TEAM BIATHLETE

"THE RA CHARITIES HAVE BEEN INCREDIBLY SUPPORTIVE DURING MY BIATHLON JOURNEY AND I AM HUGEY GRATEFUL. FROM WHEN I FIRST ASKED FOR PERMISSION TO ATTEND THE FIRST GB TRAINING CAMPS FIVE YEARS AGO, TO THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT WHILST EMPLOYED AS A FULL-TIME ATHLETE — THEIR BACKING HAS BEEN FUNDAMENTAL TO WHAT I HAVE ACHIEVED SO FAR. THANK YOU."

Marcus Bolin Webb



NICK HEALEY

PURSUIING SUCCESS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL

"I'm extremely grateful to the RA Charities for the support they gave me to enable me to take part in the West Indies Target Rifle Championships; especially as it resulted in-part to my selection for Great Britain to compete in Australia in 2026. It's brilliant we have such an organisation that assists Gunners in pursuing sporting success at the highest level."



BRINGING OUR HERITAGE TO LIFE

OVER **£265,000**

GRANTED TO HELP ACHIEVE:



SUPPORTING RA COMMANDERS & STAFF TO MAKE BETTER OPERATIONAL DECISIONS



ENHANCING INDIVIDUAL MORALE AND TEAM COHESION



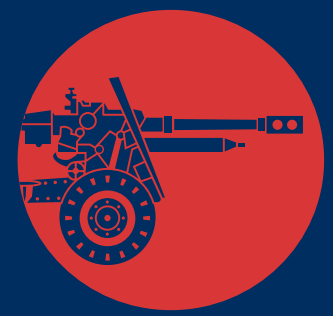
CONTRIBUTING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW RA CAPABILITIES

WHO WE WERE, SHAPES WHO WE ARE & WHO WE WILL BE



400 GUNNERS RECEIVED HISTORICAL ADVICE

A grant funded the Regimental Historian, Dr Spencer Jones (senior lecturer at the University of Wolverhampton), who has provided expert historical advice. It has enabled a dynamic programme of RAHS seminars and webinars; reaching over 400 serving Gunners and RAHS members.



1,000 GUNNERS VISITED THE RA COLLECTION

The RA Historical Society was assisted to support the professional development of RA officers on select career courses, which provided them with relevant historical campaign studies. The grant also facilitated visits by approximately 1,000 individuals, to the RA Collection at Wood Road.



ASSURED FUNDING

Funding was prioritised and assured by the RA Heritage Committee — ensuring value for money for the Regiment and reinforcing the importance of heritage within regimental life. This work would not be possible without the support of the Regimental charities.



FOSTERING CAMARADERIE

Additional grants via RHQ RA supported key heritage commemoration events; including central dinners in the RA Mess and Remembrance Sunday parades. These play an important role in fostering camaraderie within the serving and retired regiment.

THE RA CHARITIES

MAJOR GENERAL DAVID CULLEN CB OBE

CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

As I look back, it is remarkable that I knew so little about the Gunner Charities when I served, their value and utility. As Chair of Trustees, I have the privilege of witnessing the extraordinary impact that our charities have on the Regimental Family.

This report provides you a record of the outstanding work of the team in RHQ RA, we owe them significant thanks. I would encourage you to read the excellent summary written by Paul Bates, our CEO and Regimental Secretary.

As Chair, I should personally like to thank your Board of Trustees, who give significant time freely both at the Board of Management and in the many sub-committees that marshal our affairs. They do so with absolute dedication and professionalism. As Trustees we are all intensely aware of our responsibility to the Regiment

to faithfully represent your needs. Our focus is on ensuring the balance between appropriate and impactful expenditure for the Regiment past and present today, while protecting our investments to ensure the availability of funds to support the Regimental Family into the future.

The Board would wish me to formally thank all those who have supported the Gunner Charities this year — whether through the Service Pay Giving Scheme (SPGS), or the many different forms of fund raising, donations and legacies. We would also like to recognise the strong network of charities that supports our work — particularly COBSEO, SSAFA, the RBL and the ABF — without whom we could not deliver the impact that you will see reflected in this report.

Finally, thanks to Wilsons, our solicitors, and Saffery, our independent auditor, who help to ensure we remain compliant and transparent in everything we do.

Do, please, continue your support and, importantly, spread the message. While our networks are good, we cannot catch everyone, so please let us know if you hear of any who would benefit from our assistance in whatever form. The Royal Artillery Charities are here to help all members of the serving and veteran Gunner family with everything from welfare assistance to support for sport and adventurous training. Please contact us directly if you need help and spread the word to those you meet!

**“ONCE A GUNNER,
ALWAYS A GUNNER”**



COLONEL PAUL BATES

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The title of this report says it all: Impact.

In 2024, more than 1,100 people — and their families — had their lives changed indelibly by the incredible impact of The Royal Artillery Charities. That's five cases every single working day.

We have changed lives, improved lives — and sometimes saved lives.

I began this role in January 2025, and many of the achievements captured in this report are thanks to the leadership and dedication of my predecessor, Matthew Carter, whose commitment to the Gunner family over seven years was exceptional.

Equally, my heartfelt thanks go to the remarkable team at Regimental Headquarters Royal Artillery. They have an inspiring, collegiate work ethic that delivers what you see in these pages.

I would also like to thank the formidable Gunner veteran network here and across the world. Whether through the amazing Royal Artillery Association, or as individuals, your tireless work to foster camaraderie and support veteran and serving communities is phenomenal.

The RA Charities' remit is wide: Our busiest area is providing direct welfare support to serving and retired Gunners and their families in need.

This includes annual welfare grants and practical help for things like mobility assistance, debt, specialist equipment, house moves, white goods, furnishings, travel costs, even the financial burden of bereavement — and so much more.

You only need to have served one day in the Royal Artillery to receive this support until the day you die; Once a Gunner...always a Gunner.

For our serving soldiers we provide annual unit grants and fund projects such as installing sports facilities, improving social and living areas, or grants to reinforce identity and foster esprit de corps.

We also support Gunner sports teams, helping them to compete, grow and excel — and give a critical boost to those who aspire to compete at the highest levels, helping them to realise their potential.

We invest in our heritage too; who we were, shapes who we are and who we will be. We invest in preserving, and making accessible, more than 300 years of Gunner history

We do so much but want to do more. Over the next five years we aim to raise more funds to expand our reach and deepen our impact.

If you would like to join us on this journey, please consider making a donation to the RA Charities — and truly make your impact.



WITH THANKS

PATRON & TRUSTEES



PATRON
OF THE ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION
& ROYAL ARTILLERY INSTITUTION



His Majesty the King
Our Captain General

On behalf of the Chairman of Trustees we would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board of Trustees, for its profound commitment to our mission and our Regiments, soldiers, officers and veterans. Without trustees' time, guidance and wise counsel, we would not be able to do the good work we do.

TRUSTEES

Major General DM Cullen CB OBE	RAI and RACF trustee
Brig R N Alston MBE	RAI trustee and Chairman RAHC
Brig M N Pountain CBE	RACF trustee
Col P J Farrell OBE ADC	RAI and RACF trustee
Col P Haigh TD	RAI and RACF trustee
Col R A Forster	RAI and RACF trustee
Col S I Hay	RAI and RACF trustee
Col D A Butt	RAI and RACF trustee
Col C E Comport OBE TD DL	RACF trustee
Col M D Relph MBE	RACF trustee
Col B M D Ingham MBE	RAI and RACF trustee
Lt Col S J Howe	RACF trustee
Lt Col J R M Gower MBE VR	RAI trustee
Lt Col S J R Halliday TD	RAI trustee
Mr W Cussans	RACF trustee
Maj M G Williams	RAI trustee
WO1 (RASM) J Lightfoot	RAI and RACF trustee

WITH THANKS

OUR PARTNERS

CHARITABLE
PARTNERS:







INVESTMENT
MANAGEMENT:





SOLICITORS, AUDITORS
AND ACCOUNTANTS:





FOSTERING STRONG, COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIPS IS CRUCIAL TO OUR MISSION TO PROVIDE LIFELONG SUPPORT TO OUR REGIMENTAL FAMILY. WE EXTEND OUR HEARTFELT GRATITUDE TO THESE ORGANISATIONS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY, CONTINUED ASSISTANCE AND PARTNERSHIP.

DONATE TO HELP US CONTINUE OUR AMAZING WORK



CONTACT



JOIN THE CONVERSATION

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