



From the Secretary – Maj (Retd) PA Raison



THE PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

Patron: HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES, KG, KT, PC, GCB, AK, QSO, ADC

NEWSLETTER April 2022

Please see below the monthly news from RHQ PARA. If you have anything you would like to promote in this, please send submissions by the 25th of each month to the Secretary at secretary@prahq.com

Topics:

- A. Covid Threat and Measures
- B. Falkland Veteran Interviews – RHQ Para
- C. Regimental Charity Donation
- D. Affiliation Fees 2022
- E. Welfare Process
- F. Falklands 40 Next of Kin (NOK) Hosting
- G. Op VARSITY Commemorations
- H. Airborne Riders – Ride of Respect
- I. Bolton Lady Mayor honours and thanks Bolton PRA member
- J. Spam Emails – Warning
- K. Goose Green Book Release – Nigel Ely

Events

- L. Diary Dates

A. Covid Threat and Measures

Following a recent outbreak in RHQ Para I thought this may be a good time to remind you all of the threat that covid still poses. You should still follow all government and local direction on covid prevention measures and additionally protect yourself further if you are vulnerable or suffer underlying health conditions.

To reduce your risk of catching coronavirus (COVID-19) or spreading it to other people:

- get vaccinated
- meet people outside if possible
- open doors and windows to let in fresh air if meeting people inside
- limit the number of people you meet and avoid crowded places
- wear a face covering when it's hard to stay away from other people – particularly indoors or in crowded places
- wash your hands with soap and water, or use hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day
- avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean

Please stay safe.

B. Falkland Veteran Interviews – RHQ PARA

RHQ Para would like to interview a number of Falklands Veterans in the run up to the Falklands 40 Commemorations in June. Ideally we would like to arrange visits to Branches that have a number of Falklands Veterans so that we can capture them at the same time. The format would be video interview, not podcast and

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the output would be Para Regt and PRA Facebook. The interviews would be short snippets of your time before, during or after the Falklands War.

Any Branch that would be interested in arranging this should contact the Secretary at the earliest opportunity with some suggested dates and the number of Falklands Veterans that are willing to take part.

A big thank you to George Duffus in the Midlands Region for organising this at their AGM.

C. Regimental Charity Donations

The Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces Charity (Support Our Paras) is slowly returning to normal and a number of fundraising events are now planned. There have been a number of great fundraising events organised by individuals and groups to support our charity, which is outstanding. Your continued support to the Regimental Charities is vital to the direct support of Airborne Veterans and their families, now and in the future.

Anyone looking to raise money for Support Our Paras should get in touch as soon as possible to see how the team can help you. Check out the website at: <https://supportourparas.org/>

D. Affiliation Fees 2022

Thank you to all those that have forwarded their affiliation fees to Julia for 2022. Branches that may be having some difficulty raising this sum are requested to make representation to their Regional Secretary. The annual Affiliation Fee remains at £50. This is despite the rising cost of replacing Branch Standards. A full review was completed in 2020 and we now have substantially better cover than in previous years.

Payment is due now and can be made by cheque payable to: The Parachute Regimental Association or by BACS transfer to: Sort Code 16-19- 26, Acct No 19954846. Please ensure you use your Branch name as a payment reference so that we can track payments.

Affiliation - A Reminder of the Benefits

1. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) permission to use the Regimental Logo on Branch Standards and letterheads.
2. Full Public Liability Insurance and Branch Standard Insurance (new certificate issued in Apr 22).
3. Access to Regimental support for organised functions, i.e. The Band, RDFFT, Pony Mascot, associated Regimental assets (subject to availability).
4. Support from the National Executive Committee and RHQ PRA on constitutional and branch management and membership matters.
5. The ability to fundraise in support of the Branch, its members and branch activities.
6. Receive Monthly Branch Newsletters and other correspondence.

E. Welfare Process

It is very important that Branches use the regimental welfare Team for any cases that are reported to them. We have had a number of cases recently that have escalated into quite complex cases and members of the Branch have been unnecessarily burdened by the work this has produced. The Welfare Team are trained to deal with these cases and will be able to identify the most suitable course of action for an individual in need.

For serving personnel please contact your Unit Welfare Officer (UWO) in the first instance for any welfare support.

For veterans please contact the Support our Paras (the official charity of The Parachute Regiment) Welfare Team for any queries.

Laura McPhilemy, Head of Welfare. Email: HoW@supportourparas.org Tel: 07702 190685 or

Lisa Stapleton, Welfare Cell Manager. Email: wm@supportourparas.org Tel: 07340 347136

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We are based within RHQ PARA in Merville Barracks, Colchester.

Support our Paras can assist any past or present member of The Parachute Regiment or wider Airborne Forces plus their families if eligible.

If you require financial assistance please contact either SSAFA 0800 731 4880 info@ssafa.org.uk or the RBL 0808 802 8080 info@britishlegion.org.uk in the first instance. You will be allocated a caseworker who will complete a Form A request for assistance with you. This will then be sent to the Support our Paras Welfare Team for consideration. Successful grants are issued swiftly back to the caseworker for onward payment. Urgent grants can be made on the day if required. This process is both confidential and transparent, providing an audit trail.

F. Falklands 40 Next of Kin (NOK) Hosting

The NOK of those that died during the Falklands War will be invited to join the Commemoration on Saturday 18 June 2022. RHQ would like to invite people to register their interest in hosting the families of those that did not return who choose to attend. This would not take up all of your day and will involve meeting the family members at an initial reception in Princes Hall and then escorting them to the Aldershot Military Cemetery for the Service of Remembrance led by Padre David Cooper.

Anyone who would like to register should send their details along with the name of the person whose family they would like to host to: Robert.Airey100@mod.gov.uk You may register to support more than one family in your order of priority and this will be taken into account once we have the returns from the families. Ideally we would like to have more than one host per family.

Your support in this would be greatly appreciated by RHQ PARA and more importantly by the families of the fallen. **Thank you to those that have registered already.**

G. Op VARSITY Commemorations

There were a number of Op VARSITY Commemoration events organised around the country this year. The Anglia Region members attended a service of remembrance at Markshall, Coggeshal on Thu 24 March. A number of veterans attended including Tom Schaffer, an Ardennes Veteran. Unfortunately, Phil Ward from the Norfolk and Waveney Branch was not able to attend due to a road traffic accident. Luckily he is ok though. Branch Secretary Tony Coxall laid a wreath on his behalf.

Those who attended were in good hands with Padre Adele Rees from 4AAC in Wattisham and Canon Bradbury from Wisbech.



The memorial and wreath laying

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John Pinkerton, Beverley Cooper and Tom Schaffer

The Croydon Branch (pictured below) also held a parade and wreath laying to commemorate the event on Sunday 26 March 22.



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H. Airborne Riders – Ride of Respect

Following three successful rides in 2019, 2020 and 2021, a team of four veterans, Paul Moore (61 – Peterlee, Co. Durham), Charlie McColgan, both Royal Engineers and Falkland 1982 veterans along with veterans Phill Damant, ex Royal Air Force and Tony McKie ex Parachute Regiment, will be riding around the UK by motorbike. The ride will start on Monday 2 May to Sunday 15 May 2022, visiting the gravesites and memorials of men who lost their lives in the Falklands War in 1982. They will ride a total of around 2,660 miles in 14 days and visit over 75 graves and memorials of the Falklands War.

The veterans are completing this ride to highlight that as we approach the 40th anniversary of the Falklands War, those who were lost, in that short but brutal conflict and to ensure they are not forgotten. The riders intend to pay respects to the fallen and meet their families, in order to raise awareness of where these heroes lie, whether it be in the UK, in the Falkland Islands or at sea in the South Atlantic Ocean. Full details are available in the attached documents.

I. Bolton Lady Mayor honours and thanks Bolton PRA member

Bolton's Lady Mayor, Linda Thomas, thanked Stuart Speakman of Horwich, a member of Bolton branch Parachute Regiment & Airborne Forces (PRA) branch for his selfless contribution to veteran's affairs in Bolton and Greater Manchester.

Stuart is a retired professional musician, who worked throughout the world in the Merchant Navy and is an active social member of the Bolton PRA. A couple of years ago whilst attending veteran's funerals, he noted that the families were not able to employ the services of a bugler to play the Last Post and Reveille either due to cost or unavailability. Stuart now does these honours for service veterans families within the greater Manchester and Liverpool areas. He was recently asked to officiate at the funeral of Arthur Cheetham by the Liverpool branch. He also does these honours for local Fusilier, Navy and RBL families only asking them to cover his travel expenses. This is a great service which he has done for many northwest PRA branches. The Lady Mayor was very impressed with Stuarts commitment and services he provides and presented him with an official town hall tie and cufflink set.

Stuart was joined at the town hall by several members of the branch and they were given refreshments and a tour of the historic building by the Mayor and her staff.



The Lady Mayor and the Bolton Branch Members

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Stuart (centre) with other members of the Bolton Branch

J. Spam Emails – Warning

RHQ Para has recently identified a number of SPAM emails from unknown sources being sent to branches across the country. The latest called for support in Ukraine. Anyone who has received this email should not respond.

The purpose of a scam email is often to get you to click a link. This will take you to a website which might download a virus to your computer, or steal passwords or other personal information. This is sometimes known as 'phishing'.

Cyber criminals may contact you via email, text, phone call or via social media. They will often pretend to be someone (or an organisation) you trust.

It used to be easier to spot scams. They might contain bad spelling or grammar, come from an unusual email address, or feature imagery or design that feels 'off'. But scams are getting smarter and some even fool the experts.

How to spot scam messages or calls

Scammers try to quickly gain your trust. They aim to pressure you into acting without thinking.

If a message or call makes you suspicious, stop and consider the language it uses. Scams often feature one or more of these tell-tale signs:

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Authority

Is the message claiming to be from someone official? For example, your bank, doctor, a solicitor, or a government department. Criminals often pretend to be important people or organisations to trick you into doing what they want.

Urgency

Are you told you have a limited time to respond (such as 'within 24 hours' or 'immediately')? Criminals often threaten you with fines or other negative consequences.

Emotion

Does the message make you panic, fearful, hopeful or curious? Criminals often use threatening language, make false claims of support, or tease you into wanting to find out more.

Scarcity

Is the message offering something in short supply, like concert tickets, money or a cure for medical conditions? Fear of missing out on a good deal or opportunity can make you respond quickly.

Current events

Are you expecting to see a message like this? Criminals often exploit current news stories, big events or specific times of year (like tax reporting) to make their scam seem more relevant to you.

How to check if a message is genuine

- If you have any doubts about a message, contact the organisation directly. **Don't** use the numbers or address in the message – use the details from their official website.
- Remember, your bank (or any other official source) will **never** ask you to supply personal information via email.
- If you are in any doubt about the sender of any email you should 'Double Click' on the email address and look at it. If it is not from a recognised email address or ends in a domain name (last two or three letters) that is not recognised, please report and delete.
- Ideally you should 'Right Click' on the email address and scroll down to 'Report as Junk' or 'Block' the email. This will prevent them emailing you again.

PLEASE DO NOT OPEN ANY ATTACHMENTS AS THEY MAY CAUSE HARM TO YOUR COMPUTER IF YOU DO NOT HAVE ADEQUATE ANTI VIRUS SOFTWARE.

Report an email you think is a scam

If you have received an email which you're not quite sure about, forward it to report@phishing.gov.uk

K. Goose Green Book Release – Nigel Ely

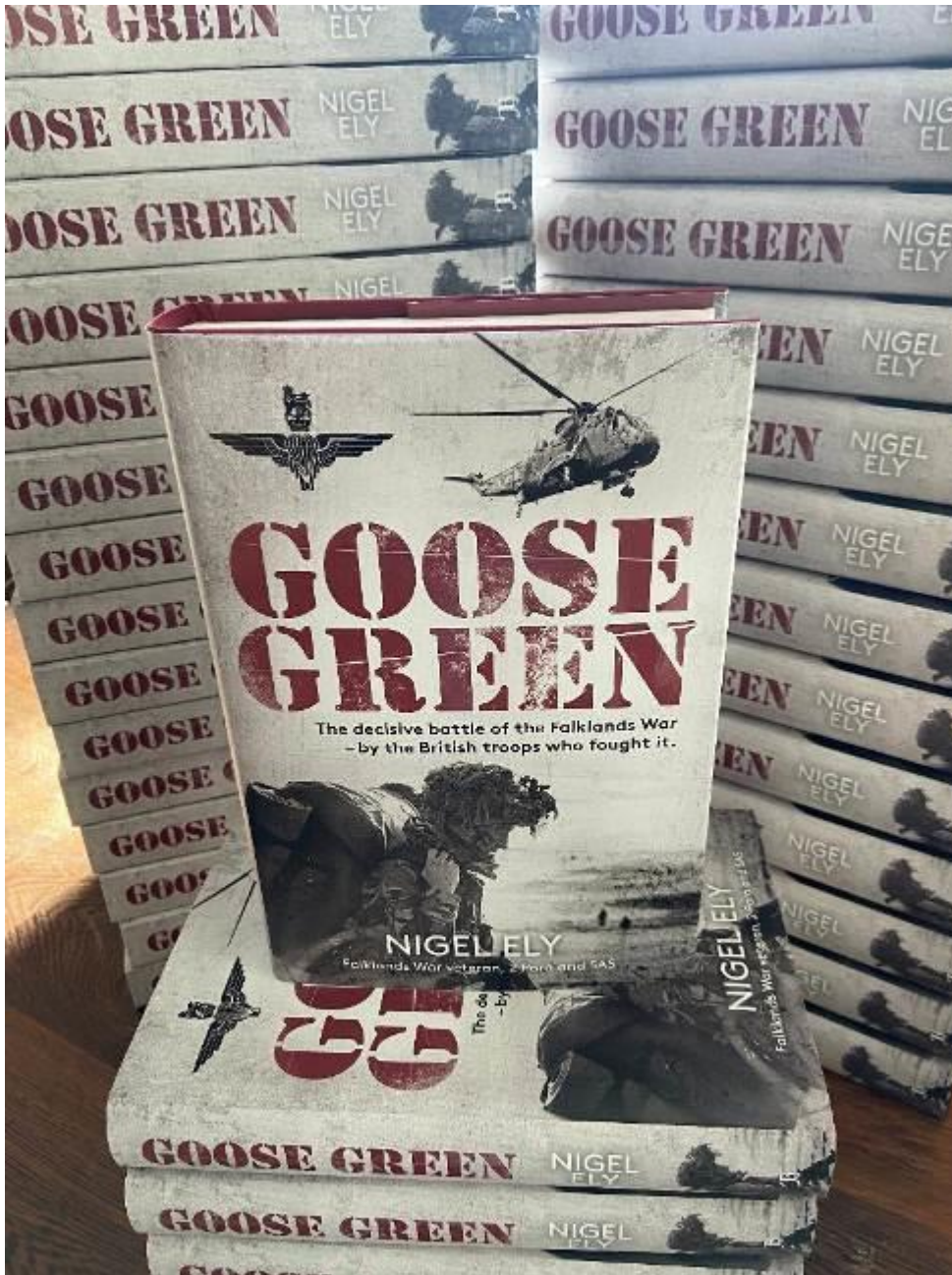
Nigel 'Spud' Ely served in 2 Para as a private soldier and was later one of the youngest to pass Selection into 22 SAS. During the Falklands War he was on the first landing craft to hit the beach at San Carlos and was point man for the battle for Goose Green. He went on to fight in 2 Para's second major engagement, the battle for Wireless Ridge (2 Para was the only unit to fight two battles in the Falklands campaign) and as the firing died down, he and his comrades found themselves rapidly advancing into Port Stanley. So 2 Para became the first unit of the Task Force into the islands' capital, where they took the unofficial Argentine surrender. After leaving the British Army he worked as a military adviser for the British Government, a war photojournalist and became a bestselling author.

Goose Green is available now Nigel is offering signed hard back copies at £16.99 to include p&p UK. To get yours, please email info@nigelely.com.

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EVENTS

L. Diary Dates

Event information for 2022 is becoming available on the website so please take a look:

<https://theparachuteregimentalassociation.com/events/>

If you have any dates for 2022 please let me know at the earliest opportunity so that they can be added to the diary. Information for events can be sent to be included on the website forecast of events. Full details of events such as date, time, outline of event, cost etc. must be provided and updated accordingly.

13 Apr 22
30 April 22

Executive Committee Meeting
Army v Navy Rugby

Colchester
Twickenham

6-8 May 22
Ray Larkin:

3 Para Reunion
raylarkin@virginmedia.com

Blackpool

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7 May 22 **4 PARA Club Reunion** Leeds
Les Ratcliffe, 07711 853103 or Dave Macaulay, 07731 824247

All serving, past and present members are welcome to attend this year's club lunch at The Water Lane Boathouse, Leeds. RV 11.30am for 12.00pm start. For further details, please see the letter attached

14 May 22	Hardwick Hall	Derbyshire
12 Jun 22	Pangbourne Falklands Memorial	Pangbourne
14 Jun 22	RBL Falklands Memorial Service	NMA
18 Jun 22	Falklands 40th Memorial Service	Aldershot
9 Jul 22	Tatton Park Service	Manchester
16 Jul 22	ABF North	Eden Camp
23 Jul 22	PRA Commemoration Day	NMA
1 Aug 22	80th Regt Anniversary Day	Colchester
11 Sep 22	Somerby Arnhem Parade	Leicester

Details of all these events and others are available on the Web Page at
www.theparachutereqimentalassociation.com

Paul Raison

Attachments:

1. Airborne Riders – Ride of Respect
2. 4 Para Club Reunion

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