



THE PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER - August 2025

The Association for all
Airborne Forces

Branch News Edition

From the index below you can see that we have a bumper edition of branch related events and news. This is great for the PRA newsletter and very much appreciated. We also welcome an article from the Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Platoon from 2 Para. A far cry from the SA80 and an insight into our modern Airborne soldiers changing role.

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What's On:

Month	Date	Event	Location
August	27	Warrenpoint Memorial	UK Wide
September	5-7	Airborne March	Netherlands
September	18-21	Arnhem 81	Netherlands
October	3	Pass Out Parade	ITC Catterick
October	8-9	Para Reg Golf Annual Championship	Bradford-on-Avon
October	23	Veterans Day	MOD St Athan
October	24	Pass Out Parade	ITC Catterick
October	25	WO & Sgts Mess P & P	MOD St Athan
October	31	Pass Out Parade	ITC Catterick
November	7	St Lawrence Jewry	London
November	9	Remembrance Day	Whitehall

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE SEE THE
EVENTS PAGE ON THE WEBSITE or FACEBOOK
PAGE**

Ad Unum Omnes

Registered Charity Number 214015

Arnhem 81—Commemorations Weekend (19-21 September 2025)

Plans are now in place for **Arnhem 81**, marking the 81st anniversary of the Battle of Arnhem. The full schedule is available on the [Parachute Regiment Association website](#), but here's a quick overview of the key events:

Schedule of Events

Friday 19 September

0930 – *Stone of Friendship*, Hartenstein Museum, Oosterbeek

1100 – *21st Independent Parachute Company Memorial*, Oosterbeek

1500 – *Remember September 1944 Memorial*, Nassaustraat, West Arnhem (Lombok), 6812

1800 – *John Frost Bridge Parade & Service of Remembrance*, Airborne Plein (Bear Pit), Arnhem

Saturday 20 September

1000 – *Parachute Drop*, Ginkel Heath

1130 – *Memorial Service*, Ginkel Heath

1500 – *Polish Service*, Driel

1700 – *Royal Engineers Memorial Service*, Driel

Sunday 21 September

0900 – *Memorial Service*, Old Kirk

1100 – *CWGC Memorial Service*, Oosterbeek

1600 – *Air Despatch Memorial Service*



*Please note: All times indicate the **start** of events. Attendees should plan ahead, accounting for travel times, traffic conditions, and limited parking at various locations.*

Calling All Standard Bearers

Will your Branch be attending Arnhem this year?

Would your **Standard Bearer** like to participate in the **Airborne Memorial Service at Oosterbeek on Sunday 21 September**?

If so, please register in advance by emailing the PRA Secretary at:

For more information and updates, visit:

[Arnhem 81st Commemorations 2025 • The Parachute Regimental Association](#)

Gloucester Branch

The Gloucester Branch of the Parachute Regiment Association proudly reformed last year and continues to grow in strength and camaraderie. Members of the branch hail from across the region, including Cheltenham, Gloucester, Hereford, the Cotswolds, and the Forest of Dean—united by a shared Airborne spirit.

Our dedicated committee now includes:

- **Paul Walkden** (ex 2 PARA)
- **Paul Williams** (ex 1 PARA)
- **Mark Giffard-Lindsay** (ex 10 PARA)
- **Shayne Paterson** (ex 1 PARA and RAF)
- **Colin Snowball** (ex 1 PARA, Depot PARA, RHQ PARA, 3 PARA, HQ 5 AB Bde)



We extend our heartfelt thanks to **Jennie Lyons** for her remarkable 40 years of service to the Branch. Her unwavering support for both our WWII veterans and younger members has left a lasting legacy. We also gratefully acknowledge our President, **Major Richard Hoyle**, for his continued leadership.

Parading with Pride

Branch standard bearer **Paul Walkden**, alongside **Colin Snowball**, proudly represented the Gloucester Branch at the **Airborne Forces Memorial Day**. Paul also paraded the branch standard at several other key events this year:

- **St George's Day Service**, Gloucester – 23 April 2025
- **VE Day Celebrations**, Thornbury – 10 May 2025
- **Armed Forces Day**, Gloucester – 28 June 2025

A separate document listing upcoming branch events is attached. If you are able to attend or support any of these occasions, your presence would be warmly welcomed.

Airborne – Stronger Together

Shropshire Branch

Shropshire Branch – Arnhem 81st Anniversary Lunch

The Shropshire Branch will be holding an Arnhem 81st Anniversary Lunch on Sunday 14th September at The Shropshire Golf Centre, Telford.

A choice of a 2- or 3-course meal is available at £20 per person. If you're in the area and would like to join us, please get in touch with Peter Bedford at peterbedford906@gmail.com for further details.

Tyneside Branch

Busy Summer for the Tyneside Branch: Events, Celebrations & Commemorations

Newcastle Veterans Hub Official Opening – 17 June
Branch members attended the formal opening of the Newcastle Veterans Hub, joining a strong turnout of veterans, local councillors, and the Lord Lieutenant of Tyne & Wear. The event showcased a range of local veteran charities and support services. The Hub provides excellent year-round support to veterans, their families, and children.
Find out more at: www.newcastleveteranshub.co.uk

Bryon Backhouse looking serious at the Newcastle Veterans Hub Opening



Airborne Forces Day Celebration – 4 July

The Branch hosted its own Airborne Forces Day Celebration, featuring a winning combination of beer, food, and free prizes. The event was a great success, with plenty of camaraderie and good cheer all round. Good news—plans are already in the works to do it all again. Watch this space!

Branch Members enjoying the Branch ABF Day Celebration



Airborne Forces Day North – 19 July

The Branch minibus was out in full force, transporting members from Tyneside and surrounding branches to Eden Camp for this year's Airborne Forces Day North. A strong turnout and great atmosphere made for another memorable gathering. We're already counting down to next year's event!

Tyneside and Sunderland Branch Members at Eden Camp



Arnhem Tree Remembrance – 27 September 2025

Save the date: The Branch will hold its annual remembrance of the Battle of Arnhem on Saturday, 27 September at 1400 at the Arnhem Tree, located at Hebburn Drill Hall, Victoria Rd W, Hebburn NE31 1BX.

The Arnhem Tree, planted in 2023, was grown from a seed collected at the Old Church in Oosterbeek—symbolising enduring remembrance. All veterans are warmly invited. Refreshments and a buffet will follow the ceremony.

Eastbourne Branch

Eastbourne Branch Holds the Line at Armed Forces Day

Following last year's double win at the *Blue Ribbon Awards*—for both Smartness on the Veterans' Parade and our standout Airborne display—the Eastbourne Branch faced the challenge of living up to its own high standards.

Arriving on a calm, sunny Friday afternoon, the usual suspects wasted no time. Within the hour (give or take), the 12x12 tent, camouflage netting, and PR banners were all proudly in place—ready for the day ahead. Saturday was meant to be a relaxed start. Or so we thought...

At 0800 sharp, we discovered that our trusty 12x12 tent had taken off overnight, thanks to a rogue early-morning wind. It had “rolled” its way across the display ground, colliding spectacularly with a fellow veterans’ stand—leaving the “Hats” team one gazebo short. In true veteran spirit, we shook hands, shared a few PR badges, and parted with good humour. Score: Hats 0, Airborne 1.

Undeterred, the team rallied. By the official 0900 opening, our display was fully reassembled and ready to welcome visitors—thanks to a cracking team effort. Well done, lads.

Utrinque Paratus – Ready for Anything



o/s Tent L-R Ken Walker, Paul Benson, Dave Walker, Dave Vance, Frank Holland, Stewart Henderson

Para 'Stick' Front to Rear: Dave Vance, Frank Holland, Paul Benson, Ray Hinds, Ken Walker, Dave Walker.

Standing outside the stick to the right, Stewart Henderson



Bedworth Branch

Steve Hyde Shows Airborne Spirit in the Face of MND

Steve Hyde of the Bedworth PRA, who was recently diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease (MND), has set himself a series of inspiring challenges since his diagnosis.

Demonstrating true Airborne spirit, Steve completed the PARAs' 10 last year dressed in 1970s PARA kit, raising vital funds for MND. Most recently, he took on a gruelling 25-mile 'Tab' alongside friends, family, and fellow PRA members—raising over £3,000 in support of *Support Our PARAs* and the Bedworth Branch PRA.

Steve served in 3 PARA during the 1970s and has been a dedicated member of the Bedworth PRA since its formation over 14 years ago.



The Norfolk & Waveney Branch

A Flavourful Day Out at Wolf Brewery

Members of the Norfolk and Waveney Branch of the PRA recently enjoyed a delightful and informative visit to the award-winning Wolf Brewery, tucked away in the scenic Norfolk countryside.

The group received a warm welcome from the brewery team before setting off on a fascinating tour led by the Head Brewer. With passion and expertise, he guided guests through the craft beer-making process—from selecting the finest raw ingredients to mastering the art of fermentation and bottling.

From Grain to Glass

With the aroma of hops in the air, members discovered the unique techniques behind Wolf's signature beers. The hands-on tour offered an in-depth look at the craftsmanship and care that go into every pint, giving guests a new appreciation for local brewing.

BBQ, Beer, and Good Cheer

Following the tour, everyone gathered in the sunlit courtyard for a relaxed BBQ, enjoying perfectly grilled food paired with freshly brewed beer. The atmosphere was filled with laughter and conversation, making it a wonderful opportunity to connect and unwind.

To Local Craft and Community

This enjoyable outing celebrated not only Norfolk's brewing heritage but also the friendly spirit of the PRA community. A perfect blend of learning, flavour, and fellowship—cheers to that!



Thames Valley Branch

At the Annual General Meeting of the West Berkshire and Oxford PRA in April, it was unanimously agreed to rebrand the branch as Thames Valley PRA. We will continue to parade the West Berkshire, Oxford, and 101st Standards, reflecting our heritage. While the majority of our membership is drawn from Oxfordshire and Berkshire, we warmly welcome any members of the Airborne Brotherhood from neighbouring counties.

Recent Events

Funeral of Henry “Harry” Hull Mennie

On 14th May, members of the Branch attended the funeral of Henry Hull Mennie, known to many simply as *Harry*. Aged 87, Harry served with distinction in several Royal Engineer units, most notably 131 Independent Parachute Squadron (TA). He had been a long-standing and valued member of the Oxford Branch. Standard Bearers were present, and the Last Post was sounded by John Bessant.

Rest in peace, Harry.

Harwell Stone Commemoration – 7th June

A “wet weather” contingency was in place for the 81st annual Royal British Legion commemoration at the Harwell Stone, located at the end of the former RAF Harwell runway—departure airfield of the 6th Airborne Division on D-Day. Although Standards were carried by bearers, none were formally paraded due to weather conditions.

A new memorial sculpture was recently unveiled beside the Stone. Created by Oxfordshire artist Charlotte Holmes, it honours the servicemen who departed from Harwell in June 1944. The piece commemorates the 6th Airborne Division, No. 38 Group RAF, and the Glider Pilot Regiment, recognising their vital roles in the D-Day landings.

PRA AGM and Falklands Memorial

Branch Standards were paraded at the PRA AGM held on 14th June at the National Memorial Arboretum. The following day, the Oxford Standard was one of only two PARA Standards on parade at a commemorative service at the Falkland Islands Chapel, Pangbourne.



Armed Forces Day

We marked Armed Forces Day with appearances at both HMP Bullingdon and St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School in Carterton. Our gazebo display and merchandise stall drew considerable interest and support from the public.

Little Baldon Memorial – 6th July

On 6th July, members attended a Service of Thanksgiving at St Lawrence’s Church, Toot Baldon, to honour the 41 Soldiers and Airmen who tragically lost their lives in the Hastings air crash at Little Baldon on this date in 1965.

The service was well-attended, including many relatives of the fallen. While the RAF Falcons were unfortunately unable to jump due to low cloud, the occasion was enhanced by the presence of L/Cpl Pegasus, Cpl Jamie Richards, the Defence Academy Military Wives Choir, and Standard Bearers from

both our Branch and the RAF Canopy Club. Refreshments were kindly provided by the local community at the village hall in Marsh Baldon, in a moving show of respect and solidarity.



Bolton Branch

Bolton Branch Visit RAF Cosford

On Saturday 12th July 2025, members of the Bolton Branch of the Parachute Regimental Association joined forces with the Troops NAAFI Veterans Breakfast Club for a memorable day out at RAF Cosford.

A group of approximately 40 people set off aboard a luxury coach for the two-hour journey, led by Branch Chairman Roy Taylor and accompanied by ten other branch members. They were joined by Army and RAF cadets, as well as a representative of the 17th/21st Lancers.

Upon arrival, the group received a warm welcome on what proved to be one of the hottest days of the year. After a brief introduction to the RAF Museum—entry to which is free—they were free to explore the site at their leisure.

Unsurprisingly, many of the Bolton PRA members gravitated towards the Lockheed C-130 Hercules, sparking a flood of memories and stories from their service days. The museum's extensive collection offered something for everyone, making for a thoroughly enjoyable visit.



By the time the group returned to the coach, a few well-earned naps were taken on the journey home—testament to a day well spent. A fantastic outing that was enjoyed by all.



Grampian Branch

Grampian Branch Smash Double Charity Collection Challenge

The Grampian Branch rose to the occasion on Saturday 26th July 2025, taking on a unique challenge with not one, but two charity collections on the same day—one at Morrisons Superstore and the other at Tesco Extra in Danestone, Aberdeen.

Originally, Morrisons was scheduled for Saturday 19th July, with Tesco to follow a week later on the 26th. However, Morrisons unexpectedly moved their date to coincide with the Tesco collection. With access to store collection slots being hard to secure, the branch made the bold decision to go ahead with both events on the same day.

True to our motto *Utrinque Paratus*—"Ready for Anything"—the Grampian Branch didn't shy away from the task. Nine members stepped up, splitting into two teams and working in two-hour shifts across both stores. The effort paid off, with operations running smoothly and spirits high throughout the day.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of Morrisons and Tesco customers, the branch raised over £1,400. The atmosphere was fantastic, with plenty of good-natured banter and many shoppers sharing their own connections to the Parachute Regiment—mentioning fathers, grandfathers, brothers, and uncles who had served.

A huge thank you to everyone who supported us. It was a brilliant day all round, and a fantastic example of teamwork, determination, and community spirit.



Left: Tesco's contingent — (L-R) Bert Lawrence GPRA secretary, Bob Crocker (white shirt GPRA vice chairman, Forbes Skakle GPRA member and Mile Murray GPRA member.

Right: Morrisons contingent — (L-R) John MacDonald GPRA treasurer, Gary Haughton GPRA chairman, Norrie Kerr GPRA member and Syd Stephen GPRA member. Douglas Kerr GPRA member took the photo.



Leicester Branch

Leicester Branch to Host 81st Annual Arnhem Commemoration Parade

The Leicester Branch of the Parachute Regimental Association will proudly host the 81st Annual Arnhem Commemoration Parade on Sunday 14th September at The Church of All Saints, Somerby, Leicestershire.

The parade will form up at 10:15am outside the Memorial Hall on Main Street, Somerby, ready to step off at 10:30am for the march through the village to the church. This year's parade will be led in fine style by the Regimental Mascot and accompanied by the stirring music of the Seaforth Highlanders Pipe Band.

Following the church service, the parade will reassemble outside where it will be inspected by the Saluting Officer, Corporal Alan Staff of 2 PARA, the branch's oldest member. He will be accompanied by Jennifer, The Lady Gretton, lending further honour to the occasion.

The event will conclude with a return march to the Memorial Hall, where refreshments will be served.

All past and present members of the Regiment are warmly invited to attend and join us in remembering and honouring the bravery and sacrifice of those who fought at Arnhem.

Durham Branch

Durham Branch – Nostalgia



A treasured photo of Durham Branch members, past and present, taken on the drop zone at Arnhem a few years ago. All are fondly remembered by the branch.

Airborne Forces Riders Branch

The Airborne Forces Riders Branch (AFR) have just returned from their Summer Rally on the Isle of Man. They used the trip to hold a formal service at Government House to have their standard blessed. Some words and pictures from David Lang.



At the end of July, the Airborne Forces Riders Branch travelled to the Isle of Man for our Summer Rally. The main focus of the trip was getting our branch standard blessed. Sir John Lorimer hosted the event at Government House with invited veterans and guests from the Island, including 103-year-old veteran of the Burma campaign in WW2; James Fenton. 28 Riders and Supporters rode to the Isle of Man and were met by fellow rider Aidan Forbes (4 Bears) and of course Sir John Lorimer, who

not only as Lieutenant Governor is the King's Personal Representative on the Island, but also Chairman of PRAFC and Patron of Airborne Forces Riders. The standard itself was designed and made by one of our own Mike Turnpenny (Ziggy) and therefore it was fitting that it was he that presented it to Sir John, who in turn presented it to our Standard Bearer Ron Webster. We believe the AFR standard to be the only one currently to bear the King's crown and we are rightfully proud of it.



Glasgow and West of Scotland Branch

Collecting for SSAFA in Glasgow Central Station, Saturday 2nd August 2025.



From the Erskine Veterans Charity Facebook Page: This band of brothers belongs to the Parachute Regiment Association of Glasgow & the West of Scotland who have been supporters of Erskine for many years, and were delighted to visit and see how we look after our Veterans. The group also made a generous donation, which we were grateful to receive.

Forging Ahead: 2 PARA's UAS Platoon Leads the Way in Tactical Innovation

The Parachute Regiment continues to demonstrate its agility and forward thinking with the formation of the **new Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Platoon** within **2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment (2 PARA)**. This newly established capability reflects the evolving demands of the modern battlefield and exemplifies how today's Paratroopers are embracing cutting-edge technology to maintain the Regiment's operational edge.

While some may still consider UAS and **FPV (First Person View)** drones as concepts belonging to the distant future, 2 PARA is already employing these systems as tactical assets across a variety of operational environments. UAS platforms are no longer novel – they are fast becoming integral to modern infantry tactics.

Recognising this shift, **Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Hitchins** made the bold decision to **re-role and retrain the Assault Engineers Platoon** in UAS-based **Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR)** and **FPV One-Way Attack (OWA)** capabilities. This strategic move has paid dividends. In under a year, the platoon has successfully completed both the ISR Operator Course and FPV OWA training, significantly enhancing their battlefield awareness and lethality.

While already enjoying a tactical advantage, 2 PARA's UAS pilots have taken their proficiency even further by participating in military drone racing competitions. This has not only sharpened their flying skills but also earned them recognition across the Armed Forces. Several personnel have since been selected for the **Tri-Service Drone Racing Team**, representing the British Army in international competitions in the United States competing against Allied Military's including Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, and beyond – a testament to the high standard of skill and commitment shown by the platoon.

In their latest initiative, the 2 PARA UAS Platoon has delivered the **first-ever FPV OWA Workshop**, to prove a route for distributed training across the Army. This workshop was for personnel from **16 Air Assault Brigade**, but also to units within **1XX (1st (UK) Division)**. This comprehensive three-week course takes soldiers from novice to tactically capable pilots. The programme includes drone assembly from scratch, system configuration, and flight training – all requiring a level of technical competence unimaginable to many of our veteran Paratroopers. True to form, today's Paratroopers have adapted with characteristic grit and professionalism.

Progressing from small FPV trainer drones to 10-inch payload-capable platforms, the final week of the course places troops in realistic scenarios, complete with full combat kit and opposing enemy UAS threats. This final assessment is a culmination of everything learned and offers validation of their operational capability.

Now firmly established, 2 PARA's UAS Platoon continues to **innovate, adapt, and overcome**. As the character of warfare evolves, so too does the Parachute Regiment – remaining at the sharp end of tactical innovation, ready to meet tomorrow's threats head-on.

Article by Sgt Shaun Nicholls
2 PARA
UAS PLATOON



The Manner of Men — 3 Book series by John McKay

'What manner of men are these who wear the maroon red beret? ... They are, in fact, men apart - every man an Emperor.' Field-Marshal, The Viscount Montgomery of Alamein.

Never a truer word spoken about the Parachute Regiment and all of Britain's airborne forces during World War Two.

When my novel on the Arctic convoys, *Hell and High Water*, won a literary award, I was asked by the publisher, Sharpe Books, for a trilogy of novels set during the war. I knew immediately what aspect I wanted to cover, having always been fascinated by the stories of Britain's airborne forces and their origins. It was their story I wanted to tell.

Before 1940, British military doctrine dismissed parachuting troops behind the lines as too risky. That changed when Winston Churchill, impressed by Germany's use of airborne forces in France and Holland, pushed for Britain to develop its own airborne forces. Volunteers quickly stepped forward, drawn by courage, and the desire to 'do their bit' in defeating Nazism.

In 1941, Britain's first airborne mission, Operation Colossus, sent 36 men to sabotage the Tragino aqueduct in southern Italy, proving such tactics could work. Then, in February 1942, Operation Biting successfully captured Nazi radar tech from the French coast, solidifying the strategic value of airborne raids. These missions laid the foundation for a new British doctrine centred on speed, surprise, and bold action.

Parachuting was very much in its infancy. Jumping from the underbellies of aircraft was fraught with huge risks. Yet these young men volunteered anyway. It took a special kind of soldier to step forward for such things. It was this mindset, and, of course, the epic battles fought by British airborne soldiers, that I wanted to write about.

In *The Manner of Men*, I aimed to go beyond the firefights and heroics, but to delve into the psychology and camaraderie of what it takes to be a paratrooper.

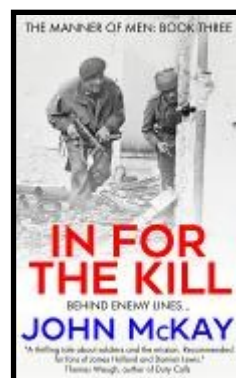
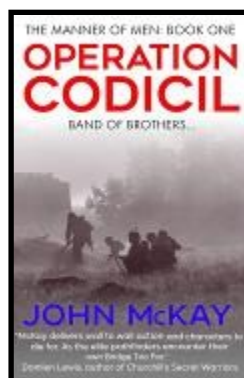
Endorsed by such renowned historians as Damien Lewis and Saul David, the trilogy follows Sergeant Sean Harris, a battle-hardened and somewhat haunted NCO, alongside his loyal corporal, Harry McGuinness, and the mysterious, lethal, Len Dunleavy. With a mix of real and fictional characters, they navigate some of the war's most pivotal and perilous moments, including Normandy and Arnhem.

Through their eyes, readers witness not just combat, but the moral complexity of war, the weight of leadership, and the lasting emotional toll. At its core, *The Manner of Men* trilogy is about men—flawed, brave, sometimes broken, but all driven by loyalty, sacrifice, and a quiet, enduring courage.

Published by Sharpe Books, the trilogy is available on Kindle and in paperback via Amazon.

Manner of Men series link: https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B0CBCTGMJL?binding=kindle_edition&qid=1752407909&sr=8-1&ref=dbs_dp_rwt_sb_pc_tkin

Website link: <http://www.johnrmckay.com>





Parachute Regimental
Association
Gloucestershire Branch

Lt Col (Retd) Phil Neame "Leadership Under Fire"

At the
Victory Club,
Cheltenham,
GL50 2SY

7pm, Weds
17 September
2025

£20 per person
Includes talk
and curry buffet

On 1st April 1982 the Argentinian junta invaded the Falklands Islands, while the 2nd Battalion the Parachute Regiment was on leave

Recalled to barracks, it joined the hastily assembled task force to recover the Islands. No parachutes – instead a journey of 8,000 miles on a North Sea Ferry to deliver the battalion into battle.

Phillip Neame commanded D Company, one of the battalion's three 100-strong rifle companies, and in this compelling book he tells their story.



For further information and payment please contact the
PRA Gloucestershire Secretary on Paul_walkden@hotmail.com

Rochdale Branch

The Rochdale Branch are having a summer Ball on Saturday 9 August at the Rochdale Masonic Hall, Richard Street, Rochdale, OL11 1DU. It will have a 3 PARA slant to it this year.

They have also negotiated reduced rates with a local hotel for guests.

Guest Speaker Paul Raison, PRA Secretary. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary Terry Bowdell: terrybowdell@yahoo.co.uk



The Masonic Hall, Richard Street, Rochdale by David Dixon, CC BY-SA 2.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons.

Support Our Paras Online Shop

Support Our Paras now have their own online shop. Please find attached to this newsletter the details on how to access their products. The new St Michael collection is now available.

The shop is run from here in Colchester and provides a number of items not available from other suppliers.

So if you would like to support the charity directly please take a look. They have an ever growing range of items and even Valentines cards for that special person in your life.

For more details please click on the link: <https://supportourparas.org/shop/>



Affiliation Fees 2025 - Overdue

These are now overdue and branches will be notified individually if they have not paid. The annual Affiliation Fee is £60.

Payment 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. **A Reminder of the Benefits**

- Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) permission to use the Regimental Logo on Branch Standards and letterheads.
- Full Public Liability Insurance and Branch Standard Insurance (new certificate issued in Apr 25 to all that have paid).
- Access to Regimental support for organised functions, i.e. Pony Mascot and associated Regimental assets (subject to availability).
- Support from the National Executive Committee and RHQ PRA on constitutional and branch management and membership matters.
- The ability to fundraise in support of the Branch, its members and branch activities.
- Receive Monthly Branch Newsletters and other correspondence.


The Parachute Regiment Warrant Officers & SNCOs Dinner Club

The annual dinner will be held on Saturday 25 October 2025 at the WOs & SNCOs' MOD St Athan. The RSM is trying to reach out to past members in order to boost attendance.

Details of this years event are below so please register your interest now.


If you have any issues with the form or becoming a member, please contact the Dinner Club secretary: Jennie Pitt MBE – Hon Secretary. Email: jennie.pitt163@mod.gov.uk or by post to:


The Parachute Regiment Warrant Officers and Sergeant's Mess (Past & Present) Dinner Club.
J1 Office, Churchill Lines, MOD St Athan, BARRY, CF62 4NX





**The Parachute Regiment
Warrant Officers' and SNCOs'
Past and Present 65th Dinner**

 **DATE**
SAT 25 OCT 2025

 **ACTIVITIES & DINNER**
10:00 – 17:00 & 18:00 – 23:30

 **LOCATION**
St Athan

BECOME A MEMBER 

ATTEND THE EVENT 

Optional activities included during the day:

25m Range | Skills House Demo | Skills Tower Demo | Insight Room Tour

SUPPORT OUR PARAS

Welfare Process



It is very important that PRA Branches use the SUPPORT OUR PARAS welfare team for any cases that are reported to them.

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.



Serving Personnel, please contact your Unit Welfare Officer (UWO) and/or Medical Officer (MO).

Serving Personnel, for those needing career advice contact: Nick Thorogood, Careers Transition Officer (CTO)

✉ CTO@supportourparas.org
☎ 07944 558780

Veterans, please contact: Lisa Stapleton, Welfare Manager

✉ WM@supportourparas.org
☎ 07340 347136

Mental health support and advice please contact: Laura McPhilemy, Head of Welfare

✉ HoW@supportourparas.org
☎ 07702 190685

Financial Assistance Process:

- Step 1:** Contact SUPPORT OUR PARAS Welfare Team
✉ WM@supportourparas.org
☎ 07340 347136
- Step 2:** Once needs are established a referral will be completed to a case working organisation, RBL or SSAFA.
- Step 3:** An allocated caseworker will start an application for assistance, known as 'Form A'.
- Step 4:** Completed Form A, and any attachments is sent electronically to military charities, including SUPPORT OUR PARAS, for consideration.
- Step 5:** Successful grants are issued swiftly back to case working organisations for onward payment.
- Step 6:** Urgent grants can be made on the same day if required.
- Step 7:** The process is both confidential and transparent, providing an audit trail.