



**NEWSLETTER**

**RECOVERY MECHANIC BRANCH**

**REME ASSOCIATION**



**NEWSLETTER  
EDITION 19  
MARCH 2026**





#### HEADLINES

#### Welcome

Hello all, and welcome to the latest edition. The newsletter takes a great deal of work to put together and send out; it not only involves putting all the elements together as a coherent document but also a great deal of haranguing people to get something to put in it that's of interest to you all. Our Chairman, Bryan Cronie does this single handedly and deserves a massive thank you from all of us as without him we wouldn't have a one. So, can I request that you all take a few minutes and put something down for the newsletter. It could be that you are looking for someone who you served with years ago and would like to get back in touch with, it could be you found a couple of pictures and have a story about them, it could be that you can offer a discount to fellow members on a service you provide, as long as its suitable I'm sure we can find a space for it in the newsletter, after all it is yours so come on, use it.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to welcome a new member to the committee, Micheal Banfield (Banners) who has come onboard as the new Serving Soldier member so all you serving members, he's the man to contact if you have any issues, questions or queries. You can email him on [Michael.banfield347@mod.gov.uk](mailto:Michael.banfield347@mod.gov.uk). As we welcome one, we say goodbye and a huge thank you to outgoing member Paul Bruce, Brucie did a great job while he served on the committee most notably helping with last year's Winch to the Wall and without who it would not have been the success it was, cheers Brucie, thank you.

This year's Winch to the Wall will be held on the Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September, we are working in the background to organise this event and will be able to let you know all the details soon, so watch out on our social media and website for those details.

Right, that's me for a few weeks, off to pack for my holidays. Have a great Easter everyone and don't eat too much chocolate, however much that is!!

Cheers

John



#### OBITUARIES – RECOVERY MECHANIC

During the period since the last Newsletter, Edition 18, December 2025, the Branch received notification of the passing of 2 Veteran Recovery Mechanics:



ON BEHALF OF THE

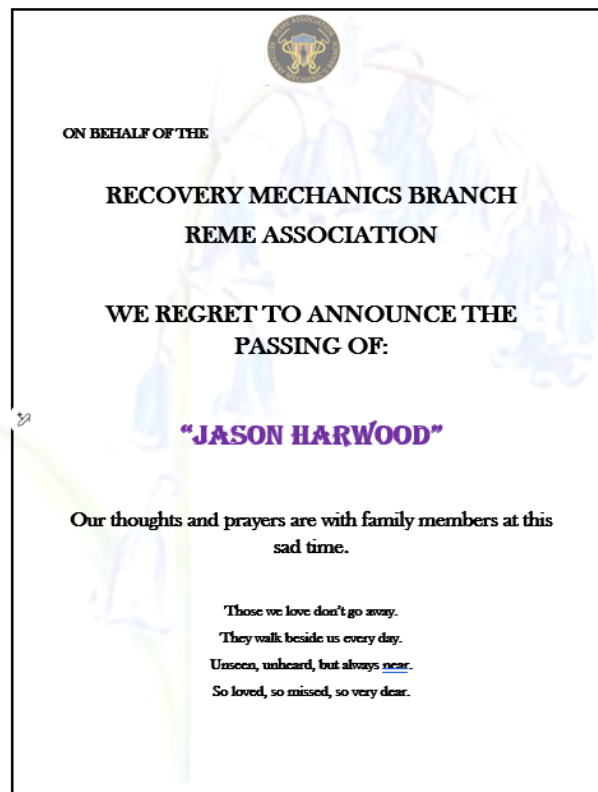
**RECOVERY MECHANICS BRANCH**  
**REME ASSOCIATION**

**WE REGRET TO ANNOUNCE THE**  
**PASSING OF:**

**"SELWYN "CLIVE" BOWKETT"**

Our thoughts and prayers are with family members at this sad time.

Those we love don't go away.  
They walk beside us every day.  
Unseen, unheard, but always near.  
So loved, so missed, so very dear.



ON BEHALF OF THE

**RECOVERY MECHANICS BRANCH**  
**REME ASSOCIATION**

**WE REGRET TO ANNOUNCE THE**  
**PASSING OF:**

**"JASON HARWOOD"**

Our thoughts and prayers are with family members at this sad time.

Those we love don't go away.  
They walk beside us every day.  
Unseen, unheard, but always near.  
So loved, so missed, so very dear.

The Branch still struggles to obtain detail of the passing of a Recovery Mechanic; we very much rely on the Membership to notify the Committee when they learn of the passing of a fellow Recovery Mechanic. Early notification allows the Branch to offer grieving families assistance should they desire and it also allows the Branch to pass on names of the deceased to the Recovery Training Wing (RTW) at Lyneham for inclusion on the Recovery Mechanic Memorial Wall. Likewise, the Branch still struggle to get anyone to write a eulogy. The term eulogy should not scare people away from putting pen to paper, it doesn't have to be about the lifeline, it could equally be a story from days gone by, something that you may recall about the individual when you were serving ( as long as it is clean, inoffensive and you remember the circumstances in which you write it). Again, anyone willing to send in a eulogy or story should do so by using the **NEW** email address [hello@recymechbranch.co.uk](mailto:hello@recymechbranch.co.uk).



#### COMMITTEE NEWS

The committee continue to work hard ensuring that there is a service available for members, be it just a routine question, looking for old acquaintances, assisting with welfare or aiding a family who have suffered a bereavement.

As stated in the Welcome to this edition, we have been joined on the committee by Sgt Michael Banfield (Banners) as the Serving Member, well volunteered Banners and thank you, this also means that we have to say farewell to Sgt Paul Bruce (Brucie), who done a great job during the period he was on the committee, thank you Brucie.

Ever since the forming of the Branch under the umbrella of REME Association we have had an email address that allowed members to make contact with the committee, [recymechbranch@gmail.com](mailto:recymechbranch@gmail.com). Now that we have moved on and created the Branch Website, it was decided that an updated email address would be appropriate to align with the Branch Website. With immediate effect the **OLD** email address of [recymechbranch@gmail.com](mailto:recymechbranch@gmail.com) has been withdrawn and not in use any longer, all future contact with the Committee shall be via the **NEW** email address of ["hello@recymechbranch.co.uk"](mailto:hello@recymechbranch.co.uk). Members should note this change as the **OLD** email address shall be no longer monitored.

Membership continues to increase with latest count being 735 this includes Serving, Reservist, Veteran, Honorary and Family Members. Membership alone takes up a good deal of time and keeps Steve Robertshaw (Membership Member) busy, Steve has recently had some medical issues and spent some time in hospital, thankfully back at home now, we Steve a speedy recovery.

Ater some very hard work by Chris Zeil (Branch Treasurer) the Branch Logo has been registered and granted the status of "Trademark", this protects the Branch Logo from being abused by others, thank you Chris. Having the Trademark is of great importance to the Branch, we have had cases where the Logo was being used on merchandise without the permission of the Branch. Going forward if we discover such a situation again, we can take the users to task. Indeed we ask for the membership to be vigilant and should you see the Branch Logo being used outside the Branch, and you feel it is not correct, we appeal to you to let us know by using the Branch **NEW** email address of [hello@recymechbranch.co.uk](mailto:hello@recymechbranch.co.uk). The only people who can use the Logo are those who have been granted permission to do so and are recorded within the Branch Permissions Register.

#### FORTH COMING EVENTS

Those of you who have been vigilant would have noticed that it was necessary to postpone the 2026 Overseas Trip. Unfortunately, the trip did not attract the necessary numbers to make it viable. Below is what Mark placed on the Branch Facebook Page:

#### **Postponement Notice - Oversea Trip to Normandy May 26.**

Legends, regrettably this to inform all that this trip has been postponed until May 2027.

Looking ahead to May 2027 a brief outline of the trip is below.





#### **Normandy - Where Courage Changed the World**

28-31 May 2027, join us for a journey of remembrance to the battlefields of Normandy - ground forever marked by courage, duty, and sacrifice.

**American D-Day:** Visit La Point Du Hoc where U.S. Army Rangers scaled sheer cliffs under relentless enemy fire. Their mission: destroy German artillery threatening the landings at Omaha Beach and Utah Beach.

Outnumbered, exposed, and fighting atop shattered cliffs, the Rangers held their ground against fierce counterattacks until relief arrived.

Stand on the sands of Omaha Beach, where American servicemen faced relentless fire and pressed forward with extraordinary resolve.

**British D-Day:** Walk the British sectors at Gold Beach, where discipline and determination broke through the Atlantic Wall.

Visit the site of the daring airborne assault Operation Deadstick the action at Pegasus Bridge - secured in the opening moments of D-Day through skill, courage, and unwavering commitment to the mission.

Join us at the British Normandy Memorial for a moving act of remembrance and tribute.

Overlooking the historic Gold Beach, this powerful memorial bears the names of the 22,442 servicemen and women under British command who gave their lives on D-Day and during the Battle of Normandy.

Together, we will take part in a wreath-laying ceremony to honour their sacrifice, reflect on their courage, and ensure their legacy is never forgotten.

- A moment of remembrance. A gesture of gratitude. A lasting tribute.
- This is more than a tour.
- It is a chance to reflect.
- To remember comrades past and present.
- To stand where ordinary men accomplished extraordinary things.

Join your fellow Recy Mechs in honouring service, sacrifice, and the enduring bond of those who wear-or have worn-the uniform.

28-31 May 2027 – Normandy Awaits - Costs and more details to follow soon....



#### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- ARV 13 Annual Reunion 17 – 19 April 2026
- REME Reunion Weekend Bristol 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026
- WO & SNCO Reunion Lyneham 3 – 4 July 2026
- Winch to the Wall will be held on 5 September 2026
- The Bow Shackle Ball and Annual General Meeting - 25 – 27 September 2026
- REME Memorial Day at the Arboretum will be held on 1 October 2026
- Remembrance Day Sunday 08 November 2026

#### OTHER DATES FOR THE DIARY

#### TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE BY Mark O'Mahoney



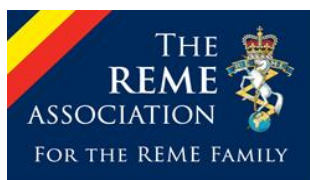
This year marks 10 years since my wife Claire's cancer diagnosis, and I'm very happy (and relieved!) to say she's doing incredibly well.



Over the years, she's handled the diagnosis, the treatment, and the long-term worry that comes with it with a level of positivity and strength that still amazes me. Anyone who knows Claire won't be surprised by that though — she's been a rock for our children, our family, and her friends, and somehow managed to make a very tough journey easier for all of us.

So... why am I sharing this?

Well, I've always had one slightly mad ambition: to cycle from Land's End to John O'Groats (LEJOG). Before my knees and hips officially file for early retirement, I've decided next year is the year and I'm going to do it to raise as much money as possible to support the charity that is close to Claire's heart, Breast Cancer UK





The "Wikipedia" and other sites estimate the route as 874 miles, though let's be honest, if I'm left in charge of the map, it'll probably creep closer to 900–1000 miles and my plan is to do it over 9 days, from 21–29 August.... Yeah, t's a long way - but doable.

Those I've served with will know I'm a pretty social creature, and the thought of 9 days alone on a bike saddle sounds... character building So, while I'll do it regardless, I'd love some company along the way, as I've said, the bigger goal is to raise as much money as possible for Breast Cancer UK and any other service support charities.



Right now, this is very much at the "idea stage" - no gym leg work, no route planning yet, no accommodation arranged, no lunch stops planned, no support or safety vehicle sorted, no distance training rides, nada... and I haven't been on my bike for over a year (but that changes this summer!)

#### Approximate route stages





# NEWSLETTER

## RECOVERY MECHANIC BRANCH

### REME ASSOCIATION



Claim to fame's





*This will be 980 miles you will never forget.*

Ride highlights include:

- St Michael's Mount
- **Ride through Cheddar Gorge**
- Crossing The Severn Bridge
- Chepstow castle
- **Climbing Shap Fell**
- Stunning Lake District views
- The Grampian Mountains
- Cairngorms National Park
- Conquering **Glenshee** and the **Lecht Ski Hill**
- John O'Groats and views of the Orkneys

At last year's Bow Shackle Ball, Steven Johnstone showed an interest, which got me thinking — would anyone else fancy a cycling challenge too? You don't have to do it all, every mile and penny counts. I mentioned the idea to our branch committee and was really pleased to hear they're happy to support it as much as possible too, there might even be an option to borrow 'proper' bikes from the Corps...

So, if you're one of Gods trades serving, reservist, veteran and interested in:



Riding part or all the route



Helping with planning



Driving a support vehicle



Meeting me along the way, pushing me up hills or supporting in any other way please drop me an email at [mark@knowriskuk.com](mailto:mark@knowriskuk.com), we can get together and start turning this into something special - I'd love to hear from anyone at all, riders, supporters, or just the curious.

Dates for other Mainstream REME events can be found by logging in to REME Connect.





#### WINCH TO THE WALL – IT IS BACK

Last year the Branch held an event named **Winch to the Wall**. After some very hard work, planning and organising by the Branch President this event was created. The idea was that families could have the opportunity to visit the Recovery Mechanic Memorial Wall located inside the security fence at Lyneham, particularly families who had lost loved ones could see their husband/fathers/partners name plaque on the Memorial Wall. It also gave opportunity to visit the REME Museum and the late Roger Jones MBE, Historic Vehicles Hanger.

By popular demand it is back, the event last year was such a success that it has been agreed to organise Winch to the Wall 2. Those members who are interested in attending this event should keep Saturday 5 September 2026 free and declare your interest by dropping an email to the **NEW** Branch email address at [hello@recymechbranch.co.uk](mailto:hello@recymechbranch.co.uk).

At this stage details of the event are very much in progress and shall soon be published by means of a flyer and notices on the Branch Media Channels. The event is open to all, if you have never been there and wish to see the creation of Recovery Training Wing, get your name down now.





REME Association



### RECOVERY MECHANICS BRANCH BOW SHACKLE BALL

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2026

staying at the **Best Western Plus Ullesthorpe Court Hotel & Golf Club**, Frolesworth Road, Ullesthorpe, Leicestershire, LE17 5BZ

#### YOUR WEEKEND PACKAGE INCLUDES:

Bed & Breakfast. AGM Saturday afternoon. Gala Dinner Saturday Night 26<sup>th</sup> September 2026. Silent Raffle. Auction. Disco.

Gala Dinner.....£50.00 per Guest.

Standard & Executive Double Room...Double Occupancy £100.00 per night.

Standard & Executive Double Room...Single Occupancy £90.00 per night.

**Please note we only have 6 Standard Doubles, two of which are Accessible with wet room, 8 Standard Twins & 17 Executive Doubles available.**

Superior Double Room...Double Occupancy £130.00 per night.

Superior Double Room...Single Occupancy £120.00 per night.

**Please note we only have 9 available**

Suite...Double Occupancy £150.00 per night.

Suite...Single Occupancy £140.00 per night.

**Please note we only have 2 available.**

**DEPOSIT:** A non-refundable Deposit of £25 per person is required at the time of saying yes to attending the Bow Shackle Ball.

**PAYMENT:** Full Payment is due by 12<sup>th</sup> August 2026, staged payments accepted before this date, contact myself for more details.

**Pay Direct into our Bank:** Lloyds Bank, Recy Mech Branch, Sort Code: 30-99-50, Account Number: 84352668 Please use BSB26 as the payment reference.

All enquiries email: Chris Zeil, treasurer.recymechbranch@gmail.com

### HAS ANYBODY SEEN...

This section of the Newsletter is included in each Edition. The idea being that membership who wish to attempt to contact Recovery Mechanics of yesteryear can appeal through the Newsletter for assistance. Just let us know through the pages of our Facebook Account or email the Branch **NEW** email address, [hello@recymechbranch.co.uk](mailto:hello@recymechbranch.co.uk) State who you are trying to trace, and we will include it in the Newsletter and hopefully someone can help you in your search.

Surprisingly, this facility has yet to be used, whilst there have been a couple of requests for contacts on the Branch Facebook page, nothing yet through the Newsletter. The Branch has details of all members, and should you be looking for someone, we can help, for obvious reasons we cannot hand out details without prior permission of any individual you may be seeking to reunite with.





#### MEMBERSHIP SUBMISSIONS

##### Cold War Warriors

I was thinking of what to write for our newsletter and came up with this: The old and bold of us will know about a lot of the subjects I will be mentioning but for the young lads here are some interesting things you might not know.

Firstly, the title of this article relates to the British Army of the Rhine (BAOR), I'm sure most of us will have served in Germany but for how long? Personally, I did 18 years which involved 6 different postings, it was the norm in those days to spend most of your career in Germany.

For those that didn't know in the early 70's the highest rank for a Recy Mech was Sgt, luckily as time passed so the rank structure increased to present day standards where it should have been from the start,

We did get back to UK occasionally for Class 1 trade and SMC, all other courses could be done in Germany, some were very good, especially Sampsons pride (Soltau - Fallingbostal), Rock Steady (Stapel - Detmold) and Winching challenge (Dorbahn - Munster). I had the good fortune to instruct on quite a few Recy Camps but never actually made it to the Dorbahn.

So, there we were being a deterrent to stop Ivan from moving into West Germany with actually not a lot to do, this led to the proliferation of bars in every camp, what with the cheap booze etc indeed this also led to a dedicated hospital for alcoholic servicemen in Netley, UK. I say servicemen as there were very few serving ladies in those days. At the time each Regiment had the 5 Squadron Bars then we had the LAD Bar and as you became promoted the various messes, and of course the NAAFI where the dedicated drinkers could get a pint at lunchtime.

Luckily for me I managed to break out of 4 Amstel workshops occasionally as I was heading for a bed space in Netley! My boss at the time decided it would be a good move for me to go on exercise Snow Queen something I objected to bitterly till I got to Bavaria and found out about Skiing and the social life to be had at the Ski Chalets.

REME had 2 ski huts in those days one in Oberjoch and one in Wertach, I stayed at both but mostly Oberjoch and when it moved to Gunzesreid I became somewhat of a permanent fixture both at Vorsass 11 and finally Bergheim Leib.

I remember one year the tank regiment I was attached to had a moratorium and the tanks weren't allowed to move, the upshot of this was the majority of the lads were ordered to go on an adventure training course/expedition of their choice, this led to me and a bunch of tankies having a fabulous few weeks rock climbing in Switzerland something I remember with fondness to this day especially the young Swiss miss I spent a lot of time with.

So as a BAOR soldier I believe the postings could be as good or as bad as you made it, I know quite a few of the lads hated it and a few went down the Netley route but the majority got on with it and some loved it so much they stayed and are still there to this day.

**Submitted by Steve Robertshaw.**





The Dutch Regiment of Technical Troops (RTT) our equivalents celebrated their 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary over the period 18/19 March 2026. The Recovery Mechanics Branch received an invite to attend these celebrations along with Serving REME members from Lyneham. This event took much planning and organising, mainly between the Branch and Recovery Training Wing, (RTW) at Lyneham, with a little input from HQ Lyneham. The original number invited was in the region of 15/16 individuals, a mixture of Veterans and Serving. Due to various commitments and circumstances,

beyond the control of the Serving and Veterans the final number that attended the celebrations had been reduced to 8, and all in attendance, "surprise surprise" were all from the Recovery Mechanic Trade. A minibus left the UK on the 17 March 2026 and travelled to the location of the celebrations in the Netherlands.

The very organised Dutch had accommodation, meals etc all arranged for their UK counterparts. During the celebrations a wreath was laid by Chris Zeil on behalf of the Branch and REME in general, the Branch Standard was also on parade with Bob Fullbrook the Standard Bearer, thanks to both. I have added some photographs that were taken at the event but hope that a volunteer who attended the event puts pen to paper and gives a detailed run down on all the events. I would like to also thank the RTW Lyneham, for their input, dedication and efforts in the organising of the trip. Lastly but by no means least, a huge thank you to the Dutch Organising Body who gave the Branch and RTW the opportunity and honour to attend such celebrations - to be continued in the next edition.

**Happy Birthday Regiment Technische Troepen.**





# NEWSLETTER

## RECOVERY MECHANIC BRANCH

### REME ASSOCIATION





A more detailed post on the event will be included in Edition 20 of the Newsletter

**Submitted by Bryan Cronie**

### **Changes are Coming – Re- REME Connect**

A message from Misty McCready REME HQ - Good afternoon, everyone

In the last newsletter, we told you about our plans to improve the REME Connect user experience, and gave you a very brief introduction to the Military App. I'm over the moon to let you know that those plans came to fruition quickly, and our brand new REME Connect app has been under development ever since.

**Every REME Association Branch, Group and Breakfast Club will have its own dedicated 'group' within the app, as explained in the below email from Lt Col Graham Chignell, Chief of Staff – PSB.**

**Branch Secretaries and Group/Breakfast Club POCs:** You will automatically be registered as the admin/owner of your group, but please don't panic about the technology





side of that just yet! You'll be given full training by *Allegro*, the team behind the Military app, and they will also be hosting Q&A sessions for us ahead of the launch.

I haven't seen the app in full working order yet, but they've assured us that managing the new app groups will be no different to running a Facebook group. With that being said, because I know that Facebook isn't within everyone's comfort zone, you don't have to manage your new group on your own – you can have as many admins as you feel comfortable with, it's completely your call.

Email from Lt Col Graham Chignell, **Dear All**,  
I'm writing to share an update on the **REME Connect App** and, importantly, how it will help us **improve communications across the Corps and the wider REME family** - making it easier for you to reach your people, promote activity, and give visibility of what is happening across units, regions, and the Corps as a whole.

### What is the REME Connect App?

The REME Connect App (an enhanced version of REME Connect, now delivered as a mobile and web app) is currently in development, with a planned launch in **June 2026**. It is designed to provide a **simple, modern way to message across the Corps**, promote forthcoming activities and events, and share good-news stories - all in one place.

Crucially, the app will:

- improve **visibility of unit, regional, and Corps-level activity**,
- provide a **more direct and engaging way to communicate** with serving soldiers, veterans, families, and supporters, and
- help drive **participation and connection** across the REME community.

The platform is **community and unit-led**, meaning content is owned and shaped by those closest to the activity.

### Group ownership and administration

As part of onboarding, each 'group' within the app will have a **designated Owner**. For most Unit and Corps groups, this will align naturally with roles such as **Adjutant, Sports Secretary, or Association Lead**. The Group Owner retains **accountability** for the group — its purpose, membership, and content standards.

That said, we fully recognise that the Group Owner may **not always be the most appropriate person to act as the day-to-day Group Administrator**. Where this is the case, administration can (and should) be delegated to someone better placed to manage posting and engagement, while accountability remains with the owning role.

### Training and support

The app is designed to be **straightforward and intuitive**, but to ensure everyone is comfortable ahead of launch, **training for Group Owners and Administrators** will be provided closer to go-live (dates tbc but late Apr anticipated). This will allow time to set up and personalise groups ahead of wider onboarding of the REME family. RHQ REME will support throughout.

The REME Charity will engage separately regarding Veteran Representatives.

Many thanks for your continued support - this is a genuinely exciting step forward in how we connect across the Corps.

**Submitted by Bryan Cronie**





# NEWSLETTER

## RECOVERY MECHANIC BRANCH

### REME ASSOCIATION



#### ANYONE REQUIRING ASSISTANCE – USEFUL CONTACTS

Assistance for the Branch Membership will always be close at hand, we are all in this together, and here to help. In the event of any member experiencing difficult times, they must not hesitate to contact the branch. If we as a group cannot assist with a situation, we certainly know where help may be available.



01302347866  
Relate



08002606767  
SSAFA Forces Line



08001381619  
Combat Stress Military Helpline



TEXT 24/7  
The Shout Text Service



08088084000  
National Debtline



Alcoholics Anonymous  
Great Britain  
08009177650  
Alcoholics Anonymous



03300940322  
Gamblers Anonymous



08088010327  
Men's Advice Line  
Domestic Violence



01482421525  
Eating Disorder Support



Alcohol Awareness  
4-AlphaArmy@gmail.com



03001236600  
Talk to Frank



08088001677  
Cruse Bereavement Support



0808 802 8080



Samaritans 116 123



Royal Albert Hall

Service of Remembrance  
(R Albert Hall)  
festivalofremembrance.  
seetickets.com  
02070877929



01904882053  
Army Welfare Service



remeconnect.org  
01249 894507



WOY@REMECharity.org  
association@remecharity.org  
07590 848766

REME Association Recovery Mechanic Branch  
recymechbranch@gmail.com





#### AND FINALLY

As you can see from the content of this Newsletter the committee continues to be very active, on one hand attending events and the other, organising future events. Should you have never attended a Branch event it is something that you may like to consider. The main Branch events are the Bow Shackle Ball, Overseas Trip paying respect to the War Heros and the successful Winch to the Wall.

We also try and do something special for Remembrance Sunday. Instead of making application to march at the Cenotaph we decided, with the blessing of families, of a Fallen Recovery Mechanic to visit the local town, march with the local RBL and visit, along with the family, the resting place of our Fallen Brother where a wreath gets laid and those in attendance pay their respects. This is also an event that members can attend, so far, we have attended the local towns of two of the fallen, this year hope to complete our aim by attending the local town of the third member lost in action.

All are aware of the turbulence taking place around the world which in one way or another will influence every one of us. It is amazing how billions and trillions are being spent on creating weapons that are built to kill, but nobody appears willing to spend money on solutions on creating peace around the world. Clearly lessons have not been learned from previous excursions into the field of war, as many readers will recall from their own personal experiences. Disruption has been brought to most, the cost of living, particularly to those who rely on a car to get back and forth to work, the cost of oil, gas etc., in many cases, if not in all, adding to the already stretched budgets. This Newsletter was never created to get mixed up in the world of politics and hopefully never will. The reason I am writing about the subject is quite straight forward, many of our members travel far and wide as part of their second career, they are very vulnerable in many cases and can have their lives disrupted in an instant. I experienced disruption recently just getting home from a holiday in Far East, 4 flights cancelled, new flight allocated, only to be cancelled again, eventually I purchased a different flight via Beijing to Manchester, getting home 2 weeks after the original return date.

My message is to all members who are traveling or are thinking about travelling, be it work or holidays, think carefully about the routes you take, try and avoid anything that goes through the Middle East, don't get caught out by the big boys in the Middle East offering very cheap flights where you can expose yourself, definitely to cancellations and if the worst comes to the worst, arriving in a Middle East country and then getting stuck there. Explore all routes that go north and south of the troubled area, I travelled home with a Chinese Airline named Hainan, reasonably priced, very slick and excellent inflight service, this prevented any connections in the Middle East.

Life goes on, all you travellers, take care, plan well and return home safely from each flight.

Stay Safe

BC

