



REME ASSOCIATION

BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH

NEWSLETTER – March 2020

Branch Contacts –

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www.rblferndown.org/associations/r-e-m-e/

Coronavirus Branch Activity Suspended

Please connect with my recent email notification to you all about the current situation with the Coronavirus (Covid 19). All branch activities have been suspended until the June meeting on 3rd June. Should the Government issue more detailed instructions, we will review our activities beyond June accordingly. Very recently they have expressed a need to isolate all people over the age of 70 for some months and avoid all non-essential travel and visiting pubs, clubs, theatres and sadly, restaurants.

HQ REME Latest

Dear All,

Colonel REME, Colonel Andy Rogers ADC and all at RHQ REME send you and your families our most sincere best wishes at this difficult and unique time. The coronavirus has of course somewhat disrupted normal business here at RHQ REME and DSEME Lyneham. It is an evolving situation but here is the latest update for you all. Further updates will follow as and when we have information of relevance and interest to you all:

DSEME Lyneham is a military training and education establishment. Consequently, it is falling in line with government guidance for schools and colleges. DSEME remains open and training continues for the immediate future. The Commandant's priorities are the health and well-being of staff and trainees, the delivery of training and DSEME is stood by to provide military manpower to the civilian authorities if required.

RHQ REME remains open for business but all staff that are able to work from home will do so from Friday 20th March 2020. Alternative ways of meeting are under review e.g. Skype etc. A full comms plan is being worked on as we speak so contact details will be included in future updates when confirmed. The aim is for 'no change', i.e. office telephones to be diverted to mobiles but wait out as that is not yet confirmed. Until this time please continue to use the normal office numbers for all RHQ staff and my Association contact email address and mobile number shown below is available and I will forward any enquiries I am unable to deal with myself to the appropriate RHQ member of staff. The comms plan is expected to be ready by Thursday of this week.

The REME Museum and messes here at MoD Lyneham remain open as they directly support the training programme but do call before any visit in the short term as this situation remains under constant review. Any mess functions scheduled for the immediate future have been postponed or cancelled. This has resulted in all REME Association functions being reviewed on a 2-month rolling basis in view of the guidance on mass gatherings. All events scheduled for April and May 2020 have been cancelled or postponed and those scheduled for June 2020 will be reviewed in due course but are likely to be cancelled. See below for REME Reunion.

The REME Reunion, scheduled for the VE Day weekend in May 2020 is postponed ***and rescheduled for the weekend of 16 to 18 October 2020.*** Further details will emerge and RHQ is of course in negotiations

with our agent IOW Tours but please do put this revised date in your diaries. All those currently booked in will receive a message from IOW Tours imminently. Please hold any questions you may have on this event until the picture becomes clearer but rest assured, Lt Col (Retd) Mike Tizard the Chief Executive of The REME Charity and our Corps Secretary will ensure no REME Association member is left out of pocket from this postponement.

If you have not done so already, please suspend all branch and group activity in line with government advice on gatherings.

I would like to add to the update that the Corps Memorial Day at the NMA in May has also been cancelled. This will not be rescheduled for later in the year due to a number of calendar commitments but will go ahead next year as planned on Thursday 20th May.

Stay safe, look after your loved ones and further information will follow when available.

Branch Easter Lunch: When Bill returns from holiday in Egypt, this function on Wednesday 8th April at the Bridge House hotel **will be cancelled**.

Branch Accounts: Cash £9.16, Bank £1563.25, Total £1572.41

Branch Annual Subs: All members should have received an email from the Treasurer Len Symonds, we would be grateful if you would kindly take action in paying your annual branch subs using Len's method of payment, either BACS, Standing Order or cash on the night. The subs are now due with effect of the AGM date.

If you have any news (birthdays / Anniversaries etc) that you feel the branch either needs, should or would like to know about or changes to the forecast of events, please email the details to lloyd.letiec666@ntlworld.com The Branch has its own Facebook page: REME Association in Hampshire and Dorset. Any member can post or comment on this page. Any photographs of branch activities, whether formal or social, would be most welcome. Any serving member of REME can become a member of the branch and join this group.

Future Events

All branch activities on hold until the June meeting, this may be prolonged pending Government guidelines.

Forecast of Events

Forecast of events on page 3 this Newsletter and is also shown on the Branch Facebook page. If any member would like to give a talk to the branch, please speak to any member of the committee.

NOTICES

Boules

For those who are MPPC members, we have all received instructions about the club's activity. The clubs playing activities have been suspended until further notice, but individuals can play at their own risk as this is an BCP owned facility. You will not be covered by Public Liability Insurance.

Christchurch Armed Forces Veterans Breakfast Club

This activity has been suspended until further notice.

REME Assn Reunion See above from HQ REME, the Reunion is now rescheduled for 16 to 18th October 2020. This might be an opportunity to attend the later date.

Our stories – this is a new topic, the third in our new series.

Now on a lighter note, Bob Tanner has given us a letter that was forwarded to all parents from the Army Apprentice School to notify their little ‘Johnnies’ have arrived safely. When I have sorted the scanner out, I will post it.

Branch Programme 2020

Date	Event or Speaker Name	Location or Subject
January 2020	No Meeting	No Meeting
8/Apr/20	Branch Lunch Cancelled	Bridge House Hotel, Longham
3/Jun/20	David Rawlings	Nuclear Testing on Christmas Island
4/Jun/20	Founders Day	Royal Hospital Chelsea
11/Jun/20	Visit to 17 Port & Maritime Wksp REME	Marchwood, Hants
21/22/Jun/ 20	Weymouth Armed Forces W/E	Weymouth Sea Front
28/Jun/20	Southampton Armed Forced Day	Guildhall Square Southampton
1/Jul/20	Branch Skittles Evening	RBL Ferndown
5/July/20	Branch Car Treasure Hunt	New Forest Area
12/Jul/20	Regimental Sunday	Royal Hospital Chelsea
5/Aug/20	Chris Marshal (ex RAF Pilot)	The Magic that ‘was’ the Harrier
2/Sep/20	Valerie Dennis	Bike Ride to Paris
7/Oct/20	Branch Meeting	Quiz / Games
16 -18/Oct/20	REME Assn Reunion rescheduled date	Eastwood Hall, Nottingham
4/Nov/20	John Smith	The Channel Dash
5/Nov/20	Field of Remembrance	Westminster Cathedral, London
8/Nov/20	Remembrance Sunday	Christchurch Priory
11/Nov/20	Armistice Day Garden of Remembrance	RBL Ferndown 11am
11/Nov/20	Remembrance Concert	RBL Ferndown 7pm
14/Nov/20	Annual Dinner Dance	Hoburne Park
2/Dec/20	Branch Meeting	American Supper Night
6/Dec/20	St Eligius Service (REME Patron Saint)	St Mary’s Church Ferndown
13/Dec/20	Burton 10k Pudding Race	Burton Village

We meet on the first Wednesday of the month, apart from January, upstairs in the Royal British Legion – Ferndown Branch, Church Road, Ferndown BH22 9ET. The Meetings start at 7.30pm.