



*The Artillery Club – 25 Feb 18*

## **TAKE POST - THE ARTILLERY CLUB's NEWSLETTER 1/2018**



### **INTRODUCTION**

Newsletter 4/2017 promulgated on 15 November, consisted of sections covering Governance, Activities, the Artillery Corps and Looking into the Past. The same format will be reflected in this Newsletter.

Since the publication of Newsletter 4/2017, through the medium of emails, members were provided specific details regarding upcoming activities such as the 2017 Annual General Meeting which convened on 01 December in Collins Barracks Cork, Greetings for Saint Barbara's Day, Christmas and the New Year, and the Field Trip to Dublin Port.

Particular issues within this Newsletter include 2017 AGM, Activity Reports, Planned Activities, and finally News from the Regiments. Photographs are credited to the Defence Forces Press Office and Club Membership.

Looking into the Past, contains an extract from an article published in the November 1973 edition of An Cosantóir, titled "Coast Defence Artillery", written by Commandant J.E. Dawson HQ Southern Command, and Lieutenant Cormac Lalor Coast Defence Artillery Southern Command. (See Club's website for an article on Fort Shannon published in the Irish Military Story, Winter Edition 2017 / 2018.)

The School Commandant and Regimental Commanders are requested to post this Newsletter on IKON, circulate it to all PDF and AR Artillery officers under their command, and are encouraged to provide information for subsequent Newsletters.

Likewise, serving and retired personnel are encouraged to provide information, news and photographs, for publication in the Club's Newsletters.

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Upcoming activities include the Visit to Cathal Brugha Barracks on Thursday 26 April, and the Field Trip to Templemore and Birr (3 & 31 Fd Arty Regts FCA) on Thursday and Friday 24/25 May. The current version of the Diary of Events for 2018 is posted on the Club's website and is attached as Annex A.

## **GOVERNANCE**

### **2017 Outputs**

During 2017, in addition to governance matters, the Committee approved all Newsletters before promulgation, directed the Membership Drive, launched the Website, executed or participated in 16 activities, including the successful field trip to Lisbon, completed projects such as a Perpetual Trophy, Presentation of the UN (overseas) Medal, Main Gates Magee Barracks, and advanced the Club's Merchandise.

### **Focus for 2018**

Mindful of the Club's objectives as prescribed in the Rules, the focus remains on: executing appropriate activities, enhancing its Website, extending its Membership base and participating in appropriate ceremonial and commemorative events.

### **2018 Committee**

During the course of the 2017 AGM, the following were elected as Officers, Committee Members and Auditor for 2018:

<b><u>Appointment</u></b>	<b><u>Name</u></b>
<b>President</b>	Brig Gen Paul Pakenham (Retd)
<b>Immediate Past President</b>	Comdt Chris O'Flanagan (Retd)
<b>Secretary</b>	Comdt Lar Joye
<b>Treasurer</b>	Col Tom O'Callaghan
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	Col Seamus McDermott (Retd)
<b>Committee Member</b>	Lt Col Cormac Lalor (Retd)
<b>Committee Member</b>	Comdt Michael Flood (Retd)
<b>Committee Member</b>	Comdt Richard Armstrong (Retd)
<b>Committee Member</b>	Capt Peter Murray (Retd)
<b>Committee Member</b>	Col Michael Smyth (Retd)
<b>Auditor</b>	Col Tom Carter (Retd)

The Committee co-opted Col Conor Fitzsimons (Retd) and Comdt Derek Coulter (Retd) to its forum for 2018. The President will be inviting Regimental Commanders and the School Commandant to nominate a Liaison Officer to the Committee.



Since the AGM, the Committee convened on two occasions: 25 January in McKee Barracks and on 22 February in Dublin Port. The Committee will reconvene on 26 April in Cathal Brugha Barracks Dublin, on 28 June and 27 September in McKee Barracks.

To-date, the Committee has developed the diary of events for 2018, conducted initial planning for the various activities, and successfully executed the Field Trip to Dublin Port on 22 February.

### **Communications**

In addition to posting information on the Club's Web site, the circulation of Newsletters, Activity Information, Calling Notices and Death Notices is primarily by means of email.

Newsletter 1/2015 was distributed by email to 122 individuals. The Club's Email Contact List for this Newsletter is double that number - 251 individuals, far exceeding the Membership strength of 172. Currently, 15 members are receiving Club information by means of normal post.

### **Membership**

Membership of the Artillery Club is open to all serving and retired commissioned Artillery officers of the Permanent Defence Force, An Fórsa Cosanta Áitiúil and the Army Reserve.

As of 22 February, the membership is 172, compared with 159 in October 2016, 129 in October 2015, and 96 in October 2014.

The President has invited the recently commissioned Gunner Officers to become members of the Artillery Club.

***Potential members are requested to contact the Membership Secretary Colonel McDermott (Retd), Woodenbridge, Ballybrittas, Co Laois, or email: [seamus.mcdermott@gmail.com](mailto:seamus.mcdermott@gmail.com).***

### **Membership Subscriptions**

Subscriptions for the current year were due on 01 November, 2017. To date, 108 of the 172 members have paid their subscription.

The preferred option of paying Membership Subscription (€10) is by Standing Order. The Committee is grateful to the 103 members who are currently paying their subscriptions by Standing Order.

## **The Curragh Military Museum**



During the 2017 Annual General Meeting, members unanimously agreed that the Artillery Club, within its competencies, would offer GOC Defence Forces Training Centre the means to support and maintain the Artillery display in the Curragh Military Museum on behalf of the Artillery Corps.

In this context, on 11 January, the President submitted a proposed framework to the GOC Defence Forces Training Centre.

## **Web Site**

The Club's Website is accessible through [www.artilleryclub.ie](http://www.artilleryclub.ie). Since the circulation of Newsletter 4/2017, the following postings were made on the Club's Website:

- **Posts – Homepage (4):** Newsletter 4/2017, Christmas Greetings, St Barbara's Day Greetings, and a Calling Notice for the 2018 Golf Outing.
- **News and Events (2):** Newsletter 4/2017, Diary of Events 2018.
- **Photo Gallery**
  - **Artillery Corps (2):** St Barbara's Day, and UN Peacekeepers Medal
  - **Artillery Club (2):** 2017 AGM and St Barbara's Day Lunch, and Dublin Port Field Trip.
- **Publications – Information Section (2):**
  - **Artillery Corps:** Article on Fort Shannon by Pat Dargan
  - **Overseas:** 38 Inf Bn ONUC

Currently, the Picture Gallery contains 17 albums reflecting the Artillery Corps, and 22 Albums on the activities of the Artillery Club.

Members are reminded that only a small portion of the web site requires text population including *Artillery Corps Disposition and History*, and *Corps Units' Disposition and History*.

In due course, the procedures whereby the Club's membership can be involved in the provision of material, including photographs, will be circulated. In the interim, observations on the Website will be welcomed.

## **Committee's Short Term Priorities**

The Club's short term priorities are: visit to Cathal Brugha Barracks, Field Trip to Birr and Templemore (3 & 31 Fd Arty Regts), Artillery Wing – Curragh Military Museum,

developing CONOPS for Vienna, Membership (PDF and AR) and interface with other Corps Clubs.

## **ACTIVITIES**

### **Diary of Events - 2018**

The Club's activities are of an Artillery nature, hopefully appealing to a large number of members. Members are encouraged to offer recommendations for Club activities. As already mentioned, the current version of the 2018 Diary of Events is posted on the Club's website and attached as Annex A.

### **95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of the Artillery Corps**



The Committee is exploring means by which the Club could mark the 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of the Artillery Corps on 23 March 1923, such as a formal dinner in DFHQ Officers' Mess. Recommendations are welcomed.

### **Acknowledgement**

The Committee acknowledges the support provided by Dublin Port Company for the first event of 2018.

### **Reports and Information**

Reports on activities executed since the last Newsletter (4/2017), and initial information on future activities are outlined below.

### **Annual General Meeting & Saint Barbara's Day Lunch – 01 December**

With the kind permission of GOC 2 Brigade, the Club's Annual General Meeting took on 01 December in McKee Barracks Dublin, followed by the Annual Saint Barbara's Lunch in the Officers' Mess.



The AGM approved reports from the President, Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Secretary. Col Brian Cleary Director of Combat Support and ISTAR provided a comprehensive brief on prevailing Artillery Corps issues. Draft minutes of the AGM, and the financial accounts for the period ended 31 October, 2017 were circulated to members on 29 January. 37 members attended the AGM and 30 apologies were received.



Following the AGM, members enjoyed the Annual St Barbara's Lunch in the Officers' Mess. The Cavalry Club was represented at the dinner by Lt Damien O'Herlihy.

See website for event photographs.

The Committee will be seeking permission to hold the 2018 AGM and Saint Barbara's Day Lunch in McKee Barracks, Dublin on Friday, 07 December.

### **Field Trip Dublin Port Heritage Trail: 22 February (Comdt Lar Joye)**

Comdt Lar Joye, the recently appointed Dublin Port Company's Heritage Director, conducted a historical tour of Dublin docklands and port, and highlighted the future plans of Dublin Port and the development of the heritage trail, on 22 February.



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Attendees assembled at the MV Cill Áirne and the tour included the Diving Bell Exhibition, the Grand Canal Dock and the Port Centre. Comdt Joye was assisted by Jim Kelleher who served in the 2 Air Defence Battery from 1989 to 1992.

Following a reception hosted by Dublin Port Company, the Club's Committee reconvened in the Board Room for its February meeting.



See website for event photographs.

**Visit to Cathal Brugha Barracks: 26 April (Col Conor Fitzsimons Retd).** Approved Programme: Coffee, School of Music, Lunch, Military Archives, and Visitors' Centre. Open to Members, Spouses and Partners. Calling Notice later.

**Field Trip to Templemore and Birr – 3 & 31 Fd Arty Regts: 24/25 May (Comdt Derek Coulter Retd).** Tentative Programme: Visit Garda Training College including Museum in Templemore. Moving to Birr for dinner and overnight, followed by a visit to Crinkill Barracks, and guided tour of Birr Castle. Open to Members, Spouses and Partners. Calling Notice later.

**Annual Golf Competition & Dinner: 23 August (Col Tom Carter Retd & Comdt Chris O'Flanagan Retd).**

The Club's Annual Golf Outing takes place on Thursday, 23 August 2018 at the Hermitage Golf Resort, Killenard, County Laois by dinner in at 2000hrs approx. Both the Golf Outing and Dinner are open to Members of the Artillery Club, their Spouses, Partners and Friends.

The Calling Notice was issued on 08 February, and duly posted on the Club's Website. A limited number of rooms have been reserved in the Golf Resort for Members and Guests at reasonable rates.

To avail of the reasonable accommodation rates, event and accommodation bookings, with appropriate payment (Cheque or SEPA) are required by Comdt Chris O'Flanagan (Retd), 129 Celtic Park Avenue, Whitehall, Dublin 9, NLT Friday, 20 April, please.

**Arty Decades' Reunion - Anniversary of PDF, FCA and AR Commissioning 1948-2018, 12 September (Col Mick Smyth Retd).**

This annual event, now in its third year, envisages assembly in the Cadet's Mess, Brief on the Cadet School and reunion lunch in the Officers' Mess Pearse Barracks.

For planning purposes, Permanent Defence Force, An Fórsa Cosanta Áitiúil and the Army Reserve officers commissioned in 1948, 58, 68, 78, 88, 98, 2008 and 2018, are requested to contact the Club's President (ppakenham@eircom.net) and the Event Coordinator ([michaelsmyth007@gmail.com](mailto:michaelsmyth007@gmail.com)).

Calling Notice later.

**Foreign Field Trip Vienna: September / October Timeframe (Comdt Michael Flood Retd).** Similar format as in previous years. Tentative Programme: Austrian Artillery School, UN Atomic Agency, Military Museum, Ammunition Factory, OSCE, and tourist attractions. Currently, the optimum dates are either Week 38, (16 Sep to 20 Sep), Week 40, (30 Sep to 04 Oct). To facilitate travel arrangements, the selected dates will be promulgated, when they become available. Open to Spouses and Partners. Coordinated Instructions will be circulated in due course.

## **ARTILLERY CORPS**

### **Promotions – Permanent Defence Force**

The Club's Officers and Members extend their sincere congratulations to the following Gunner Officers who were recently selected for promotion to the ranks of Colonel and Lieutenant-Colonel:

- Lt Col Brian White, DFHQ;
- Comdt Ray Kane, 2 i/c, The Cadet School;
- Comdt Fergal Costello, Instructor Command & Staff School; and
- Comdt Noel Maher, DCO, 56 Inf Gp, UNDOF.

### **Promotions – Army Reserve**

With effect from 08 February, Army Reserve officers, including 16 officers serving in the 1 Brigade and 20 serving in 2 Brigade, were promoted to A/Captain.

The Club's Officers and Members extend their sincere congratulations to the following Army Reserve Gunner Officers who were recently promoted to the rank of A/Captain:

- A/Capt Niall Costello, DFHQ,
- A/Capt Patrick Brennan, 5 Bty, 1 Arty Regt,
- A/Capt Esther Granger, HQ 2 Bde, and
- A/Capt Paul O'Dea, 5 Bty, 2 Arty Regt.

### **Overseas Appointments**

The Committee wishes successful tours and safe return journey to the following Artillery Corps officers who have deployed, or are due to deploy on overseas duty in the coming months:

- Col Ray Yorke: Military Advisor, Perm Rep, UN New York (February).
- Comdt Fergal Costello: Deputy Chief JIC, KFOR (April)

### **53 Young Officers Course**

The latest Young Officers Course commenced in the Artillery School on 05 February. 15 students are participating in the course, including the 12 officers of the 93 Cadet Class posted to the Artillery Corps on 24 January. The Class President is Capt Phil O'Leary.

### **St Barbara's Day Events - Artillery School: 04 December**



The Artillery School hosted a Prayer Service and Gun Powder Breakfast on 04 December 2017 in honour of Saint Barbara, Patron Saint of the Artillery Corps and Gunners worldwide. The event was attended by Brig Gen Joe Mulligan GOC Defence Forces Training Center and Col Brian Cleary Director of Artillery. Msgr John McDonald conducted the Prayer Service.

The Artillery Club commissioned a Perpetual Trophy in memory of Commandant David M. Brown, who died on 26 July 2016, which will be awarded to the Best Student on the Regimental Survey Courses conducted by the Artillery School. The Club's President made the inaugural presentation of the trophy to Gunner Cleary, 2 Artillery Regiment, who was the best student on the recent course on 04 December.

The Perpetual Trophy is an extension of an objective of the Artillery Club, which promotes professional excellence through sponsoring the Best Student Awards on Artillery Young Officers, Detachment Commanders and Regimental Survey Courses.



Presentations were also made to RSM John (Mingy) Morris on his retirement from the Defence Forces by Commandant Greg Burnes, Chief Instructor, and to mark his commendable support to the Artillery Club by Brigadier-General Paul Pakenham. Promoted Regimental Sergeant-Major in June 1999, RSM John Morris was the first NCO to hold the rank of RSM in the Artillery School. With 18 years in the rank, RSM Morris has the longest service as an RSM in the history of the Artillery Corps. The Artillery Club wishes him health and happiness in his retirement.

See website for event photographs.

### **Commissioning Ceremony 93 Cadet Class: 26 January 2018**



The Minister of State with special responsibility for Defence, Mr. Paul Kehoe T.D. accompanied by the Chief of Staff Vice-Admiral Mark Mellett DSM, attended the Commissioning Ceremony of 68 Army Officers, 2 Air Corps Officers and 8 Maltese Officers at the Defence Forces Training Centre, the Curragh Camp, Co. Kildare on Friday, 26 January 2018.

This is the largest number of officers to be commissioned in a single ceremony and, on induction, was the largest ever single intake of cadets.

The newly appointed officers completed a demanding 15 months intensive training and have taken up appointments as junior leaders in Óglaigh na hÉireann and the Armed Forces of Malta.

The 93 Cadet Class comprised of 8 officers who had previously served in the Defence Forces as enlisted personnel, and 31 university graduates with a range of qualifications including law, history, animal science, multimedia studies, music composition, and English literature. A further 17 officers were in third-level education prior to joining the Defence Forces.



The Artillery Club extends sincere congratulations to the following 12 officers who were commissioned in January 2018 and appointed by Vice-Admiral Mark Mellett DSM to the Artillery Corps:

### **1 Artillery Regiment**

- Lt Pierce Dalton, FST Det Comd, FST Tp, No 2 Bty
- Lt Oisín O'Higgins, FST Det Comd, FST Tp, No. 2 Bty
- 2/Lt Brian Nolan, FST Det Comd, FST Tp, No. 2 Bty
- 2/Lt Colm Byrne, UAV Det Comd, No 2 Bty
- 2/ Lt Leah McEvoy, GPO, 1 Bty
- 2/ Lt Chloe McMahon, Survey Offr, HQ Bty

### **2 Artillery Regiment**

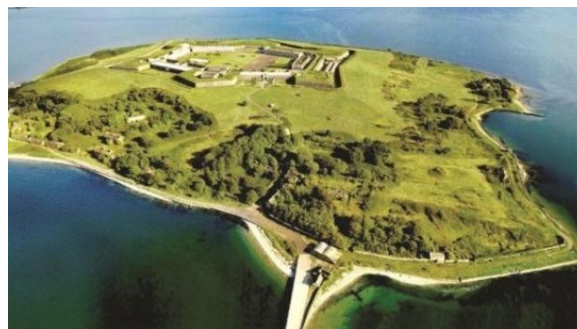
- Lt Ian Galloway, Safety Offr, Gun Gp, No 1 Bty
- Lt David Franklin, CPO, Gun Gp, No 1 Bty
- Lt Alexender Rumball, FST Det Comd, FST Tp, No. 2 Bty
- Lt Luke Gillespie, FOO, Op Gp, No 2 Bty
- 2/Lt Ciarán Hogarty, FOO, Op Gp, No 2 Bty
- Lt Michelle Kelly, Missile Tp, No, 3 Bty

Lt Oisín O'Higgins was awarded the Capt Mary Jo O'Sullivan Award for achieving the highest marks in academic studies. The award was presented to the Cadet School in 2013 by members of the 58 Cadet Class in memory of their classmate who died on 12 September 2012.

*An Ród so Romham*



**Spike Island – World Travel Awards**



Last December, Spike Island, which is featured in the Artillery Heritage section on home page of the Club's website, came second in the World Travel Awards, ahead of the Great Wall of China and Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa. First place went to the historic Inca Citadel of Machu Picchu in Peru.

Earlier in October 2107, Spike Island was named Europe's Leading Tourist Attraction. Over 45,000 individuals visited the island in 2017.

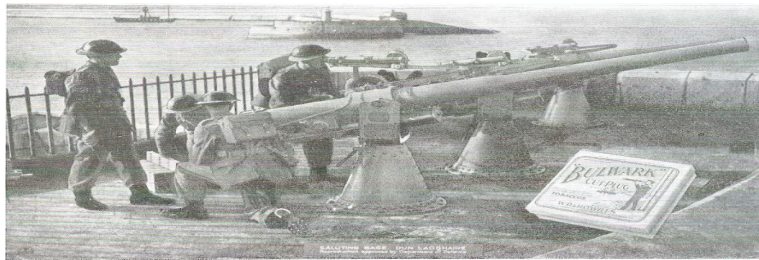
Following a €6 million investment, Cork County Council continues to develop the historic prison and fort as a tourist attraction.

Originally the site of a monastic settlement in the 7th century, Spike Island saw its first artillery fortification built in the 18th century by the British following the outbreak of the American War of Independence with a series of forts being built on the 104 acre island in both the late 18th century and early 19th century.

Used as a prison in the 19th century with thousands of prisoners transferred from Spike to Australia, the island remained under British control following the Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921. Spike Island was handed over to the Irish Free State in 1938 on the departure of the British Army.

A working prison up until 2004, responsibility for the island was handed over to Cork County Council in 2010 and following an investment of over €6 million by the Council and Fáilte Ireland, the island reopened in June 2016 as a tourist attraction.

## **LOOKING INTO THE PAST**



Photograph from 1951: 12 pounder CDA at the saluting base Dun Laoire, manned by (L to R): Sgt. L. Harbison, Gunner P. Killeen, Gunner J. Norton and Gunner J. Brennan.

The following is an extract from an article published in An Cosantóir November 1973, titled “Coast Defence Artillery”, written by Commandant J.E. Dawson HQ Southern Command and Lieutenant Cormac Lalor Coast Defence Artillery Southern Command.

*“On 21st May, 1946, Col. Tom Feely wrote a letter which commenced ‘Fort Shannon will be evacuated on 31st May, 1946.’ Thus ended a Coast Defence presence in the Shannon Estuary which began when troops from Cork Harbour Forts and Kildare Barracks occupied the newly-built fort.*

*The estuary was a controlled port, and in 1941 it was decided that the examination service at the beautiful little port of Cappa on the Clare side would need artillery support. To this end a C.D.A. installation would be built near Tarbert in Kerry, and would be named Fort Shannon. The installation would have a battery of 6" guns, D.E.L., and a platoon of machine-guns.*

*A five-acre plot of land was bought from a local landowner. Leasing arrangements were made with others on whose lands local defence posts were to be built. Lookout posts were built so that by day and night visual communications would augment wireless and telephone.*

*Thus Kilcraudaun Head, Loop Head and the examination service on the North were linked with Doon Head, Scattery Island and the Fort. The harbour master at Limerick, with Naval rank of Lt. Comdr. was responsible for the entry of all shipping into the estuary. Close liaison was vital between his office and the Fort.*

*Comdt. Mick Sugrue came from Fort Davis to assume command and he also enters history as the man who closed it down. As there was no heavy Coast Defence equipment apart from this Fort between Bere and Lough Swilly, he and his men had an onerous task.*

*Like all our men of World War II period the gunners in Fort Shannon preserved our sovereignty and neutrality by ensuring that a potential invader would think twice. But the men in the estuary are best remembered for the assistance they gave with lights and equipment when the coaster M.V. E.D.J. was driven on the rocky coast near Cappa by a gale in 1945. In a letter to the Fort Commander the managing director wrote: "fortunately no lives were lost, but the story would have been otherwise were it not for your help, without which we would not have got our crew ashore."*

*Fort Shannon was designed and built to kill, but on that January night the resources and experience of its gunners and engineers were used to save life. Their training was not wasted."*

## **NEWSLETTER INFORMATION**

Serving and retired personnel are encouraged to provide information, news and photographs, for publication in the Club's Newsletters.

***Once a Gunner – Always a Gunner.***

## **THE ARTILLERY CLUB**

**February 2018**

**Annex A:** Diary of Events (V 22 Feb 18)



## **ARTILLERY CLUB's DIARY of Events – 2018**

**(Changes since previous iteration highlighted in yellow)**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Coordinator</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
<b>25 January</b>	Committee Meeting: McKee Barracks	Secretary	Minutes Circulated
<b>22 February</b>	Field Trip: Dublin Port Heritage Trail	Comdt Lar Joye	25 Attendees Photos on Website
<b>22 February</b>	Committee Meeting: Dublin Port	Secretary	
<b>26 April</b>	Field Trip: School of Music and Military Archives	Col C. Fitzsimons (Retd)	
<b>26 April</b>	Committee Meeting: Cathal Brugha Barracks	Secretary	
<b>12 May</b>	Defence Forces Veterans' Day	Secretary	
<b>24/25 May</b>	Field Trip: Templemore & Birr (3 Fd Arty Regt FCA).	Comdt D. Coulter (Retd)	
<b>28 June</b>	Committee Meeting: McKee Barracks	Secretary	
<b>09 July</b>	Commemoration - Islandbridge	President	
<b>10 July</b>	National Day of Commemoration - RHK	President	
<b>TBA</b>	Arty Shoot – Glen Imaal	Col S. McDermott (Retd)	
<b>TBA July</b>	Wreath Laying, National Memorial, Merrion Square	President	
<b>23 August</b>	Annual Golf Competition & Dinner: Heritage Golf Resort, Killenard, County Laois	Comdt C. O'Flanagan (Retd) Col T. Carter (Retd)	
<b>12 September</b>	Arty Decades' Reunion - Anniversary of PDF, FCA and AR Commissioning 1948-2018, Visit to Cadet School and Lunch in Military College	Col M. Smyth (Retd)	
<b>27 September</b>	Committee Meeting: McKee Barracks	Secretary	
<b>Sept / Oct</b>	Foreign Field Trip: Vienna	Comdt M. Flood (Retd)	
<b>10 Nov</b>	Wreath Laying & Annual Mass: McKee Barracks	Secretary	
<b>07 December</b>	AGM and St Barbara's Day Lunch, McKee Barracks	Secretary	

