

Volunteers

On a mission Impact Report 2023/24

A tribute to our Late Royal Patron Welcome



On her numerous visits to various Royal Marines' Units and events, she recognised that our **Corps Family had strived** to reflect her pledge, made in 1947, to 'devote herself to service'.

Throughout her reign, Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was Royal Patron of the Royal Marines Association, having acceded to continue Royal Patronage of our Association from her late father.

Along with her late husband, His Royal Highness Prince Philip The Duke of Edinburgh, she was a steadfast supporter of the Royal Marines and our families.

On her numerous visits to various Royal Marines' Units and events, she recognised that our Corps Family had strived to reflect her pledge, made in 1947, to 'devote herself to service' and that our Corps had honoured her request to provide her with 'support unfailingly given'.

During her visit to RM Poole in 1984 and God Save The King! CTCRM in 1998, it was clear to all that met her that she had a remarkable

ability to put people at ease with her extraordinary warmth and her listening ear.

Whilst her relationship with the RMA was in large part fulfilled by her late husband, our Captain General, our annual reports to our Royal Patron were read and responded to, and only on the day of her death we received a reply to our message of Loyal Greetings on the occasion of the 2022 Corps Family Weekend which unfortunately we had to cancel following the sad news.

At what may be a time of a considerable upheaval, our monarchy provides us all with a seamless headmark and example.

Brigadier Richard Spencer CBE

Patron

General Sir Gordon Messenger KCB DSO* OBE DL **Constable of HM Tower of London Rear Admiral of The United Kingdom** Patron, RMA - The Royal Marines Charity

On this 70th anniversary of the ceasefire in the Korean War and 20th anniversary of Operation TELIC, we remember with honour the heavy price paid in former conflicts by Royal Marines on their mission to secure the freedoms British citizens enjoy.

At a time of unprecedented threats to our global community, to our security and our economy which depends so much on maritime trade, there has never been a greater need for a strong Royal Navy to defend our nation's interests near and far. The Royal Marines are their leading element. As the UK's hardest trained regular troops, they provide 47% of UK Special Forces despite only forming less than 4% of our whole defence forces, meaning they will always be at the sharp end.

The consequence of this is increased exposure to death and injury, with increased stresses on family life.

This is where RMA - The Royal Marines Charity steps in. Created by the Corps, operating within the Corps and for the Corps, it is uniquely placed to provide the best support to the efficiency of the Corps, and to provide the quickest and most effective support to Corps Family members in need.

Thank you for your support to the Corps and Charity — as the wording on the Commando Memorial at Spean Bridge reminds us, 'United we Conquer'.



President

General Gwyn Jenkins CB OBE ADC Vice Chief of The Defence Staff Commandant General Royal Marines President, RMA - The Royal Marines Charity

RMA – The Royal Marines Charity is an inseparable part of the Corps Family. It is when charitable income was squeezed a source of cohesion that binds serving and veteran Marines together, providing reassurance and support that translates our creed — 'Once a Marine, always a Marine' — from mere words into a firm promise to those asked to prevail in the most challenging operational contexts, often at risk to their own lives. Whether serving in the General Service, the Royal Marines Reserve or the Royal Marines Band Service — all are touched at some point by the Charity's service.

But whilst success on operations remains our prime focus, no one is immune from the impacts of a military career. These pressures are not limited to those in uniform, and the support provided by the Charity to families is equally important.

www.rma-trmc.org

The Charity's delivery through 2022, by a harsh economic climate that led directly to increased demands for support, demonstrated clearly that

the Charity is there for the **Corps Family when needed** most. We must never take this for granted.

I am also delighted to see continued improving cohesion between serving and veteran Marines reflected in the RMA's growing membership something that can only make us stronger as a Corps Family and help prevent the worst of life's challenges, and so something I will continue to encourage.

To everyone who is a Member of the RMA or supports the Charity, whether it is providing advice or employment, financial donations or non-monetary help, your assistance makes a profound and discernible difference.

On behalf of **Royal Marines** everywhere. thank you.



Our mission debrief The impact and level of support provided by RMA - The Royal **Marines Charity to the Corps**

Total charitable delivery spend:

£3,039,758

Total grant spend £1,984,560

(2021 grant spend £1,307,674)

Family during 2022:

Total individuals supported:



Social and Local For every £1 we spend wisely, we create £2.22 in Social and Local Economic Value

Increasing our **Social Value**

Social and Local Economic Value is a term for capturing the full net value that an organisation provides to society. It is the sum of the various benefits to society that arise from the environmental, economic and social impacts of an organisation.

The harder the Charity works and spends wisely, the more Social and Local Economic Value it creates.

Support to the Serving Corps

10,552

Serving RMs benefited from amenities & sports grants:

£951.365

and sports' expenditure

£484.163

£26,954,731

Total grants distributed since the RM Charitable Trust Fund was established in 2008

Service Day's

£47.975

grants to

Funders' focus

Mission

To combat suicide

Ain

Encourage healthy behaviours, mental fitness and promote earlier help-seeking behaviour for those dealing with suicidal thoughts and feelings

Targe

Vulnerable serving and veteran Royal Marines

Timeframe

Four years to March 2025











In 2022, RMA – The Royal Marines Charity's 'Lifting the Lid' mental health campaign continued with funding from the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust's (AFCFT) 'One is Too Many' programme, in conjunction with several other funders. The most notable of these was a two-year £160,000 award from the National Lottery's Community Fund (Big Lottery Reaching Communities England), allowing the programme to continue after the AFCFT's own two-year funding programme ended in March 2023.

'Lifting the Lid' has helped to break down barriers by suggesting there is strength, not weakness, in seeking help from others; that asking for support should be applauded not stigmatised.

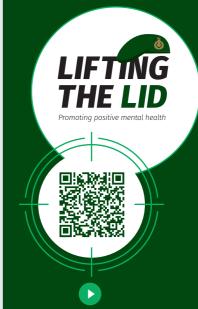
With the aim of encouraging healthy behaviours, mental fitness and promote earlier help-seeking behaviour, a series of short videos was created with the over-arching message: 'What you see of someone on the outside is not necessarily what they are feeling on the inside'.

The Charity hosted a Suicide
Awareness Symposium in September
2022 with the theme: 'One is Too Many
— Complete the Jigsaw'. This brought
collaborative partnerships together for
the first time to encourage the sharing
of best practice and included over 50
mental health specialists, volunteers,
NHS, Chain of Command and partner
organisations such as SSAFA (The
Armed Forces Charity), Walking with
the Wounded, Help for Heroes,
Samaritans and Zero Suicide Alliance.

The social media campaign around 'Lifting the Lid' was immensely powerful with calls to action referrals, training, and general advice reaching 695,383 social media accounts throughout 2022.



What you see of someone on the outside is not necessarily what they are feeling on the inside.



Watch our 'Lifting the Lid' campaign video Its online presence was boosted during Mental Health Awareness Week in May (94,013 unique views) and World Suicide Prevention Day in September (52,659 unique views).

Targeted communication concentrated on the main messages of stigma reduction and encouraging helpseeking behaviours. It also addressed the pursuit of healthy lifestyles with a 'Hoofing Hints' banner and posters written in language to resonate with the audience, 'hoofing' being Royal Marines' slang for 'good or excellent'.

Equipping practitioners and volunteers to understand the unique characteristics of both serving and veteran Royal Marines, and identify their support needs, remained a priority.

As part of our volunteer support network development, we trained a further 23 volunteers to be peer support workers. We are now privileged to have a fully trained 56-strong team that covers the UK, being the eyes and ears of the Health & Wellbeing team and supporting and signposting the most vulnerable members of our RM family.

The Charity's Health & Wellbeing and Development teams continue to constantly review the needs of 'Lifting the Lid' with treatment pathways, Veterans Referral Plan, coaching, and detox remaining the costliest elements of our work; and, as part of the AFCFT's 'One is Too Many' programme, are capturing and collating data for an evaluation being carried out by the University of Chester.

Our thanks to the following funders who also made important contributions to 'Lifting the Lid' in 2022 — the Hollyhock Charitable Trust, John Horseman Trust, Open Community Grant — Spark Somerset and Queen Mary's Roehampton Trust.

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Mission Scotland

Mission

Establish a permanent Charity presence in Scotland

Aim

Extend, expand and inform audiences about the services offered by RMA – The Royal Marines Charity

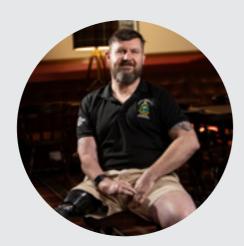
Target

Serving and veteran Royal Marines, members, supporters, the business community and charities

Timeframe Ongoing



Scan to watch Baz's story



Paul 'Baz' Barrett was recruited to RMA – The Royal Marines Charity as a Transition Support Officer (TSO) based out of 45 Commando in Arbroath.

His appointment followed a pilot initiative conducted during 2020/2021 that evidenced the need for the Charity to establish a permanent presence in Scotland. He is a former Royal Marine and upper leg amputee following injuries sustained during the Afghanistan conflict.

Having a physical presence in Scotland & Northern Ireland has quickly become entrenched as an incredibly important element in the RMA's outreach work within the Corps.

It has also served to highlight the numerous and previously lesserknown opportunities available through other organisations. Not all needs can be adequately addressed through a single pathway, but rather require significant collaboration with other military charities such as Walking With The Wounded, HorseBack UK, BLESMA, SSAFA and Scottish Veteran's Residence.

An example of this is the support given to some individuals/veterans in mental health programmes, provided in conjunction with a certified training organisation (IED Solutions), ranging from a half-day mental health awareness course to the two-day MHFA (Mental Health First Aid) qualification.

In what has been a significant move, the extent of the transition support available through the Charity in Scotland & Northern Ireland is now spoken about at discharge interviews.

It has been especially beneficial to vulnerable service leavers in knowing they have appropriate access to assistance that can guide and support them through the difficult period of transition.

In another important development, the Charity's 'Commando Connect' events held quarterly at 45 Commando during 2022 enabled hundreds of veterans to get together and network with local business leaders, councillors, and others, to investigate future career prospects.

We sincerely thank all the following funders for their support in 2022 and for their ongoing support in 2023:

- Veterans Foundation
- Scottish Veterans Fund
- Colin Weir Foundation
- John Scott Charitable Trust
- Bernard Family Charitable Trust
- Walker Shoolbraid Charitable Trust
- Murray Foundation

Your funding has made our delivery in Scotland & Northern Ireland possible through funding the TSO appointment. This has directly and positively affected the lives of many beneficiaries, whilst promoting positive mental health and preventing addictive behaviours.





Mission vital statistics

Mission Scotland

- 2,000 serving Royal Marines attended briefings on transitioning out of the Corps
- 35 service leavers were directly supported into employment
- Approximately 500 veterans attended 'Commando Connect' sessions
- 77 individuals received mental health training
- 5 beneficiaries gained access to 60 sessions of bespoke mental health therapy through our Veterans' Mental Health Referral Programme
- 5 bereaved families were signposted to other RMA welfare services for help with funeral funding, pension advice and bereavement counselling
- 37 individuals benefited from benevolence grants totalling £37,586.61
- 10–12 service leavers a month sought additional advice.

We would also like to sincerely thank **The John Horseman Trust** for the generous grant received towards meeting the costs of treatment for beneficiaries living in the North East of England, for which Baz also has oversight.

Improving morale for injured RMs — Winter Deployment

Mission

Winter deployment

Aim

Provide annual respite for wounded and injured Royal Marines and their families in a relaxed atmosphere

Target
Corps family

Timefram Ongoing

In early December, the Royal Marines Association hosted another week of winter fun for families of injured Royal Marines at the Ben Nevis

Hotel in Fort William, Scotland. They were joined by two families of veterans from Norway, accompanied by three members of staff from SIOPS (a Norwegian military charity for veterans of operational service).

Days out included visits to the Glenfinnan viaduct (of Harry Potter fame), Loch Ness, and to the Commando Memorial at Spean Bridge and newly re-furbished Memorial Garden where a wreath was laid to honour the fallen.

We were grateful that a grant from the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust — Force for Change, funded the transport to and from Inverness for 20 older members of our Highland Branch, enabling them to join one of the evening dinners, enjoy the fellowship of younger veterans and their families, and share advice and experiences of past and recent campaigns.

The visit was the trip of a lifetime for many. It has been heartening to hear that it will be forever

remembered as a fabulous week filled with fun and camaraderie. There was even some snow too, so toboggans were in high demand! Our

Norwegian visitors added that they found it

'very interesting and powerful' to hear the stories about the 25,000+ soldiers from many countries, including Norway, who between 1942–25 had received training in and ound this very special

around this very special and historically significant area of the Scottish Highlands.

In the five years pre-Covid, our own Corps families had traditionally been hosted by SIOPS in Rondane, Norway, where countless Royal Marines have gone to complete their winter training courses. However, the decision was made to again host in Scotland what has become a much-anticipated event, with its timing to coincide with the similar families' gathering in Norway.

The annual pre-Christmas respite break encourages a relaxed atmosphere and gives families a chance to enjoy each other's company and make precious memories. There is the added bonus of new friendships being forged, creating even closer unity between Norwegian and British veteran families.

Assisting transition for vulnerable service leavers

Mission

Deliver grants & support to transitioning veterans

Aim

Improve wellbeing, resilience and promote good mental health

Target

Vulnerable veterans

Timeframe Ongoing RMA – The Royal Marines Charity is one year into the three year agreement it has with the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity that — effective through 2024 — provides funds towards the relief of beneficiaries who are in need, hardship or distress.

This will help finance our welfare delivery which includes:

- benevolence support
- employment assistance for vulnerable veterans and those transitioning out of service
- Armed Forces Compensation Tribunal Case Support
- addiction support
- · respite breaks
- · core costs.

Of note, our Veterans' Mental Health Referral Programme has been especially successful. This agile and flexible model of delivering psychotherapy is proving to be extremely successful across the Corps Family.

In 2022, we also extended our Chamonix Ski trip to two weeks, supporting twice the amount of attendees following previous positive feedback. We also piloted a summer event in Chamonix in partnership with Climb2Recovery.

26 veterans with wide-ranging psychological and physical challenges benefited from the Winter Chamonix experience, and a further 12 from the summer-piloted event.

Two grants totalling £141,000 were also disseminated to the Charity by RNRMC on behalf of the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust's Afghanistan Veterans' Fund, at the request of The Office for Veterans' Affairs. Alongside supporting other initiatives, part of this will be used to ensure that respite breaks continue through 2023, helping improve the wellbeing, resilience and promote good mental health of veterans who have served in Afghanistan and other recent conflicts, and their families.

The relationship with RNRMC is enormously beneficial in the Charity's delivery of lifelong health and wellbeing support to the Corps Family.





RMA – The Royal Marines Charity Impact Report 2023/24 www.rma-trmc.org

Benevolence key facts

AFCS and War Pensions

Benevolence support

£286,120

Total grants to organisations

£110,000

Total R2R funding (supporting 168 cases)

2,690

1,833 Veteran

Attended funded training

Individuals supported

1,896 (2020) 1,662 (2019)

1,048
Attended alcohol briefs (compared with 250 in 2021)

110
Veterans Referral Plan cases supported by Transition Support Officer's

135
New Armed Forces Compensation

Scheme cases supported in 2022

When veteran RM Richard Fletcher

medically discharged in 2021 that

there was a shortfall in the war

pension he had been awarded —

and that it was being taxed — he

out through the Veterans Agency

and HMRC. All his requests were

remedy the situation fell on stony

ground — he was getting nowhere.

"I was about to give up

and let things go on as

struggle was causing

me a lot of stress and

anxiety. It had taken

over my life," he said.

Not knowing where else to turn,

Fletch thought to contact RMA

- The Royal Marines Charity's

Health & Wellbeing team. They

Pensions Advisors, who advised

him how to go about requesting

immediately put him in touch with

our specialist Tribunal Advocate and

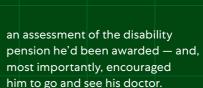
they were. The continual

tried repeatedly to sort the situation

rejected and every attempt to try and

('Fletch') realised after being

Tribunals & pensions



'It was such a great relief to finally have someone on my side, someone who understood the situation I was in; and to then advise me and give me so much help and support to guide me through the maze of bureaucracy to get my war pension sorted out once and for all."

Fletch was provided with advice and guidance about seeking an assessment through Veterans UK and how to take the claim to an independent War Pensions' Tribunal. Our specialist Tribunal Advocate and Pensions Advisors assisted him in drafting the necessary letters, filling out the forms and getting all the necessary documentation together to re-submit his case.

Finally — the breakthrough he had been hoping for. Our advisors represented him at an independent tribunal which found in his favour — that Veterans UK had in fact underassessed his level of disability.

"With help from the RMA I successfully challenged the amount of war pension I was awarded, I'm now paying the right amount of tax, and I have a new treatment plan from the doctor which has massively improved my physical health. I cannot express just how grateful I am to the RMA who have made me feel that although I have left the Corps, I am not alone."

Looking after the Corps Family

Mission

Deliver recovery and wellbeing services

Aim

Provide lifelong support, relief and comfort to beneficiaries in need, hardship or distress

Target
Corps family

Ongoing



O

Scan to watch our Health & Wellbeing film



Climbing to new heights

There was excellent feedback from the therapeutic Climb2Recovery week held during September in Chamonix, France, that the RMA funded for 12 beneficiaries. It was a carbon copy of the winter ski trip (but with climbing instead!) and accommodation was again provided by Dan White, a great friend of the charity.

Our huge thanks go to master organiser, lan 'Bish' Bishop, who accompanied the group. He reported on the success of the experience and its fantastic 1:1 ratio for instructors to students.

"Throughout the week, we visited four different climbing areas — Servoz, Les Gaillands, La Frasse and Vallorcine — where the instructors were very impressed by the standard, enthusiasm and the quick progression that everyone made.

By the end of the week every member progressed to the safe standard needed to lead a climb to at least 4a and some of the more experienced managed up to 6b.

A great time was certainly had by all, and it looks like C2R looks set to become another muchanticipated yearly activity."

The Health & Wellbeing team truly recognise the benefits of physical activities with friends and oppos and how this can enhance recovery or prevent downward spiralling of wellbeing.



100 years' young — a little goes a long way!

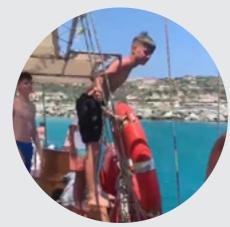
Margaret, the widow of a former Royal Marines Commando from D-Day, has suffered loneliness and isolation in recent years and was approaching her 100th birthday.

RMA – The Royal Marines Charity heard about this through a local charitable organisation it happened to be working with at the time. It asked if there was any help we could give so that Margaret would have a day to remember and so that this very special occasion would not slip by unnoticed.

Without hesitation, a £300 grant was awarded. It made all the difference, ensuring that Margaret did celebrate in style, with a party attended by 'at least three former Royal Marines' who were only too pleased to travel to Wales to be by her side.

It was heart-warming to hear back that: "A wonderful day was had by all, courtesy of the RMA grant. Margaret was made to feel very special."

We think she might possibly have been the first member of the Royal Marines Family to have received a 100th birthday card from the His Majesty King Charles III and Her Majesty The Queen.



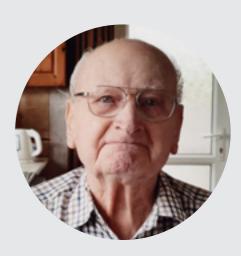
Living life

The family of serving Royal Marine Bandsman, lain Ferguson, was left devastated by his sudden death in 2020. His partner Rachael was struggling and signed off from work. The impact on the young family's wellbeing was something the family just didn't know how to cope with.

The Charity's Health & Wellbeing team met Rachael during a bereaved families' reception it hosted at the annual Mountbatten Festival of Music in 2022. It was obvious they needed some immediate support — something that would help bring them together again emotionally and allow them to share their grief in a healthier way.

Having assessed the situation and to assist their overall situation, the Charity offered a grant towards the cost of a family respite break. Spending time together in totally different surroundings would hopefully fit the bill in putting some sunshine back into their lives.

In a follow-up letter, Rachael said: 'The boys and I have just returned from Greece thanks to your Respite Grant given to us. We had such an amazing time. I saw my boys relax for the first time in I don't know how long. They excelled in things I didn't know they could do and we spent the perfect time as family — quietly raising a glass to Iain on our last night.'



Your donation, no matter how small, makes a huge difference

When you are almost 94 and have spent many proud years as a Royal Marines Commando serving your country, you should expect to live in some degree of comfort.

Ralph spends most of his time in his kitchen as it is the warmest room in his house.

However, after a water pipe burst, he found the unsightly mess on the ceiling very depressing and difficult to live with.

RMA – The Royal Marines Charity heard about his plight and awarded him a grant to have it re-painted.

He says: "To have my kitchen ceiling freshly decorated has done wonders for me. It's really raised my spirits. Thank you. I cannot believe the Royal Marines remembered me — it continues to be a source of amazement."

Mission Support career transition Aim Deliver employment and education support by working with and nurturing ongoing and improved collaboration Aim Deliver employment and education support by working with and nurturing ongoing and improved collaboration

Target
Compulsory discharged
and former serving Royal
Marines and dependants

Scan to watch

Becky's story

with veteran-focused charity

partners, businesses and

other interested parties

Timeframe Ongoing 645

individuals advised

during 2022

£89,778
Total Employment
& Education grants

£1.4M
Local Economic
Value created

assisted into

employment

during 2022

497 (2021)

298 (2020)

319 (2019)

Sustaining Support for Armed Services Communities

The work to support vulnerable RMs' transition into employment has been substantially reinforced by the £99,908 award from the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust (AFCFT) through its one-year grant to us from its Sustaining Support for Armed Services Communities programme.

This has enabled the Charity to offer a variety of practical services to those transitioning from the Corps into civilian life who are compulsory discharged, as well as vulnerable veterans whose employment prospects may be limited by their mental or physical ill-health.

Our Employment & Education and Welfare teams work together alongside each vulnerable beneficiary as they transition from service into civilian life, and help veterans with complex needs back into employment and independence, providing grants for new skills training or equipment. However, the support does not end here as the Charity continues to monitor and evaluate their progress in these roles with both the beneficiaries and their employers.

It was originally thought that funding would directly or indirectly facilitate the support of approximately 400 beneficiaries a year. However, the project has far outstripped expectations and has been hugely successful in terms of the number of beneficiaries supported. This number was exceeded in 2021 (497), rising further in 2022 with 647 individuals receiving transition advice. Of these, 41 were directly supported into full-time employment (up from 32 in 2021), creating over £1.4M in Government-recognised Local Economic Value.

The face-to-face employment advice delivered included help with CV writing, supporting beneficiaries through provision of sessions on each job-ready activity, facilitating peerbuilding and opening conversations on options 'outside the wire'.

24 bespoke training packages were also funded and delivered by High Ground, IED Training and numerous others over the course of 2022, resulting in improved employment prospects, relevant qualifications and required knowledge.

www.rma-trmc.org

In addition, AFCFT funding made it possible to provide another 58 grants to support training needs, tools and equipment, travel costs and the attainment of qualifications.

It also proved hugely beneficial in helping us establish multi-sector employee relationships to support Royal Marines transition into employment.

Partnerships have been created with over 20 employers through sourcing permanent employment for transitioning Royal Marines and veterans. This in turn has led to several new signatories to The Armed Forces Covenant, and each individual RM transitioned into full-time employment created £31,285 of Government–recognised and approved local and economic social value.

The grant has also enabled RM's and veterans to better assess their employment potential and transferable skills, resulting in them not needing to turn to the Charity for support. The Charity has focused on a new pilot initiative with Hunter Troop at the Commando Training Centre in Lympstone that has resulted in an immediate support to Early Service Leavers who are unable at the time to complete training.

Additionally, RMA – The Royal Marines
Charity now has agreements in place
with the White Ensign Association to
signpost non-vulnerable veterans; with
Walking With The Wounded which
has regional resource in the North of
England; also, with High Ground which
specialises in rural and outside work, and
Heropreneurs who support veterans
wanting to set up their own businesses.

The Employment & Education team is immensely grateful to the bank of mentors attracted from every sector and walk of life across the UK. This dedicated group of volunteers is invaluable in supporting the E&E team working with Royal Marines transitioning into the civilian world or veterans looking to change career, providing help with training, coaching and mentoring, work experience/placements, employment and general advice.

Tree-mendous success!

Having been unable to complete their RM training, former recruits Aden Dennis and Bradley Seager approached RMA – The Royal Marines Charity, and in May 2022, it was agreed to sponsor their attendance at a residential rural week at Bicton College in Devon. This was organised by HighGround, a charity partner which provides advice and support for service leavers and veterans on jobs, careers and vocational opportunities in the land-based sector.

It was here they discovered a passion for tree surgery. Both were keen to pursue careers in this line and, with RMA help, quickly secured full-time jobs with Hi-Line, one of the UK's leading tree surgery and management companies.

They were enrolled in the company's intensive fast-track trainee programme and are both now fully-fledged professional arborists (tree surgeons), horticultural engineers responsible for the maintenance and repair of trees.

It is a career that requires huge skill and lots of specialist training — and plenty of courage, too, when having to climb trees to reach an area that needs attention, or carrying out vegetation management in and around electricity networks.

'They both have a brilliant attitude, are enthusiastic to learn and seem so driven to do well and succeed.' Kirsty McNicol, Hi-Line.

We are indebted to **Jacobs** for its generous financial support of this rural week.



500 The peak of success

Mission accomplished! Despite having to leave the Royal Marines with two fractured feet, Ryan is now on top of the world thanks to a training grant from RMA - The Royal Marines Charity.

Former RM recruit Ryan Thomas, who hails from Manchester, says: "2022 was a very crazy year indeed for me. I couldn't have ever imagined in my wildest dreams where I would be now. I couldn't have done it without any of you guys at the RMA Charity. Not just from a funding point of view but just from having access to the large network of support that you made available to me."

Ryan has certainly been on a real roller-coaster ride since joining the Royal Marines in October 2019 to turn his boyhood dream of becoming a Commando into reality.

But, sadly, it was not to be. The tough training regime at the Commando Training Centre in Lympstone, Devon, resulted in severe fractures to both his feet following particularly gruelling exercises in the field. He endured two stints in Hunter Company, undergoing

intensive programmes of medical rehabilitation, re-joining training twice but only to get injured again.

"Each time, I had to go through it all again. My motivation completely went, having already spent over a year in rehab, Ryan remembers."

And so in January 2022 he was catapulted headlong into finding something else to do with his life.

He then remembered an interview he'd had during the leaving routine with the Charity's Employment & Education team. "They thought I'd be best suited to the outdoor industry and helped me start the job search by enrolling me for a residential rural week with HighGround at Bicton College, along with five other RMs going through the same thing (see page 17 'Tree-mendous success!').

In the meantime, I came across a company operating out of the UAE that was looking for general duties' instructors. I applied, had an interview the very next day, got the job — and two days later flew out to Dubai!"

Ryan nevertheless returned to join the pre-arranged HighGround week to see if any of the rural careers such as tree surgery or estate management highlighted during the course would be of more interest. It made him realise that he already 'absolutely loved the work' he'd been doing, so he returned to Dubai where his whirlwind transition into a new way of life was about to lead to greater things!

It was during a chance meeting with some climbing guides from India that he then learned about the qualifications available through the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute in Darjeeling. This was set up in 1954, with Tenzing Norgay Sherpa as its first director, after he and Sir Edmund Hillary had become the first to successfully summit Mount Everest the previous year.

He was excited by the amazing opportunities this could open up. The Charity had continued to keep in touch with Ryan to follow his progress with transition, and so, when asked if they could offer any financial support to enable him to take the intense month-long training course to become a mountain guide in one

of the world's harshest and toughest climbing environments, RMA - The Royal Marines Charity was there to help him pursue his dream.

"The course was absolutely amazing and covered all aspects of mountaineering, from clothing and climbing theories to everything rock-related in the Himalayas," says Ryan.

"Just before graduating, we headed to Rathong Glacier for seven days of ice-craft. This was the bit we had all been waiting for, trekking to base camp experiencing everything from glacier crossings and ice climbing to crevasse rescues and ice-axe self arrests."

He has since spent his first season in Nepal as a fully qualified guide accompanying treks to Everest Base Camp, summiting Ama Dablam and taking tourists around some of the smaller treks in the foothills around Kathmandu. "Me being a foreigner was a big hit especially with the locals and everyone wanted to meet the foreign guide!"

In between Everest climbing seasons, Ryan is back working in Dubai and, in going from one extreme to another, will return to Nepal later in the year with ambitious plans to take his exciting new career to the highest possible peak!

The highlight of my career was playing the **Last Post at the Festival** of Remembrance in the Royal Albert Hall in 2013 and 2014.

Tom served 15 years as a bugler

doing what he loved best.

in HM Band of the Royal Marines.

"I served in four of the five RM bands.

events such as Prince Philip's funeral,

the 2012 Olympics and Rugby World

with close support medical squadron.

I travelled the globe playing at key

Cup. I served in Afghanistan on

Herrick 14 as an ambulance driver

Home grown

However, in February 2021, when taking a course to become a Sgt. Bugler, I ended up in rehabilitation after suffering a blood clot in my shoulder and pulmonary embolism. Six months later, I was medically discharged.

In the midst of my desperate search for a new job, our family computer broke down and I had to rely on my mobile phone to make applications. So I was really grateful when the Charity helped me purchase a laptop so I could properly write my CV and apply for roles."

Tom gained a job as a general manager at a hotel in Devon and quickly discovered he had a talent for business.

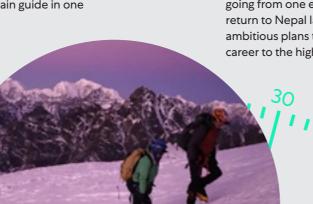
"During second lockdown, an independent estate and lettings agency came up for sale in Exmouth. So I decided to go-it-alone and started talks with a franchise to help me in buying the business. Again, the laptop was an essential piece of equipment for me — meetings were still all online and it also enabled me to draw up a professional business plan and apply for business loans.

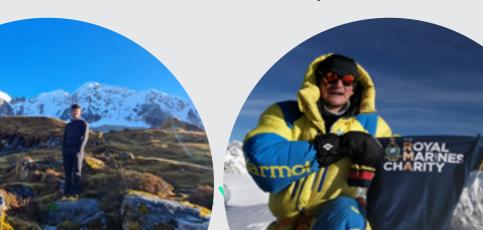
Fast forward to October 2022 and I successfully completed my purchase of a new estate and lettings agency, Belvoir Exmouth. Over the first five months, we grew our lettings portfolio by 10% and after another business acquisition, will be adding even more properties to our managed portfolio.

Our ethos at the business is very pro-Corps family, and are always on the lookout to use veteran contractors such as plumbers, roofers or cleaners.

At 38-years-old with three small children, it was quite a challenging time to suddenly lose my career but the Charity threw me a real lifeline by helping me get the tools I needed to forge a new way forward for myself and my family."

And it's onwards and upwards for Tom. As this Report goes to print, Belvoir Exmouth had been advised it had won the Belvoir Group's 'Newcomer of the Year' award.







Mission

Provide a national support

and social network

and friendship and

and comradeship

RMA Members

Ongoing

Work together to offer

lifelong support, stability

nurture sense of belonging

Membership

Total number as at 31st Dec 2022

21,444 (2022

Branches



Total number

of branches





Overseas



Specialist



Funerals

RMA Reunions 2022

Total reunions

This year, the team has organised and hosted 51 reunions at the Commando Training Centre, which involved 611 people (not including two additional 40 and 42 Cdo Falklands40 reunions, each of which was attended by approximately 300 veterans).

Total members attended troop reunions



Reunions

Over the past few years RMA – The Royal Marines Charity (RMA) has hosted Troop Reunions at Commando Training Centre Royal Marines (CTCRM) to coincide with The King's Squad Pass Out Parades.

The opportunity has proved so popular that dates can often be secured up to a year in advance, drawing RMA Members from around the globe. They stand shoulder-to-shoulder with those whom they passed out with to witness the passing out of the newest Royal Marines.

We have been able to welcome 51 Troop Reunions through the gates of CTCRM in 2022. The 611 RMA Members that took part were given tours of camp to see the changes that had happened since they were last there, and gain insight into the ways in which training has changed since they passed out, and why.

Reunions provide face-to-face meetings with old comrades that don't impose the same restrictions that a phone call might. They allow people to reconnect and recall memories from their time in the Corps, whilst watching the newest faces embark on their journey.

The reunions are facilitated by the RMA at no cost to veterans and Service personnel. Not only do reunions allow former Royal Marines the opportunity to remember who they once were in the light of who they are now, but also provide a platform to talk about difficult subjects. They also highlight potential individuals that may need support from RMA – The Royal Marines Charity.



RMA Fijian Commando Brothers UK

On 21st January 2022, the family of Seleni Kalidole Vuetaki laid his body to rest at the Minster Church of St Andrew in Plymouth.

'Leni' — as he was known during his time in the Royal Marines — sadly lost his life to COVID 19 and was taken from his friends and family before his time.

His traditional Fijian funeral was a magnificent celebration of his life. Leni was well liked by those that knew him, which was evident with the many people that had attended his funeral to pay their final respects.

As an Association, this was the first time that we had been invited to attend a traditional Fijian funeral, and we were struck by the powerful sense of community and brotherhood that bonded Leni's family and friends.

Our branch, for all Fijian Commandos and their spouses, along with those who attempt to keep the Commando ethos within the community, provides growth and assistance for all its members. Its mission is to teach Fijian cultural heritage within the younger Commando community and promote the Royal Marines back in the Fiji Islands, which has historically been a recruitment ground.

As well as fostering and maintaining good relations within the Royal Marines, Army and Navy Commandos and their families, we are also happy to assist where we can with other branches in order to maintain a good relationship with the wider RMA Community.



Single Cap Badge Associations' Network

RMA proudly spearheaded the launch of a tri-service Single Cap Badge Associations' Network (SCAN), representing a combined community of over a quarter of a million members. Membership has quickly grown to 28 Associations that cover all three Armed Services.

SCAN was formed to enable and encourage mutual support, assist the improvement of each member Association's membership offer, and improve member participation through the exchange of information, ideas and best practice. High on its list of common priorities is the worrying impact of the increasing cost of living, the need to tackle loneliness and isolation and how to better reach vulnerable veterans.

It is united in agreeing the importance of identifying common opportunities and challenges that are better tackled together, calling on Cobseo's assistance where appropriate. SCAN will also act as a communication bridge between the Ministry of Defence, the Office for Veterans' Affairs and the communities of the member associations in striving to make the UK the best place in the world to be a veteran.

Jonathan Ball, RMA – The Royal Marines Charity's Chief Executive, said: "This new Associations' community is about helping each other to become more effective in serving our communities and, by joining together, becoming stronger in representing them."

Mission

Share news and increase awareness of the Charity's work by communicating it as widely as possible

Δim

Inform, educate and excite

Target

Members, supporters, volunteers and the world at large!

Timeframe

Ongoing

Worldwide reach

The reach of RMA – The Royal Marines Charity far extends to what you might possibly see at first glance.

Over the course of many years, we have focused on using digital tools to reach members of the Royal Marines
Community and to share stories of support with new audiences, focusing on the goal to inform, educate and excite.

During this time, our social media channels have grown significantly, rising from 51,369 followers to an audience of 142,000, cementing awareness of our cause and brand.

As a result, the number of social media accounts that we reached last year hit a new peak, with over 60M social media accounts (cumulative) reached, taking the message of the Royal Marines Family and of our support to new audiences.

7.6 million Social media total post engagements (comments, likes and shares) Total social media followers: 142,795 **Channel split** Facebook — The Royal Marines Charity 47% (67,919) 2022 Instagram 15% (21,217) 110,129 Twitter 13% (18,935) Facebook — Royal Marines Association 13% (18,537) 99,136 in Linkedin 7% (10,022) 84,406 Tiktok 4% (5,472) 51,369 Youtube 1% (693)

Our total social media reach in 2022 was over

million (Total: 60,600,000)

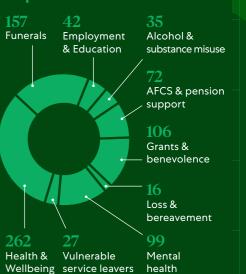
A new digital portal for Members

For the first time as a merged entity, we have a joint website that enables our Members to access a bespoke area where they can communicate with their fellow members and branches. The online portal provides a space for RMA Members to join their branches online and opportunity to communicate.

Requesting our help online

Our website is also a portal to request help. Users can request help for themselves or on behalf of another individual, letting beneficiaries request what support they require in a comfortable environment and in their own words. During 2022, we received 816 requests for assistance through our online portal, which can be found regardless of location.

Scan to register or login:
Online support
requests received in 2022



Connect with us

- #RMfamily
- **f** /TheRMcharity
- /TheRoyalMarinesAssociation
- @TheRMcharity

It takes strength to ask for help



Emergency & specialist NHS care

If you are in a life-threatening situation call 999 or go to A&E. The NHS services listed below offer specialised care for veterans:

JHS England

Op COURAGE provides specialist care for Armed Forces veterans suffering from a mental health crisis.

W: nhs.uk/nhs-services/

NHS Scotland

armed-forces-community

NHS Scotland — Veterans First Point W: veteransfirstpoint.org.uk E: V1P.Scotland@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk

NHS Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland Veterans Support Office W: nivso.org.uk/contact T: 07534 656823

NHS Wales

Veterans NHS Wales
W: veteranswales.co.uk/contact







24-hour mental health support

Whether you're concerned about yourself or a loved one, these helplines and support groups offer expert advice:

Samaritans

Every day, Samaritans respond to around 10,000 calls for help. They are there, 24-hours a day, 365-days a year, for anyone who's struggling to cope.

T: 116 123 (free)
E: jo@samaritans.org
(24hr response time)

Combat Stress provides specialist treatment and support for veterans from every service and conflict.

Serving Personnel & families: T: 0800 3234444 (open 24/7)

Veterans & families: T: 0800 1381619 (open 24/7)

Charity support

We're here to support the entire Royal Marines Family:

Be that serving, retired or dependants. No matter what stage of your career or life, you can always turn to us for help.

E: rma-trmc.org/request-help

T: 0800 468 1664 (open 08:30-16:00, Mon-Fri)

Op COURAGE

Our Health and Wellbeing Team works closely with NHS ENGLAND in all areas of the Op COURAGE delivery.

Op COURAGE was initially designed to help those due to leave the military, Reservists, Armed Forces veterans and their families and has developed to include Complex Treatment and High Intensity Services.

We are privileged to work with them in ensuring that the Corps Family receives the best support, advice, treatment and onward referral for their mental health needs.

Op COURAGE is supported by trained professionals who are from, or have experience of working with, the Armed Forces' community. Working with us as well as with other Armed Forces' charities, Op COURAGE can help individuals access the right type of support for their specific need: and in these areas, there are similar organisations in Wales and Scotland with whom we also work closely.

Following an NHS assessment, Op COURAGE teams and those from the devolved nations will often request the use of our extensive network of military-aware psychotherapists through our Veterans' Mental Health Referral Programme.



Scan the QR code
below to find out
more about Op
COURAGE services.

Fine

Veteran Trauma Network

The Veterans Trauma Network (VTN) works alongside Op COURAGE and is a NHS service for veterans that provide specialist care and treatment to those who have physical health problems resulting from their time in the Armed Forces.

RMA – The Royal Marines Charity has been involved in shaping this service from the outset. Led by Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust and alongside colleagues from Help for Heroes, Blesma, the Defence Medical Welfare Services and, more recently, the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity, we have together created this pathway of care for veterans.

The holistic nature of this care supports the physical, social and emotional needs of the individual and their family. Members of the Charity's Health and Wellbeing team attend clinical and holistic multidisciplinary meetings to help find the most appropriate recovery pathway for veterans, working together regardless of organisational boundaries to address any health inequalities and reduce unwarranted variation in access, experience and outcomes related to recovery. This sharing of knowledge and skills has helped forge bespoke opportunities for veterans in support of their recovery, on top of addressing their immediate clinical needs.

All veterans must first be referred by their GP before being seen by the best clinician for their service-related injury, who may or may not be local to the patient. This access does not give veterans quicker treatment, but does ensure that they receive the best that is available, before then connecting them to other organisations on the recovery pathway to further enhance the support with the aim of embracing the whole family.

Find more about
how the Veterans
Trauma Network
can support the
Corps Family.

Northumbria University mapping the needs of veteran and serving Royal Marines

RMA – The Royal Marines Charity has been working with Northumbria University for over four years to better understand the needs of veteran and serving Royal Marines living across the UK by creating a 'Map of Need'. This is an ongoing project and over the next 18 months will be fine-tuned to provide yet more detail, enabling us and others to make even better and more informed funding decisions.

It is estimated there are some 2.75M veterans living in the UK and many, as well as their families, require support from a variety of services available to them. To date, there has been little understanding of veterans' specific regional needs, the social and health services available in those regions, and the numbers of ex-servicemen and women and family members who need access to such services.

The next phase of this research will aim to create a national, unified, aggregated dataset of military charity service usage. This will not only help us understand the basic needs and locations of veterans, it will also help identify trends, complexities, and access challenges. This will enable the charitable sector, as well as local authority and NHS partners, target clusters of population.

We have also been a key enabler to the University's co-production narrative research studies with the Baton Organisation. In partnership with service families who have been bereaved by suicide, the project is forging evidence and a model of safety to develop services and integrate them with statutory healthcare across the UK, to provide long-term support to reduce suicide. This is so aligned to our own 'Lifting the Lid' project, that we have become natural collaborators in sharing information, best practice and learning, in order to shape our services of the future.



Chair Mrs Lynn Fordham

2022 saw the need presented to the Charity at the same high level as 2021, following trends from previous years which were further exacerbated by the COVID 19 pandemic. To meet this demand, the Charity has in place the people, resources and processes necessary to provide effective support.

We seek to:

Prevent — ensure that members of our community do not descend into acute need

Respond — provide holistic support to those who have serious mental, physical or other challenges which threaten their independence and dignity

Assure — provide professional and safe support

Inform — ensure that our community knows how to promote good health and welfare, and where and how to seek help

Collaborate — ensure that members of our community are assisted by the most appropriate source.

If we did not carry out our work, it is likely that because of the proud nature of our community, assistance would not be sought elsewhere.

Thank you to all who supported us during 2022

— the Corps; our parent charity RNRMC which has given us substantial financial and staffing support; our partners who teach us so much and save us reinventing the wheel; our donors and fundraisers who ensure we have the resources we need; our Members who have been amazing in applying the Commando Mindset to their care of one another and innovative support, and our trustees and staff who continue to deliver in spades.



Chief Executive

Jonathan Ball OBE

The support delivered in 2022 reached more of our community than ever, with over 22,000 beneficiaries, of whom almost 2,700 were in acute need. The Charity created over £6.7M of social and local economic value — including saving the taxpayer over £1.4M in benefits through our support to assist those discharged through injury or illness into work. We ensured that every £1 donated was turned into £2.22 of value delivered.

In 2023, our twin focus is to ensure effective support to forward deployed Commando Forces and their dependants, and to improve veteran support in the devolved nations and north of England.

2022: Launched 3-year programme

In 2022 we

- → Improved addiction support and education
- → Expanded our Armed Forces Compensation Scheme Tribunals advocacy
- → Delivered improved training to our Support Volunteers
- → Provided financial education to serving, transitioning and veteran members
- → Established a network of the leading associations from across all three services to speak more effectively to Government on behalf of the service community and provide a two-way communication bridge to better support the delivery of the Government's Veterans' Strategy.

2023: Our short term objectives

By the end of 2024, we seek to:

- → Be the natural and trusted first point of contact for the Corps Family
- → Be providing active and effective support to deployed Commando Forces and their dependants
- → Be the leading UK regimental charity championing our members and enabling collaboration between major service associations
- → Have **24,000** members with a younger demographic to prevent need down the line
- → Have an enhanced geographical footprint across the whole UK
- → Secure an annual net income of £4M to enable our planned work to be delivered on a sustainable basis.

I will be moving on from the Charity in mid-June (2023) after 11 years in post, during which time we have successfully forged a one-stop shop whole service delivery charity which offers lifelong support to the whole Corps Family.

Once my successor has been identified and is in role, the trustees will be looking further forward with our Naval charity partners to the medium and long term future — 2025-30 and towards 2050 — by undertaking demographic projections and actuarial

work to assist us in preparing to meet future demand (beyond general war). We know already that our community will shrink with the demise of the National Service generation, but that life expectancy will lengthen and needs will become more complex.

Our commitment to offering lifelong support will remain unchanged, and we will seek to apply the Commando Mindset and be first to understand, respond, adapt and overcome – and enable that in all whom we serve.

I offer heartfelt thanks to all of you who have supported the Charity (and me personally) during my time in role, and ask you to continue offering your vital support — as I certainly will.

Mission support

Fundraising

We are privileged to have an exceptional family of generous sponsors, dedicated volunteers, and fundraisers who generously give of their time and go the extra mile to help deliver the life-long and life-changing support the Charity offers to the Corps Family.

Community

Community fundraising support was magnified during 2022. This was largely driven by the Royal Marines Commando 80 Challenge in celebrating yet another significant landmark in the extraordinary life of the Corps — the 80th anniversary of the Royal Marines taking on the Commando role.

It was the third and final major challenge to be created and organised by Lt Col Gary Green OBE RM before he retired from active service, becoming an instant motivator with 176 teams and individuals pledging to fundraise.

Thousands of truly inspirational people took on every type of endurance feat from record-breaking open water swims, marathons and canoeing endeavours to multiple mountain climbs, long-distance cycles and daring wing-walks — Per Mare Per Terram (and Per Aerum (by air)!), raising in excess of £150,000 (inc gift aid).

One of the most phenomenal RM 80 Cdo challenges, later recognised by His Majesty The King, was that undertaken by Lance Corporal Luke Grainger from Chivenor, Devon (aka 'The Running Marine'). He ran 60 Marathons in 60 Days - a total of 1,582 miles -also becoming the 'continuity runner' linking many of the individual unit RM Cdo80 marathons involving over 1,000 Royal Marines and Army Commandos drawn from all Commando and Reserve Units between Cornwall and the Highlands of Scotland.

Corporates

We remain indebted, too, to our many major donors and corporates who are unfailing in providing RMA -The Royal Marines Charity with such a generous level of ongoing support and outstanding philanthropy.

These include RM Cdo80 sponsors Patron Capital and Prime Health, with support from Forces Mutual; and all those too numerous to mention individually — many of which embraced multiple corporate fundraising events throughout

2022 such as the Charity's Leadership Training and Development initiative (Commando Mindset); annual Clay Shoot in Scotland; and Guildhall Dinner &

Auction in London.



fundraising initiatives

Create, support and encourage events and activities across the UK which raise funds to support the work of the Charity

Members, supporters, volunteers, individuals and communities at large

Ongoing

Day's Pay Giving

The Service Day's Pay Giving scheme allows those in the serving Corps to donate a single day's pay to RMA - The Royal Marines Charity through 12 monthly instalments.

This helps to improve and enhance the lives of many Royal Marines; and supports the creation of numerous unique and extremely rewarding opportunities.

5,272 (97.5%) of serving **Royal Marines voluntarily** contribute a day's pay to the Charity, raising in excess of £531.000 in 2022. This vital source of funds is one that — alongside voluntary fundraising support demonstrates the Corps' resolve to help itself.

Participation

Service Day's Pay Giving is far more significant than the few pounds donated each month. It represents the sincere commitment of an individual to themselves, their comrades, the Service, the Corps Family, and the long and proud history of the Royal Marines. This is why more than 95% of the serving Corps contribute to Service Day's Pay Giving. It is also why participation has been increasing by over 4% a year. Every recruit passing out of the Commando Training Centre Royal Marines signs up.

"...A heartfelt thank you to all who generously dug-deep during these challenging economic times. We are committed to ensuring the Charity remains as cost-effective as it can be in service of an extraordinary force and community — the **Royal Marines Family.**"

Mrs Lynn Fordham, Chair of Trustees RMA – The Royal Marines Charity

Legacies

After remembering friends and family, supporters that choose to leave a gift to RMA – The Royal Marines Charity ensure we, as a charity, have the funding to provide the care and resources for the Corps Family long into the future.

In 2022, we partnered with the National Free Wills Network. This enabled our members and supporters to be able to create a Will with a local solicitor, at no cost to themselves.

Whilst there is absolutely no obligation, it is hoped that supporters will consider leaving a legacy to RMA – The Royal Marines Charity to help look after the Royal Marines family. When referring to the Network, RMA – The Royal Marines Charity pay for the Will to be written on an individual's behalf at a discounted rate.

Maintaining positive collaborative relationships is all-important to the Charity in our work offering lifelong support to the Corps Family. We would therefore like to sincerely thank the following for their generosity, ongoing help & partnership over the past year:

Corporate sponsors & supporters



























































































Charitable funders





























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The Colin Weir Charitable Foundation

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www.rma-trmc.org

John Scott Charitable Trust

2000



Contact

T: 023 9298 1920 W: rma-trmc.org

Join the conversation

- #RMfamily
- /TheRMcharity
- /TheRoyalMarinesAssociation
- @TheRMcharity

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