

CATTERICK GARRISON GAZETTE

PUBLISHED EVERY OTHER MONTH

ISSUE 207 FEB-MAR 2024

NEWS AND FEATURES FROM CATTERICK,
RIPON, TOPCLIFFE AND DISHFORTH



LANCERS WIN AT WINTER SPORT

THE GARRISON COMMANDER'S BIG BREAKFAST 2023

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FROM THE EDITOR:

Welcome to this spring edition of the Catterick Garrison Gazette, the evenings are becoming ever lighter and it seems the bleak North Yorkshire winter is finally behind us. Within this edition, we have a range of military articles from local units, detailing everything from, sporting prowess to building esprit de corps. We also have articles reporting the great work of local community groups, such as the Armed Forces & Veterans Information Hub and the Fold as well as great articles from busy local schools.

I would like to thank the Garrison community 'military and civilian' who continue to support the Gazette and wider Catterick Garrison events. I hope the articles have inspired you to pen a submission for the coming editions of the Gazette highlighting your individual or organisations endeavours. Should you wish to submit an article for the next edition of the Garrison Gazette, then please send them to us at CatterickGar-iHub-GpMailbox@mod.gov.uk by 10th May 2024.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,
Maj AJ Green
COS HQ Catterick Garrison



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Submit articles in electronic form – on CD. Include high quality digital images where possible. Please keep the text and images separate.

FRONT COVER:
Royal Lancers Winter Sports

LANCERS WIN AT WINTER SPORT

By Capt Cameron Smith



Over Christmas, many Lancers travelled to Europe to train and compete in winter sports. The winter biathlon team travelled to Norway for a Royal Armoured Corps Training Camp while the Alpine team travelled to Switzerland for theirs.

Both teams have worked hard and been equally successful. LCpl Markham won the RAC Nordic Skiing Championship, winning every race in which he competed. His form looks good as he competes at the divisional and Army level this January. Meanwhile Lt Wallington won the Alpine RAC championship and placed

second in the division. He looks set to compete for the Army.

Late November saw the first time the Regiment had paraded as one in 18 months and welcomed home C Squadron with a homecoming parade, attended by the Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire. Sadly, this doubled as a farewell parade to D Squadron who have been resubordinated under the Future Soldier reforms.

Members of the Regiment also travelled to Sandringham to follow-through on a pledge to plant 1000 oak-saplings to commemorate the

late Queen Elizabeth II's 75 years as Colonel-in-Chief. We were honoured that our new Colonel-in-Chief, Queen Camilla, attended to meet members of the Regiment and plant the first saplings.

On the cross-country course, Capt Free and Capt McDermott won the men's and women's RAC cross-country races respectively. LCpl Simmonds came a close second in the women's category.

The Lancers have an exciting year ahead and look forward to operations and conversion onto the AJAX armoured fighting vehicle platform.



SUPPORT TO BRITISH FORCES GERMANY, DECEMBER 2023

By Cpl Taylor

British Army Band Catterick got into the festive spirit at the beginning of December by travelling to Germany for five days of seasonal performances. The band used Sennelager as a base for the week and travelled to various locations for a range of different engagements.

The band's first performance of the week was a Christingle service that took place in a local chapel. This tasking involved accompanying a primary school choir in performing numerous hymns, entertaining the congregation with festive in goings and outgoings, and taking part in the heart-warming service.

Later in the week, the band dressed in Great Coats for an outdoor evening concert at Paderborn's Christmas markets. Surrounded by festive stalls, a large audience, and the scent of crepes and mulled wine, the ensemble performed a variety of classic Christmas tunes and movie classics.

Our final performance of the week was a carol service in the remarkable Paderborner Dom (Paderborn Cathedral), where we played alongside a large choir, and organist. The service was exceptionally well-attended; Not only was the cathedral jam-packed, but the online viewers of the live-streamed version was in the thousands.

Christmas Concert - St. Mary's Church, December 2023

The band's annual Christmas concert was held at St. Mary's Church, in Richmond, on the 19th December. In 2022, after lots of hard work



and preparation, our concert was sadly cancelled, so this year we were determined to bring Christmas to Richmond!

The day of the concert began with a sound check and set-up. It was such a brilliant feeling to see the church fill up, so much so, we didn't have enough seating for the public. It was a full house!

The opening title was 'Festive Intrada' - a fast, high energy medley of Christmas music. The main features of the first half were our incredible soloists: SSgt Wayne Filer performing 'Song of the Night Sky', and LCpl James Howard performing Barrie Gott's arrangement of 'Silent Night'. We closed the first half with Leroy Anderson's 'A Christmas Festival', which lifted the rafters off the church roof.

During the interval, it was great to see so many people come together from all over the North to listen to the band. The second half began with a rousing fanfare by Paul Lovatt-Cooper, 'Christians Awake', but the soloist who stole the show and received a standing ovation was LCpl Mark Goff, with his hilarious rendition of 'Frosty the Snowman'.

Our finale was another Paul Lovett-Cooper work called 'Christmas Finale' - fast and explosive with a loud finish, bringing the concert to a close. However, with the audience asking for more, we had an Elton John and Ed Sheeran number up our sleeve. 'Merry Christmas' featured Cpl Graham Mitchell on vocals, WO1 Ian Mitchell on keys and Sgt John Langford on bass guitar, the concert came to a close and everyone received their fair share of Christmas cheer.



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THE GARRISON COMMANDER'S BIG BREAKFAST 2023

By Tracey Clark, HQCG

The annual Commander's Big Breakfast took place on 7 December at The Richmond Centre, Munster Barracks with some 200 military and civilian staff attending. The Garrison Commander, Lt Col Charlie Anderson, had invited special guests from the Community who have supported Garrison run events over the past year. It is also the occasion when the Commander has an opportunity to collectively thank everyone, who ensure the smooth running of the Garrison, for all their hard work throughout the year whilst raising funds for local charities.

As everyone arrived in their Christmas attire, they were greeted at the entrance by Santa aka WO2 John Reynolds, 4x Bde. Once inside, The Band of the Royal Regiment of Scotland played Christmas tunes as people found their seats, bought raffle tickets, and took a chance to win a Christmas hamper.

After a hearty cooked breakfast prepared by Aramark Richmond Centre chefs and staff, the band started with the games and 'volunteers' were encouraged to join in the fun. The willing participants were wrapped in Christmas paper and tinsel to look like Christmas trees and the winner was picked by the loudest cheer from the crowd.

The ever favourite 12 Days of Christmas was then sung by selected tables, each standing up on cue to sing their part when instructed by the band.

The raffle and hamper were drawn by WO2 Smith, RQMS and assisted by special guest, Antony Cotton from Coronation Street. The Garrison Commander then gave his speech, thanking Astral Blanchard, Aramark Richmond Centre Manager for providing the drinks and breakfast free of charge, meaning that all proceeds from the sale of tickets and raffle money will be donated to the three chosen charities. This year, the Commander chose Colburn Food Bank based here in the Garrison which provides food and essentials for families who are struggling to make ends meet. The next is a newly formed charity called 'I'm George's Mate' which has been set up by the family and friends of one of our staff. The charity is championing the need to have suicide prevention added to the curriculum in schools. The third, is the chosen charity of Aramark, which is SSAFA, who do excellent work for military personnel and their families. The Commander then thanked all the chefs and kitchen staff for providing us with an excellent breakfast and of course Ed Thompson and The Band of The Royal Regiment of Scotland for entertaining us and playing music to get us in the Christmas spirit.

This year has seen a lot of events around the Garrison like Armed Forces Childrens Day and

the Firework Display. These events require a lot of planning and commitment from the staff that help and often involves working outside of their contracted hours and often, at weekends. The Commander expressed his appreciation to WO2 Mark Smith, RQMS Richmondshire Lines and WO2 Jez Chapman, RQMS Garrison Support Unit and their staff for their continued support and the HQ Team for the planning and execution of all the events.

Finally, he thanked Sharin Martin from GSU and RQMS Mark Smith planning this event and the gathering of raffle prizes which had been kindly donated by Julie Sutherland, Tesco Charity Champion, Les Carruthers (Wifinity) and the Commanders aunt and uncle's delicatessen, The Orchard in Barnard Castle. Also thanks went to the GSU staff for the setting up of the event, Dunja and Trina for helping on the raffle, Graham and Steph Walker for taking the photographs and of course Santa.

Lt Col Anderson then wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year before the proceedings came to an end.

An incredible £1,989.00 was raised at the event and will be presented to all three charities in the New Year.







**GARRISON COMMANDER'S
BIG BREAKFAST 2023**

Photos courtesy of Graham & Steph Walker Instagram walkers.lens.

3 AEC GROUP OP TEAMWORK VISIT TO THE ROYAL ARMOURIES

By Lt Sarah Wilson, 3AEC



The 3AEC Gp team on their visit to the Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds.

At the end of 2023, the Officers and Civil servants of 3 AEC group (based out of Vimy Barracks and responsible for education services in Catterick Garrison and its surrounding areas) were fortunate enough to visit the Royal Armouries in Leeds. This was part of an ongoing series of team cohesion events in-line with our commitment to the Defence-wide Op Teamwork initiative. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn a little bit more about some fascinating history, while also spending time together as a sub-unit.

Upon arrival in Leeds, we split into two groups, mixing the teams so that everyone was able to spend time with people they may not see often in the office environment. We then took turns to explore both the National Firearms Centre (NFC) and the Royal Armouries Museum. Getting a glimpse of the former was a particular treat, as it can be difficult to access the NFC collections which are held under particularly strict security conditions (as can only be expected from a site holding several thousands of weapons!).

Once we navigated through the NFC's unmarked doors and airport-style security scanners, we were treated to a fascinating tour of the collection by one of the expert curators. The NFC collection is believed

to be one of the most extensive and diverse of its type in the world, with weapons spanning hundreds of years from the oldest early muskets through to modern-day military and civil firearms. Highlights include James-bond style pens, umbrellas and canes with built-in firearms; the weapons seen in the Sharpe series; a prototype WWII rifle designed for shooting round corners; and Winston Churchill's own engraved Sterling submachine gun.

After this, we moved onto a workshop and further activities in the Royal Armouries Museum, which houses 6000 objects across five galleries. A must-see for visitors is the very impressive 'Hall of Steel', a giant staircase which has 2,500 objects arranged on the walls (including hundreds of decoratively arranged bayonets) and towers above those exploring the collection. We were treated to a talk on medieval armour by 3AEC's BSDM Andy Harriss, and of course, we took this opportunity to dress up in chainmail!

We then spent some time in small groups reflecting on how we can best work together as an effective team, discussing themes such as respect, empowerment, and inclusiveness and how these can be instilled in the workplace. We utilised the World Café method of holding dialogue in small groups in a 'coffee shop' atmosphere, and this allowed our conversations to be more collaborative, open and honest than might otherwise be facilitated

in a formal workplace. Several of the insights that emerged from these discussions are being carried forwards into new initiatives designed to bring the sub-unit closer together. We were able to examine some of our strengths and weaknesses as a sub-unit, and interrogate them with a Whole Force approach, incorporating both military and civil service perspectives.

We concluded the day with some time exploring the museum; one showstopper was the armour that belonged to a young King Henry VIII in his jousting days, when he still cut a trim figure!

The visit provided a brilliant opportunity for us to learn more about the UK's defence history in greater depth. Perhaps even more valuable, was the opportunity it presented to come together as a team. Taking some time to socialise in an entirely non-work environment inspired new conversations and ideas amongst the team, and allowed us to pause and refresh before jumping back into the busy tempo of military education services. One team member from the civil service stressed how important it was to feel included in these sub-unit social events. The discussions provided a useful moment to explore how we can best work with and support each other to the benefit of the education centre, and the wider Defence community. Huge thanks go to 3AEC IERO Bob Dixon for organising the visit.



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THE ITALIAN CONNECTION: A CULINARY TRIUMPH AT ELLERTON LAKESIDE CAFÉ

By Mark Hill, MBE

In the heart of Catterick Garrison, the Armed Forces & Veterans information Hub (iHub) orchestrated a Christmas dinner at Ellerton Lakeside Café that transcended the ordinary, transforming into an unforgettable experience for veterans and their families. The tale of success is not just about the festive celebration; it's a narrative woven with dedication, talent, and an unexpected Italian connection.

The unsung heroes of this story are the incredible staff at Ellerton Lakeside Café, whose unwavering commitment turned a vision into reality. Volunteering their time, they curated an afternoon that etched joyous memories for veterans and their families. The atmosphere was charged with gratitude, as every gesture, every detail reflected a collective effort to honour those who have served.

Amidst this spirited team, a standout character emerged — a veteran from the Italian Army, who donned the hat of a chef at Ellerton Lakeside Café. His culinary prowess became the heart and soul of the occasion, as veterans were treated not only to delectable dishes but also to a visual feast of impeccably presented

festive meals. The Italian connection added a layer of significance, infusing the event with a touch of international flair.

As plates were cleared and laughter echoed through the cafe, the success of the Veterans Christmas dinner became a testament to the exceptional contributions of the staff and the

unique skills of the veteran chef. The gratitude expressed by those in attendance resonated with the shared understanding that this was more than just a meal - it was a celebration of service, a communion of camaraderie.

Beyond the culinary excellence, Ellerton Lakeside Café emerged as a central





location in this festive narrative. Just a 10-minute drive from the Garrison, it stood as a testament to dedication, not only as a family-focused and veteran-owned establishment but also as a hub of local pride. Operating seven days a week, the cafe and shop curated an experience that showcased the finest Yorkshire products, underlining their commitment to quality.

For families across the Garrison, Ellerton Lakeside Café is not just a venue; it's a destination. A cosy spot for a meal, a haven for local product enthusiasts, and an ideal venue for special events - the cafe's welcoming atmosphere and commitment to excellence make it a must visit. The iHub extends heartfelt thanks to Ellerton Lakeside Café for being the canvas upon which the Veterans Christmas dinner masterpiece was painted.

The Italian connection may have started with a veteran chef, but it blossomed into a story of community, commitment, and culinary triumph. As the echoes of laughter and the warmth of shared memories linger, the tale of this Christmas dinner promises not just a reminiscence of the past but a beacon for future gatherings - a reminder of the strength found in unity, service, and a touch of international flavour.



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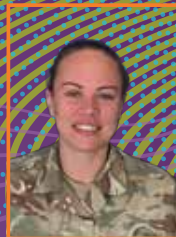
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HACKFORTH AND HORNBY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

By Mrs D Gibson

It has been a busy start to the academic year at Hackforth and Hornby CE Primary School. Over the last term the children have been immersing themselves into a range of exciting new topics with much enthusiasm and excitement!

Before the holidays there were many opportunities for the children to celebrate the festive season and consider what Christmas means to them. The Christingle Service at St. Mary's Church in Hornby was a special highlight- the children all sang well and did an amazing job of signing (using Makaton) the final song 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas'.

We are delighted with our new Reflection Garden, which was installed just before Christmas. This provides the children with a calm outdoor space which they are excited to fill with a range of sensory plants once Spring arrives.

The new term presents new opportunities and we are all greatly looking forward to the many exciting events.

Caterpillar Class

Caterpillars have been exploring the book 'Hibernation Hotel' in English. They enjoyed using drama to help internalise the story and infer how different characters felt.

During Geography lessons Caterpillars have been exploring sketch maps in more detail. Children worked in pairs to draw their own sketch maps of our local area, using Google Maps to help us to see the different features.

Caterpillars are marvellous mathematicians with their addition and subtraction topics! Some of the



children have been exploring number bonds to ten and understanding that two parts make a whole. Others have been exploring related facts and are now ready to move onto number bonds to 100.

They have also all been working very hard on their handwriting and spelling which has been wonderful to see; keep up the hard work Caterpillars!

Butterflies Class

Butterflies investigated tooth decay as part of their Science topic. They placed hard boiled eggs in a range of different liquids and observed the changes over the course of a week to see what happened to the egg shell which was acting as our tooth enamel. The results were eye opening (and rather disgusting) and definitely made us question what we drink and how often we brush our teeth.

In RE Butterflies have been exploring sacred books. To understand the difference between

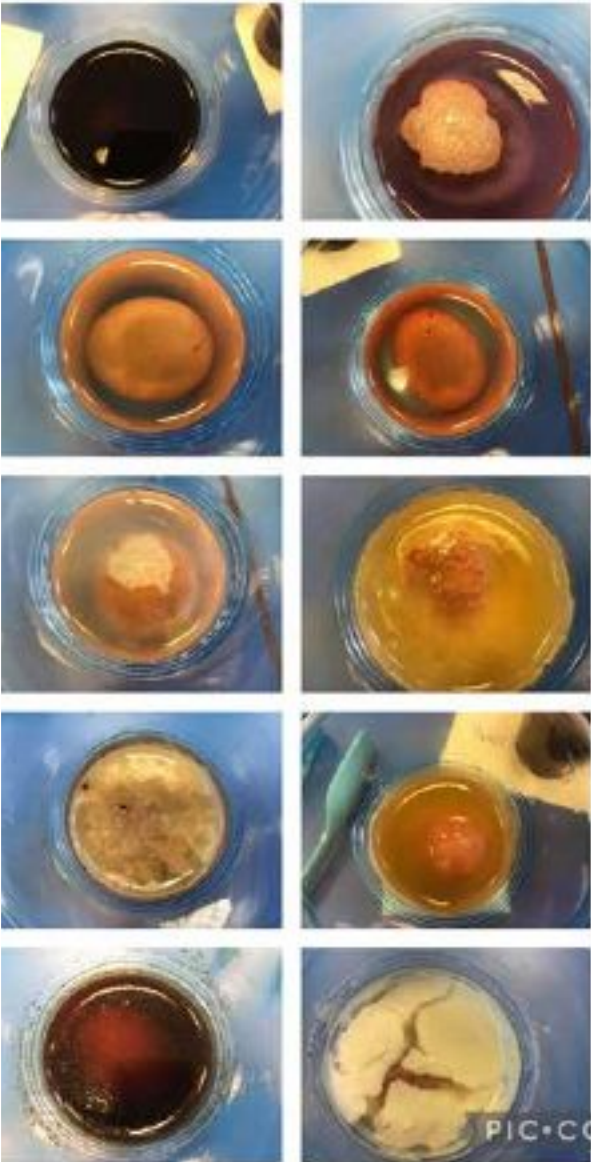
special and sacred, they debated the importance of a number of books, including Miss Lindsay's baby book and first holy communion book. They learnt that these books are very special, however books such as the Bible and the Qur'an are sacred.

During Art lessons, Butterflies have been looking at illustrations from the space race era and considering their purpose. It was fun to learn about the term retrofuturism and what people in the past thought the future would look like. We look forward to travelling by flying saucer!

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THE BEACON CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2023

By Sharin Martin



The Beacon was opened in September 2011 and is managed by the Riverside Housing Group providing supported accommodation for up to 31 ex-servicemen and women who have become, or at risk of being homeless.

On 30 November 2023 the Garrison Commander, Lt Col Anderson, presented The Beacon and residents with the Christmas appeal collection that had been gathered from various Departments and Units around the Garrison especially Jason Davis TSU, Jackie Lamb DST, Rebecca Timmens Pinnacle, Ian Briggs & Sarah Wilkinson Amey, Lt Col (Retd) Stephen May DIO, John Reynolds, and staff at 4Bde, HQ CG and GSU.

A big thank you also goes to Julie Sutherland, Tesco Community Champion for her continued support

at all Garrison run events, Tesco customers and Steven Horsley of Hugh James Solicitors.

To show their appreciation The Beacon have written the following letter to everyone who supported the appeal which was greatly received.

"Another year has passed us by, and yet again, the Garrison Commander and the Regimental Quartermaster and his staff have made several donations throughout the year from appeals to our Single Homeless Veterans at The Beacon. Their efforts to support the Scheme are boundless and plentiful and we cannot thank them enough for their constant donations, without these our veterans would have no non-perishable goods for us to give them on their arrival.

A lot of the veterans arrive in Catterick with only the clothes on their backs and have all been

homeless at one time or another. Without the kindness and thoughtfulness of local people around them, they would go without a lot of things.

The Armed Forces donate food and non-alcoholic beverages, pasta, tins of food, and often donate cash so that we can use it to purchase necessary things. There are also donations from the local shops and two pensioner's buy groceries every month and donate their purchases to the guys without fail. Thank you".



For more information contact Riverside, The Beacon, Marne Road, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire, DL9 3AU. Tel: 01748 832042

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This is a tri-Service jobs platform, which links spouses, partners and family members of serving UK military personnel with Forces-friendly employers and training organisations, as well as providing access to careers information. forcesfamiliesjobs.co.uk

Army Families Federation is a charitable incorporated organisation registered in England and Wales with registered charity number 1176393 and a charity registered in Scotland with registered charity number SC048282 having its principal office at IDL 414, Floor 1, Zone 6, Ramillies Building, Marlborough Lines, Monxton Road, Andover SP11 8HJ



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- Our school is at the forefront of cutting-edge technology; we have Virtual Reality headsets • Remote learning robots • Drones • A digital music technology recording studio • A media suite with state-of-the-art green screen technology • Photography studio • Computerised laser cutters • 3D printing and computer embroidery facilities.
- Our curriculum is expanding, enabling us to deliver a more diverse range of subjects. We now also offer Drama, Engineering, French and Media Studies.
- Our facilities have been upgraded, allowing pupils to benefit from a brand new and extended Food Technology room, a newly refurbished Art department and Science labs.
- We organise lots of educational visits in the UK and abroad and have an extensive programme of extra-curricular activities.



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RISEDALE SCHOOL

Hipswell
Catterick Garrison
North Yorkshire DL9 4BD

Headteacher: Colin D Scott BEd NPOH
11-16 Comprehensive School



Remembrance Assembly

On Friday 10th November 2023, Risedale School pupils and staff gathered for a whole school assembly to commemorate Remembrance Day, joined by Veterans Mark Hill MBE and Paula Rogers.

Pupils were asked to think about Remembrance and share their thoughts and feelings through poetry. Pupils in Years 7-9 worked on their poems during their History lessons and some were read out during the assembly. Pupils also learnt about the significance of 'The Unknown Soldier' during tutor time.

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier serves as a symbolic grave for all war dead whose remains have not been found or identified. Thousands of memorials have been created all over the UK and Commonwealth so that communities can remember the service of those in the armed forces who put their lives ahead of others in the service of their country.

Headteacher, Mr C Scott, said, *"We were so proud to be able to come together as a school community to remember those who have given their lives in conflict. We must pass on the story of their sacrifice to future generations."*

Veteran Mark Hill MBE added, *"It was an honour to be invited to Risedale School to share my experiences with the pupils. It is important that we remember those who have fought for our freedom and continue to support our veterans."*

The assembly was a moving and poignant tribute to those who have served and sacrificed their lives for our country.

Festival of Remembrance

On Friday 10th November, Risedale School staff and pupils were privileged to attend the Festival of Remembrance at Ripon Cathedral alongside other schools in North Yorkshire.



Many pupils participated in poppy mandala workshops led by Service Children's Champion Angela Campbell. These stunning creations were then displayed at the cathedral, forming a magnificent spectacle.

A big thank you to all the pupils who attended the event, particularly Navaeh Bascombe-Nakoma (Year 11), who served as the official wreath bearer, and Mason Bassett, Emily-Faye Fort, and Ria Glenn, who performed with the Service Children's Community Choir.



Risedale School's Service Children's Advocate, Mrs Porritt, said, *"It was an honour to be a part of such a beautiful service. The Risedale pupils were overjoyed to reunite with their friends from other schools and their former primary school teachers. It was a truly wonderful time to come together."*

She added, *"The Festival of Remembrance is more than just a chance to express gratitude and honour those who have given their lives to make the world a better place; it is also a chance to come together and thank those who are currently serving in the armed forces and recognise the impact on their families."*

Year 8 pupil, Joseph Sahai, said, *"I wanted to go to the service to honour my Dad, who has been on tour since September. I really miss him and can't wait for him to come home on R&R this week."*

The Festival of Remembrance was a moving and meaningful occasion for all who attended. It is important to remember and honour those who have made sacrifices for our country, and to support those who are currently serving.



Lest We Forget

Lest we forget.
That's what we were taught from a young age.
But they were always right.
We must never forget the dead.
Especially when they died for our future.
Most people take their sacrifice for granted.
But those who do will never truly know the pain
and misery of the poor Wives, Mothers and
children who lost so much because of their
bravery.
We should always remember and respect
them.
Whether Soldier or their family.
Everyone has lost something dear to them.
And SHALL be remembered by the grace of
God.
For they watch over us like angels to help guide
us from making the same mistakes as before.

by Amelia-Louise Jefferson

During the assembly, pupils were asked to stand for a minute of thoughtful silence as a mark of respect and remembrance for those who have given their lives in conflict.

Hipswell Village Remembrance Service

On Remembrance Sunday, 12th November 2023, Risedale School's Service Children's Advocate, Mrs Johnson was honoured to lay a wreath on behalf of the school at the Remembrance Service at St. John the Evangelist Church in Hipswell.

Mrs Johnson, who grew up in a service family, said that the honour of laying the wreath was even more meaningful to her because of Risedale School's strong military connections. She said, *"Risedale School is such a close-knit community, and it was truly a special time to pause and remember those who have served and sacrificed their lives for our country."*



The annual Remembrance Service is an important event in Hipswell, bringing the community together to remember those who have given their lives and to show support to the armed forces today and to the veterans and their families.

Mrs Johnson said that she was incredibly grateful for the opportunity to have been a part of such a special occasion. She said, *"The service was beautiful and it was a privilege to be able to represent Risedale School."*

Risedale raises over £600.00 for BBC Children in Need

On Friday 17th November, Risedale School held a non-uniform day and a Children in Need Fair in aid of BBC Children in Need. Pupils were encouraged to come to school in their own clothes for a £1 donation, and the school hall was transformed into a bustling marketplace of activities, games, cakes and treats.

The highlight of the event was the Ice Bucket Challenge, where teachers bravely volunteered themselves to be drenched in buckets of ice water. Pupils then made donations to vote for the teacher they wanted to see get soaked. The teacher with the most votes would receive the icy treatment.



In a surprising turn of events, Head of PE Miss Brierley, who was initially nominated for the challenge, managed to evade the icy plunge by strategically donating £10 to divert votes towards her colleague, Head of History, Mr Houlgate. As a result, Mr Houlgate emerged as the most voted-for teacher and received the full force of the ice bucket.

Other popular activities included a bake sale, raffle, beat the goalie challenge, art sale, guess the number of sweets, guess the baby's name, guess the name of the bear, guess the weight of the jar and a bookstall.



The whole school community came together to support the event, and the atmosphere was one of fun and excitement. The event was a resounding success, raising **£624.55 for BBC Children in Need.**

Senior Teacher, Mrs Hailwood, said: *"We are incredibly proud of our pupils and staff for their generosity and support for BBC Children in Need. The event was a fantastic success, and it is heartwarming to see the Risedale Family coming together to support such a worthy cause."*

Year 9 Reward Trip to Air Trail

Year 9 pupils at Risedale School visited Air Trail at the Tees Barrage on Thursday 30th November 2023. Pupils were accompanied by PE Teacher Mr Pugh and KS3 Pupil Support Manager Mrs Wright. The trip was organised as a reward for all the pupils' hard work. It was a beautiful crisp and clear but cold November day and everyone had a fantastic time.

This special reward trip was designed to recognise the hard work and positive attitude of Year 9 pupils for the last half term. Pupils were selected for the trip if they had earned a high number of Epraise points, maintained zero or very few negative behaviour events and demonstrated good attendance.

Air Trail is the UK's biggest Sky Trail adventure course. It is set over 4 levels, with over 38 unique challenges. The course is designed to test your nerves and your balance with its wobbly rope bridges, tight ropes, cargo nets and swinging stepping stones. The course also features two full-length zip rails.



PE Teacher, Mr Pugh, said, *"It was great to reward those pupils in Year 9 who have been working hard in school and acknowledge their achievements in receiving the most Epraise points in their year group. The pupils had a fantastic morning out and really enjoyed themselves. They pushed themselves out of their comfort zones to brave the heights and zip line through the air."*

KS3 Pupil Support Manager, Mrs Wright, said, *"This was a great reward for the pupils as they have all worked really hard over the last half term. It was a real privilege to accompany them on the trip and see them all enjoying themselves. And I loved it too!"*



The school is delighted that the pupils had such a fantastic time on their reward trip. And a big thank you must go to the fabulous instructors and staff at Tees Barrage for supporting The Risedale Family and making memories.

Service Pupils take part in 'The Big Conversation'

On Wednesday 6th December, three pupils from Risedale School were invited to take part in 'The

Big Conversation', a new initiative aimed at raising awareness and enhancing support for Service Children in North Yorkshire. The inaugural event took place at Northallerton County Hall and featured engaging workshops, guest speakers, and opportunities for pupils to share their perspectives and experiences as members of military families.



The three pupils who attended the event were (Photo L-R) Ollie Brend, Scott Meah and Emily-Faye Fort. They were joined by over 60 other Service Children from across North Yorkshire, along with their teachers.

The purpose of 'The Big Conversation' was to gather input from Service Children on how to better support them during their parents' deployments and their time in North Yorkshire. The event featured a variety of interactive workshops that fostered open communication and encouraged pupils to express their thoughts, feelings, and experiences as Service Children. Creative writing exercises, group projects and discussions with guest speakers provided platforms for pupils to share their unique perspectives and connect with their peers on a personal level.

Emily-Faye Fort, one of the participating pupils, expressed her enthusiasm for the event, stating, *"I had a really good day. The Big Conversation was really interesting and we talked a lot about what it was like to be a Service Pupil and what that meant to us. I particularly enjoyed the group project, where we worked together to create a banner representing our different experiences as Service Children."*



Mrs Johnson, Risedale School's Service Children's Advocate, who accompanied the pupils to the event, echoed Emily-Faye's sentiment, remarking, *"It was a truly wholesome day filled with exciting activities. It was lovely to see the pupils expressing*

their feelings about being a military child and getting to know one another."

"We extend our gratitude to the Service Children's Champion, North Yorkshire Youth Voice, and Children's and Families Services for organising such a fantastic event. We eagerly anticipate the next one."

The initiative is part of a broader effort to recognise and support the needs of Service Children, who face unique challenges due to their parents' military service. Events like 'The Big Conversation' are helping to create a more inclusive environment for these children and their families.

'A Spot on the Wall' for Risedale's Budding Artists

In December, two bright young stars of Risedale School, Year 9 pupils Oliver Lavery and Charlotte Swift, were given 'A Spot on the Wall' at Richmond's biggest open art exhibition.

Every year The Station Gallery gathers together work from a fantastic range of talented artists, photographers and craftspeople for their annual exhibition 'A Spot on the Wall'. Whether the artist is a first-time exhibitor, or they have been exhibiting for years, their work sits side by side on the walls of the beautiful old railway building in Richmond.

Risedale pupils Oliver and Charlotte were chosen to have their work exhibited as part of the exhibition and while their work was not available for purchase, it was displayed alongside pieces from a diverse range of established and emerging artists, creating a vibrant and engaging showcase of artistic creativity.

Oliver's pencil-on-paper drawing, "The Life of Koi," was inspired by the first time he saw a blue Japanese koi fish. Oliver is particularly interested in nature and was inspired to draw the koi carp because of their beautiful colours and the way that light reflects on their bodies. He commented, *"I think that whenever I hear someone say that something in nature is rare or complex, I often take interest in it. The blue koi is a rare and beautiful species, and I thought it would be fitting to use Japanese wave patterns around them, capturing their fluid movements in my drawing."*



He added, *"Art means so much to me, so much so that I've decided to opt for it at GCSE. I feel that my art skills have developed over time, and I really enjoy researching other artists online and watching videos about how they use materials to create lines, forms, textures, and effects."*

Charlotte's artwork is called "Immortality" and it was inspired by a poem about quantum entanglement that she had written for a close friend. Charlotte said, *"Having my artwork displayed in Richmond Station has been such an exciting and slightly daunting experience. Being able to have a chance at gaining recognition in my local area is going to help me massively in the future (fingers crossed), and I am very grateful to the people who have given me this opportunity."*

Head of Art at Risedale, Ms Westwood said, *"Both Oliver and Charlotte are incredibly talented artists, and I am thrilled that their work was showcased at this prestigious exhibition. Their dedication and passion for art are truly inspiring."*

Success for Risedale's Young Writers

Risedale School's aspiring poets have once again excelled in the Young Writers poetry competition, with some of their work being selected for publication.

"It was a phenomenal term for our talented writers," remarked Teacher of English, Miss Douglas. *"The entries for the 'This is Me' competition were truly inspiring, and I couldn't be more proud of our pupils. Some of their pieces have even been chosen to be published, which is an incredible achievement!"*



The 'This is Me' competition encourages young writers to explore their identities and express their individuality through poetry. Risedale's pupils enthusiastically embraced this challenge, submitting a remarkable array of heartfelt and thought-provoking poems.

Miss Douglas commended the high standard of submissions, highlighting the pupils' ability to capture complex emotions and convey them with clarity and sensitivity. *"Their poems are a testament to their creativity and passion for poetry,"* she said. *"I'm thrilled that some of their work will be shared with a wider audience."*

The selected poems will be featured in the Young Writers' anthology, which will be distributed to schools and libraries across the country. This exposure will not only allow the pupils to showcase their talent but also inspire and encourage other aspiring writers.

Year 8 Unleash Their Inner Entrepreneurs!

In December, Year 8 pupils tackled an exciting Mini-Enterprise Challenge, putting their entrepreneurial skills to the test. They poured their creativity and teamwork into the project, and the results were truly impressive! From innovative ideas to polished presentations, our Year 8 pupils showcased what it means to be a budding entrepreneur.



Careers Leader, Helen Porritt said, *"I was blown away by their ingenuity and passion! They tackled the challenge with such enthusiasm and resourcefulness, and their presentations were truly captivating. Well done Year 8!"*

Their learning journey didn't stop there. Utilising their Unifrog accounts, Year 8 delved into exploring various job sectors, subject options, and potential career pathways post-16. This proactive research sets them well on their way to making informed decisions about their future and upcoming Year 9 Option choices.

Christmas Giving - Parcels for the Community

We were absolutely brimming with gratitude to the whole Risedale Family for your incredible generosity in donating items to the 2023 House Food/Care Parcel Competition! Your collective efforts brought in **literally hundreds** of items, a heartwarming testament to the incredible spirit of our community. Risedale, you truly outdid yourselves!



On Tuesday 19th December, Mrs Hailwood and Miss Hardstaff had the privilege of delivering your generous donations to Colburn Hub & Community Cafe & Foodshare Zero Waste. These vital organisations work tirelessly to support those in need within our local community, and your contributions will have undoubtedly made a positive difference in the lives of many.

Congratulations to Seacole House who made the most donations. Every single item donated represented a helping hand extended to someone in need. Thank you, to The Risedale Family, for proving that together, we can truly make a difference.

Christmas Disco

Lights flashed, feet stomped, and laughter rang through the halls of Risedale School on Wednesday, 20th December as the Christmas Disco brought festive cheer to pupils and staff alike.

Music for the night was provided by 'Smooth Sounds Around Town' who spun a mix of festive holiday classics and chart-topping hits, keeping the dance floor packed from start to finish.



"The Christmas Disco was absolutely fabulous!" said Senior Teacher, Mrs Hailwood. *"It was a chance for pupils to let loose, celebrate with their friends, and create memories that will last a lifetime. Seeing their faces light up as they enjoyed the music and each other's company was so special."*

It was a magical night from shy wallflowers taking their first tentative steps to seasoned groove-meisters busting out their signature moves; the night was a celebration of inclusivity and joy. Everyone was welcome, everyone was encouraged to have fun, and everyone left with a smile on their face and a heart full of Christmas spirit.

A huge thank you to Mrs Hailwood, our dedicated school staff, Smooth Sounds Around Town, and of course, the pupils of Risedale School for making this year's Christmas Disco a truly unforgettable night! And a special thanks to Mrs Price for capturing all the festive fun in her brilliant photos!

Elf Olympics

Hard work and kindness paid off for a group of Risedale School's KS3 pupils as they were whisked away to a magical world of festive challenges at the

annual Elf Olympics on Thursday 21st December. Queen Elf herself, entrusted by Father Christmas with the task of identifying his future helpers, handpicked these pupils for their exemplary efforts throughout the past half term.



Earning a coveted spot in the Elf Olympics wasn't just about wishful thinking. Pupils had to prove their elf-worthy credentials by working hard and keeping negative behaviour events to a minimum. Their dedication and positive attitude earned them a trip to a winter wonderland of festive fun, where they put their elf skills to the test.

From delicately devouring sugary snowballs without using their hands to stealthily crawling through present-shaped tunnels without jangling bells, these future elves tackled each challenge with Christmas cheer and determination. Even modern elf dilemmas, like crafting the perfect pair of spectacles, were met with ingenuity and resourcefulness.

Queen Elf (the ever-festive Ms Blatch) was ably assisted by a team of seasoned "Chief Elves" – Year 11 pupils Archie Bassett, Kiera Laver, Robin McIlveen, Lucy Thornton, Jake Wills and Isabelle Young. Their guidance and encouragement helped the young trainees navigate the North Pole-worthy tests, while their infectious festive spirit kept the laughter flowing throughout the afternoon.

As these Chief Elves graduate to even greater elven heights, Queen Elf has already begun her search for next year's crop of talented helpers. So, young Risedale pupils, keep up the hard work and positive attitude! Your efforts could land you a spot in the next Elf Olympics, where you'll have the chance to prove your elf-tastic potential.

Christmas Lunch

Our hearts were full of gratitude for the incredible Christmas Lunch we enjoyed on the last day of term! Thank you to our exceptional canteen staff, who not only provided the delicious Christmas feast but also for taking care of the Risedale Family all year round!

A special shout out to Ms Benson, Mrs Wright, and our Senior Pupil Ambassadors for transforming the dining hall and making everything so special and to all the staff members who volunteered to serve dinner, thank you for going the extra mile.

And let's not forget the festive fun of Christmas Jumper Day! We're thrilled to announce that we raised a fantastic **£251.00 for Save the Children UK**. What a brilliant way to end the term, filled with good food, good company, and good cheer while giving back to a worthy cause!



Sporting Highlights at Risedale School

The winter months were a whirlwind of sporting achievements at Risedale School, showcasing the dedication, resilience, and teamwork that defines The Risedale Family. From the mud-soaked fields of cross country to the dizzying heights of the climbing wall, our young athletes rose to the challenge, inspiring their peers and teachers with their unwavering spirit.

Cross Country Championships: Risedale's Year 7-9 runners battled the elements at the Hambleton and Richmondshire Championships, with Lukas Ellis and Rhona Bain leading the charge in the Year 7 race followed closely by Lexie Maclean who displayed grit and determination in the Year 8 category. Teacher of Science, Mr Allen, commended the entire team's sportsmanship and unwavering commitment to the sport.



Football News: Our Year 8 football team battled back from a 3-0 half-time deficit against Queen Ethelburga's in the ESFA Under 13 Cup, showcasing remarkable resilience and teamwork. Their captain, Corey Hillman, set a shining example of sportsmanship, shaking hands with the opposition after the match. Teacher of PE, Mr Pugh, praised the team's hard work and determination, a true reflection of the Risedale spirit.



Despite missing key players, the U14 boys' football team faced Outwood Academy with unwavering resolve. Zachary White, the Year 8 goalkeeper, made several crucial saves, and Teacher of Maths, Mr Metcalfe, applauded the team's never-give-up attitude and teamwork. They look forward to their next match, ready to learn and grow from their experience.

The Year 7 boys and girls brought their A-game to the Hambleton & Richmondshire Area 5-a-side competition. Once again Lukas Ellis demonstrated great

skill for the boys' team while Kaiden Moore made some outstanding saves in goal. Renesmee Bascombe-Nakoma led the scoring charge for the girls finding the net with impressive accuracy cheered on by the boys team from the sidelines. Beyond the competition, the day fostered a strong sense of camaraderie and sportsmanship, with both teams receiving enthusiastic support. Overall, the event was a resounding success, providing a valuable opportunity for our Year 7 pupils to develop their skills, build friendships with pupils from other schools, and represent Risedale with pride.

Rock Climbing: GCSE PE pupils embarked on an exhilarating rock climbing course at ROF 59 in Newton Aycliffe, tackling bouldering, top roping, and lead climbing. They honed their practical skills, learned invaluable safety protocols, and discovered the power of teamwork. Teacher of PE, Mr Lawson, commended their enthusiasm and progress, highlighting the confidence and resilience fostered by this unique experience.



These are just a few highlights of the incredible sporting achievements at Risedale School. We are immensely proud of our athletes and the teaching staff for their dedication, teamwork, and unwavering spirit. We look forward to witnessing more triumphs and the continued growth of our young athletes.

Go #TeamRisedale!

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GAZETTE ENTRY FOR ST MARY'S RC PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL RICHMOND



Primary school in Richmond celebrates good Ofsted report

The headteacher has spoken of her pride and delight after Ofsted graded her school good overall and good in all areas.

Inspectors who visited St Mary's Catholic Primary School in Richmond found a "caring community" where children have everything they need to flourish.

The report added: "Pupils behave well and feel safe. They are well cared for by the adults, who know them well. When pupils join the school, they quickly become part of a caring community."

"Leaders have high expectations for pupils' achievement. This starts in the early years, where the curriculum has been well thought through to support pupils to learn. By the end of key stage 2, pupils have the skills that help them to be ready to move to secondary education."

Headteacher Fran Mackle said she couldn't be prouder of St Mary's children, families and governors.

"We are truly blessed to be part of such a wonderful community," she said. "I admire every member of my staff team as they always, without fail, put the children at the centre of everything they do."

"It's a real pleasure to work alongside such dedicated, motivated and highly skilled people. Our parents



and governors are a great support and the school wouldn't be the wonderful place it is without them.

"One of my main aims is to establish a healthy workplace culture where the emotional health and wellbeing of staff is recognised and valued. Mental health and wellbeing of both the staff and children alike is a key priority in everyday life at St Mary's."

"We are very proud of our new curriculum and the high expectations we all have for our children."

"We have a wonderful parish priest, Father John Bane, who fully embraces school life."

"We're also very lucky to be the feeder school to the Ofsted outstanding St Francis Xavier School in

Richmond, with our children gaining top category places in the admission process."

St Mary's, which is in Cross Lane, became part of Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust (NPCAT) in September 2022.

One of the country's largest Catholic multi-academy trusts, NPCAT is made up of 38 schools throughout Teesside and North Yorkshire, including the city of York.

CEO Hugh Hegarty further endorsed the leadership of Miss Mackle and her team.

"The support from the parish and community is a key strength of this beautiful school," he said.

"St Mary's and its sister school on the same site, SFX, afford parents the option for a seamless transition from primary into an outstanding secondary school.

"These pathways are so important and having them in Richmond is why places at St Mary's are so sought after."

Inspectors found some areas for improvement.

The report stated: "Some targets for pupils with SEND do not specify the precise knowledge or skills that are to be developed. This means that some small steps in learning are missed, and pupils find learning difficult.

"Some assessment processes are still being developed. This means that gaps in learning are not always being identified quickly. Leaders need to ensure that assessment criteria is closely matched to the curriculum and that staff regularly and effectively assess pupils' understanding."

Miss Mackle added: "My professional aspiration has always been to secure excellent outcomes for all children. To achieve this, a key priority is to focus on developing high-quality teaching and learning, ensuring all children receive the education they deserve.



"I will remain focused on what matters most. For me, that must be the children whose parents entrust them into our care."



St Mary's RC Primary School Reception 2024?

If you, or anyone you know, has a child looking for a school place in September 2024, we would love the opportunity to offer them a personal tour of our wonderful school.

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VOLUNTEERING AT THE FOLD

We are so lucky to have built up a professional relationship with Cummins Engineering Darlington. On several occasions they have come to help us with landscaping the land around the Fold. They have spent a day digging out the seating in the amphitheatre which was excavated by Wades of Darlington. Luckily it was a lovely sunny day. The Fold made sure the group had plenty to drink and soup for lunch.

Their hard work has been greatly appreciated by our families that come on their monthly Saturday, funded by the Army Benevolent Fund and the group of children with their parents that attended the Summer Camp, funded by the Brother Jonathon Trust. The children had great fun listening to stories, singing songs with actions and for the older ones star gazing when it was dark, three shooting stars in succession (the Perseid meteor shower). One of our teenagers had never spent any time looking up at the stars before and he was totally amazed.

The Cummins group have also helped with filling in the gaps in the tree line and hedges, originally planted by Darlington Building Society. This helped to split up the open land, making our farm land into smaller fields to help with the rotation of the



animals. It didn't help when the cows decided it would be a good idea to pull some of the trees up. These were replanted.

At the end of last year, the group came back again to help in the garden, weeding, planting the last of the trees but the most transforming activity was the clearing of the North bed, getting rid of the clover, laying membrane and covering that with wood bark. We did run out of wood bark which was kindly donated by

John Lawrence a local tree surgeon, he will be bringing some more.

We were not so lucky with the weather this time as it was raining all day but it didn't dampen anyone's spirits. A great big thank you to Cummins for all their hard work at the Fold.

Lone Helliwell, Clervaux Fold Manager.
Office: 01325 729860 Mobile: 07812 234372
Email: lone.helliwell@clervaux.org.uk





CLERVAUX FOLD

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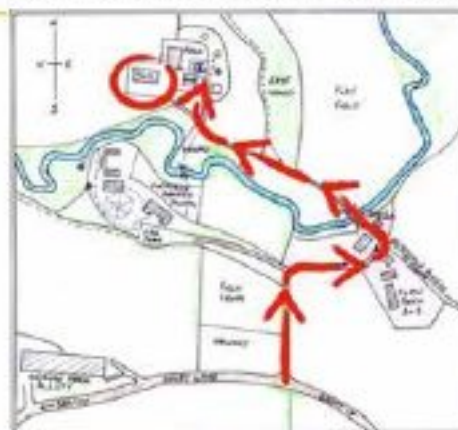


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STASH-BUSTING SELLERS are invited to book a table (or share with a friend!) to sell off unwanted craft stash bits and bobs (any hand-made hobby, including wool, fabric, felting, printmaking, sewing...)

And **CURIOUS CREATIVE BUYERS** are welcome to browse and boost their craft supplies while meeting like-minded others.

PLUS everyone is welcome to enjoy hot drinks and sweet treats while finding out about our various craft courses and helping raise funds for future activities at our friendly creative community hub.



What3words: /above singing /rust

**Questions / Directions /
Table bookings (£10 inc hot drink)**
Email jane.helliwell@clervaux.org.uk
Phone: 07812 234372



CASH ONLY, PLEASE



CHAPLAINS GAZETTE

Easter is many things to many people in the world we live in today! A spring holiday. A chance to catch the family. Another opportunity for the marketing mogul's and the Wonka chocolatiers. For those of a spiritual and religious persuasion it is something much deeper and much more life affirming, life enhancing and life transforming,

I was taught once that Easter can be described as follows:

Everyone – Easter is a story that compasses everything and has a message for everyone because it speaks of selflessness and of sacrifice.

The selflessness that looks out for others beyond ourselves. The selflessness and the sacrifice of God reaching out to his beloved humanity.

Alive – Easter is about new life. There is a renewal and a deep recreation and refreshment in the Christian story and journey which begins at the foot of the Easter cross and continues through the mystery of the empty tomb on Easter Sunday morning.

Spring – For the Northern hemisphere Easter comes in the springtime when new life is blooming and booming in field and in pasture. No fairer or truer sense of God than a field full of daffodils and spring lambs.

Time -It reminds that time is critical. God works in God's good time. The Easter story is the fulcrum

around which life revolves. There is a time for everything. It is a reminder to use our time wisely and to keep seeking after God and his goodness in our time.

Energy – The Easter story has the capacity to release inordinate energy into our lives, our communities, and our world, which can bring forgiveness, healing, wholeness, and restoration.

Resurrection – All because of the mystery of the resurrection that speaks of new life. Jesus is alive the gospel tells us. That changes everything.

Come and join us at any of our Garrison Church services this Eastertide and hear the good news afresh for yourself. It can change your life!

EASTER SERVICES POSTER 2024

Holy Week and Easter Services

Garrison Memorial Church

Maundy Thursday 1900 - Joint Maundy Thursday Service with Eucharist/Communion
Easter Sunday 1030 - Morning Worship

St Aidan's Garrison Church

Easter Sunday 1030 - Morning Worship

St. Joan of Arc

Maundy Thursday 19:00 - Mass of The Lord's Supper
Good Friday 15:00 - Good Friday Passion
Holy Saturday 19:00 - Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday 10:30 - Mass







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To see our full programme of events near you - visit armybenevolentfund.org/events/

Army Benevolent Fund is a registered charity in England and Wales (1146420) and Scotland (SC039189) and registered as a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales (07974609).



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