The 2017 Conductor celebration events are almost upon us. An exciting and varied programme awaits all those able to join in the fun.

Not sent in your Notice of Attendance?

There’s still time, but you must be quick. Act now, send a quick email confirming your attendance in the first instance, then post a hard copy of your completed return with payment to Gordon Webster.

- Checked your contact details held in Dropbox?
- Don’t know how to access Dropbox, contact Mike Coyle mike.coyle@btinternet.com

"Coming together is a beginning; Keeping together is progress; Working together is success."
Branch numbers have once again seen an increase with serving Conductors, Martin Bloomfield and Will Craig joining the branch and from the former Conductor fraternity; David French, Colin Slade and Richard Payne.

**COLIN SLADE**

Colin joined the ACC in 1977, and on completion of basic training joined 1 BR Corps Stores Company in Bielefeld as a Chef. He spent a happy 4 years in Bielefeld, and was promoted during his time there. Colin returned to the ACC Training Battalion & Depor in Aldershot for a 2 year tour as a Drill & Weapons Instructors. Then followed a couple of years in Berlin with the Royal Hampshire’s, and two years in Tidworth and South Armagh.

Colin returned again to, this time as a Technical Instructor, teaching cooking and management to both junior and senior ranks. His next tour took him to Cyprus with the UN and two years as the Master Chef to the large UN Officers Mess in Nicosia.

He returned to the UK once again as the SQMS Master Chef 1 (RHR) Black Watch, followed by I RRW and ATR Lichfield. In 1994 he was promoted to WO1 and was posted to Deepcut as the Area Catering Warrant Officer, and during this time he served on the Central WO’s and Sgt’s Mess Committee.

His final posting was at HQ Land Command, as the Command Catering WO, during which time he was appointed Conductor. Colin made the decision to leave the Army at the 22 year point, having had several job offers.

Since leaving the Army at the end of 1999 he spent a year managing In-Flight catering at Heathrow and then joined his current employer and moved to Monaco for 5 years. He has since returned and have managed the Groups’ UK Company for the last 12 years in addition to several overseas companies as a Director. Colin travelled the world managing companies and contracts, providing Logistics and Support Services in remote and hostile environments.

Colin lives in Church Crookham and is married to Mel (ex Royal Signals Major... well someone has to look after them!) and his daughter Charlotte. He also has two other grown up daughters and two lovely grandchildren.

**WO1 (CONDUCTOR) WILL CRAIG RLC**

Will joined the Army in Aug 1995. Following six months of basic training he completed P Company and his parachute training, then joining 2nd Battalion the Parachute Regiment. As a Para, he served in the USA and NI before moving the gym to work as a PTI before moving to the intelligence cell.

Will transferred to become a Royal Logistic Corps photographer in 2001 and once again, deployed to NI, Cyprus and Iraq. In 2017, WO1 Craig was appointed as a Conductor, allowing him a larger reach over other trades and an opportunity now to use his own experience to raise the profile of the Royal Logistic Corps on a wider scale.

Throughout his career, he has been supported by his wife, Suzanne.
WO1 (CONDUCTOR)
MARTIN BLOOMFIELD RLC

Martin enlisted in July 1996 and after successfully completing basic training he successfully completed his trade training as a Petroleum Operator Course in 1997. He served in Germany, Canada (BATUS), Falkland Islands, Poland, Oman, Cyprus, Iraq and various UK tours. During his Falkland Islands tour in June 2009 he was awarded the Commander British Forces South Atlantic Islands Certificate of Merit for distinguished service. Martin is currently serving at Army HQ as the army’s subject matter expert for fuel and the Petroleum Operator Head of Trade.

On the sporting front, Martin represented his unit at Regimental Boxing competition where he was awarded the best boxer on the night and represented his unit at the RLC Alpine Ski Championships in Bavaria.

Martin is married to Arlette and he regards this as his greatest achievement during his 21 years of service.
The treasurer’s gripe. I know that the most boring item in this newsletter will be about money, but as the treasurer, it’s close to my heart so forgive my gripe, but give me some sympathy and remember that there are three types of treasurers, those who can count and those who can’t.

At the 2016 AGM two items of great import to me, and the branch, were agreed, firstly that the annual subscriptions would be increased from £20.00 to £30.00, this was the first increase for many years, and certainly not during my tenure as treasurer. Secondly that the payment date would be changed to 1st January. This date was agreed so that I would be able to advise the committee on the state of the branches finances when planning the Parchment weekend. This is crucial when we must pay upfront for the second day’s activities.

I have just (6th April) checked the accounts to see how many members had changed the amount and payment date, it seems that out of a branch membership of 70, only 37% have so far paid the correct subs, 33% paid £20 and 30% have yet to pay at all. I am also concerned that there are some members who previously would have paid by now yet this year haven’t paid. I hope they haven’t changed their payment date to 2018 and forgotten to pay their 2017 subscriptions.

If anybody hasn’t managed to realise the cynicism above about being able to count they shouldn’t worry as four out of three others didn’t either.
Your point of contact is…
Bob White
rjwhite01@btinternet.com

Have an idea for Branch Merchandise?

We want to know
The Utility Warehouse Discount Club is very different to other suppliers because they’re a club, A Discount club. They don’t have any high-street shops and because (unlike their competitors) they don’t spend customers’ money on expensive advertising campaigns on TV or in the national press, they can afford to charge their customers less for the same service.

Members + UWDC means
1. More money in your pocket
2. More available branch funds

Get the facts behind the adjacent graph and see how the UWDC are helping to keep branch funds in the black. £1400 so far, not bad for an initial branch investment of just £25, in 2008.

With so much uncertainty over Brexit and the UK economy, it’s good to know the branch can rely on continued monthly donations from our fundraising partners at the UWDC.

Stop, think! with more members switching, monthly donations will significantly increase. The question is…

*How best to spend the money?*

Switching supplier made simple, Call 0333 777 3212 and Quote B61182 or find out more at [www.utilitywarehouse.org.uk/B61182](http://www.utilitywarehouse.org.uk/B61182)

**Utility Warehouse Discount Club**

*How we're different*

[www.utilitywarehouse.org.uk](http://www.utilitywarehouse.org.uk)
We asked…….

Would you like to be the proud owner of a new Conductors’ Branch Coin?

And you said.........

Well that’s just it, we don’t know!

Come on give us some feedback, good or bad!

Words are worth much, yet cost so little.
Please let us know your thoughts and ideas!

☎ 01684295737 ✉ gordon.webster2@btinternet.com