



The Society for Army Historical Research

Registered Charity No. 247844 www.sahr.org.uk

NEWSLETTER – Spring 2024

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ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING – Monday 22 April 2024

All members are cordially invited to our Annual General Meeting & Prizegiving Reception at the National Army Museum (NAM) Chelsea on Monday 22 April 2024.

This year, it will be a particularly auspicious occasion as:



- * Our royal Patron, Field Marshal **HRH The Duke of Kent** (left) is due to attend for the Prizegiving and Reception.
- * We will be bidding farewell to our President, **Lt Gen Sir Barney White-Spunner** who stands down at the end of his 12-year tenure, and proposing his replacement, **Lt Gen Sir Edward Smyth-Osbourne**.
- * We will also be joined by members of the family of the late **Field Marshal Sir John Chapple** (former SAHR Chairman and President) who will present the Best First Book Prize – now renamed '*The Chapple Prize*' in his honour.

Thanks to sponsorship by The Sultan of Pahang (in appreciation of the role of the British Army in the Malayan Emergency) and our partnership with the National Army Museum, we are able to offer the event (including lecture and wine & finger buffet) **free** to members. So, we are looking forward to a particularly enjoyable and well-attended event this year. Further details below:

3.15 pm onwards – Arrival and getting there. Although the NAM is closed to the general public on Mondays, Director NAM has kindly arranged for one or more galleries to be open for viewing by SAHR members from 3.15 pm should they wish to do so – details will be posted on the SAHR website nearer the time. *Otherwise, please arrive between 4.15 – 5.00 pm to allow time for registration before the AGM.* NAM is located in Hospital Road Chelsea SW3 4HT - nearest tube station is at Sloane Square.

5.00 pm prompt - Annual General Meeting [AGM]. Including:

- Annual overview by the Chairman.
- Presentation of Annual Report & Accounts by the Treasurer.
- Proposals for a periodic increase in UK subscriptions and to switch students to digital subscription (as per the notices in the last Newsletter).
- Brief Reports by other Council officers & members, and discussion.
- Election of new President, Secretary, and Membership Secretary.

For full details of the Agenda, Annual Report and Society Accounts – see website www.sahr.org.uk

6.00 pm – Lecture. Professor Tony Pollard (right) of Glasgow University will be speaking about the archaeology of the Battle of Waterloo, including the recent findings from work carried out by the *Waterloo Uncovered* project.



7.00 pm – Break. During which HRH will arrive and be received by Director National Army Museum, and President SAHR.

7.15 Annual Prizegiving and Awards Ceremony. Awards will be made for:

- New Fellowships,
- Chapple Prize for Best New Author (and any runners-up),
- Templer prize for Best Book (and runners-up).

7.45 pm – Buffet Reception. The normal high-quality wines and finger food will be provided by NAM caterers to round off the evening in friendly fashion as HRH and SAHR President and Officers circulate. We should be finished between 9 - 9.30pm, i.e. allowing time to catch trains home.

NB: *This is very much the Annual Members' Meeting i.e. your opportunity to interact with Council Officers and let them know your views (whether formally at the AGM or informally at the Reception); to celebrate the achievements of the prizewinners; and to enjoy the fellowship of members. It is traditionally a friendly, enjoyable and well-attended evening – and we look forward to seeing as many people as can make it.*

IMPORTANT: HOW TO REGISTER

The event is *free* to all SAHR members and one partner/guest each. All we ask is that attendees conform to the dress code (lounge suit / jacket & tie or female equivalent - as our royal patron will be attending), and that you let us know in advance who is likely to be coming – so that we can cost-effectively estimate catering and meet NAM security requirements.

You can register by sending your name, and that of any guest, either:

- Online via SAHR website (preferably)
- By email to secretary@sahr.org.uk
- In extremis, by post to the Secretary at 6 Bladon's Yard, Rolleston-Dove, Burton on Trent, Staffordshire, DE13 9DP

Please book in in good time, as it makes our planning & administration so much easier, and so ensure you have a safe and enjoyable event.

ONLINE TALKS

Our popular series of online lectures, hosted with great aplomb by Dudley Giles, will be continuing into 2024. Precise dates will follow by email and on the website, but the speakers and subjects for the year are currently shaping up as follows:

- March: Adam Prime: [The Indian Army in the Great War](#).
April: Rob Davidson: [The Battle of Spioenkop](#).
May: Don Hagist: [British Army Punishment Books as a resource source in the American War of Independence](#).
June: Andrew Wheale (2022 Best First Book Winner):
[British Airborne Forces in the Second World War](#).
July: Arran Johnston: [Bonnie Prince Charlie at War](#).
Aug: Kenton White: [The British Army in the Cold War](#).
Sept: John Peaty: [The Battle of Alam Halfa](#).
Oct: Warwick Louth: [Armed Forces in Restoration Scotland](#).
Nov: Robin Thomas: [Logistics in York's Flanders Campaign, 1793-1795](#).
Dec: Luke Reynolds: [The Army on the Stage in the Nineteenth Century](#).

Note – If you ever miss a live talk, you can always catch up via SAHR YouTube at:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwP_hu-GM6b3RUZNAapNWMQ

[Eamonn O'Keeffe]

RESEARCH

Grants

The Society for Army Historical Research provides grants to encourage and support research. Grants are available for university students through the Major and Minor University Research Grant scheme and for members of the Society through the Independent Research Grants scheme.

The deadline for all grant applications this year will be 1 May 2024. Awards will be agreed by Council at the June meeting and successful applicants will be informed the same month.

For more information and to apply, please visit <https://www.sahr.org.uk/> and navigate to the Grants section of the website. Informal enquiries may be addressed to the Grants Administrator at grants@sahr.org.uk.

[Nicola Martin, Grants]

ESSAY COMPETITION

As part of Council's recent review of Society activities, some changes have been made to the annual essay prizes, principally the closing date for entries and the introduction of a new category. The new rules, which can be found on the website, are summarised below.

Scope. The Society awards prizes annually for essays on any subject connected with the history of the British Army to (1) sixth-formers, (2) undergraduates and, from this year, (3) regular subalterns in the Army and those at Sandhurst on the Regular Commissioning Course. Prizes of £300 and £100 are offered to the winner and runner-up in each category. Essays may reflect authors own interests and/or example questions are available on the website.

Submissions. The deadline is 31 August and essays can be submitted via e-mail to essayprize@sahr.org.uk. Entries must be between 2,500 and 3,500 words in length with references (which are to be counted in the word limit) and a bibliography (which is not).

Members are requested to forward details to schools, universities, and potential entrants. The essay prize co-ordinator, Zeb Micic, would be happy to answer questions and to give advice to potential entrants. As part of efforts to expand the judging panel, he would also be pleased to hear from members with school or university teaching experience, who would be happy to devote a few hours a year to judging the competition.

[Zeb Micic, Essays]

NOTICES



Annual Reading List:

Don't forget our ever-popular SAHR recommended book list selected from leading historians. Each historian lists 5 favourite books in addition to a suggestion for a book that *needs* writing.

There are some inspirational ideas here – see the list on the website at www.sahr.org.uk/booklists.

And after the forthcoming Annual Members Meeting, there will be the Templer and Chapple prize-winning books to choose from as well!