



Royal Navy



British Army



Royal Air Force

Aden Veterans Association Gloucestershire Branch

Volume 2 of 2022

Chairman's Report

We have enjoyed a busy few months since I wrote my last report, which is definitely an improvement on the last two years of very sporadic events.

Our 'first Wednesday' lunches are back, thanks to the hard work of our Social Secretary Jean Stublely. Denis Sparrow has been taking our display to a number of events. On April 2nd he was at the World at War weekend, which was held at the Helicopter Museum in Weston-Super-Mare. Dennis Flamson organised our visit and carried the Branch Standard on the parade. Denis also took our display to Weymouth for the start of Armed Forces week. The West Dorset Branch hosted a very enjoyable weekend, which many members attended. We appreciated the warm welcome that we had from the Branch, especially from Sylvia, Tony and Katie Johnson. Robert Parrant carried our Standard on the Parade, Denis Flamson carried the West Dorset Branch Standard and John Longhurst came out of retirement to carry the Kernow Standard. My thanks to all three for marching the length of Weymouth seafront to show the Aden Veterans Branch Standards at this well attended prestigious event. Robert also carried our Branch Standard at the annual Service of Remembrance at Earthcott Green on June 15, when Edward 'Curley' Knowlton laid our wreath.



The display was most recently at Gloucester Docks for Armed Forces Day on June 25th. Michael Compton and Vernon Shelbourn helped set up the stand and answer

questions from the public. Emlyn Phennah had a smaller display at the Jet Age Museum which he ran for the Branch. My thanks also go to our Secretary Michael Compton who organised our attendance at the Docks. His perseverance, when we had no Standard Bearers available on the day, was rewarded when a young Police Cadet carried the Branch Standard.

Your Branch was also represented on the 23rd April at the St. George Day Service, which was held at St Barnabas Church, Gloucester.

On the 8th May some members attended the VE Day Remembrance Service and on the 6th June the D-Day Service of Remembrance. Both of these events were held in Cheltenham and were organised by the Borough Council and the Cheltenham RBL.

We have been invited to two further Remembrance Services in Cheltenham, which will be held at the War Memorial in front of the Council offices. Sunday 31st July at 11.45 for 12.00 - OP BANNER the 15th Anniversary of the formal end of operations in Northern Ireland. Monday 15th August at 1045 for 1100 - VJ Day annual commemoration.

I must also mention the very sad news regarding the passing of two of our members. Isobel Major the wife of Jim Major, who lays our wreath on Battle of Britain Day. Jim has attended a number of Branch lunches and came to Weymouth for the weekend. Ken Plowman, our oldest member, who flew gliders towards the end of the Second World War, and had a distinguish career in the Royal Air Force. Both will be sadly missed by all who know them. Many members attended their services.

I will end on a happier note. Two of our members celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on the 30th June. Many congratulations Trish and Stan Shearer.

I do hope that you all enjoy a wonderful Summer and will be able to take part in some of the events that are coming up in the next few months.

Rick Rutter

Branch Secretary's Report

Since the production of the last newsletter the Branch activities have continued pretty well as planned,- most notably we have had four "First Wednesday lunches". These are most important because they maintain contact in the months that we might not have any other function. Once again, a special thank you to Jean Stubley for her time and effort in planning the lunches.

At our Branch meeting on 6th April we had 28 attendees with 12 apologies for absence so our membership remains pretty static. We have gained one other member, Colin Lambert, who joined after meeting some of us when we were at the Highwayman in March. On a sadder note, we have lost Isabel Major and more recently, Ken Plowman; our thoughts go out to their nearest and dearest. Both Isabel's funeral and Ken's thanksgiving service were well-attended by members of the Branch.

In February, the Committee met (the first meeting for 28 months!) to discuss the events planned for 2022, the most important being the proposal by Sally Welzel to have a church service and lunch on 29th November. The minutes of the meeting have been published. Since then, we have paid the deposit for the lunch, received two acceptances from official guests and have received confirmation of financial support from the National AVA.

In early April, Denis Sparrow with the Branch stand was in attendance at the "World at War Exhibition" at Weston-super-Mare Helicopter Museum. About 15 members were there on the Saturday, and some were there for the parade in the afternoon. Having served at 74 Aircraft Workshop in Aden, seeing the Scout/Sioux/Wessex and Wasp aircraft brought back many memories for me.

After the formalities of the meeting on 6th April we were "treated" to a lecture from the NHS Falls Assessment and Education Service, on how to avoid or reduce the risks of a

fall. I suspect we have all had to learn how to do things differently in recent years, and that we will have to change even more in the years to come; so the lecture was a useful reminder.

The month of June has been a very active one for members of the Branch. 20 members attended the Earthcott Green Service and lunch, with Curly Knowlton laying the wreath, and Robert Parrant carrying the standard. Then followed the Weymouth weekend with parade for some members.

On the same Saturday, David Gearing laid a wreath at the Quedgeley memorial to remember the fallen of the Falklands campaign. Finally in June, Denis plus stand had prime site at the Armed Forces Day in Gloucester Docks, and Emlyn Phennah was with the satellite stand at the Jet-Age Museum. We marched in the parade, with other veterans from the Cathedral to the Docks. Unfortunately, our standard bearer and his



reserves were indisposed, so, at the eleventh hour, I asked for assistance from the parade organisers. Step forward a volunteer, Community Police Cadet Tyler Locke who, in the space of a half-an-hour, learned the basics of standard bearing from the parade marshal. After the parade when Tyler was handing back the standard, we had simultaneous visits from the local MP Richard Graham and the High Sheriff of Gloucestershire. Rick Rutter was able to record the photo opportunity, so Tyler was thrust into

the limelight, much to the delight of his parents. Stay on your guard,- it seems the dreaded Covid is on the march again, this time in different guise – keep well, and I look forward to seeing you at the AGM.

Michael Compton

Treasurer's Report

First of all, it is a pleasure to start another 3 year stint as Branch treasurer. I am grateful to Branch Members for their support, now and for the last 10 years that I have served the Branch. It is thanks to that support that we find ourselves in a good financial position going forward. The timing of this Newsletter allows for the inclusion of the Statement of Accounts, which was presented at the recent AGM. We will be receiving a grant of £1,000 from the National Association in support of our 55th Anniversary Commemoration, and this will allow us to set the price to Members at the same level as the 2012 event, which was held at the same venue (albeit under different ownership). Over the coming months the Branch Committee will be fine-tuning the planning; I would like to add my thanks to Sally Welzel and Jean Stublely for spearheading the arrangements. The statement of account is included on page 11.

David Gearing

Branch Social Secretary's Report

There have been two more lunches since the last Newsletter report. The Lamb Inn at Eastcombe had 19 attendees on 4/5/22 and was an enjoyable meal. On 1/6/22, I was on holiday and unable to attend this venue. However, I have written to the publicans to say how much 15 Members enjoyed their hospitality, with particular attention given to those with mobility difficulties. The Dockers Club and pub is normally only open for food at weekends, but they arranged staff and their chef to come in specially for our usual Wednesday lunch. I think this will be one we visit again.

Our next meal is on 3 August at 12 for 12,30pm. This is the Ship, Moor Street, Upper Framilode GL2 7LH. This is right next to the canal, so a particularly pleasant spot if the weather is right. Went there very recently and the portions were very generous and well presented.

Our visit to Kemble Airfield which was re-arranged for 7 September is also confirmed. I am currently in the process of arranging lunch at The Thames Head, which is close by. Maybe not cheap and cheerful, but a good place for a treat. I hope to have the details from the Pub completed next week, which will be added to the website. As usual you can sign up to one or both lunches at our AGM on 6/7/22 or telephone me direct on 01452 300878.

Thank you so much for your continued support. It is so good to get together on these occasions with such a friendly and fun group of people.

Jean Stubley

Editor's Report

I hope you are all enjoying the warm weather!! The Metman is advising of near Radfan temperatures!! Happy days?? So, stay cool and safe. Drink lots, be it a G&T, Tiger or Agua Natural!!

A revised procedure for publishing future Newsletter on our Web site.

It was agreed at our last AGM that the midyear Newsletter should be published after the AGM's normally held in the month of July. This will mean edition publishing dates on the website will change to March, August and November.

Future Events

Visit to RAF only surviving Bristol Britannia at Cotswold Airfield {Formerly RAF Kemble} on {7th September 2022} Meet at the AV8 Café for a cuppa at 10:00 and on to the Brit. At 10:30. Moving on at 12 for 12:30 to the Thames Head Pub for lunch. {See social secretary report for more info.}

For Airport directions, leave Cirencester on the Tetbury road {A433}. After passing Kemble village turning, take 2nd Left up to Cotswold Airport Post Code GL7 6 BA. AV8 Phone number 01285 771188.

Go through gates turn right and follow road around till you see a BA Jumbo on your left, turn towards the Jumbo and park near the Control Tower, AV8 café is next door facing the runway.

Blackpool Reunion and National AGM {9th to 11 September 2022}

Battle of Britain Day 82 Anniversary {Sunday 13th September 2022}

Remembrance Sunday {13th November 2022}

55th Anniversary Aden Withdrawal {29th November 2020}

There will be a special service at 11:00hrs in Saint Katherine's Church Matson Lane, Matson, Gloucester, GL4 6OX. Following the Service, Luncheon will be served at the Robinswood Hotel, Marlstone Close, Matson Gloucester, GL4 6AE.

NB. This event will replace the Christmas Lunch. Should you wish to attend Meal choice and menu forms below.

Dinner Menus

Starters

Butternut squash and sweet potato soup with smoked paprika and cheddar cheese croutons (GF)

Pressed ham hock and pea terrine with dressed leaves

Prawn, cod fillet and crayfish timbale served with a green olive ciabatta

Freshly sliced ripe honeydew and watermelon topped with garden mint and mango coulis (GF)

Warmed caramelised red onion, goats cheese and redcurrant tart

Mains

Pan roasted chicken with potato fondant and Mediterranean vegetables (GF)

Pork tenderloin served with colcannon mash potato and English cider jus (GF)

Fillet of seabass roasted with smoked paprika (GF)

Cheese and shallot filo pastry parcel served with a warm coulis of tomatoes

Desserts

Warmed sticky toffee pudding finished with salted caramel sauce and vanilla ice-cream

Profiteroles filled with sweetened cream and topped with a warm chocolate sauce and fresh fruit

Baked set lemon tart served with Cornish clotted cream and berries
Warmed moist chocolate brownie served with melting vanilla ice-cream

Pavlova; meringue nest filled with whipped cream and fresh raspberries, strawberries and blackberries

The menu order form is at page 12.

Military Charities Section



Our Founder



In 1919 American soprano Marta Cunningham visited a Ministry of Pensions hospital, having heard that there were 'perhaps a handful' of soldiers wounded in WWI still residing there. She called on the Matron and asked if she had a few lonely patients who would like to come out for tea. The Matron looked surprised and replied that there were in fact 600 injured patients lying in the hospital, with many more across the country. Marta was horrified by what she saw: "Could these wasted, listless men be the once adored youngsters, who, but a few years, nay months ago, went so dashing, with a swing and a song to the Nation's rescue. Alas and this was their reward, suffering, silence and loneliness."

An avid charity worker during the Great War, Marta soon set about contacting her friends to organise tea parties, concerts and outings for those able to attend. During one of these early invitations one injured soldier said: "We don't want no charity Miss, we are forgotten by everybody and we'd better stop so." But, undeterred, on 12th August 1920, Marta formed the "NOT FORGOTTEN" Association for the 'comfort, cheer and entertainment' of the war wounded and within a year some 10,000 men had been entertained.

Thanks to the generosity of other charities and the public, as well as the firm backing of the Royal Family, hospital visits and tea concerts were followed by outings, drives and gifts such as fruit, chocolate and cigarettes.

WWII Onwards

Whilst the aims of The Not Forgotten have remained much the same throughout its history, it has adapted to meet the changing needs of the serving wounded and veterans with disabilities. The Second World War brought a huge increase in the number of disabled service men and women and a renewed need for the charity's work. This new generation of the injured and sick were there to be helped alongside the 'Boys of the Old Brigade' who required care as never before. In the 1960s the number of veterans eligible for our assistance dwindled. However, with the deployment of our Armed Forces in Northern Ireland, the Falklands, the Balkans, Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere, the need for our work grows no l

Today

Marta wrote in 1937 "... as long as there are sufferers so long will The Not Forgotten be needed" and we are. Today, The Not Forgotten remains true to Marta's original principles of providing entertainment and recreation to those injured in the service of their country. The charity has gone from strength to strength, continuing to adapt to the meet the changing needs of their evolving beneficiary base. Despite the loss of our records in an air raid in 1941, we can be reasonably confident that around one million men and women have benefitted from our activities since 1920.

Through social activities and challenge holidays, The Not Forgotten combats isolation and loneliness amongst the Armed Forces community. We support any serving man or woman who is wounded, injured or sick and any veteran with a disability, illness or infirmity; whatever the cause and whenever it arose.

Any serving or former member of The Royal Navy, The Royal Marines, The British Army, The Royal Air Force and The Merchant Navy, both Regular and Reserve Forces, may be eligible for our help. Our motto 'From Comradeship To Challenge' illustrates the variety and breadth of the support we offer. Some of our activities provide a physical challenge and the opportunity to develop self-confidence, others are of a more social nature aimed at fostering camaraderie and friendship; many offer both challenge and comradeship. Each of our events and activities is intended to restore confidence, enhance wellbeing, boost morale and improve the chances of the serviceman or woman and their family enjoying a normal, if not better, life.

The Not Forgotten Association

1 st Floor

Buckingham Palace Road

London

SW1W 0QP

Telephone 020 7730 2400

thenotforgotten.org

info@thenotforgotten.org

Our Patron

HRH The Princess Royal

With Sadness

Several members of our branch said farewell to Ken Plowman who passed away on 7th May 2022. His funeral took place at Saint Andrew's, Church Station Road, Churchdown, Gloucester. At 12:45 on 14 th May 2022. Ken was the oldest Member of our Branch. He served in the Royal Air Force in World War 2 training as a fighter pilot. However, due to a surplus of fighter pilots, Ken was asked to re-muster as a Glider Pilot, which he did. His first and last mission in this trade was on Operation Varsity in Germany on 24 th March 1945. Many died on that day, but Ken survived a crash to return to Blighty. Ken's Service in Aden was in 1957 as the Adjutant of the 3 rd Brigade Arabian Protectorate Levies, as a Flight Lieutenant.

Following his service career, Ken lived for many years in Churchdown. He was involved in raising monies to repair the Bells of his beloved village church. Ken spent his last few years living in Parton House, Parton Road, Churchdown. He was looked after by Luck Chant of the Cedar Trust.

God Bless, you Ken you will be sadly missed and our sincere condolences to all your family.

Light Humour

40 years of Marriage

A married couple in their early sixties were celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary in a quiet romantic little restaurant. Suddenly a tiny beautiful fairy appeared on the table and said, "For being such an exemplary married couple and for loving each other for all this time, I will grant each of you a wish". The wife answered "Oh I want to travel around the world with my darling husband". The fairy waved her magic wand and Poof!! Tickets for the Queen Mary 2 appeared in her hands.

The Husband thought for a moment, " well this is all very romantic, but an opportunity like this will never come again. I am sorry My love, but my wish is to have a wife who is 30 years younger than me". The wife and the fairy were deeply disappointed, but a wish is a wish!! So the fairy wave her magic wand and Poof!!!

The Husband became 92 years old.

The Moral of this story:

Men who are ungrateful should remember fairies are female!!!!

Finally a poem for us Aden veterans to reflect upon in our later years:

Slow Dance

Have you ever watched kids on a merry-go-round?
Or listened to the rain slapping on the ground?
Ever followed a butterfly's erratic flight?
Or gazed at the sun into the fading light?

You better slow down. Don't dance so fast
Time is short. The music won't last.

Do you run through each day on the fly?
When you ask "How are you"? do you hear the reply?
When the day is done do you lie in your bed
With the next hundred chores running through your head?

You better slow down. Don't dance so fast
Time is short. The music won't last.

Ever told your child, "We'll do it tomorrow?"
And in your haste, not see his sorrow?
Ever lost touch, let a good friendship die
Cause you never had time to call and say "Hi"?

You better slow down. Don't dance so fast
Time is short. The music won't last.

When you run so fast to get somewhere
You miss half the fun of getting there
When you worry and hurry through your day,
It is like an unopened gift...thrown away.

Life is not a race, do take it slower,
Hear the music, before the song is over.

Emlyn Phennah

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ADEN VETERANS ASSOCIATION GLOUCESTERSHIRE BRANCH
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 1ST APRIL 2021 TO 31ST MARCH 2022

	Bank Balance brought forward	1420.57												

Donations from Branch Members		+395.50												
Branch Raffles		+316.00												
<u>Branch Administrative Expenses</u>														
Office equipment and consumables	286.72													
Postage	134.64													
Carlton Club affiliation fee	10.50	-431.86												
Sound System at 29 Nov 21 Commemoration		-190.00												
Internet Fees		-86.49												
Lecture fee, Mr P Barnett on 6 Oct 21		-63.10												
<u>Lunches at Branch Meetings</u>														
Cost from the Carlton Club	255.00													
Receipts from Branch Members	230.00	-25.00												
<u>Christmas Lunch</u>														
Hotel cost (1904.45) and refunds (78.00)	1982.45													
Receipts from Branch Members and other groups	1964.50	-17.95												

	Bank Balance at 31 st March 2022	1317.67												
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 40%;">Total Income</td> <td style="width: 20%;">:</td> <td style="width: 40%; text-align: right;">£2906.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Expenditure</td> <td>:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£3008.90</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="padding-top: 10px;">Excess of Expenditure over Income :</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">£102.90</td> </tr> </table>			Total Income	:	£2906.00	Total Expenditure	:	£3008.90	Excess of Expenditure over Income :					£102.90
Total Income	:	£2906.00												
Total Expenditure	:	£3008.90												
Excess of Expenditure over Income :														
		£102.90												

Statement of Accounts prepared by the Branch Treasurer

(David Gearing)

Accounts Auditor

(W Cruickshank)

Meal Choice for 55th Anniversary, 29th November, 2022
Gloucester Robinswood Hotel, Marlston Close, Robinswood, Gloucester, GL4 6EA

(PLEASE PRINT NAMES)

NAME: _____

STARTER: _____

MAIN: _____

DESSERT: _____

NAME: _____

STARTER: _____

MAIN: _____

DESSERT: _____

£ 25.00 per person

Cheque amount enclosed: _____

Please make cheque out to **AVA Gloucestershire Branch** & send with this form to:

The Branch Treasurer, David Gearing, 6 Thurston Court, Park Lane, Chippenham, SN15 1LT

OR pay by BACS to:

AVA Gloucestershire Branch

The Branch Account

Sort Code 30-98-29

Account No. 01482601

Ref: 55th lunch (your surname i.e. Smith)

Please then email your choices to Sally Welzel at sing4sal@gmail.com

Or post to 1 Linnet Close, Abbeydale, Gloucester GL4 4UA.

Please put who would like to sit next too. (max 4 people)

Please could I have your car registration as there are security cameras at the hotel. The Conference Manager will be booking everyone's car in advance.