



Royal Navy



British Army



Royal Air Force

## Aden Veterans Association Gloucestershire Branch

Volume 1 of 2025

### Chairman's Report

Christmas and the New Year are becoming a distant memory. I hope that we will all enjoy some improved weather as we move into the Spring.

Since the last newsletter our Branch has been fairly quiet, apart from November which is one of our busier months and certainly one of the most important to all Aden Veterans who were there in 1967.

The January Branch meeting was well attended and resulted in some changes to certain roles. Dennis Flamson was duly elected as our Branch Secretary, he had already been fully involved since October 2024. I am sure that you will all be very pleased that Dennis has volunteered to undertake this significant role. My thanks to Jane Wathern who will be assisting Dennis in his role. Emlyn Phennah has stepped down as our newsletter editor. This role will be taken over by Ray Bunnage who has managed our website so efficiently, always ensuring that it is up to date, informative and relevant. These two important avenues for communication are now overseen by Ray. Emlyn has volunteered to be our Welfare Advisor, a new role, which will mean that he can provide information and advice for any member who may require support if they are going through a difficult time. Emlyn is extremely experienced and knowledgeable concerning available support for Veterans. My thanks to both for their contributions which keeps the Branch running efficiently and adds to what we offer to our members.

Jean Stublely, with support from Sheila Gibson, organised a successful Christmas lunch at The Bowden Hall hotel in December, an excellent venue. Despite numbers being a little low members enjoyed their meal and most importantly the company. We will discuss the arrangements for this year's Christmas lunch at our April Branch meeting. Thanks to Jean for arranging our Wednesday lunches always finding new venues as well as returning to ones that we have enjoyed in the past. I know that these monthly get togethers are greatly appreciated by all of us who attend.

Our next Branch meeting will be held at the Toby Carvery, in Brockworth, on Wednesday April 2<sup>nd</sup>. At the request, from a number of our members, we are going to try the carvery rather than the buffet. The difference in price is minimal and it will also provide the opportunity to enjoy a meal and to continue our conversations.

There are a few events coming up in the next few months where your Branch will be represented. See page 3/4 for details.

Best wishes to you all. I hope to see you at our April Branch meeting.

**Rick Rutter Branch Chairman**

## **Branch Secretary's Report**

It's been a difficult time for me and my family as my Brother passed away and a trip to Newcastle upon Tyne swiftly followed.

Great support from the committee and many people including Ray Bunnage and Rick Rutter our chairman for my time in the office of Secretary over the last few months.

In the month of January, I had the pleasure of attending the Annual County Conference of the Royal British Legion at Taunton. For this event I did not carry a standard for the first time and enjoyed being there.

As I belong to the Armed Forces Veteran's Breakfast Club in Weston Super Mare. I met many veterans and came across Peter Slade an Aden veteran. Unfortunately, I could not convince him to join our Association. He was 86 years old and has now passed way. I shall attend his funeral at Westons St Marks Church on 4<sup>th</sup> March at 12.30. I will represent our Association.

We have many events this year as per the list that's on our website and my email to you all. Please try and attend these events as it's a great way to meet and support our Branch.

Many thanks to our Social Secretary Jean Stubbly for our regular Lunches at various locations.

After contact and good work from Rick our Chaiman, we have now received news that Weymouth and the Dorset Branch will try and attend our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemorative event in Gloucestershire. There will be more details to come in the future.

My best regards go out to you all and I hope to serve you in the future.

***Dennis Flamson Branch Secretary***

## **Treasurer's Report**

This near-Springtime Newsletter gives an opportunity to keep Members fully updated on finances as we approach the end of the Financial Year. Our annual cycle of meetings and events has now concluded, and I can give the latest information following our January gathering, after receipts and expenditure have been included in the records.

Our income to date is £1,806.55, and expenditure is £1,761.00 and we have £3,526.17 at Lloyds Bank, Stroud (last statement dated 7 February 2025). The good news is that we have increased our bank balance by £45.55 since the start of this financial year, a testament to the continued support of our members, as we face continuing cost increases for goods and services.

Full and final accounts will be submitted to the Annual General Meeting on 2nd July.

***David Gearing Branch Treasurer***

## Branch Social Secretary's Report

Hello and welcome to what I trust will be another year of social gatherings over lunch, as well as the many other functions our Gloucestershire Branch are involved with, throughout the year.

I had very positive feedback following our new venue for the AVA Christmas lunch at Bowden Hall set in lovely grounds. It was beautifully decorated for the occasion, with attentive staff and an enjoyable and competitively priced meal, compared to other venues.

I did not attend the January meeting at the Toby Inn, Brockworth, but I gather the Quiz, once again kindly put together by Jim Major, was good fun.

I have been asked whether we should try the Toby Carvery meal, rather than a buffet as before. Therefore we will try it out. I am awaiting confirmation of the price. It will be shown on the AVA website.

On 5/2/25, 21 members met at the Twelve Bells, Brockworth, where they provided a good meal at a reasonable price.

For 7/5/25, I have booked the Duke of York, Berrow, near Tewkesbury, which has been recommended by John and Rose Longhurst. Cost is £20 for 2 courses and £25 for 3 courses.

Individual pubs are usually a little dearer than the chains, but it is good to get a mix of venues. In the summer months I think it is worth paying a little more and having a nice drive and hopefully enjoy hospitality at a country pub with a good ambience.

The Black Horse, Amberley, Stroud is a possible option for 4/6/24. Awaiting menus. Thank you all so much for your support. Remember if you have mobility issues and worry how to get to the lunches because you need a lift, let Secretary Dennis Flamson or myself know.

***Jean Stubleby Branch Social Secretary***

## Future Events

**WEDNESDAY 2nd April** Branch Meeting at 11.00 hours.

**April** TBC ANZAC Day at Leighterton 13.30 service at 1500hrs.

**WEDNESDAY 23rd April** St George's Day Service at St Barnabas Church, Stroud Road, Gloucester 18.30 for 1900hrs.

**WEDNESDAY 7th MAY** First Wednesday lunch venue TBC

**THURSDAY 8th May** 80th Anniversary of VE Day Cheltenham Long Garden

**WEDNESDAY 4th JUNE** First Wednesday Lunch venue TBC

**FRIDAY 6th June** Anniversary of D Day

**WEDNESDAY 11TH** June Earthcott Green Memorial Service 11.00hrs.

**FRIDAY 20th to MONDAY 23rd JUNE** AVA West Dorset Branch Event at Weymouth.

**SATURDAY 28TH JUNE** National Armed Forces Day in Gloucester and at the Jet Age museum Staverton.

**WEDNESDAY 2nd JULY** AVA Gloucestershire Branch AGM 11.00 hours.

**WEDNESDAY 6TH AUGUST** First Wednesday Lunch venue TBC

**FRIDAY 15th August** 80th Anniversary of VJ Day.

**WEDNESDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER** First Wednesday Lunch venue TBC.

**FRIDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER** AVA National AGM and Reunion at Blackpool. Full details in the March edition of the Dhow Journal.

**MONDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER** Battle of Britian Day 10.30 for 11.00hrs.

**Wednesday 1st October** Branch meeting 11.00hrs Speaker Rod Harrison RAF pilot

**THURSDAY 30TH OCTOBER** Dedication of the Field of Remembrance at Cheltenham Long Garden 10.45 for 11.00hrs.

**WEDNESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER** First Wednesday Lunch TBC.

**SUNDAY 9th NOVEMBER** Remembrance Day. Parade at Cheltenham Long Garden 10.45 for 11.00hrs.

**TUESDAY 11th NOVEMBER** Armistice Day Cheltenham Long Garden.

**SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER** 58th Anniversary of the Withdraw of British Troops from Aden Service at Cheltenham Long Garden 11.00hrs

**WEDNESDAY 3RD DECEMBER** proposed date for AVA Glos Christmas Dinner.

## Welfare News



Welcome to all our readers to my first edition of Welfare News. I wish to draw your attention to a Service for all ages, civilian and military in Gloucestershire's easterly District of the North Cotswolds, It is called Cotswold Friends. They are a charity fairly like Age UK Gloucestershire, and are based in Moreton in Marsh and Cirencester.

Their support to the community ranges from:

**Community Transport**, using volunteer cars

**Befriending Service**, telephone calling

**Carer Wellbeing**, supporting all carer categories

**Community Activities**, Men in sheds, Luncheon Clubs etc

**Independence Support**, assistance with DWP forms and to help clients remain independent in their own homes

**Hospital Support**, visiting and support after leaving hospital

**Young Friends**, helping the young community with various activities. Follow the salutation for the Service you need

Also, Out of Hours Helpline, 01608 695300.

Another Service available in the Cheltenham General, Gloucester Royal & Stroud Maternity Hospitals is the:

Thank you,  
PALS team



Patients and Liaison Service {PALS}.

The PALS team are here to support patients, relatives and colleagues by discussing their experiences and help answer your health-related questions plus resolve concerns, in the following ways:

- provide impartial information on a range of issues relating to hospital services
- explain the Trust complaints procedure and how to raise a formal complaint
- listen to your suggestions for service improvements
- offer advice about the NHS and support groups outside the NHS
- 

**PALS - 0800 019 3282** If we cannot answer your call, please leave a message and we will call you back as soon as we can.

You can also email us at [ghn-tr.pals.gloshospitals@nhs.net](mailto:ghn-tr.pals.gloshospitals@nhs.net) or write to us at:

PALS Office  
Gloucestershire Royal Hospital  
Great Western Road  
Gloucester  
GL1 3NN.

**Emlyn Phennah, Welfare Advisor**

## **Editor's Report**

Having been the editor of the branch newsletter for the past couple of years Emlyn has now passed the editorship over to me. I have previous experience of editing the station magazine at RAF Manston and have been responsible for producing the newsletter so I should be well placed to undertake the task. I will continue to ensure the newsletter maintains the high standard set by Emlyn and thank him for his sterling contribution in keeping the membership up to date with the branch news. Emlyn will now act as the branch welfare advisor.

I have started a new page on the website, "My life in Aden" where I hope to record for prosperity your experience/memories of life on the Arabian Peninsula. It can be short or long, domestic, military or both. If you don't use a computer or email I can arrange for your contribution to be included, just give me a call on 01452 415064.

My in-laws lived in Aden in the 50s and had a wonderful time. My wife Sheila learned to swim at Kormaksar pool/beach. Although I was never stationed in Aden I did visit on a number of occasions in the late 60s. At the time I was stationed at RAF Nicosia, Cyprus.

**Ray Bunnage *Branch Newsletter Editor***

### **Branch Contacts**

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