

BOROUGH OF BURY VETERANS ASSOCIATION ANNIVERSARY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2018

ISSUE ONE

A Word From Our Association President



CHRIS HARNESS MBE
PRESIDENT OF THE
ASSOCIATION

Welcome to the first edition of our Association newsletter. As we fast approach our first anniversary I would like to take this opportunity to thank every man, woman and child (Gary) of the current committee for all their hard work so far. It is not

always evident but there has been a tremendous amount of work done behind the scenes and sometimes it's the proverbial duck, calm above the water paddling frantically to stay afloat underneath. From our humble start in February 2017 we have grown as an association to nearly 140 paid up members - thanks must go to Spud Taylor for his tireless recruiting efforts. Your committee have managed to open doors, locally and nationally, sometimes by chance, sometimes by strategy, which has led to external funding which has enabled us to offer free

trips to you, the members. As a form of payback for this external funding we have been busy trying to give a little back by competing in a number of charity raising events such as the Bury Foundation 10k. To date we have raised over £1000 for good causes. We hope to continue in this vein in the next year with more members taking part. As a final word I would like to thank you, the members, for the continued support you have shown to the committee. As ever, we welcome any suggestions you may have, please do not wait for the meetings, speak to any committee member at any time to pass on your ideas.



Lest We Forget

The association's involvement with the RBL's Poppy appeal got underway with the "Poppy Run" in Wythenshawe on the 29th Oct. A 5k trot around the park saw all participants receive a very fetching Poppy T-shirt. Following a meeting with Col. Eric Davidson arrangements were made to man the Appeal in ASDA Bury. All members manning the stall turned out in blazers and medals and did the Association proud, a very humbling and well deserving experience. Oldham's Festival of Remembrance at the Queen Elizabeth Hall was

attended by a contingent from BOBVA on Friday 10th. A very enjoyable evening of entertainment with association standards in abundance, a must for an organised trip for next year.

The eleventh hour of the eleventh day 2017 saw members parade to show their respects at the Gallipoli gardens of the Fusilier Museum. The silence was observed by the many that attended on the day. The Sunday parade had a good turnout by our members, together for the first time as an

association, marching proudly to the Cenotaph where our treasurer **Gary Simmons** laid the BOBVA wreath, and very smartly done it was. A group then travelled to Tottington for their ceremony, to be welcomed by the Revd Hugh Bearn who was very pleased that we had made the effort to make up the numbers which have been dwindling in the past years. He showed his appreciation by furnishing the very cold veterans with rum, and very nice it was too.



QUIZ NIGHT FUNDRAISER

(7th October)

The Bay Horse Unsworth (mine host **Roy Counsell**) was the welcome venue for our first Quiz fund raiser. A mix of all military services plus the Civ div pitted their wits in a social night which was enjoyed by all. Roy the quiz master made us all very welcome and supplied the quizzers with pasty and peas and a warm and welcoming atmosphere. The night was a great success raising £200 plus raffle prizes for the Christmas function. The Army came out winners overall even though they thought Passchendaele was in France! (shame on you).

Shirley and Sam our SSAFA contacts for the association noticed a boy at the end of the field standing alone, while all the other kids are running around having fun kicking a ball.

'They took pity on him and decide to speak to him. 'You ok?' Shirley says, her SSAFA training taking over, 'Yes.' he says.

'You can go and play with the other kids you know' she says.

'It's best I stay here.' he says.

'Why's that sweetie?' say the two of them together The boy looks at them incredulously and says,....."Because I'm the Goalie!"

THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM

The first outing as an association in conjunction with the Veterans Breakfast Club was organised by **Claire Diack** of the GM Police Bury, funded from the proceeds of crime (crime does pay). A full coach on a pretty miserable day did not detract from a marvellous visit to pay our respects to The Fallen. It was a day to remember and to make friendships with members that you hadn't met before. A chance encounter with



the Manchester branch of the Submarine Association ended with three sunshine dodgers (**Brian De-Mullet, Ian Vickers and Steve Collins**) joining us here in Bury. Thanks once again to the GMP Bury. Hopefully we can do it again next year.



ALL ABOARD THE SNOWDROP

Ship canal trip. Sunday 27th August "Carry on Cruising!"

Twelve members and initially 'camera shy' young Maisie Butterworth, set sail on the 35 mile, 6 hour cruise on the Dazzle Ferry "Snowdrop" down the Manchester Ship Canal from Salford Quays and out into The Mersey to berth at Liverpool waterfront. Despite a delayed start due to a faulty lock gate, we all enjoyed a fine day's cruising. Delicious packed lunches, plenty of beers and great banter helped to make the day 'one to be remembered.' Certainly a trip worth thinking about if you've never done it before. The Royal Navy informed The Army that they could take their life jackets off as it wasn't a requirement!

The Mosses Centre, Cecil St, Bury.

Veterans Breakfast Club every Friday 0930 until 1100. Please come along and meet the crew. £3.80 for full breakfast, toast and tea and coffee.

Lowes Park Golf Club was the venue for the association's first "Golf Classic" event. Organised by **Andy Best** two teams went head to head. Joint winners **Andy Best** and **Keith "Bandit" Beckley** defeated **Chris Harness** and **Baz "Tangoman" Phillips**. **Ken Slack** turned up to carry all four sets of clubs around, well done Ken, he took some photos too. Hopefully another Golf Day will be organised (make sure it's sunny). The Green Jacket wasn't awarded as nobody looked good in it.

Armed Forces Day— Blackpool 25th June

A fine and sunny day found members of the association on a blustery Blackpool promenade for the parade of veterans of all armed services with a marvellous fly-past of a 2nd WW Spitfire. A service of memorial was held followed by the parade which we all watched from the warmth of the nearest pub (the RAF contingent said it was too cold). Thanks to **Shirley Simmons** for a well organised day. Next year's event will take place in Llandudno on the 30th June. We hope to be there.



Birmingham International Tattoo - 26th Nov



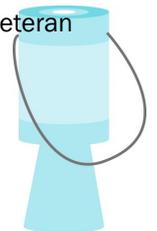
An early morning start for the Association's trip to Birmingham for the **International Tattoo** thanks to Groundwork – Ambition for Ageing who funded the event providing coach, packed meal and entrance tickets for all. A special thank you to **Owen Dykes** and **Shirley Simmons** who did all the hard work to make this a very special day. Massed international marching bands, pipes and drums, field gun run, dog agility display and much much more filled a three hour experience ending with a spectacular grand finale. We hope our guests **Insp. Jim Jones** and officers from GMP,

Bury Councillor **Tamoor Tariq**, Armed Forces Champion and **Marina Jones** from Peace of Mind Mental Health Services enjoyed their time with us. **Baz Phillips** who was our co-pilot gave a superb commentary in his own inimitable way, his sing-a-long on the way home made the trip seem twice as long, we were all so very glad to get back to Bury! The Tattoo next year is on 25th Nov 2018 and we hope to make this an annual event.

BOBVA CHARITY WORK

The following people/events have in some way raised money for charities or have worked to help others : (Bravo Zulu—well done in RN speak)

- :Members **Andy Power** and **Wayne Gandy** — Tireless efforts for Broughton House/Walk like a Veteran
- :Members **Angela** and **Jason Tyler**, New Grove Inn fundraiser — £505 for SSAFA
- :BOBVA Donations of tombola prizes for Natasha Higham — £330 for Help for Heroes
- :BOBVA running team — £541.87 for SSAFA
- :BOBVA painting & decorating team — Painting of Mosses Centre offices and playgroup room
- :Member **Gary Simmons** — Help and assistance in odd jobs for Bury Gateway member



Starmount Angling Club have kindly offered free fishing permits to association members. If you are interested see **Gary Simmons** for details.

VACANCY

Association
Photographer



Three of our members all keen motorcyclists, took part in the 10th "Ride to the Wall", the annual trip to the National Memorial Arboretum.

Jon Noble, Keith Beckley and **Paul Greenhalgh** were just three of thousands who attended the event at Alrewas to show their respects.

BIG THANKS TO Leigh Wilson, YATES BURY, for all her efforts on behalf of the Veterans Association Bury.



**Some thanks from the Association
Groundwork – Ambition for Ageing.**

GMP Bury – Proceeds of Crime.

Bury Council – ‘The Pitch’

The Bay Horse, Unsworth – Quiz night

Owen Dykes – Manchester half Marathon

The New Grove Inn – Xmas Raffle

A SPECIAL GANG

Serving in the Armed Forces is an intimate experience, each person directly or indirectly dependant on each other. This forms mutual trust and reliance which in turn promotes fondness, affection and respect. Friendships thus formed have a depth and unique quality not found in any other walk of life. How true, who can argue with that.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2018

10th Feb BOBVA 1st Anniversary.
4th Mar AGM.
14th Sept Normandy battlefield tour.
TBC BBMF Coningsby.

THE BURY TIMES

The Veterans Christmas Breakfast Club had a visit from a representative from the Bury Times to meet several members of our committee and left suitably impressed with what BOBVA had achieved in such a short length of time. Hopefully by the time you read this you will have seen the article produced from her visit. I hope any future events held by the Association will get the coverage locally that we deserve, to inform the residents of Bury and surrounding areas what a great bunch of people we are!!

Shipmate **Neville Burrows** was a larger than life character and a true gentleman who always had a cheery smile and a dit to tell. He started his naval career as a boy seaman at HMS Ganges and ended his service as a Master at Arms. He served in a variety of ships and establishments including HMS Tamar, Drake, Letterston, Ark Royal, Hecla and Liverpool. He will be sadly missed.

FRIENDS DEPARTED

Member **Don Kilgallon** aged 83. Served in the Lancashire Fusiliers 20th Foot. Funeral was held at the Bury Parish Church with a contingent from the Association giving Don an honour guard befitting a military man. The family was pleased to see us and thanked Spud Taylor for the attendance.

WE ARE SSAFA



SSAFA offer, range from financial, house repairs, essential things around the home, curtains, carpets, white goods etc. They collate all finances, incoming and outgoing and also have a welfare department if needed. SSAFA is the oldest military charity. Shirley, Sam and Dave are there to help, feel free to seek out their assistance.

The Association can boast of having 3 case-workers on the SSAFA books in Bury. Pictured here **Sam Phillips, Dave Shawcross** and **Shirley Simmons**. They visit serving personnel, veterans and families in their homes or at the office in Bury. The type of service

XMAS PARTY AT THE NEW GROVE



Thanks are in order to **Jason and Angela Tyler** who hosted our Christmas bash at the **New Grove Inn**. Over 50 members attended and had a great time. The fundraiser raffle took some getting through (too many prizes) but we got there in the end and raised £173.00 for the BOBVA funds, well done everyone. The meal followed and the Army introduced all members to the ‘Tossing of the Tattie’ ceremony, everyone seemed very impressed especially Jason who was suitably dressed with his highland kilt and sporran. The rest of the evening was filled with singing and dancing, some quite exotic (thanks **Nikki Grey RAF**) some moves even the Navy have never seen! Everyone seemed to enjoy the night the atmosphere was buzzing. Thanks to **Shirley Simmons** for making sure all the drunks got home safely. Now we can look forward to our first anniversary celebration at the **Bay Horse Unsworth** for an action replay.

Stop Press. During the RBL poppy appeal in ASDA the Association helped to raise a grand total of £3440.85.

Association members **Shirley Simmons** and her daughter (?) **Leah** have been volunteering their services at the new ‘Night Cafe’ in the Mosses Centre. Operating over the weekends it offers shelter, food and somewhere safe for homeless individuals to stay the night. Lots of members have been donating warm winter clothing for the guys and gals that have fallen on hard times. Well done to both of them.

