

BOROUGH OF BURY VETERANS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

MAY 2018

ISSUE TWO

St Anne's Parish Church, Tottington. Sunday April 15th 2018



The idea of a Standard for the Association was discussed in July last year and from design, to funding, then to manufacturing, to end here at St Annes Tottington for the official dedication has been a long hard slog, but saying that, it has all been worth the effort. What a brilliant day officiated by the Rev Hugh Bearn who conducted a most amazing service, his military background obvious to all service and ex service personnel who attended. The weather was kind for the start of the procession, leading from the church gate up the winding path into church, to the tune of "Atholl Highlanders" played on the pipes by Freddie Bearn, the vicar's son. The Standard party did a fantastic job led by Escort Commander **Owen Dykes**, with Standard bearer **Paul Andrews** and escorts **Simon Clark** and **Dave Norris**. Guests included Col. Eric Davidson Rtd, The Mayor of Bury, James Frith MP, members of G M Police, Tamoor Tariq armed forces champion and councillors, a contingency from Bury sea cadets and Tina Harrison from Groundwork Ambition for Ageing, who along with Julie Anne helped us to obtain funding for the Standard's manufacture. The reading was read by Sgt Natalie Starkie RAF who has since joined our facebook group. A moving rendition of The Lament "Sleep, Dearie, Sleep" played on the pipes from the balcony was a reflective moment for everyone followed by The Homily, a piece written from the heart by the Padre entitled "After the parade" which all military personnel could connect with. The Blessing followed and the National Anthem was sung and the Standard was marched off to a faultless performance of Walton's "Crown Imperial" on the organ. After the service and official photographs everyone gathered in the adjacent church hall for coffee, tea and sticky buns which were kindly organised by **Shirley Simmons**. There were tots of rum and port provided by the Royal Navy and the Army but sadly the RAF had already drunk the champagne! Bouquets of flowers were then presented to key personnel who had made the event a success.

Mentions must also be made to the following: The Reverend Hugh Bearn, MA CF(V) OCM Chaplain to H M The Queen. Organist Harry Bearn, Organ Scholar, St John's College and Durham College, Durham. Piper Freddy Bearn, Hon. Piper, Lorne Scots of Canada and Sarah Hesketh who designed and printed the order of service, the church choir and wardens and last but not least Tom White of Black Rock Creative for the videography and photography.



BOBVA Treasurer Gary Simmons taking possession of the Standard from Chris Taylor of "Flying Colours" of Knaresborough on 18th January 2018.

HARTSHEAD MEMORIAL 2018



The tragic events of 4th February 1974 were not forgotten by members **Keith Beckley, Andy Best, Paul Greenhalgh, and John Heesom** (pictured), with other members of the Association who all attended Hartshead Services Memorial for the 44th anniversary of the M62 coach bombing. The explosion was responsible for the deaths of **nine** soldiers and three civilians. It was classed as the worst IRA outrage on the British mainland at the time.

THE BAY HORSE—10th February.

BOBVA's first anniversary was celebrated with member and mine host **Roy Counsell** and his wife once again welcoming the association to their establishment. Between forty and fifty members enjoyed a great night of entertainment with a quiz followed by "Play your cards right" won by 'Lucky' **Denis McHugh** who kindly donated £30 of his prize money to 'Teds Journey'. Hours of work must have gone into the making of a magnificent cake made by **Debra Watson** (thankyou Debbie) It seemed a shame to cut into it. Thanks everyone for an enjoyable night.



Association AGM

The March meeting of the Association took place in our new premises of Fishpool Liberal Club, followed by the AGM. Most committee members stood for re election. RAF Chair stood down to be replaced by **Nikki Grey** and **Sam Phillips** replaced **Angie Kerr** as Civ Div Sec as Angie has other commitments with the British Legion Farnworth. Thanks for your efforts Angie. Two new positions were created for Welfare, **Marina Jones** and **Steve Butterworth** were elected for their considerable experience in this field also **Roy Counsell** has offered his services as Entertainments co-ordinator and **Andy Best** is our new Parade Marshall (you Army lot had better keep in step). An enjoyable social afternoon followed with sandwiches provided by **John Heesom**. A letter of appreciation was sent to the Club by our President thanking all concerned for the use of their brilliant venue.



Paul Andrews

Chris Harness

Forest Dykes

Saturday 10th Feb. TATTON PARK 10k

The BOBVA runners travelled to Tatton park on a cold and snowy February morning to give a helping hand to "TED's Journey".

Paul Andrews, Owen Forest Dykes and Chris Harness were raising funds for Ted and his family in an effort to give the lad some extra cash to help along the way. A great personal best for Chris (2 hours) made the day even more special. A total of £750 was raised and a cheque will be presented to Ted and his family hopefully at the May meeting.

WELL BEING COURSE. 21st Feb Mosses Centre. The course has been designed to help provide you with the knowledge, skills, and tools to improve your health and wellbeing. It will help you find the confidence and motivation you need to set realistic goals for making changes to your lifestyle. The course is free and unlimited tea coffee and biscuits are provided at a reasonable price of £1 per session. If you would like to know more about this course contact Owen 'Radar' Dykes or Shirley Simmons.

The Mosses Centre, Cecil St, Bury.

Veterans Breakfast Club now has extended opening. Every Wednesday and Friday 0930 until 1100. Please come along and meet the crew. £3.80 for full breakfast, toast and tea and coffee.

Sunday 29th April BOBVA turned out for the Gallipoli remembrance and the 50th anniversary of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers along with contingents of HMS Euryalus Association plus sea and army cadets from around the country. Our standard on parade for the first time carried proudly by **Paul Andrews**. A quick once around the block and back to the Drill Hall saw the days events come to an end. A big thanks to all that attended.

YORKSHIRE THREE PEAKS CHALLENGE.

The Borough of Bury Veterans are putting together a team to attempt the three peaks of Wherside, Pen-y-Gent and Ingleborough to raise funds for the Bury Hospice who helped ease the pain for one of our members, Neville Burrows. You can probably all relate to how important this facility is for the people of Bury. If you want to take part in this 25 mile hike-please contact one of the committee or even better make a donation for this worthy cause. The date chosen is Friday 6th July. Good luck to all concerned.

DONATIONS TO BOBVA

Auto Trader Community Fund.....£980
Sale of Association garments.....£95.56
Margaret Turner & family for donations to welfare fund.....BIG thanks to all concerned.



BOBVA Ramblers and four legged friends braved a wintery assault course around Wayoh and Entwistle reservoirs, unfortunately abandoned at the half-way stage due to frost bite and snow blindness. Thankfully the medics amongst us managed to get all troops back to base successfully. The full walk was rearranged for a nicer day and was enjoyed by everyone attending. The ramble finished in the Black Bull at Edgworth where refreshments were taken.



21st January and the 4th February 2018

Sunday 25th March the BOBVA Ramblers met up again on a beautiful spring day to tackle Pendle Hill. Walkers with their dogs leading the way scaled the hill to take in magnificent views of Lancashire and Yorkshire from the peak. The circular tour finished back in Barley where the Pendle Inn just happened to be open. More rambles are to be organised by **Gary Simmons** in the future, (not all walks are as arduous as Pendle Hill) and it's a nice way to spend a Sunday morning, so come along and enjoy the scenery. The more the merrier.

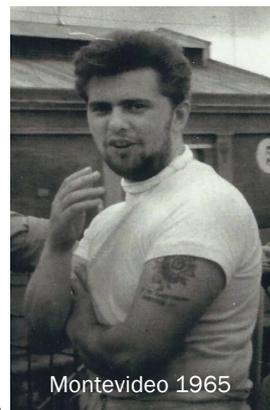


HMS PEMBROKE 1961

MEMBER PROFILE

Peter Latham ex Officer's Chef Royal Navy

I joined the Royal Navy in December 1961, a train to London then on to Chatham to HMS PEMBROKE, a shore establishment, for basic and trade training. I was then drafted to HMS DOLPHIN home of the 1st Submarine Squadron, Portsmouth. This gave me the opportunity to get close to a submarine but not serve in them, as I had made a promise to my father not to, as he had lost several of his mates in the tragedy in Liverpool Bay when HMS THETIS sank with the loss of all hands. Back to the cookery school in '63 to obtain my City and Guilds certificate. Time to go to sea, HMS TORQUAY a frigate attached to the Dartmouth training squadron. Months of travelling to various countries, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Germany, back to the UK and on to the West Indies station. Interesting time but very worrying - we and two other ships tracking the merchant ship carrying missiles to Cuba. Posted then to HMS GOLDCREST, Brawdy, S. Wales - a Royal Navy air station, by then a married man. Only 3 months there and shipped out to



Montevideo 1965

HMS PROTECTOR 1965/66, Falkland Island patrol ship. On return to UK sent back to Brawdy where I was living at the time. I hadn't unpacked my kitbag before I was sent to join HMS HERMES an aircraft carrier, so, a train journey to Lossiemouth, Scotland and a chopper flight to join the ship. She was being deployed to the Far East and Australia, but some things just don't happen. To cut a long story short, due to marriage problems I was taken from the ship and given a compassionate discharge from the Navy. I am now a committee member and treasurer of the HMS PROTECTOR Association and have recently been involved in sending a large scale model of my old ship 'PROTECTOR' to the museum in Port Stanley. Hand on heart I can honestly say that I am proud to have worn the uniform of the Royal Navy and served my country.

ASSOCIATION POLO SHIRTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 17th June National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire.
- 1st July Armed Forces Day, Blackpool
- 14th Sept Normandy Battlefield Tour. (Fully booked)
- TBC Battle of Britain Memorial Flight
- 11th Nov Remembrance day Bury /Tottenham parade

Members who wish to purchase Association shirts or any other garments please contact Jackie the Navy Sec. There is a wide selection of clothing to choose from, it normally takes a month to process an order. Thankyou.