



BOROUGH OF BURY VETERANS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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Photo courtesy of Sam Best

Blackpool Armed Forces day parade took place on 1st July and was well attended by the Borough of Bury Veterans. The parade formed up at 1030 for an 1100 service at the cenotaph on Blackpool promenade. Following the usual format the formalities of the parade and march past went well and our Association Standard led the way. Once the contingent was fallen out the members descended on the pleasures of Blackpool. The British Legion club was pleased to see us all and put on a special show of exceedingly professional singers and dancers much appreciated by the crowd. More jollity followed at the Guards Club and other hostelries around the town. Everyone made the return coach on time (amazingly). The return trip to Bury was a quiet affair as **Baz (bringonthethunder) Phillips** wasn't on the mic, thankfully. We are looking at Manchester Armed Forces day next year to save on coach hire but that will be decided in the coming months and will be put to the membership for feedback.

The Association now has access to the Bury Fire station Community Garden, situated (just by coincidence) behind the fire station. The garden can be booked by groups and organisations and is a shared space for everyone. This is a collaboration of community groups and organisations developing a garden which is accessible to people living in the Bury area. Work has already started to rejuvenate this peaceful space, raised beds have been made and a shed for tools etc has been erected. It is hoped to create an area where bees can be kept and a greenhouse can be built. Anyone interested in helping out there is plenty of work to do. **Peace of Mind** led by our very own welfare member **Marina Jones** will be attending the garden on Wednesday mornings and Friday afternoons to develop a relaxation area where people can go and escape the worries and stress of everyday life as well as using gardening to improve health and wellbeing. Marina is a trained emotional health therapist.

Friday 6th July was the day our Association team of six set out on a fund raising stroll to help out BURY HOSPICE in memory of one of our members **Neville Burrows**. Base camp was set up in the grounds of the Old Hill Inn, Chapel-le-dale in the form of **Terry and Jackie White's** caravan, superbly situated directly on the route of the "Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge". The team got away to an 8am start to tackle the first peak, Ingleborough. Magnificent views were offered at the summit (time 1 hour 15mins) putting into context the enormity of the task that had been taken on the grand sight of Whernside and Pen-y-Ghent in the far distance could be seen. No time to waste, the second task Pen-y-Ghent awaited. Two and a half hour trek to Horton-in-Ribblesdale to find our support

L-R Jackie White, Stuart Warburton, Terry White, Paul Andrews, Baz Phillips and Gary Simmons.

(Ingleborough in the distance)



Leaving Pen-y-Ghent on route to Whernside, the highest peak far in the distance.



vehicle and ladies in the form of **Shirley and Leah Simmons** to resupply the team with much needed water (kindly donated by ASDA) melon and bananas. The one and a half hour climb to the summit of Pen-y-Ghent was undertaken (time 5 hours). Onto the Pennine Way and via Ribblehead viaduct where the second water top-up took place (thanks Leah and Shirley, we couldn't have done it without you). The final climb of Whernside, the highest of the peaks was looming, the team very tired but determined undertook the hard slog to the top. Third peak conquered (time 10 hours). The end was in sight but a very difficult descent had to be faced, the steepest. Finally returning to base camp shattered but elated. 25.85 miles travelled 5,200 ft climbed in hot temperatures, time 11 hours 15mins well within the challenge time of 12 hours, not bad for a bunch of oldies. Thanks to all who took part. Money raised for the Hospice over £1400. All worth it. Would we do it again....NOOOOOO.

Photos: Anthony Dalton-Hughes and Jackie White.

The National Memorial Arboretum. 17th June. The second visit by the Association to the Arboretum took place courtesy of funding by the "Auto trader". Committee member **Owen Dykes** who organised the day out also supplied us with an excellent packed lunch, well done to Owen. This is always a very emotional and reflective visit, each individual has his or her own memories and reasons for wanting to be here. The day was kind to us as regards the weather, the sun shone and the temperature was pleasant. Hopefully we can do this again next year, there is always something new to be found wandering amongst the many memorials. Once again thanks Owen for organising the funding and the trip.

Saturday 23rd June was an exceptionally busy day for **BOBVA**. Members were pulled in three directions, the Cenotaph in Heywood was the focal point in remembering the Forgotten Wars, followed by sandwiches and beer and a meeting with the Mayor of North Manchester. The **BOBVA** Standard was in attendance, many thanks to all who attended. Earlier in the day a team of fund raisers managed to prise another £1500 from Bury council at the 'Pitch' to enable the Mosses Centre to purchase a life saving defibrillating machine to be placed outside the venue of the **Veterans Breakfast Club**. Once again our members did us proud turning out fully booted and spurred with our second or standby Standard (so you can be in two places at once). After lunch members then made their way to St. Mary's Park in Prestwich which was a two day event, to man the SSAFA stand making the general public aware of the good work this charity does. Well done to **Sam Phillips, Shirley Simmons** and **Dave Shawcross** and all who took part in any of the three events that day.

The Mosses Centre, Cecil St, Bury.

Veterans Breakfast Club every Wednesday and Friday 0930 until 1100. Come along and meet the Crew. £4.00 for full breakfast, toast and unlimited tea and coffee. Every fourth Friday there is a fish and chip lunch instead of breakfast club. Starts 1130.



WHERE THE MONEY HAS COME FROM

Auto Trader - funded our trip to the Arboretum.

The 1st Pitch - Blackpool AFD and future day trips and visits.

The 2nd Pitch - to fund a defibrillator for the Mosses.

Ambition for Ageing - Gary's Sea Fishing trip and Bury Community garden project.

Also Football card, Jar by the door and profits from clothing.

Layla's fundraising day took place on Sunday 15th July in Burnley. Members **Owen Dykes** and **Paul Andrews** were in attendance at Burnley's Towneley Hall where the 10k course started and finished and took them on a tour of the borough's picturesque scenery and parkland. A great effort by the Association runners saw both of them over the finish line with no apparent injuries. The money raised for Layla a total of £2570 along with an embroidered BOBVA polo shirt (kindly donated by JSA Print free of charge) was presented to her and her family at our August meeting at the Fishpool. Well done to **Owen** and **Paul** on a great performance and of course everyone that donated to the cause.



The fishing trip will definitely take place at a date and time to be promulgated. Unfortunately the school holidays and summer months are a bad time to book these excursions. Gary keeps getting flash backs to the Cod War but is having therapy.

Gary's Rambling on club has a serious shortage of members, usually a casual stroll around the local area finishing at the pub for a couple of drinks and lunch. Everyone is welcome, bring the family and pooch as well, a nice way to spend Sunday morning and good for your fitness and wellbeing.



The defibrillator for the **Mosses Centre** which our Association raised funds for has arrived and will be placed outside the venue to be available to all. A member of the Red Cross attended the Mosses after **Veterans Breakfast Club** on Friday 17th Aug to acquaint members that had volunteered on the basics of first aid and use of the new equipment. Lets hope the greasy breakfasts don't necessitate the immediate use of this much needed life saving electrical gadget.

Association charity fund raising events

20th May Manchester half marathon followed by 10k ran by Owen (Forrest) Dykes for Blood Bikes (Manchester)£100

6th July Yorkshire 3 Peaks challenge. Gary Simmons, Paul Andrews, Stuart Warburton, Baz Phillips, Jackie and Terry White for Bury Hospice in memory of Neville Burrows.....over £1400.

15th July Burnley 10k Owen Dykes and Paul Andrews for Layla's Journey.....£2570.

30th June Armed Forces Day at the Bay Horse, Unsworth for SSAFA . A total of £324.

A grand total of £ 4394 raised by the Association for good causes in three months. Well done everyone.

YOUR COMMITTEE

Behind the scenes your committee is working tirelessly to raise funds for our cause, organising trips, parades, booking coaches, finding venues, attending meetings, ordering clothing, keeping our money safe, looking after your welfare, co-ordinating charity fundraisers, instigating social activities and much more. You can make a difference to the Association by making suggestions and attending these events where possible. This is your Association, lets make it work **together**.



Photo courtesy of Anthony Dalton-Hughes

The Borough of Bury Veterans turned out in force for the yearly “Yanks are back in Saddleworth” event. Over 30 members made the effort to help out marshalling and manning the gates over the weekend period 11/12th August. Member Roy Counsell kindly provided a marquee to house our overnight sleepers and the SSAFA stall, thanks Roy. We were certainly kept busy as thousands of people attended the event over the two days.

Organiser for the whole event, including a parade through Saddleworth High Street was association member Paul “dogtags” Higginson ex RGJ, who I suspect breathed a great sigh of relief when it was all over. This was our first taste attending this type of festival and lessons were learned by both sides for the future. A big thank you to members who signed up and turned up over the two days, I’m sure everyone involved was extremely glad of our involvement. Pictured above are the Four Donuts, members Peter Lees, Neil Bergmeier , Paul Andrew and Eddy O'Donnell.

UP COMING EVENTS.

September.

- Saturday 8th - 1200-1600 Clarence Park.
WW1 Centenary. Poppy display.
- Sunday 9th - 1300-1600 Wellington Barracks.
Fusilier Band and Drums.
BOBVA gazebo for recruiting.
- Friday 14/17th— Normandy battlefield tour.
(No veterans breakfast club 14th)

October.

- Saturday 6th - 1900 Drill Hall Bury.
WW1 Centenary concert.
- Sunday 7th - 1200. BOBVA meeting. Fishpool.
- Friday 19th - Mosses centre. Lunchtime.
“brew up with a veteran”
- Saturday 27th - ASDA. Poppy Appeal begins.

November.

- Sunday 4th - 1200. BOBVA meeting. Fishpool.
- Saturday 10th - 1030. Gallipoli gardens.
Fusiliers commemoration.
- 1200. Clarence Park Jubilee centre.
WW1 Commemorations.
- ASDA Poppy Appeal ends.
- Sunday 11th - 1030 Remembrance parade.
- 1430 Tottington. Remembrance.
- then Fishpool. Beer and sandwiches.



The Imperial War Museum is looking For your help in marking the WW1 centenary by piecing

together the stories of more than 8 million men and women from across Britain and the Commonwealth. Explore the records, find the references and add the facts. Upload digital images of your own precious family mementoes. Share your discoveries and save the evidence for Future generations by building the permanent digital memorial to all the Lives of the First World War.

livesofthefirstworldwar.org

