



# BOROUGH OF BURY VETERANS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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## 1100 11th NOVEMBER 1918

**The Armistice** was signed and silence fell across the battlefields of WW1 exactly one hundred years ago to the day. Bury town centre memorial was packed with men, women and children from the Borough and surrounds to pay their respects to the fallen and the wounded servicemen and women who served their country in those harrowing times. The Association standard making its debut at this years remembrance service along with many of our members. The parade started from the Council building and marched to the Rock Memorial to the sound of the Fusilier band. Everyone stayed in step (amazingly), the crowds were appreciative to the veterans and groups along the way with their applause. On arrival at the Rock the parade assembled for the silence and wreath laying ceremony, unfortunately the heavens opened and gave everyone a drenching but this seemed to underline the solemnity of the service. Ex Royal Artillery gunner **Owen Dykes** had the honour of placing the Association's wreath alongside many other tributes. On completion of the service the Association members dispersed amongst the hostilities of Bury then to reform in Tottington for the village's Remembrance at 3pm. Owen changed hats and became the parade commander and marched us to the memorial in the village centre. The service conducted by our very own **Padre Hugh Bearn** from St Anne's church Tottington and dignitaries including the Mayor of Bury Jane Black and MP James Frith attended. The Association's wreath this time laid by ex RAF member **Nikki Grey**. On completion the parade reformed and marched back to disperse at the church hall where the villagers had supplied rations of tea, biscuits and cake along with a warming tot of rum. Thanks to all concerned for making our Association very welcome. Big thanks also to member ex RRF **Paul Andrews** who carried our Standard with panache as always.



Ready for parade. Bury Remembrance 2018



Tottington village memorial 2018

The first of this year's commemorations for the ending of the WW1 took place in Clarence Park Bury on the 8th September. Members of the Association joined the local community for a fun afternoon event showcasing all the best things about Moorside and celebrating the centenary. The event centred around a very soggy bandstand where hundreds of knitted, crocheted, painted and crafted poppies including two magnificent poppy wreaths made by our own member **Pat Mielko**, were on display. The rain was relentless so shelter was taken in the park cafe where a wartime sing-a-long was in full swing. Money raised on the day (£161) was kindly donated to the Association by the organisers. Big thanks to **Julie-Ann** and **Tina** from Age Friendly Bury for inviting us along.



**BURY 10K 16TH SEPT.** A motley crew from the Bury Veterans Association gathered early in Wetherspoons (picture proof to the left) to give support and raise much needed funds for our local office of SSAFA. A huge increase in runners/walkers/crawlers from last year by the way. There would have been more but for the clashing of dates with the Battlefield Tour. A great turnout don't you agree? The sum of £561.91p was raised and the cheque was presented to members of the Bury branch of SSAFA at our monthly meeting at the Fishpool in October.

Pictured Left to Right. **Rachel Preston, Emma Best, Andy Best, Louise Thompson, Wayne Pickering, James, Sam Best, Owen Dykes, Sam Phillips, Nikki Grey, Leanne Rothwell, Stephen Crouch, Jessica Crouch and Rob O'Riordan.** A big well done to all of you.

Thursday 11th of October. **Bury Hospice** was the venue of a presentation of the money raised by BOBVA's members and friends in memory of one of our members ex Royal Navy man **Neville Burrows**. The combined total of cash raised was £1506.35 the cheque was presented to the duty nurse by member **Stuart Warburton** with the head of fundraising Paul Fennelly on the sideline. A fantastic effort by everyone concerned. Thank you all once again.



Pictured BOBVA member Stuart Warburton with members of Neville's family and some of the 'Three peaks challenge' team.

Photo : Courtesy of Bury Hospice.

## Royal British Legion

The poppy appeal got underway with members of the Association manning the table in ASDA, Spring St. for the first time being able to fulfil the whole two week period.

Many thanks to all our volunteers who gave their time for this worthy cause. Rtd Col. Eric Davidson was grateful for our help over this run up to the Armistice. Pictured here are members of the crew with the Mayor of Bury, Jane Black.



L-R Jackie White, Terry White, the Mayor of Bury Jane Black, Steve Law and Roy Baker

## Income for the Association over the last months.

Joanne Carroll £100 bid for charity page on Facebook donated to BOBVA plus £100 to the Veterans breakfast club.

Association clothing sales raised £116.

Sales of poppies in Clarence Park donated by Age Friendly Bury £161.

Plus the Bar jar and football card for the last few months .

Yanks are back in Saddleworth donation £500 plus £150 behind the bar for the volunteers.

**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. The fish and chip lunch trial has now ended and normal service has now resumed.

**Interesting Fact.** During the Falklands War HMS Sheffield was hit by an Argentine anti ship missile and slowly began to sink. As the crew awaited rescue they began to sing "Always look on the bright side of life" from Monty Python's Life of Brian. During the first Gulf War RAF pilots would also sing it on their missions.

**Saturday 6th Oct.** Bury Drill hall was the venue of a WW1 Commemorative Festival organised by the Rotary Club in aid of Parkinsons disease, a night of music and song relating to the era of 1914-18. The evening opened with the Fusilier band lead by Cathie M Brooks, musical director, along with the The Burgh of Langholm Pipe band. **Rtd L/Col. Eric Davidson MBE.DL** kindly invited the Borough of Bury Veterans Association along to take part in the event. Our Association gazebo was in place along with the display board to promote our presence in Bury. The evening was a great success with Association member **Owen Dykes** meeting the Lady Mayor of Bury Jane Black who was suitably impressed with Owen's "bling". The Association Standard was paraded at the start and finish of the evening's proceedings.



Owen Dykes with the mayor of Bury.

**Bury Veterans Hub Cafe** opened its doors for the first time in the Mosses Centre, Cecil St, Bury on the 6th October. If you are a veteran or a family member of a veteran who needs help and support then this is the place to visit. Offering financial assistance, mental health support, CV help or just a chat and a brew. It is supported by an emotional and mental health practitioner who is a specialist in trauma therapy who has a consultation room in the building. If this is what you are looking for then drop in for a chat. Open Saturdays 10am until 1pm.



Best wishes to the newly weds **William Taylor** (Spud to those that don't know William) and **Kath** whose wedding took place on the 6th October. The Association sends you all the best for the future.

#### WW1 INTERESTING FACT

While the war raged on in the mud and trenches, a very different war was taking place beneath the soldiers' feet. A group of miners, operating in total secrecy, dug tunnels up to 100ft underground, to plant and detonate mines beneath the enemy's trenches. Their biggest success was at Messines Ridge in Belgium where over 900,000lbs of explosives were simultaneously detonated in 19 underground tunnels. Much of the German front line was destroyed, and the explosions were heard 140 miles away by the British prime minister in Downing St.



Engraved plaque coming soon

**BREW UP WITH A VETERAN.** 19th October Mosses centre. As part of the WW1 commemorations being held this year the Association in conjunction with the Armed Forces Covenant Trust held a coffee morning to create a time of reflection to understand the effect and consequences of war. Meeting the many veterans who attended were, in no particular order, the Padre of St Annes, Tottington Hugh Bearn, Tina and Julie from Groundwork, a delegation of ladies from NHS Bury CCG, Kath Hoyle from Bury Council along with Caroline of Community Services, Russ Magnall GMP, SSAFA, Rod Lloyd and his wife, RBL, along with school children and mums and dads. On display were the "There but not there" figures supplied by 'Remembered' and funded by Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust, also the Association Standard and display board with pull up banners. The display board was the focal attention of our visitors and showed member's photographs and explanations of what good work the Association is doing in the community. Along with tea and coffee were a selection of cakes and biscuits made by our members and voluntary donations that were given were then donated to the RBL Poppy Appeal. A big thanks to our **President Chris Harness MBE** for all his hard work organising the event, Ann McGladdery for the use of the Mosses Centre and Trish for all her efforts in the kitchen.



Mosses Centre—Brew with a Veteran

The Standard (carried by **Paul Andrews**) was on display at Nuttall Park Ramsbottom for the unveiling of a WW1 peace memorial to honour the men and women of Ramsbottom who made the ultimate sacrifice during the First World War. The event was organised by member **Steve Butterworth** with the help of a team from "Rammy Rocks." Hundreds of memorial rocks that had been painted by local children and their families were embedded around a centre stone, under which a time capsule was placed. A short service took place, poems were read and white doves were released to symbolise the hope that future generations could live freely in peace. A dozen Association members came along to support Steve's event, along with Bury MP James Frith, who made a short speech, and leading members of Bury Council. To warm everyone up, tea and very delicious "stickies" were on offer afterwards in the 'Friends of Nuttall Park' tea room.

**Normandy Battlefield Tour 14–17 SEP.** A really unsocial time to assemble in Bury O445 (sad face), but all who booked managed to get there on time, with passports, for the start of a four day trip to the Normandy Beaches and surrounding areas of the greatest military operation of all time. The trip organised by Civ Div Chair **Shirley Simmons** went to plan without a hitch so a big thanks must go to Shirley for putting in all the hard work. The tour operator “Ledger Holidays” was extremely efficient. A mention has to go to our tour guide Carl Shilleto who definitely knew his stuff - even **Harry Mills** who landed on the beach couldn't fault his knowledge! Carl is a military historian in his own right and has published a couple of books and runs the 'Fallen Heroes of Normandy' website hosting 26,000 memorial pages, one for each of the fallen from the British and Commonwealth forces.

The weather during the trip was exceptional and made the whole experience very enjoyable. The outward and return journeys were pretty gruelling but manageable with plenty of refreshment stops. A couple of boxes of beer bought on the ferry quenched our thirst and lasted a couple of hours! The spectacular sunset as we crossed the Seine estuary over the Pont de Normandie bridge was a sight to behold. The two days of touring were worth every inconvenience of the journey! The first day after a bright and early start, was spent at Pegasus Bridge and Museum and the Commonwealth War Cemetery at Ranville with a visit to Sword, Juno Beach and Museum, Gold Beach and Arramanches and the remains of Mulberry Harbour in the afternoon. **Anthony Dalton-Hughes** left us on the second day to make a journey of his own to St Marie cemetery, Le Havre, to pay his respects at his grandfather's resting place. The rest of us started the day at Omaha Beach and the American Cemetery which features in 'Saving Private Ryan.' We took in the Overlord-Museum and St Mere Eglise for lunch. The afternoon tour focused on the US Airborne forces and took us to the Richard Winters Leadership Memorial (commander of Easy Company 101 Airborne), Utah beach and Museum and finally to the German Military Cemetery at La Cambe. A wonderful trip was had by all and documented by Tom White who made a short video of the trip, thanks Tom. Where are we going next year? Possibly Gibraltar? We are open to suggestions.



Photo courtesy of Tom White Black Rock Creative

Pegasus Bridge. All the happy campers.



**FISHPOOL LIBERAL CLUB**

Our HQ was the place to be on the **16th November** where our first Disco/Karaoke took place. Wanna be singers and performers were in their element, some good, some not so but were all game for a laugh. Thanks to our entertainments committee member **Roy Counsell** for the work he put it to make it a success and his wife Christine for helping out and giving us a song or two. Plenty of fun and as you can see **Baz Phillips** came suitably dressed to entertain the ladies. A free buffet of pasty and peas was also on offer. Watch this space for the next one.

**UP COMING EVENTS.**

- Sat 8th Dec. - AutoTrader Christmas meal. 1030 Bury pickup point.
- Sat 15th Dec - Association Dinner. Formal Occasion. 1900 at the Bay Horse, Unsworth.
- 2019**
- Sun 6th Jan - Fishpool meeting 12-1230.
- Fri 25th Jan - Battle of Britain Memorial Flight visit. RAF Cosford. Details to follow.
- Sun 3rd Feb - Fishpool meeting 12-1230.
- September - Possible Gibraltar visit.

**FACT.** During WW1 a British soldier had to be 19 years old to serve overseas but many lied about their age. About 250,000 under-age boys served. The youngest was discovered to be just 12. The average life expectancy in the trenches was about six weeks. Junior officers and stretcher bearers were some of the people most at risk.

