

BOROUGH OF BURY VETERANS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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Good Friday was the date for veterans around the country to come together to show their solidarity with soldiers hounded unfairly for purely doing their duty. Many members from our Association along with approximately two thousand others gathered in Piccadilly Gardens in Manchester to help bring this travesty of justice to public attention. The parade then

made its way through the streets of the city to Manchester Town Hall where speeches were made to the assembled crowd. Unfortunately, the media, especially the BBC, failed to give this any recognition whatsoever on the local radio or TV. The consequences of this failure in reporting resulted in another gathering on the 18th May at their headquarters at Media City. 'Rolling Thunder' (veterans motorcycle group) certainly made their presence heard with hundreds of bikes revving powerful engines. Among the speakers outside the offices of ITV and BBC was Robin Horsfall, who was one of the SAS specialists who stormed the Iranian embassy in 1980. The gathering was a great success and had the desired effect leading to several items broadcasted that evening on TV. The protests will continue.



Joe Rawlinson ex RRF



GALLIPOLI REMEMBERED

Once again Gallipoli Remembrance on April 28th saw a smart turnout by the Association. The annual event organised by the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers remembers the sacrifices made by the Lancashire Fusiliers in April of 1915 in the landing of the Regiment on 'W' beach thereafter known as Lancashire Landing. The Lancashires were able to overwhelm the defenders despite the loss of 600 casualties from 1,000 men. Six awards of the Victoria Cross were made among the Lancashires at 'W' beach that morning. Check out the Fusiliers Museum, Moss St, Bury for more information.



All photos throughout this issue courtesy of Anthony Dalton-Hughes



Not so old not so young Association member and ex Fusilier **Steve Maloney** showing it's never too late to do something out of the ordinary. Steve who took time out to travel to Australia to visit his niece in Perth also made the effort to attend ANZAC day, the anniversary falling during his time there. He reported that approximately 600 attended the service which by the way began at 6 o'clock in the morning. As you can see from the photograph Steve's adventurous side came to the surface taking on a parachute jump from Rockingham airfield and he enjoyed every minute. You missed your way Steve you should have joined the Para's.

On the 2nd June Army Sec **Owen Dykes'** youngest daughter Tarryn took part in a 4 hour sponsored spar/kickathon with her martial arts club to raise funds to send fighters to the world championships in America. Parents were encouraged to take part and Owen duly carried out his duties, unfortunately he was unable, due to old age and decrepitness, to fulfil the full 4 hours (Army fail). On a brighter note Tarryn showed her dad how it was done. All the action took place on our Association meeting day hence his absence, but the generosity of the assembled members raised over £180 sponsorship for the cause. Stick at it Tarryn.



Tarryn in action

Usually we would be shaking a tin for your money but this year runners from the Association were simply raising awareness of suicide. There is a serious problem in the serving and ex Military family with this critical issue. 'Awareness' was the aim for the team this year, six intrepid runners made the trip to Manchester to take part in the Great Manchester Run, a 10k around the sights of the city. The team arrived at the finish line together, the only casualty was Sam Philips who couldn't keep on her feet, bruised and bloodied but smiling (allegedly no alcohol was involved). Bury 10k to come next September, big turnout by the Association is required!

SHINING A LIGHT ON **SUICIDE**

EASTER 2019

The Association did the kids of Bury proud this Easter, members contributing chocolate eggs to a very worthy cause. In total 100 Easter eggs were donated and a further 70 bought from the proceeds of a small raffle and were duly shared to Care leavers and children in residential homes in the Bury area. Well done all concerned.



STOP PRESS

Our new Navy Chair has been working on a new project, setting up the Association with our very own website. Check out the Web with this address.

www.bobva.co.uk

Well done **Leanne Rothwell**, working hard for the benefit of all the Association and getting the word around.



Gary Best, Sam Philips, Baz (his chest slipped to his midriff), Nikki Grey, Leanne Rothwell and Owen Dykes.

RAF COSFORD— 9th June.

OK, who has been in one of these then?

The old reliable warhorse— The Wessex.

It has to have been the best one yet, an absolutely action packed day and a big thanks to our RAF Sec **Debbie Wilson** for doing all the spade work to organise it. An early start to avoid the worse of the queues when we arrived and the plan worked (smiley face). The coach company made a terrible mistake and sent us an executive 42 seater instead of a mini coach (what a shame) but we put up with it without complaint. It was a decision where to start when we entered the showground, so much to see and do. The weather was perfect for the day and many of our members had a bit of sunburn by the end of it (you should always cam up) the submariners didn't know where to hide, so much sunshine. A brilliant museum, including exhibitions on the Cold War, Cuban missile crisis and Berlin plus much more with aircraft and vehicles of the era which we could all connect with. Outside and in several of the hangers were static displays of every aircraft from the last 50 or so years, an absolute treat. Trade stands from big manufacturers were in abundance along with the next generation of fighter aircraft the 'Tempest', designed by BAE Systems, the proposed stealth fighter for the RAF due to replace the Eurofighter Typhoon in 2035. Helicopter rides were also on offer, **Baz Phillips** and **Gary Best** couldn't cope with that and had a fairground ride instead (photo proof). Proper Army. If the fairground or helicopters weren't to your taste a WWII encampment was there to stroll around including a full German army field unit (for you ze war is over) very impressive, used we believe in major film productions. You could even sit in a bi plane and have your moment of glory captured and reproduced to Facebook. Someone said **Ken Johnson** our RAF 'Top Gum and molar mangler' was around when they were operational. The air show began shortly after mid-day, the displays commenced with the RAF parachute display team showing the Army how it should be done. Aircraft of all types and sizes were airborne shortly after. For those that attended our Cottesmore visit a chance to see the BBMF in



flight instead of in the hanger, a very impressive Chinook display and my goodness I wouldn't like to be in the firing line of those Apaches. The Red Arrows gave us a superb show of flying but you don't expect anything else, just perfection. They are off to the USA to wow the public over the pond. To round off the day the Eurofighter Typhoon made an appearance, the noise alone was enough never mind the firepower. Three VIP's (photographed left) having a good time, **Anthony** just telling **Barbara** how he should have joined the RAF and **Debbie** our organiser for the day. Finally I just happened to ask one of the young cadets if he intended joining, his reply "I pilot the Typhoon". Oops.

Association Fund Raising.

Its not easy raising funds but our team do an amazing job behind the scenes. The latest sponsor to come onboard is your favourite sausage roll retailer Greggs giving the funds a massive boost to the tune of £2000. Pop into your local Greggs and check it out, look for the Association Logo on display. Other kind donations were made by the ASDA foundation (£500), Forever Manchester (£1000) and yourselves from the sale of Association clothing (£108) it all goes back into the pot. Well done to all concerned. By the way, your yearly subs help too so if you haven't yet coughed up look sharp and do it and make use of all the trips and events that are on offer.



Owen, our top fund raiser, handing a cheque for £2000 to our treasurer 'Jumper' Collins.



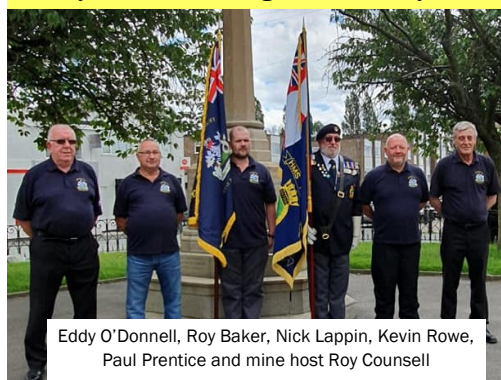
Heywood Armed Forces Day organiser Harry Mills

HEYWOOD ARMED FORCES DAY 22nd June 2019

A lovely summer's day saw a good turnout by the general public, armed forces veterans and cadets, for the annual service of Remembrance for the fallen from the 'forgotten wars', Korea, Aden, Falklands and N. Ireland and other areas of conflict. Association member **Harry Mills** organises the event for the people of Heywood. Standards were also on parade from local veteran groups including our own, carried by **Paul Andrews**. Unfortunately the local 'Bish' was a 'no show' and in true service style Harry stepped up to the plate and took charge of the event. 'Off the cuff' the parade was carried out to military precision. Well done that man! After the wreath laying and National Anthem the assembled crowd was fallen out to retire to the hostilities of Heywood. At 1300 a march took place through the town led by the Manchester Pipe band. Armed Forces Day is well attended in Heywood and surprisingly Bury does not support the event, maybe a word with the local council could change that for the future, I'm sure it would be a winner.

FALKLANDS 1982

June 14th 1982 saw hostilities come to an end after 74 days when Brigade General Mario Menendez of the Argentine garrison in Stanley surrendered his forces to Major General Jeremy Moore. 255 British military personnel were killed and 775 injured in the conflict. The 37th Anniversary has been marked around the country. Association member **Kevin Rowe** attended a Remembrance service at Pangbourne near Reading carrying the Standard of HMS Antrim Association in whom he served while in the South Atlantic. We must also mention member **Steve Butterworth** who treated the wounded while serving on HMS Intrepid. The Falkland Islands have been a Crown Colony since 1841. Argentina still lay claim to the territories.



Eddy O'Donnell, Roy Baker, Nick Lappin, Kevin Rowe, Paul Prentice and mine host Roy Counsell

After the formal day in Manchester on the 29th where we showed our Association off to the people and dignitaries of the big city, the venue changed to the Bay Horse, Unsworth the day after, where mine host and member **Roy Counsell** marched in the Standard of our association and the Standard of the HMS Antrim association onto the stage inside. An action replay of last year then took place in the form of lots of fun and games and a BBQ, all the hard work done by **Barbara Robinson** who was 'pressed into service' navy fashion. Well done to all who made the day what it was. All money raised on the day is to go to SSAFA. Same again next year Roy.



Afternoon tea with the new Mayor of Bury Trevor Holt took place at the Council chambers and was attended by members of BOBVA. Pictured below is **Roy Baker** who wanted to swop his medals for the Mayoral chain, a shake of hands and the deal was done. The Armed Forces flag was also raised at Bury police station on Friday 28th June to commemorate Armed Forces week. The Association decided this year that we would attend Manchester Armed Forces day instead of our usual trip to Blackpool. Some of our members attended both venues on consecutive days, the jury is out on where we go next year.