

BOROUGH OF BURY VETERANS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2019

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RANGE DAY

Saturday 3rd August. The inaugural trip to the Atherton Indoor Shooting Range was organised by members **Darren Taylor RHA** and **Paul Kerr RHA**. The fully funded day out to reconnect the army types with what they do best was a big hit with the 18 sharpshooters that attended on the day.

The indoor range was the perfect place for the pro's and the novices to "zero in" and take the shot. The .177 air rifles being supplied by the range staff and the ammo being paid for by the Association. Battle began and the 18 whittled down to a final 4 after a five and a half hour epic. In Darren's words *"You all made the day what it was ! There is family bragging rights, ladies wiping the floor with us guys, genuine remarkable people and now friends was a pleasure to meet , a relaxed day full of banter and laughs, excellent range safety staff, great facilities but more importantly it was a great experience for all, we had the largest range exclusive to ourselves, we could hear a pin drop when the final 4 was in competition! All in all some very good shooters in BOBVA."* The outcome was a bit of a shock to the Army as **Barbara Robinson WRAF** took the trophy followed closely by **Nick Lappin RN**, **Lauren Davis** and 12 year old **Dacey Prentice** from the Civ Div (hang on where was the Army?). A great day out and more than likely to be repeated next year. Just a quote from the owners of the range "It was an absolute pleasure a lovely group of people who held total respect for the facilities and staff." We don't expect anything less, well done everyone.



Darren Taylor hunting for bear



The Army lads zeroing in and missing stuff

BOBVA VETERANS NIGHT

Friday 11th October. Our HQ, HMS FISHPOOL was where it was all happening for an evening get together for all the troops. Our entertainment coordinator **Roy Counsell** was the man charged with organising and catering with the willing help of Debbie from the Fishpool who compared the evening. A 40's style sing along followed by a raffle rounded off the night.

New Venture—drop in

The very first coffee morning drop in took place on the 12th October at the Bury Parish Church on the Rock. The new initiative for members and the general public to pop along and have a brew and a cake with the veterans is a great idea to inform the people around Bury what the Association is all about and from feedback it was a great success. Future coffee mornings are planned to be held on the second Saturday of each month starting in December. Times of opening are 1100 until 1400. Pictured on the right are all the happy customers with coffee and cakes in hand. (apart from **Harry Toothill** who was on a diet).

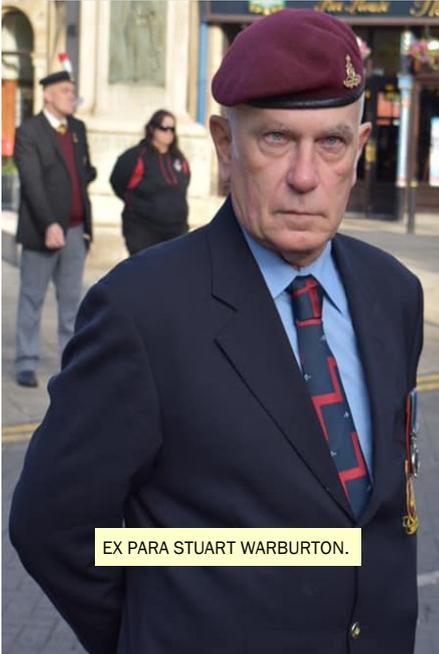


YORKSHIRE WARTIME EXPERIENCE.

6th July. Members of the Association stepped back in time for the day on a fully funded trip to Yorkshire. The 12 acre site near Bradford was host to over 500 military vehicles plus over 50 living history re-enactment groups along with vintage craft and military stalls. The weather was kind to members who enjoyed the battle re-enactments commemorating and celebrating the great WWII D Day conflicts 75 years on. As well as static aircraft on show there was a flyover to wow the crowds from the iconic Spitfire, always a winner and long may they keep flying. Our Association photographer **Anthony Dalton-Hughes** was in good form documenting the day for the unlucky that couldn't attend, all photographs are available to view on our Facebook page under the heading of 'photos' then 'albums'. Check it out.



ROY BAKER, EDDIE O'DONNELL AND MITCH MITCHELL TAKING IT EASY WITH ONE OF OUR RUSSIAN COMRADES.



EX PARA STUART WARBURTON.

P COY CHALLENGE

Association member **Stuart Warburton** is rerunning his P Company qualifying course to raise money for the Macmillan Cancer Care charity. Caterick Garrison is the venue on the 7th September for this 10 mile course of endurance carrying a 35lb pack. Stuart can be found either at the Mosses breakfast club or at our Association meetings. Please donate for this worthy cause and good luck on completing the course in the time allowed Stuart.



Yorkshire wartime experience

'SHORTS' borrowed from our President.

STOP PRESS

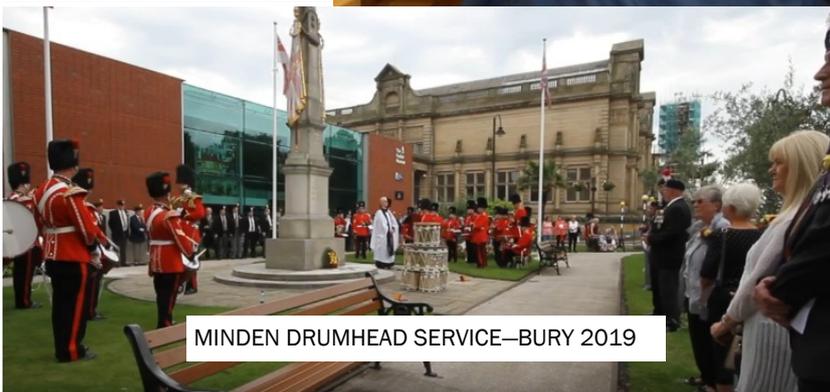
Stuart smashed the challenge in a time of 2 hours and 34 minutes well within the allotted time of 3 hours raising more than £1000 for Macmillan Cancer Care. By the by, Stuart also talked a lady down from the ELR bridge parapet on Knowsley St. Bury. This is the type of guy I'm proud to associate with.



Holding the hard earned finishers medal.

MINDEN REMEMBERED.

The annual Minden Drumhead Service took place at the Gallipoli gardens Bury on Sunday 4th August. Minden Day is a regimental anniversary celebrated on 1st August by certain units of the British Army (in Bury by the RRF). It commemorates the participation of the forerunners of the regiments on the Battle of Minden during the Seven Years' War on that date in 1759. The celebration of the day involves the wearing of "Minden Roses" on the regimental headdress and in the case of the infantry regiments, the decoration of the Regimental Colours with garlands of roses. This recalls that the regiments wore wild roses at the battle that they had plucked from the hedgerows as they advanced to engage the enemy.



MINDEN DRUMHEAD SERVICE—BURY 2019

YANKS BACK IN SADDLEWORTH

10/11th August. The Association volunteers turned out in force to help out and marshal the 'YANKS' weekend in Uppermill. Thanks to **Roy Counsell** who provided the Association with a marquee and much appreciated shelter from the incessant rain over the weekend. Member **Paul 'dogtags' Higginson** who runs the event was grateful for our attendance and the help in making the weekend a success. Certain changes in our operations were made from last year and the overall feeling was that communication between ourselves and the Yanks team was greatly improved. The rain didn't dampen spirits too much but attendance at the weekend event was obviously down on last year, unfortunately you can't control the weather. The sun did come out on Sunday for the parade through the village and the crowd was there in numbers. We hope to help out next year if Dogtags needs us, after all it's a great weekend with plenty going on. Thanks must go to **Annabelle Hand** who organised a tombola to raise funds for the Association, she managed to empty the prize table and totalled £150 to boot, we also raised £21 in voluntary donations. Pictured left is **Gary Best** and **Baz 'tentpegs' Phillips** showing that ex Green Jackets are useful for something.



The chuckle brothers



Baz and Sam Phillips

It has been the season for wedding bells. Firstly our Royal Navy Chair Leanne stepped up to the gangway then Baz and Sam our Army Chair and Civdiv Sec respectively, followed suit. I'm sure all the Association members send you all the very best for the future.



Leanne and John Murphy.

EDEN CAMP

The first visit to Eden Camp by our Association took place on the 8th September, a full coach of excited members left Bury to visit the award winning attraction near Malton, N Yorkshire on a warm and sunny day. The modern history themed museum is designed to experience the sights, sounds and smells of life on the home front and the front line, all set in the buildings and grounds of an original WW2 POW camp. 250 Italian prisoners of war started construction of the camp in 1942 on completion the camp could hold up to 1000 prisoners. Through close collaboration with veterans groups immersive displays have been created that cover both social and military history and the archive has grown into a resource of national his-

torical importance. The camp itself contains 29 huts with thought provoking exhibits from different eras of the war plus a prefab and 'dig for victory' garden, 3 mess huts and a garage. Military vehicles are dotted about the site, including a Mk IX Spitfire, a Hurricane, AA guns, Sherman tank and much more. Later in the day members changed into No 1 dress and formed up for the all services parade and march past, our Association Standard proudly on display carried by our Standard bearer **Paul Andrew**. The day was a complete success and thanks must go to the committee especially **Debbie Wilson** who organised the trip and **Owen Dykes** supervising on the day. As member **Paul Kerr** quoted : "Eden Camp, brilliant day, brilliant people".



Stand easy

Eamonn O'Donnell and Robert Walsh



What's going on here then Jimmy Cruickshanks ?



'Threesome', lucky lad. Gabrielle Blackman, Darren Taylor and Nick Knowles

DIY-SOS

I think everyone reading this will have knowledge of the BBC's DIY SOS programme. In early September the call went out for help to convert the church hall at St Silas's church on Preston New Road, Blackburn into a refuge for vulnerable young people. The challenge was taken up by one of our own members **Daz Taylor** who is a dab hand at most things in the 'handyman' line. Working unpaid as a volunteer to help transform the old hall into a six room self contained unit for the homeless charity 'Nightsafe'. The six to eight month job was completed in an amazing nine days thanks to the generosity of the general public and building trades people that gave their time and efforts to the project. Darren not missing a trick was proudly wearing his Association polo shirt for all to see. The photograph pictured just shows just how tall the presenters of the show have to be. A massive 'Well Done' Darren you have made the Association proud.

ASSOCIATION FACTOID (is that a real word?)

It is a fact that this year we have had an average of 66 members attending each monthly meeting. A quick look around the room and you will see a number of recognisable faces and some you won't recognise. The next time you attend, make an effort and say hello to the ones you don't know. It makes all the difference to someone who is new on the scene, we have all been there before, we don't want to make anyone 'not' feel at home amongst us here at Fishpool.

The Treasury

The Association's latest bid to Bury Council's Pitch Funding scheme has resulted in success. This great initiative by the council has helped our members enjoy all the benefits on offer by our Committee, to run trips and other events virtually free of charge. This latest round of funding has netted a massive £1500 to add to the available pot. Thanks to everyone who made the effort to make their online vote count! Thanks to **Mo McCallion**, Association member/RNA Treasurer for her generous donation of £50. Profit from clothing sales, money from the football card, contents of the bar jar by the door (for voluntary donations) and sundry items (pictured) all help to boost our funds. And last but not least thanks to **Tim and Vikie Murphy** for supplying the sandwiches at meetings.



Neville Foote RA

It is with sadness that we report the passing of our oldest member Neville Foote. Neville who served with the Scottish Light Horse RA had reached the grand old age of 100. He always had a smile at our meetings and enjoyed the camaraderie of his fellow members. His funeral service took place at St Anne's Church, Tottington on 22nd July 2019. He will be sadly missed.

WHAT'S ON OFFER

- Frosted Stein - can be personalised with name and official number if required.
- Pens - four designs on offer one for each of the services plus Union flag.
- Fridge magnet - Does what it says on the tin.
- Key ring - Association standard.
- Wrist bands - BOBVA inscribed.
- Lapel badge - Association standard.
- Clothing - Full catalogue to browse.



UP COMING EVENTS

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| 26th Oct-9th Nov. | ASDA BURY Poppy Appeal. |
| 3rd Nov | BOBVA meeting-Fishpool |
| 6th Nov | Crown breakfast club Mosses. |
| | Remembrance Breakfast with Mayor and dignitaries. |
| 10th Nov | Remembrance Bury/Tottington. |
| 11th Nov | Armistice-Gallipoli Garden. |
| 24th Nov | Birmingham International Tattoo |
| 30th Nov | BOBVA Christmas meal. |
| 8th Dec | BOBVA Meeting-Fishpool. |
| 14th Dec | Coffee morning-Parish Church. |