



# BOROUGH OF BURY VETERANS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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## REMEMBRANCE 2019



Remembrance Sunday dawned a beautiful sunny day after all the rain of the previous week. The Association was represented at various locations around the country as our members travelled to pay their respects at parades and services which were dear to their hearts. Our contingent in Bury formed up at the Town Hall along with other ex service organisations, cadets from all services and scout and guide associations. The parade was split into three and led by the band and drums of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers (Lancashire). Organised overall by Lt Col (Rtd) Eric Davidson MBE DL acting as parade marshal and this year aided

by **Chris Harness, Terry White and Nikki Grey** to represent all three armed services, who took up their roles as marshals for each section of the march, showing that our Association's presence in Bury is being recognised by higher authorities. The wreath this year was laid by ex Gunner **Owen Dykes** and our Standard was paraded by ex RRF member **Paul Andrews**. After the March Past and return to the Town Hall the parade dismissed and refreshments were taken inside the Elizabethan Suite where members of our Association met Bury North MP James Frith and civic dignitaries including the Mayor and Mayoress of Bury Trevor and Evelyn Holt and the Mayor of Manchester Andy Burnham. We then made our way to Tottington village to take part in what is becoming an annual visit and to boost the numbers at their Remembrance service. Our very own 'Bish', Hugh Bearn who by the way had taken part in the Service of Remembrance the night before at the Albert Hall in London (intense 24 hours) then led the parade to the garden of Remembrance where the assembled crowd paid tribute to the fallen. Owen's daughter Tarryn laid the wreath on behalf of our Association and did a splendid job of it. The parade then reformed and marched to the church hall where tea and stickies were available followed by jollities at the local hostelries (just to warm up you understand). The day ended with some of our members returning to our HQ, HMS FISHPOOL, where a buffet and plenty of beer were on offer. The day overall was made a success by the attendance of our members and of course the weather. Attendance at the Remembrance parade has grown over the last three years because of the remarkable people in our Association, hopefully it will grow year on year as BOBVA grows. Thanks also to the people of Bury who show great support.





## Award for Allan

Way back in October member **Allan Cordwell** was the recipient of the Northwest RFCA (Reserve Forces and Cadets Assoc) ERS (Employer Recognition Scheme) Silver Award. The event was held at the Imperial War Museum North on behalf of the National Care Alliance. Pictured is Allan, Reserve forces champion with Cpl John Thornhill from 207 Field hospital, ICU nurse at Fairfield General. The award is for work supporting reservist and cadet leaders working across our care organisations. Well done Allan.

Member **Paul Greenhalgh** raised awareness at our October meeting of the plight of the Bolton Armed Forces Centre 4 Veterans. Running the day to day costs as you can imagine is a very expensive task, so to help Cait Smith and Scott Hawtrey, who manage the centre, Paul took the hat around and managed to raise £181.30 on the day. Our veterans night at the Fishpool on the 11th October had a similar theme, donating the funds raised from the raffle. In all the sum of £353.21 was collected and presented at the November meeting by **Barry Phillips** our Army chair to the couple who do a marvellous job. Keep up the good work Cait and Scott.



## 2019 POPPY APPEAL.

The Association did its bit for the RBL this year manning the ASDA poppy stall Bury and Pilsworth and not forgetting Farnworth. For the first time BOBVA had its own collection point in Nationwide on the High Street with our Standard and banner (pictured below). We must also give a mention to Bury Royal Navy Association whose members also gave a helping hand. Pictured below, two members of the RNA meeting the Mayor and Mayoress of Bury who had requested the presence of the Senior Service on that specific day for obvious reasons. Well done everyone for a smart turnout.



Peter Lees with our President Chris Harness

Dave Law, Bury Mayor and Mayoress Trevor and Evelyn Holt with Denis McHugh



The Birmingham  
Tattoo 2019

Our third visit to the International Tattoo in Birmingham took place on the 24th November. A coach full of BOBVA members and guests enjoyed the military spectacle once more, leaving Bury early morning for the trip to the Midlands. For the first time our Association Standard was on display in the arena carried by member **Paul Andrews**. The annual tattoo features massed military bands and displays including field gun racing (won by the Navy this year), dancers, dog display teams and one of the largest gatherings of standard bearers with around a hundred and twenty on parade at each performance. The event has been held since 1989 and has attracted performers from the USA, Europe and Russia as well as British bands from the Royal Marines, Coldstream Guards, Kings Division and Gurkhas. Each year the event raises money for the Royal Star and Garter homes who provide care homes for disabled ex service men and women. Last year we asked **Kevin Rowe** (standard bearer for HMS ANTRIM) to wear a bigger hat, we still didn't see him, so a sombrero for next year please mate.



Paul with BOBVA Standard

2019 Armistice

Our Association efforts extended from the Poppy appeal and Remembrance Sunday into Monday 11th to remember this day 1918 when the gunfire fell silent at 1100. BOBVA had been manning our own tribute in the 'Nationwide' and were joined by staff members in adhering to the two minutes silence. Shown below from left to right our President **Chris Harness**, Standard bearer **Paul Andrews** and Army Secretary **Owen Dykes**.



Poppy Appeal Update

A total of £3691.04 was raised by our efforts at ASDA. Big thanks from Col Eric Davidson to all our men and women (and all other genders) who gave their time to assist the Royal British Legion.

The happy couple (you wouldn't think so looking at his face) pictured below have now officially retired, being too old to work they now live the 'life of Riley'. The Association send you both all the best for the future. Spend it wisely Christine.



ROY AND CHRISTINE COUNSELL

Village Hotel  
Christmas 2019

## BURY VETERANS ASSOCIATION XMAS 2019



Our third official Christmas meal for the Association took place on the 30th November at the very fashionable Village Hotel, Bury, organised by our Navy Chair **Leanne Murphy**. Hours of planning and preparation went into what could only be called a 'magnificent' evening for everyone who attended. Honoured guests included the Mayor of Bury Trevor Holt, Inspector Jim Jones GMP, Claire Diack GMP, Scott and Jason Davenport, **Robert Walsh** RAF and **Eric Wilson** RN. With all the finery of posh frocks and medals, the evening opened with our Master of Ceremonies and Association President **Chris Harness** giving a small speech welcoming our members and guests of honour and thanking **Leanne** for all her hard work in organising the event. The ninety plus members and guests then tucked into a three course Christmas meal followed by the loyal toast to 'Her Majesty the Queen' generously provided by Scott and Jason Davenport. **Roy Counsell** our entertainment organiser then took charge of the raffle draw, star prize winner **Jackie White** looking forward to a free night at the Village Hotel with breakfast, who with is anybody's guess. On conclusion of the draw special presentations were made by the Mayor Trevor Holt to our GMP friends

Inspector Jim Jones and Claire Diack and our very own **Owen and 'Lady' Jo Dykes**. After the formalities were concluded the disco was in full swing and the party began. All in all we have come a long way from our first outing to The New Grove Inn and the 'tossing of the tattie' (never forgotten) three years ago to the splendour of the Village Hotel where it is hoped we will return for next year. I'm sure all our members would like to say a big thank you to all the committee, especially **Leanne**, for a great night out.

### DROP IN

The second coffee morning 'drop in' took place on the 14th December at the Ashton room behind the Parish Church on the Rock. Hosted this time by Baz, Owen and Leanne. Festive mince pies, tarts and biscuits were on offer plus tea and coffee. Why not drop in and say hello next month before you go off shopping? Everyone welcome, come and have a chat. 2nd Saturday of every month 11 until 2.



Claire Diack, Mayor Trevor Holt,  
Insp Jim Jones and Owen Dykes.



The Coffee Queens.

Member **Kevin Heselwood** ex RASC/RCT carries the Standard of the RBL and attends as many military funerals in the area as he can. Kevin does a sterling job and is a credit to our military family. He recently attended the passing of William Burke RA aged 97 and William's family in way of appreciation have made a donation to our Association of £40 for the RBL Standard being on parade on the 15th October. Well done Kevin, you do a magnificent job.

Thanks to our Association photographer **Anthony Dalton-Hughes** for the all the great photos in this edition.