

LIONESS

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LONDON 2012

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WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION

(Incorporating the QMAAC & ATS Comrades Association)

Registered Charity No. 206184, founded in 1919

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Back Cover: Standards at the funeral of Maureen Deeley

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Editorial



Welcome to the first edition of 2013, you may have noticed that Lioness has a new Editor. By way of introduction my name is Sue Hatton (née Davison) and I have taken over as Editor from Ali Brown. For those of you trying to "place me" in WRAC terms I admit to being a bit of a lightweight, my visits to Guildford

during my entire service career can be counted on the fingers of one hand! I was commissioned into the WRAC in 1985; my Regular service was with 1 LI, SEME Regt, RA Range Hebrides, MOD (DAR), HQ 1 Bde Sig Sqn (215) and Op GRAPPLE 1. This was followed by TA service in the All Arms Pool of Watchkeepers & Liaison Officers (administered by CVHQ RA). I served as a Watchkeeper with HQ 7 ARMD Bde, HQ ARRC and JSCSC Shrivenham. I also managed to fit in a period of FTRS with MAS(A) at Camberley. Although I'm good at multitasking I finally hung up my boots in 2011; juggling my TA commitment with a 10 year old son, an aging dog (Irish Terrier) and a husband who spends most of his time in Afghanistan as a Stabilisation Advisor, was getting a little hectic. I joined the WRAC Association as Assistant Regimental Secretary in September 2011.

None of us are getting any younger and that includes Lioness, which is why you will notice 'she' has undergone a bit of a facelift. Although the format remains unchanged hopefully the change of font and layout will make for an enjoyable read. Apart from the Articles from Serving Soldiers the content is all the work of Association members, there are some busy people out there! Thank you for all your contributions, please keep them coming (see page 33 on the best way to submit an article).

The WRAC recruiting images published on page 63 & 64 of Lioness 2012/2 elicited an enthusiastic response and there were quite a few positive 'sightings.' I've republished some of the photos with comments received from readers and added a couple more to test your memory. Association HQ holds copies of all past editions of Lioness and the QMAAC and ATS Comrades Association Gazette. I shall endeavour to delve back into the archives and reproduce some photos and articles for future editions.

Lioness 2012/2 featured the Diamond Jubilee so I make no excuses for the London 2012 theme of this edition. The London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics were spectacular and several Association members took key roles in ensuring it all went so smoothly. Finally what better way to go full circle than to have a female Army officer win a medal at London 2012, 64 years after an ATS officer won one at the 1948 London Olympics.

Sue Hatton
editor@wracassociation.org.uk

Message from the Vice President

I was completely overwhelmed by the lovely cards, emails and messages that I received from so many of you for my 'Diamond Jubilee' birthday in November. I really do not know what to say or how to start to thank you all for your kind thoughts and good wishes. I received a total of 117 cards of which over 50% came from WRAC Association Branches, individual members and the WRAC Facebook Friends. It was just amazing and very humbling; sincere thanks to each and every one of you and I trust you will accept this as a small token of my appreciation. I was actually born on Remembrance Sunday morning in 1952 so I suppose I was destined for a military career! However, I have never been so proud of being in the WRAC and representing the Association as I was on this past Remembrance Sunday morning as I marched past and saluted the Cenotaph. I was also thrilled to head up a squad that was 90 strong; I am told that we looked a formidable bunch of 'girls in green' as we marched down Whitehall.



We have a new Editor of Lioness, our Assistant Regimental Secretary, Sue Hatton. She is already an integral part of our small team at HQ WRAC Association, so needs no further introduction, save to say, 'thank you so much for volunteering to be Editor, Sue - Lioness remains in very safe hands.'

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Our thanks to Ali Brown, the previous Editor, for producing 4 superb publications and for doing it entirely on a voluntary basis whilst juggling with her 'real' job with 'The Prince's Trust'. Thank you, Ali, for having given up so much of your own time to Lioness. We do appreciate it. Fortunately, we are retaining Ali's talents and expertise within the Association; as a Trustee, as my Deputy and as Chairman of the Executive Committee. Staying with our Trustees, many Congratulations go to Lieutenant Colonel Rowena Griffiths MBE on her award in this year's New Year's Honours List and on her recent promotion. Rowena has been an Association stalwart for so many years and so this is great news.

Council has decided to hold our Association AGM at the National Memorial Arboretum on Saturday 13th April 2013. We thought it would give some of you the opportunity to visit this extraordinary and unique place and to see our Association plot with its newly commissioned Granite Memorial. There are stories behind every plot and monument, each of which tells a tale of heroism, of sadness, of a particular event or campaign or just of selfless devotion to duty. The Arboretum is Britain's living and growing tribute to the service and sacrifice of so many for our freedom with the magnificent Armed Forces memorial at its heart.

You will find all the details and timings of our AGM in this Lioness and, as in previous years at the Victory Services Club, we will be providing Lunch for all our members. Please make sure you fill in the proforma and tell us that you will be attending so that we can cater for you. It would be so good to have a full house on the day. I am hoping that because the Arboretum is centrally situated it will enable more of you to attend. We hope to see you there.

I close with my very best wishes to you all for a happy and healthy 2013.

Sue Westlake

WEBSITE MEMBERS AREA

Over the past few months a lot of work has been put into the Members Area of the website. One of those changes is that Members who have provided the Association with an e mail address have now been provided with their own user name and password to login to the website. If you have an e mail account and have not been notified please contact the Office Manager on 01962 887570 or officemanager@wracassociation.org.uk.

The re-invigorated website went live on 1 Dec 12 and includes features to enhance the experience of members, including an 'opt in' members directory to enable members to search and contact each other. It is hoped that future development will include the ability to comment, rate and tag articles, and a more interactive experience of Lioness.

WRAC ASSOCIATION FLEECEES

The WRAC Association has a stock of dark green fleeces embroidered with the Association Badge on the left side. The current range are men's sizes so tend to be on the large size. Sizes are as follows:

XS – 34 inches

S – 38 inches

M – 42 inches

L – 44 inches

XL – 48 inches

Cost: £25 incl. P&P



Sale: We also have some XXS size fleeces available for sale at £20 incl. P&P. These are a petite size 8 – 10 and would suit height circa 5ft.

Fleeces can be purchased on line via the website, by post or by phone. Cheques should be made payable to WRAC Association and sent to WRAC Association, Gould House, Worthy Down, Winchester, SO21 2RG. If you want to check the actual size before ordering call 01962 887575.

WRAC ASSOCIATION MEMORABILIA

The following items are available to purchase on line via the website, by post (prices include P&P) or by phone. Cheques should be made payable to WRAC Association and sent to WRAC Association, Gould House, Worthy Down, Winchester, SO21 2RG. If you want to check stock availability before ordering please call 01962 887575.

WRAC Association Brooch	£4
ATS pin badge	£3
WRAC pin badge	£3
WRAC Association Trolley Token	£2
WRAC Association Wristband	£1.50
WRAC Association Tea Towel	£7
WRAC Association Paperweight (Bristol Blue glass)	£15
History of the WRAC	£2.50

Articles of Interest

THE SUEZ MEMORIAL GARDEN NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM EX FID. Evelyn Norton WRAC

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I have been busy this year as Welfare Officer of the Suez Veterans Association and Events Officer for the Derby Branch. The Spring Reunion took place at Kegworth from 29 March to 01 April. On Saturday 31 March 2012 Suez Veterans from all over the UK attended a Service at the National Memorial Arboretum to commemorate the refurbishment of The Suez Memorial Garden.



*The Suez Memorial Garden
National Memorial Arboretum*



Evelyn Norton & Jenny Fryer

WRAC Association Birmingham Branch member Jenny Freyer also took part, we had both served in Egypt in 1954-55 based at Ladysmith Camp Fayid. I've since met others who served at Fayid. Over 500 veterans and many war widows took part in the parade. I laid a wreath and then Jenny and I laid crosses for two ladies who died in service in 1954; Baird C C and Turen B J. I also laid a cross for all those who died in the Canal Zone.

I am a member of the Leicester Branch of the WRAC Association but unfortunately I don't get to many meetings

as they tend to fall on the same day as the Derby Branch of the Suez Veterans Association.

Other events I have attended this year include; a Thanksgiving Service at Derby Cathedral to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee, a Jubilee Tea Party at Stancliffe Hall, Jubilee Street Parties, the Derby Ex Services Association Armed Forces Week Coffee Morning and Lunch, an RBL presentation at Allenton and an ABF The Soldiers' Charity Beating of Retreat at Chatsworth.

CRUISING Cathy Ranford née Lewis

Sybil Cushen (née Farmer) and I have known each other for over 40 years. In September 2012 Sybil and I were on a Greek Island cruise on Cunard's Queen Elizabeth fondly reminiscing about our years in the WRAC. Sybil commented that the only time her name would ever appear in Lioness would be in the obituaries! I wanted to prove this very sprightly 91 year old wrong!



Cathy Ranford and Sybil Cushen

BIRTHDAY MEDALS Philip and Patricia Moore

Margaret Doddington of Pakefield, Lowestoft received an extra surprise on her 92nd birthday when former soldier Rob Whitehead presented her with two medals from her WW2 service in the ATS. Philip and Patricia Moore, friends of Margaret, had, unbeknown to her, applied to the MOD for her Defence Medal and War Medal. They had then arranged for the surprise presentation on her birthday.



Margaret receives her medals



Originally from Sunderland Margaret joined the ATS in 1940 and was posted to 558 Battery, 161 Regiment in Lowestoft. 558 Battery was the first mixed Battery and took over from an all male unit on the golf course.

TRIBUTE AND PROMISE PARADE

Patricia Harpin

In Lioness 2012/2 there was an item on page 59 headed Military Vehicles. This was of great interest, as my husband and I had restored a number of WWII Military Vehicles. We then took them to shows in England, France and Holland with the MVT. One of the most memorable events being Tribute and Promise Parade, this was held in London on the 19th August 1995 to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the end of WWII. Thousands of Veterans paraded in front of Her Majesty the Queen after a Service of Remembrance and a fly past by the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight. This was followed by a Parade of Ex Military Vehicles and members of the various voluntary organizations. We had the great privilege of being invited to take our Austin Tilley to represent Her Majesty as she had driven one during her time in the ATS.



Patricia Harpin, Tribute and Promise Parade 1995

NEWS FROM NEW ZEALAND

Joyce Taylor née Pritchard W/366235

Sadly the Auckland ex WAAC organisation is fading out owing to the age of most of our members, many of them being over 90 years of age. Our 2012 Christmas Lunch will be the last. However a younger Ex NZWRAC Association has been formed in Palmerston North (a 9 hour bus ride from Auckland!).

In June they held a weekend celebrating 70 years of Women's service in the New Zealand Army. Iris Boyter (née Addinall) ex ATS Ack-Ack, Shirley Temple (née Hannah Smith) ATS Searchlights and myself went down to it. We were warmly welcomed and Iris caught up with friends she had made whilst serving in the NZ WRAC.

We were taken on a tour of nearby Linton Army Camp where many of the girls had done their training. It reminded me of Catterick where I served in 1951, rural with various Corps with their own sections. Apart that is from finding that we now have mixed sex barracks and single rooms! My biggest surprise was the Mess, a lovely buffet has replaced the experience of the food of the day being plonked on your plate!

The Saturday night was a formal dinner, with lots of noise and laughter that lasted much longer than our group managed to last. On the Sunday we had a Church Parade and then home. We decided to go on to Wellington our capital as it was only a two hour bus ride. We spent a week there being tourists, I has not been there since I arrived as an immigrant in 1955, it had changed tremendously.

THE GREAT YARMOUTH TWO

Brenda McNama

Although there is little Association activity in Great Yarmouth we, Brenda McNama (née Glover) and Doris Galbraith (née Ashbolt), have been active with the Royal British Legion. We have been poppy collecting and march in the Remembrance Day parades. This year we laid a wreath for all the ladies who fell in the last war.



Doris Galbraith and Brenda McNama

BRITAIN'S OLDEST FEMALE SKYDIVER

Babs Blay

Pat Oakes, age 93, became Britain's oldest female skydiver in August 2012 when she completed a tandem jump from 10,000ft. Pat is a long standing member of Birmingham Branch and raised over £3000 for Help for Heroes from this little escapade. Go Pat!



Pat Oakes
of Birmingham Branch

FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE WESTMINSTER ABBEY

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8 November 2012

Photos by Virginia Hopson



Barbara Danter meets HRH Prince Philip



Dorothy Hughes meets HRH Prince Philip



Dorothy Hughes, Sue Westlake and Barbara Danter



Association stalwarts gather at Westminster Abbey

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Remembrance Sunday



London - 11 November 2012

Major 'Mack' organising the WRAC Association contingent! (Below)



Sandra Davies



Cleveland Branch



Gathering on Horse Guards Parade



Brenda, Jean & Iris from Sheffield Branch

WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS DINNER CLUB

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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Membership No: DC/

Miss/Ms/Mrs: Rank if Serving:

Surname Name:

Christian Name: Known as:

Address:

.....

.....

.....

Post Code:

Tel No: Mobile:

Email:

Army No. P/ W/ WO/

Surname when serving:

WRAC/TA Service - From: To:

Last Rank held: Trade/Job whilst serving:

Decorations:

WRAC Dinner Club Membership Secretary
Miss Maggie Bradshaw
Myrtle Cottage, Tatworth, Chard, Somerset, TA20 2NZ
Tel: 01460 221617

I wish to join the WRAC Dinner Club and enclose (delete as appropriate):

5 Year Membership	£13.00 (includes joining fee of £3.00)
Life Membership	£18.00 (includes joining fee of £3.00)

Cheque/Postal Order should be made payable to: WRAC Dinner Club

Signature: Date:

A 2nd Class postage stamp would be much appreciated.

Suaviter in modo, Fortiter in re
Gentle in manner, Resolute in deed

THE KING'S ROYAL HUSSARS Staff Sergeant Sorsha Harney AGC(SPS)

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The Regiment deployed on Operation Herrick 16 in March 2012 as Transition Support Unit Lashkar Gah (TSU LKG), after months of planning, training and detailed preparation.



KRH SPS Detachment visit the Joint Helicopter Force

Transition Support Unit Lashkar Gah, Private Deborah Brown AGC(SPS)

I arrived in Lashkar Gah not knowing what to expect as it is my first tour. After a few weeks of settling in and getting to grips with the day to day running of how things work, I soon got into a daily routine. My duties and responsibilities are varied, and so far I feel I have learned and experienced a lot in the past 3 months. I have learned how to put discipline packs together and now have had a good insight into how discipline is administered.

C Squadron, Lance Corporal Natasha Petrie AGC(SPS)
We are at the forward location of Patrol Base Nahidullah, which is found in Babaji. The area is predominantly farmland, as we are situated in the Green Zone, west of the Helmand River. I am fortunate enough to have successfully completed the 10 week Pashtu Course and qualified as a Quad Bike Operator. This has resulted in substantial time on the ground, which I enjoy immensely.



Being a female out on patrol attracts extraordinary attention from the locals. There is always an element of surprise and awe, especially from the children. The locals are extremely welcoming and appreciative in Babaji.

I find it an absolute privilege to meet and talk with them. This experience on the ground has emphasised the importance of fitness. The weight we carry combined with the ever increasing heat is not for the faint hearted. I am thoroughly enjoying myself and believe my first tour to have given me the tools necessary to become a more experienced and well rounded soldier.

D Squadron, Corporal Zoe Shadbolt AGC(SPS)

On arrival at Main Operating Base Price I was based in the Operations Room where I quickly got into my routine. Part of my tasks were to move and track the squadron when they go on Operations which can often be on a daily basis. Overall it is a busy tour and great to be practising our core role in an Operational environment. The time has flown and in a strange way I will be sorry to get back to UK and back into a normal routine.



1ST BATTALION WELSH GUARDS Private Hazel Watt AGC(SPS)

I am currently serving with Number 3 Company on Operation Herrick 16 and my experience on tour has been as varied as it has interesting. It has at times been a tour of extremes. I found we were often juggling long periods of relative inactivity with periods of high intensity. Having seen how all aspects of the Company work it seems to me that this is just a key feature of being on tour.

Whilst on tour I have mainly been doing the reordering of ID discs when lost, finding passports when lost, and sorting pay and allowances as well as the occasional discipline case. At the time of writing, I am now actually back in Bastion with the Company re-rolled as the new Brigade Operations Company. My task at this stage is primarily focused upon making our return to the UK as smooth as possible. My time as a combat clerk on my first tour has certainly been challenging and interesting.

The trouble with being a Combat Clerk is that you have to fulfil both the 'Combat' part and the 'Clerk' part and one of

these comes easier than the other. In that the basic infantry skills that all soldiers are supposed to be equipped with would kick in. However, being a creature of rational thought, I found myself thinking that if I get down on my 'belt buckle' and everyone else decides to get up again (everyone else already being down) and move off in a hurry there is no way I will be able to move. After a short period of reflection it became apparent that the alternative probably involved getting shot, so I decided to join the rest of the Company in lying as flat as humanly possible in the middle of the desert.



Hazel Watt on patrol with C Company

At this stage my problems were only just beginning, for I soon realised I was lying on a boulder and if that wasn't bad enough I was facing the wrong way. One may laugh however, getting contacted is no laughing matter and nor is lying on a boulder with ones buttocks facing the direction of enemy threat. With not an insignificant amount of effort I managed to manoeuvre myself from the boulder and to face the right way. No sooner had I done so than the rest of the Company were up and running for cover. With what felt like the speed of light but in reality was probably no faster than that of a waking sloth I ran across the open ground to cover. Once safe I immediately found my self wondering why as a clerk I had volunteered to do this.

Now towards the end of the tour I feel I better understand. As a clerk one can often get used to the comforts of an office, the security of knowing what tomorrow will be like, and most of all that its somebody else's job to do the security bit. However, as a female in Afghanistan as part of a Rifle Company you are an essential asset on the ground. Engaging with the local population and in particularly females and children is an important part of getting the population onside. Back in camp my job involves keeping the Company functioning on the day to day J1. Whatever the task is it requires getting involved and being flexible enough to do things beyond your original skill set. For anyone who is junior and facing their first tour my advice would be to stay flexible and be prepared to pre-empt the problems that everyone else is too busy to think about.

4 REGIMENT ARMY AIR CORPS **Sergeant Anna Seeto AGC(SPS)**

I arrived in Wattisham Airfield, the home of Attack Aviation, to take up the post of Regimental Accountant. The pressure was immediately on as the SPS detachment had previously set extremely high standards across the board.

With my feet firmly under the table I was asked to take over as Detachment Sergeant and put together a training programme including presentations to be delivered by all of the juniors. The programme was not complete without some arduous physical training to ensure we were prepared to enter a team into the Triple Crown. The Detachment Commander, Captain Sarah Bennett, led from the front with the help of Corporal Dean Connolly, Private Wallace Matshoba and Private Brendan MacConnell to finish with a very credible result in the March and Shoot Competition.

The detachment also provided the back bone of the Regimental Athletics Team with several members, led by Sergeant Louise Husband, taking part in the 16 Air Assault Brigade and Army Athletics. Corporal Sarah Grosvenor-Jones was particular impressive in the sprint and relay events. It was a memorable experience for me as I got volunteered to participate in every single throwing event. The Regimental Female Swimming Team was also bolstered by the detachment in the Army Inter Unit Championships. It was a privilege to compete in the same pool that the Olympic GB Synchronised Team had trained in that morning.

It has not all been hard work as Sergeant Lyndsey Snell recently organised a day out involving the nearby high wires course. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone that participated



Anna Seeto

Experience on Operation Herrick 16, Private Patrine James AGC(SPS)

Working as J1 Administration Clerk at the Joint Aviation Group (JAG) in Camp Bastion is similar to working at the Regiment in Wattisham. The only difference is that I, along with my senior administrators administer up to 600 personnel compared to Wattisham where the biggest Squadron is less than 200 personnel. The JAG is one of the biggest formations in Bastion. I deal predominantly with pay, allowances and other general queries. I also collect and distribute mail hence my nickname here is Postman Pat. I love the new challenge and the increase in momentum. It keeps me busy and makes the time go faster. Overall, it has been a good tour although at the time of writing I am looking forward to getting back to see the detachment and take my leave.



Patrine James in her deployed office

Operation Olympics, Captain Sarah Bennett AGC(SPS) "Where were you for twenty twelve?" they will ask for years to come. Well, I can answer I was there - searching vehicles in the Vehicle Search Area (VSA) just outside the main Olympic Park. My job was to assist with the searching of vehicles, people and bags before they could enter the venue.

We travelled to London with a sense of trepidation. The newspapers were full of questions about how soldiers on the streets of London would be received. Our reception could not have been better. The teams were made up from a variety of cap badges and both regular and reservist soldiers.

The shift patterns varied daily depending on the requirement from the London Organising Committee of Olympic Games (LOCOG) but most soldiers were given time to enjoy the atmosphere of the Olympic Park or see an Olympic event. London 2012 and Operation Olympics was a fantastic experience, I'm very proud to say I was there.



Sarah Bennett by the Olympic Stadium

AGC LADIES NORDIC SKI TEAM Captain Leah Wiltshire AGC(SPS)

The Army Nordic and Biathlon Ski Championships at Rupholding was the most challenging but most rewarding experience. We competed in the stadium where the Biathlon World Championships are held, which could be likened to a village cricket team being asked to play at Lords. It was an incredible progression, from having not

known our classic skis from our skate skis we were now competing in a top quality facility and completing longer and harder courses.



The team was bolstered and mentored by Corporal Amanda Lightfoot and Corporal Nerys Jones who both compete on the Great Britain team. They were a fantastic source of inspiration and knowledge with abounding enthusiasm, their passion for the sport was incredibly motivating. This pushed us to work harder for longer in the battle against the Royal Logistic Corps (RLC) Ladies team for the title. Knowing that every

race counted and every member of the team had to work their hardest. Sadly this year we were trumped by the RLC Ladies team in the race for the Championship title. However there is always next year.

For the Great Britain and Army biathletes, Nerys Jones and Amanda Lightfoot, the intense training programme followed over the summer months is critical to their performance during the winter competitions. This summer has been more challenging than ever with plenty of varied activities aimed at maximising performance and results with the forthcoming season providing some of the crucial qualifying races for the 2014 Sochi Olympic Winter Games.

MY BIATHLON EXPERIENCE

Corporal Nerys Jones AGC(SPS)

With the great sporting atmosphere and influence coming from the London 2012 Olympics I was very motivated for summer training this year. As soon as the opening ceremony began I was glued to the TV, although the Austrian/German commentary was very hard to follow. Based between these two countries for the majority of the summer months we were training early in the morning to eagerly rush back and watch the Olympics events. We even managed to persuade the coach to slip evening training to a later time so we could watch and share the proud, glorious moments of the numerous gold medals we collected at the Olympics. I especially looked forward to watching Chris Hoy, Victoria Pendleton and the cycling team in the Velodrome as I had my first taste of riding the boards at the Velodrome Centre in Montichiari, Italy this summer. It was a fantastic experience, totally overwhelming and exhilarating.

Cycling forms a key part of our summer training; the muscle groups used are very similar to those required in cross country skiing and there is less chance of injury than with running. At the beginning of the year I did my first ever mountain bike marathon with a night race challenge and I also did a half Ironman. All good training for the ski specific muscle groups in the absence of snow during the warmer months. The thought of going on a bike with no brakes and a single fixed gear however was a little daunting but at the same time the idea of no wind, no rain and no cars was also very appealing.



We travelled from Ruhpolding, Germany to Montichiari for a two day training period in the Velodrome. Lucky for me they had a bike small enough. It took some time to get used to the 43 degree banking and it was a bigger challenge, and much scarier, than anticipated. I had to pick up speed to enable me to carry round the corner and I started to move higher up above the blue line but the fear of slipping on the slopes was felt every time I hit the corner. After about two laps I was tired and a little dizzy. The constant spin and cadence makes it hard work. I started to get the hang of it after about an hour, each time building my confidence. I started to get faster and higher and started to really enjoy it.

After finally getting comfortable on the bike, riding the banks, it was time for some team races. I stayed up on the banking and warmed up. Gradually I moved down near the blue line constantly keeping an eye out behind me for anyone approaching fast. Before I knew it I was attached to the back of the train. It was lung busting keeping very tight behind the bike in front, but with one slip or riding too close, it can be very dangerous. It was physically and mentally very demanding.

Many things were learned that weekend. Working as a team, challenging yourself and overcoming fears through lots of hard work, determination and self discipline. I am now transferring this experience and the skills learnt into my everyday ski training. The next big event is the selection races in Norway when the snow comes and then another gruelling yet highly rewarding season ahead where I hope to achieve personal best results and qualification for the World Championships.

ABERDEEN BRANCH

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Aberdeen Branch continue to meet monthly and enjoy our time together. I was asked why we bothered for such a short time. As we had talked about this ages ago I had no problem with the reply. After all we all have friends and family that we see only occasionally but we still enjoy their company. Some of this group are in touch with each other outside of meetings and have even been called "Ladies who Lunch". There is more going on in a group like ours than you might think.

We have had two members resign from the group due to ill health, although Alice Gorrod and Jess Gellatly were quiet members they will be missed. Betty Fleming who was 90 in October 2012 has been in hospital and we wish her well.

Four of us went to the Scottish AGM in Perth in September and enjoyed our day. The Branch did not win the trophy but a lot of work went into the winning entry. As you can see from the photo we enjoyed ourselves.



Mhairi Irving, Joan Bartlett, Moria Thom, Sandra Lemmon

I had the pleasure of visiting Jean Savage to give her a Certificate of Appreciation for the work she did as our Treasurer. I was asked to take a snap of the occasion but as my camera was not charged it fell to Jean to rescue me. She even ran off a copy of this rather good photo (well I took it) on a wee black box - magic! Jean is approaching 90 and says I should embrace technology more.



Jean Savage receiving her Certificate of Appreciation

The group are going to The Prince of Wales pub for our Christmas lunch and are all looking forward to it. We wish all Branches a good year.

BAND BRANCH

I am so pleased so many of you are getting through the awful weather it is nice to hear from you. We are looking forward to our visit to Stratford-upon-Avon in May and I do hope many more of you will be able to visit Manchester with us for our reunion 2014. Please do let me have any E-Mail addresses and if anyone has any moving footage of the Band there is someone who is arranging a DVD of us, and of course I am still collecting photos for our album. May I wish you all a healthy year.

Editor: An apology for the incorrect caption printed with the following photo on page 31 of Lioness 2012/2. The photo is reprinted with the corrected caption, see the Grimsby Branch report for a very happy ending!



Mrs Carole Tyler, née Tupling, receiving her well earned certificate from Tim Hollis CBE QPM Chief Constable Humberside Police

BEXHILL BRANCH

This year our membership numbers have been dominating our thoughts, mainly due to the ever decreasing numbers of those turning up to meetings. This has been due to age and illness, either their own or the person to whom they are carer. It affected the much larger and more successful Hastings branch even more drastically than us and they decided to close. Their members were transferred to us, increasing our membership three or fourfold, but only on paper. Monica, their President, motored over to us on the awful A259 with their Standard and other items which she presented to us for use and safekeeping.

We had our name added to the standard and it has its' first outing in its' new glory on Remembrance Sunday, with a smart young lady Army cadet as Standard Bearer. Our own Bernice laid our wreath at the War Memorial on this occasion.



Jenny Nye with the inherited Standard

Speakers this year have included a pretty Avon lady who set out examples of merchandise and made a few sales and maybe some long term customers. Another young lady who turned out to be a natural born teacher, she has been profoundly deaf since birth and taught us about signing (www.british-sign.co.uk). We are keen to bring back both speakers in 2013. We also had talks from our own members about ATS reminiscences.

Betty Mostyn died in August, she was Chairman during a sticky time some years back when we feared we would have to close, but with a little help she kept us together. She had worked with the early Radar during WW2 and it was her proud boast that she was the only female in the Sergeants Mess, lucky girl! She spent the last five years of her life in a nursing home, but had an active brain and a formidable memory, she is sadly missed. We wish all our sick members well again and look forward to seeing them at our meetings as soon as possible.

We send greetings to all members and happiness for 2013. With the exception of January, we meet on the first Thursday of every month at the Red Cross Centre, London Road, Bexhill (opposite Aldi) from 2-4pm. If you happen to be passing this way do drop in for a cup of tea, you will be very welcome.

BIRMINGHAM BRANCH

On 24 August we had the sad news that Maureen Deeley had passed away after a long hard struggle. Her husband, Ray encouraged us to be involved in all the arrangements for her funeral on Tuesday 4 September and we were happy to take up the offer. Cathy Munro of Cambridge Branch organised the order of service for us and various WRAC Association dignitaries were invited and agreed to take a major role in the funeral. There were more than 250 people present, the majority of whom wore green. Some of them had never even met Mo but were inspired by her bravery. We managed to get 20 Standards to parade, including Mo's beloved National Standard. There was a piper and a trumpeter to add pizzazz to the celebration of Mo's life. We had a poppy spray from Birmingham Branch to put on the coffin alongside the family flowers and later we threw poppies into the grave with the coffin.

Sue Westlake said a few kind words about Maureen's unstinting work on behalf of the WRAC Association and Maggie Purkis read out messages to Mo from all over

the world. Maureen Lay spoke at the graveside about her being a friend to everyone and then Sue Dolphin and Sue Thomas read out a poem chosen by Mo's husband. There were lots of tears and many smiles, particularly when one of Mo's line dancing friends nearly fell in on top of the coffin. We were grateful that Sue and John Dolphin were able to arrange for us to go back to the Nautical Club for sandwiches and a drink after the service because this was the time when we all got to remember all the daft things Mo said and did. We laughed and laughed. We had a collection in memory of Mo at our Branch meeting the next day and I can tell you that along with other cheques we collected £756 to donate to Troop Aid, Help for Heroes, Fisher House Trust and the WRAC Dinner Club. There will be a fundraising Line dancing event in March in memory of Mo which we hope to be able to support in big numbers.

The day after Maureen's funeral we continued with our regular monthly meeting and welcomed other Branches to join us in a Beetle Drive. We treated it as a continuation of the celebration of Mo's life and laughed a lot. For some reason, people still get very confused by the difference between a water cup and a dice cup. Maybe next time we should invite everyone to wear waterproof clothing. Needless to say, we all had a lot of fun and intend to do it again next year but without the swimming.

In September we took another little trip up the road to Tamworth to see if Maureen Lay could retain her skittles title. She made it through to the play off and only lost by one point. However, The Brummies came away with the team title - again. Next time we are going for both the singles and the team.

Birmingham Branch have sent 4 members to the big parade square in the sky and we are sad about that but we have gained many new members. Sandra and Fran found us on Armed Forces Day whilst 8 others have come to us because of Facebook. Seven members of Stafford Branch have decided that they would like to come to Birmingham Branch now that their branch has had to fold. It is easier for them to travel to us by train, along with 3 new members from the Leamington Spa area.

In November 15 members of Birmingham Branch marched at the Cenotaph in London, whilst 5 others attended the service at Westminster Abbey. Other members marched in Birmingham City Centre with local veterans, presenting a poppy wreath at the Hall of Memory.

Christmas lunch was a rip-roaring success with 62 people sitting down to eat. We had visitors from several Branches, including Tamworth, Leicester and Notts, Hereford, Phoenix and Shropshire. Also present were Irene Hall and Maggie Purkis, who started us off with a suitably irreverent grace. One of the waiters was heard to say that we were the noisiest group they had had this year. We were very proud to be the best at something, even if it was just being noisy. The food was great, the service was super and the company was fantastic. We were also pleased to welcome a young student journalist whose thesis is about women living in communities; and for us, how it had changed with the integration of our separate Corps into the other Regiments and Corps within the British Army, thereby changing our single sex status. Some of us were interviewed on camera and it may be shown on Channel 4 later in the year.

The absolute highlight of our Christmas Lunch was when two members met up for the first time since 1965. It was a magical moment when Nicky Parrott and Jacquie Courtney were reunited after 47 years. They had been best friends throughout the 1960s and 1970s when they were discharged. A chance seating plan at the WRAC Dinner Club had placed Nicky next to Jacquie's sister, Marilyn Preece and the rest is history.

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Jacquie Courtney and Nicky Parrott meet for the first time since 1965

Our new evening group met four times in the year and although the numbers are quite few, we have had a lovely time. The last meeting for the year was on 12 December and 9 of us popped over the road to the Pizza Hut. We had a brilliant time with some of our younger, working members who took the trouble to travel from Coventry, Leamington Spa and Halesowen. Due to the success of the December meeting, we have decided to meet every three months for a pizza and a newsletter. Anyone in the area, please feel free to join us.

It's been up and down for Birmingham Branch but we've made it through another year and we will soldier on through the next one with enthusiasm, supporting each other and having a really good time.

And remember ladies, you can count on Brum Branch - we have an abacus.

BRISTOL BRANCH

What a summer we have had. It has been difficult with the weather, but we were lucky enough to miss a lot of the rain at planned events. Our representation at Armed Forces Day in June was well received. There were not so many of us in the parade but we did have a stand at the park. Weather did affect the number of people attending but we had our display and were able to promote our Branch. We also attended a display at Weston super Mare on the Sunday, we were once again lucky with the weather.

We also attended, at the invitation of the Lord Lieutenant of Bristol, a service at Bristol Cathedral for Her Majesty's Jubilee. We were all given a box which contained sandwiches and cake. It was very nice, and for those that did not want their boxes they were collected and distributed to the homeless. Some of our members joined Salisbury Branch for their 65th celebrations, a good lunch and a most enjoyable event. Thank you Salisbury, our members enjoyed the day. For those of us who knew her,

we were saddened to hear about Gladys Pope, our thoughts are with her family, and we know that she will be missed in the Branch.

Bristol also joined Bath Branch for a lunch at Bath College to celebrate their 65 years, food at the college was very good and we will certainly make a return visit. Our AGM was held in October, it was well supported and the Committee was re-elected.

The Chairman and myself attended an Area Meeting at Wilton in October, it is always good to meet up with the Branches from our Area. Bristol is hosting the Area Reunion on 11 May 2013. Remembrance Sunday saw us once again on parade, whilst it was dry, it was cold. Jean James laid the wreath at the Cenotaph on our behalf, whilst for the first time also two of our members, Mary Perkin and Pat Carter, represented us at Weston super Mare and laid a wreath on our behalf. Four members participated in the Festival of Remembrance at Colston Hall.



Pat Carter (above) Mary Perkin (below)



At the invitation of The Not Forgotten Association 10 of us attended a lunch at the Bristol Royal Marriott Hotel where we joined other veterans. Our thanks to Rosie for organising this. It was superb and the entertainment was first class and everyone was so friendly.



Members enjoying the Not Forgotten Lunch at the Bristol Royal Marriott Hotel

We have had new members join us recently, and we appreciate it is difficult for them to attend meetings due to perhaps distance and work. We extend a welcome to them from all members of our Branch. All members were sent a Newsletter and Christmas Card. On behalf of Bristol Members, I hope that you all had a Good Christmas, send our wishes for 2013.

BURY & ROCHDALE BRANCH

No doubt people are wondering about the joint report. It has been decided that due to poor attendance at Rochdale, and the lack of a Secretary at the moment, the two branches will have joint meetings, held at the Bury Branch meeting place. We meet at The Old White Lion in Bury, every second Tuesday in the month at 1330hrs.

It has been a quiet time since the last report, nothing much to report at all. Saying that, the meetings are not at all quiet! The numbers attending Bury are around 12-15 members every month and usually the only person from Rochdale is Elaine, who is Chairman of the Rochdale Branch. We did welcome Rochdale Branch member Muriel in September when she came along to a meeting.

In August we welcomed new girls to the Branch, Teresa Newton and Karen Bruce. October was the Dinner Club of course, 4 of us attended for the first time and I think without exception we all had a good time. Certainly it will not be our last. In October the usual monthly meeting was replaced by a buffet for Pat's birthday. Pat is our Secretary and it was her 70th birthday. She asked that instead of gifts members brought a selection of travel-size toiletries, which would then be taken to the local hospital for the women's ward. They would be given to those patients who came in at short notice and had no essentials with them. Such an excellent idea and one which was very well received by the ward. Pat's buffet was held at the Old White Lion because they really do us proud for things like that.

One of our young members, Angie, attended Remembrance Day at the Cenotaph. She thoroughly enjoyed it and hopes to do it again. Our Christmas Dinner was held on Tuesday 11 December at the Old White Lion, 18 of us attended. We are always treated so well; the food

is always piping hot and very good and plentiful, the table is beautifully decorated and the room is very festive, as is the rest of the pub. We are always given a diary at the end of the meal, which is a lovely touch.



Christmas Lunch

We continue to have an evening get together at the Toby Carvery in Oldham for those members who can't make afternoon meetings. There was an excellent article with photo in the local newspaper but, unfortunately it got no response from the women of Oldham. On 18 December we went to the Toby with our respective partners for a Christmas get together, the first time most of our partners will know what we get up to!

This is a short report and I want to end it by saying that I hope everyone had a good Christmas and New Year and that this copy of Lioness finds everyone well.

CAMBRIDGE BRANCH

Since my last report the Branch sadly said goodbye to Janet Herdman in May, when she moved to Whitley Bay. I have been informed that she has settled in nicely with the Newcastle Branch.

A new venue had to be found for our Meetings on the closure of Waterbeach Barracks. We now meet in a pub, The Railway View, Histon, on the first Monday of the month, the second Monday if it's a Bank Holiday, from 1930hrs until 2130hrs.

Highlights of the year were the Grand Reunion, the Service of Rededication, the WRAC Dinner Weekend and the Remembrance Parade at the Cenotaph.

I would like to thank the following: Andrea Denham, Doris Dockerill, Jean Farrington (Treasurer), Jean Legg, Vera Martin, Cathy Munro, Pam Sussex, Jo Teague, Fay Warne and Lori Weights (our newest recruit), without their support there would be no Branch.

CHELMSFORD BRANCH

In Memorium. It is with sadness that we record the deaths of two of our members. Gwen Ryan and Life Member Joy Williams, both valued friends and members.

Since the last issue of Lioness we have met regularly at the RAFA Club in Chelmsford on the third Tuesday in the month.

July. We held the Anniversary Lunch of the Branch, celebrating at our usual hotel where we welcomed Avril Williams, Honorary Secretary from Cambridge. We look forward to this event and sharing a meal together.

September. This is the month we meet again after the summer break. Margaret Kliskey spoke to us about "The Life of Clementine Churchill". We found her account of this prominent wife of the former Prime Minister very interesting. Thank You Margaret (again!).

October. We met just to chat over a cup of tea but unexpectedly welcomed a new member to the branch, Janet Edwards. We also played an unusual game of beetle using the Queen's head and face instead of a beetle! A cause of much laughter, thanks to another Margaret.

November. This meeting was one of the highlights of the year, we watched a flower demonstration showing 5 different small Christmas arrangements. These were then raffled, much to the delight of the winners.

December. We met at the same venue on 4 December for our Christmas Lunch. This year we were delighted to welcome the Vice President of our Association, Sue Westlake, and Area Chairman Wendy Hooton. A particularly nice meal was much enjoyed by everybody and we appreciated both our guest travelling such a long way to be with us.



We end this report by thanking those at Worthy Down who help us so willingly and also a special thanks to members who do all sorts of jobs to support the branch during the year. What would we do without you! If you feel you would like to join our branch please contact the Honorary Secretary on 01245 251088.

CLEVELAND BRANCH

The Annual WRAC Dinner Club has taken place, and I think it was one of the best yet. Some of us had not been to Nottingham before, and the weather was really good to us. The lovely square had some gorgeous coffee shops! The Crown Plaza Hotel was worthy of its 4 stars, all the staff were helpful and friendly, comfy beds and good food. Well done to the Committee for another great weekend. I have seen on a "networking site" that the countdown to next year's Dinner Club has already begun.



Maxine and Jenny in the bar



Some of the Dinner Club ladies enjoying the delights of Nottingham

After the disappointing summer weather wise and after the floods at the start of autumn, we finally got some bright days although very cold. We did manage to get a nice day out in October when Sylvia Cree came across from France to visit after the Dinner Club function. A few of us ladies decided to have a day out at South Shields and met up with some of the ladies from the Newcastle branch. We met in the Grotto hotel had a lovely lunch and a few drinks. It was a lovely day with plenty of laughter and nice to put a face to the people we chat to on the internet.



*Rear rank: Sylvia Cree, Chris Corker
Middle rank: Tanya Hall, Dot Ryder, Lorriane Hood
Front rank: Jan Williams Landess, Audrey Grainge*

In August we went to York on our annual outing where we visited the Chocolate Shop, after coffee we went on a tour of the exhibition and to sample some of the chocolates. The rest of the day was spent having lunch followed by some retail therapy.

On 22nd September, 12 of the branch members attended the Northern Area lunch held in York. We met old friends and also made new ones. There was lots of chat and laughter. The lunch was excellent as usual and was followed by a very good lunch.



Branch members relaxing before lunch in York



Audrey Grainge and Cherry Harbron catching up on their 1963 basic training days

Once again our Standard Bearer Anne Mahoney has had a busy year. In November she was invited to carry the Standard at a Royal Artillery Memorial service held in Hyde Park. At the beginning of December she went to Larkhill for a church service and parade, again by invitation of the Royal Artillery. When the Colonel thanked the Standard Bearers for their efforts he remarked "But Anne still has the best legs". The weekend ended with a very nice dinner in the Sgts Mess. The following day she was back in the North East at three Tree Planting ceremonies to mark the Queens Jubilee year; first of all in Billingham for the Army, then to Norton for the Royal Air Force, ending in Stockton-on-Tees for the Royal Navy.

For me the most special thing this year was to take part in my first Remembrance Parade at the Cenotaph at London, representing the Cleveland branch. What an honour, it was so amazing standing alongside the WRAC girls. The atmosphere was fantastic. It was the proudest day of my life, absolutely awesome, with a little bit of nervousness as to whether I would keep in step! It all went fairly well, I could have done with a little practice though. I met a lot of the girls on the day and really enjoyed every minute. Hope I get the chance to do it again. My family were so proud (Jan Williams Landess).



Jan Williams Landess, Jenny Seven, Suzanne Allen plus another Association member

FIFE & TAYSIDE BRANCH

Fife & Tayside branch continues to flourish and meet on the last Thursday of each month at the Salutation Hotel in Perth. Perth is chosen for its central location, bearing in mind that we cover such a large area of central Scotland.

We have enjoyed a fairly successful year holding our branch AGM in April when 13 members attended. In November we had our Christmas lunch to which 17 members managed to attend; including some of our more elderly members who do not manage to come to the monthly meetings, but families and helpers do their bit on this special day. This year we brought the Christmas dinner forward one month as last year some very inclement weather prevented members from getting to Perth. It turned out to be a very prudent move with members expressing their praise over the meal and service provided by the hotel. Unfortunately Lady Martha Bruce was unable to attend due to family commitments, and Mrs Martha Watson and Mrs Gladys Brown were both unwell.

Some of our more spritely members manage to make their way to reunions and parades although it was noticeable that this year's Remembrance Parade did not do us justice with their TV coverage. Fife & Tayside branch wish a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to ATS/WRAC members of the Association wherever you are.

GREATER LONDON BRANCH

Greater London Branch started off the year with our first meeting in February 2012. The weather didn't help us to make the effort to attend considering the vast area we cover in London & Greater London Area, still we had a very good turnout. Our meeting is always a "Catch-Up-Time" as after a gap the ladies have plenty to talk about.

April was our next meeting, and what a meeting it turned out to be. I'm sure most of you know by now that our venue is Hyde Park Barracks. It was only a slip of the tongue (not really) that while chatting to the Sergeant on duty I was able to give the ladies the best meeting ever. We were all invited to a tour of the Stables. Well once the ladies were introduced to the horses, we couldn't get them away. There were 14 horses in the "Blues" stables, two of them were rather naughty so we gave them a miss but there was one horse that stood out from the rest, his name was Drummond. A big black stallion who was 21 years old. He loved a fuss and there was no shortage of affection from the ladies, he loved it. Apart from the stables we were given a tour of the Tack Room. What history is there, the equipment they have goes way back, even that used by the "Royals". The afternoon went so quick we barely had time for our tea & cakes.

Our summer lunch followed in June at the Victory Services Club, where we also celebrated the 90th Birthday of one of our members Nina Garnham. A good attendance of 29 members made it a memorable occasion.





Lunch at the Victory Services Club

After all the excitement of the 2012 Olympics our September AGM was somewhat quiet. Apart from the usual Branch information for the year we were more interested in our unofficial trip to the Victory Services Club for a Christmas Lunch. (We were going last year but left it too late to book up). However December 7th arrived and what a splendid time we had. We just used their Restaurant, the food and the service was just great, even the two Managers came and said hello! So ended 2012 and we look forward to a successful 2013.

Our best wishes go to all the other Association Branches.

GRIMSBY BRANCH

This years Branch party was delayed until February to avoid some of the bad weather. We had our first outing of the year in April which was a trip to Hornsea with a fish and chip lunch (always thinking of our tummies). We then went to the Freeport shopping centre for some retail therapy and an ice cream.

The Branch Standard was paraded by Carole Tyler at the Armed Forces Flag raising at Grimsby town hall, with light refreshments afterwards (cream cakes)! The Standard and branch officers attended the Mayors Civic Service and Parade in July, and the lunch afterwards. I shall have to stop parading in heeled shoes, my feet have got old and painful whilst I'm still 18 in my mind.

In August we had a trip to the seaside at Skegness, it was not a very nice day, a bit cold and windy but of course we all enjoyed more fish and chips, our favourite food. Five of our members attended the North Eastern Reunion in York, good food, good companions and good entertainment.

In November some of our members sold poppies in Freshney Place Shopping Mall and Carole was in attendance on Remembrance Day. At the poppy stall there was a "Poppy Man" representing the person missing from the family. In this case I think "our Ted" the Secretary's husband who passed away last year.

At the end of November we had an early Christmas Lunch so as not to clash with other functions. The meal was held at Cleethorpes Golf Club and Sue Westlake was our guest. It was her first visit to the Branch (and Cleethorpes) and we all had an excellent meal.



Poppy Man



Christmas Lunch at Cleethorpes Golf Club



December 2012 Branch Meeting

In the last Lioness a picture of Carole Tyler (our chairman) was shown in the Band Branch News with the Chief Constable of Humberside but the name Carole McDonagh was written underneath the photo. Carole Tyler traced Carole McDonagh in Grimsby (who is also ex WRAC Staff Band) and Carole McDonagh has now joined the Grimsby Branch. One little mistake turned out very well in the end as we now have a new member.

Editor: The photo has been republished in the Band Branch news.



The two Caroles!

HARROGATE BRANCH

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Our final salute.....our final farewell

Sadly for members of the Harrogate Branch our Chairman/ Treasurer, Barbara Dawson, died on 20 May 2012. There is no one with the capabilities of Barbara to fill her shoes and keep the show on the road! Therefore Harrogate Branch held our final gathering on 27 June 2012, an afternoon in memory of Barbara and all other absent friends.

We wish all Branches a final greeting of good health and good cheer.

HEREFORD BRANCH

Hello everyone, where has the last six months gone? In July we saw the Queen visit Hereford. Both the National and Branch Standards were part of the guard of honour.

After a hectic summer with the Queens Jubilee and the Olympics we thought we could have a little rest. So in August we had our annual Picnic and Summer Draw at Queens Wood near Leominster. We all arrived with our goodies to eat, set up the tables and chairs, put the food out, said grace and yes you guessed right, it rained! But as we are good soldiers and always prepared, up went the umbrellas. Luckily it didn't last long and we were able to eat and enjoy the rest of the day in the dry.



A rainy picnic

It was a sad start to September as three members, and Jo Foster with the Branch Standard, attended the funeral of Maureen Deely in Birmingham. Then we had a cry of "help" from member Anna Toon (ex mayor of Hereford), the WI had let the Hereford City Celebration Day down by not being able to help with the refreshments. So Joyce Nicholls with her trusted team of Rosemary Jones and Liz Starbuck

took up the challenge of organising refreshments for the expected public. After attending a few meetings the plan was made and the rest of the Branch jumped into action baking pies & cakes and making sandwiches. Members not able to help on the day donated drinks and sweets while others helped on the day. We were asked to make a donation to the City Council and the rest went to the Branch. May I take this opportunity to thank all Branch members who helped to make the day a good and enjoyable one. Over 4000 members of the public attended that day and the weather was hot and sunny, we could not have asked for a better day.



Branch members save the day at Hereford City Celebration Day

Also In September Branch member Rosemary Jones celebrated her 80th birthday, the Branch presented her with the Jubilee Medal (she was a serving member at the time of the Queens Coronation). In October our Chairwomen Mary Nicholls celebrated her 90th birthday and Branch members, friends and family held a birthday party for her. In the photo she is cutting her cake with our President Ena Price who was Mary's CSM when serving in Hereford with the ATS.



Rosemary Jones (80) and Mary Nicholls (90)



Mary Nicholls and Ena Price cut the cake

October is also the time when Wales and West Area have their Reunion at Shrewsbury. Fifteen Hereford Branch members made the journey, it was a chance to catch up with friends from other Wales and West Branches. A big thank you to Maggie and Irene for a lovely day.



Enjoying Wales and West Area Reunion

November saw the Remembrance Parade held at Hereford. The Branch Standard was on parade with four other Standards. Rosemary Jones laid the wreath on behalf of the Branch. I noticed again this year how many younger faces there were in the crowd. It is with sadness that in November ATS member Kathleen Buckle passed away after a short battle with cancer. Kath was an active member with both Hereford Branch and The British Legion (Pershore) until her mobility let her down. I saw Kath a few weeks before she died and she asked that could she have the Standard at her funeral. This I did for her and four Branch members attended.

In December Birmingham Branch invited local Branches to join them at their Christmas Lunch. Four Branch members attended and we had a lovely time. Thank you once again Birmingham we know we can "count on you"! The next event for Hereford is our festive meal in January 2013, we are usually 25 plus. Weather permitting members will be able to chat and catch up with old friends.

May I take this opportunity to wish all WRAC/ATS members a Happy New Year 2013.

PS. If there are any ex WRAC/ATS living in the Worcester or Hereford area and wish to join our Branch please contact myself the Secretary, Sharon Joyce, either by phone 01905 821189 or e-mail sejoyce007@btinternet.com.

LEEDS BRANCH

I would like to start by sincerely thanking Elizabeth and Betty on behalf of all the members for their sterling work in running the Branch, as ex ATS ladies they now deserve to sit back and enjoy the meetings. They have handed over to the "young ones", ex WRAC, lets hope we can carry on with the same energy and dedication.

We have had another successful year with several new members joining us and 14 members regularly attending our meetings. Several Ladies attended the Grand Reunion and the WRAC Dinner Club and had a wonderful time. It was great to see the photos and write up in Lioness, these are lasting memories of good times spent with comrades. Our lunch trips are still very popular and our trip

to York for the Northern Area Dinner is one of the highlights of the year as most of our members manage to attend. We had two very welcome guests from the Armed Forces Careers Office. They had both served with the WRAC and it was interesting to hear about the changes. They gave us an insight into women in the forces today. They were equally keen to hear about the exploits of the ATS during their time.



With guests from the Armed Forces Careers Office

After another very enjoyable Christmas Lunch with delicious food we presented Mrs Betty France with her Certificate of appreciation. We also presented Betty and Mrs Elizabeth Bustard with beautifully decorated cakes with the ATS Crest on, in recognition of their loyalty to the Branch.



Christmas Lunch



Betty France takes aim

On a recent outing with the Huddersfield and District Army Veterans Association to HQ King's Regiment, who have recently returned from Afghanistan, Betty France received some hints on the firing of a Computer controlled missile. A far cry from the freezing nights in muddy Gun Pits!

LEICESTER & NOTTINGHAM BRANCH

This year has flown by, can't believe I am writing this only 4 weeks before Christmas.

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June: Our programme for this month should have been games, not quite sure what happened because this never materialized possibly due to a stack of admin to get through. Not a problem as the ladies like to spend time chatting. Lyn paraded our Standard at the Normandy Veterans service and parade on Armed Forces day, accompanied by other branch members, the flag raising ceremony in Leicester and the equivalent ceremony in Nottingham. Also this month 3 ladies were present at the Queen's Jubilee tour in Nottingham. Finally this month a number of us enjoyed a pleasant day out at the NMA.



Enjoying a visit to the NMA

July: Our meeting was a very noisy beetle drive with lots of fun and laughter and confusion over how many points should be awarded for each body part (lots of senior moments). We had three new members join the branch; Jean, Jo and Yvonne.

August: Our cake and catch up meeting and to make final arrangements for our outing to the Sailing Club, attended by forty members and nine guests, two of whom were Sue Westlake and Gabi Shanahan. As always a great day for eating, drinking, chatting with comrades and trips on the lake for those brave enough to try and squeeze into a buoyancy aid. This was a very special day for our chairman Doris White, who was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by Sue Westlake. Unbeknown to Doris, her niece was invited to share this special occasion. Our dining area was decorated with union flags, balloons and bunting etc, which reflected the Queens Diamond Jubilee year. Many thanks to one of our members who came up with this idea and did most of the work to make the area look very British. As always many people worked tirelessly over a few days to make the Sailing Club the great success and special occasion that it always is.



Summer lunch at the Sailing Club



Sue Westlake presenting Doris White with a Certificate of Appreciation

September: This month started with a sad occasion when our Standard was one of many which paraded in Birmingham at Mo Deeley's funeral along with eight other branch members. (we will always remember you Mo). Lyn carried the Standard and three ladies laid a wreath at the Menin gate in Belgium, this was made special for them as they were chosen to lay it first. (well done ladies you made us very proud). Seven ladies attended the Tamworth branch skittle match, enjoyed good food, a raffle and our branch almost won the team prize, but we did manage the best individual score. Our last outing this year was a visit to Chatsworth House which was interesting and enjoyed by all, although those who ventured out into the gardens found it a little on the chilly side. This month our harvest festival raised £102.

October: Our meeting began with the AGM, all officers were re elected, only one committee member changed. Five ladies travelled to Shrewsbury for the Wales and the West reunion, another great weekend for food, drink, raffle and meeting our comrades again, not forgetting the serious side of the meeting which is why we were there. Just to briefly mention the WRAC Dinner Club in Nottingham which was attended by a number of ladies from the branch. Only those who have attended this kind of function can appreciate what an amazing weekend this was.

November: This month our Christmas fayre raised £109, also a glass of wine and mince pies were enjoyed by all. The standard was paraded by Lyn at the Festival of Remembrance, Demontfort Hall, the Poppy match at the King Power stadium and Remembrance Day Parade at Victoria Park. Branch members attended various services and parades in Leicester, Nottingham and London. We now look forward to our Christmas lunch in December where our special guest will be The Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire, Lady Jennifer Gretton.

A proud to British year given the Queens Jubilee celebrations, Olympics and Paralympics. Our branch appears to go from strength to strength, our membership has increased to 139 on the books, with an average of 30 members attending our monthly meetings. May I take this opportunity to wish all our comrades a happy and healthy 2013

LINCOLN BRANCH

2012 has been a very mixed year for our Branch with many changes. We said a final farewell to our Secretary and Founder Member Chris Corker as she moved home to the North East.

We are now settled in a much larger meeting hall and trust that in 2013 we will be able to hold a couple of large events and welcome other Branches to join us. We have been most fortunate to have welcomed Barbara Green, the author of "Girls in Khaki," to sign copies of her book and to see several of our members memories in print. Among those memories we treasure are Cath Hedley, who was our oldest member, and our Branch President Nan Waters, both of whom sadly have recently passed away. Fortunately we still have Jean Sperry (née Ball) a former branch chairman amongst our number and her amusing service days recounted in "Girls in Khaki" keep us cheerful!

Lincolnshire is a large county and fate seems to have placed the majority of our younger, and still working, ladies in the south of the county. They meet once a quarter for a meal and organise several outside activities for the Branch. The more mature members meet monthly in Lincoln and there is always a marvellous bring and share lunch, together with a selection of events and a variety of speakers. We shall be holding our Annual Dinner in April 2013 as we have on past occasions had to reschedule at the festive season due to weather conditions.

On Saturday 8th December Lincoln Branch Quarterly members held their annual Christmas Lunch at The Carre Arms, Sleaford. The lunch was attended by 22 ladies in total, as once again, the monthly members showed their support by turning out on a cold but dry day. As always the hotel provided us with a superb meal. Lincoln branch have been using this venue for a number of years now for various functions and have never been disappointed. All our members joined in the fun by wearing Christmas hats and this year we had a competition for the best effort which was judged by one of the hotel staff. Despite attempts at bribery she remained completely neutral and the prize was duly awarded to Linda Pledge who, it has to be said, really did deserve it for her magnificent creation. A raffle was also held for the first time this year, the top prize being a beautifully iced Christmas Cake donated by Jenny Quirk and won by Averill Ward - Averill, we were all jealous of that one! Such is the success of this event we have already pencilled in to our diaries the date for our 2013 lunch on 14th December.



Enjoying Christmas Lunch

On Friday 23rd November nine intrepid ladies gathered at The London Inn in Stamford to eat and partake in some 'Dutch Courage' before joining in a Ghost Walk around the beautiful Georgian town of Stamford. Some had been on Ghost Walks before and knew what to expect while others were quite new to the experience. After imbibing we boldly made our way to the Arts Centre where we were to meet with our guide for the evening and set off for what we hoped would be an interesting and informative evening. It was most certainly both of those things but also one of the funniest and unexpected evenings out for a long time. We were guided by a white-faced young man to an old cemetery in the middle of Stamford High Street for our first tale and our first meeting of the unexpected when another character jumped out from one of the tombstones to continue the story. Up and down all the alleys, nooks and crannies of Stamford we were regaled by tales of old with characters appearing and disappearing at an alarming rate; bravery having been swept away we were all quite entranced by the storytelling and the marvellous acting of the guides. So much so that when we all joined hands in a circle at Stamford Bus Station to look upwards I'm not sure what we expected, but it certainly wasn't a verse of the Hokey Cokey which is exactly what we did to order! The Walk ended in the Cellar Bar of the Arts Centre in total darkness and the guides disappeared.....no doubt to appear again one dark winter evening. Suffice to say that an evening of excellent entertainment was enjoyed by all.

Editor: Lincoln Branch member Barbara Chandler's husband (Ed Lane) has just published his third novel in the 'Going Dark' series. The book is called 'The Lunatic Game' and it features Army Captain Gill Somers in an undercover role during the Peace Process in Ulster. The book is available from Fastprint Publishing, 9 Culley Court, Bakewell Road, Orton Southgate, Peterborough PE2 6XD; or www.fast-print.net/store.php for £9.99 plus P&P. It is also available for most electronic formats from Amazon for £2.27. The book is published in aid of the Royal British Legion and the author will be making a donation to the Legion for each copy sold.

LUTON BRANCH

Alack and alas, due to unforeseen circumstances the Luton Branch has had to close. The circumstances involved Madge, the Chairman, moving to Hampshire to be near her family and Eleri, the Treasurer, moving back to the land of her birth, Wales. One of these posts I could have managed to fulfill but to be responsible for all three tasks was a step too far. After a very enjoyable but sad Christmas get together, with a seasonal buffet provided by the members, we all said our farewells to Luton Branch WRAC Association.

The remaining members have been offered the chance to join the Far East Veterans who meet in the same room on the last week of the month. A few of us will give this a try and inform the rest whether we think this is viable, watch this space.

Apart from this sad news the Branch had a successful year. One of the highlights being a meeting in May with the Cambridge Branch in the RAFA Club in Bedford. In January we met in Luton town centre and went for a New Years lunch in a local restaurant, this was very jovial. In February, March, April and June we had thought provoking talks that ranged from Britches, Bells and Baldrics to the National Trust. The annual quiz versus the Far East Vets saw us romp to a very good victory. In November those fit enough not only marched through Luton in the Remembrance Parade and laid a wreath, but also attended Remembrance Parades and services in two Luton schools. All three services were very moving and if possible those who can will attend them in 2013.

As the words above suggest, Luton Branch was a very active and lively group who consisted of ATS as well as WRAC. I'm sure they will all feel as I do the loss of friendship and continuity.

MARCHES AND MID WALES BRANCH

You could be forgiven for thinking that our silence has been because we've been trekking the Offa's Dyke path for the last 3 years and got lost. Well, the branch has certainly done some trekking but you'll be pleased to know we haven't lost our way....yet! Carys, our Chairman/Secretary is an extremely busy lady. As well as running a successful cake making enterprise and tearoom, she is on several other committees, in short this lady who is of retirement age, juggles many balls in the air at once. In consequence it proved too much to also expect her to find the time to write newsletters and Branch reports. My ailing husband puts strong demands on my time and I'm not getting any younger, never the less, as a seasoned scribbler of newsletters etc I called in at her Tea Room one day and offered Carys my services. With the approval of the members I am once again responsible for writing our members newsletter and a contribution for Lioness. On behalf of the branch I would like to apologise for our long silence but hopefully you will understand that it was for genuine reason.

As I write this for the December deadline I recall that it was on 10th December 2005 that we had our first Branch meeting in Newtown, Powys. Eight of us turned up

and Maggie and Irene, our Area Chairman and Secretary rounded up the number to ten. Our membership quite quickly grew to twenty and increased again with the addition of 3 members from the Cardiff area when their branch closed in 2008. Despite steadily increasing our membership (which now stands at 34) it is a sad fact that after seven years we still only see an average of 12 members at our quarterly meetings. We believe this is not through lack of support but rather it is due to distance. We who live in Mid Wales never cease to be amazed by our three steadfast members, Kath, Joan and Cordelia who share a car to travel over 100 miles from the Cardiff area; they even stay overnight in order to attend our meetings. Their enthusiasm and support for the Branch is irrefutable and all the more remarkable given that their combined age is 245 years!



Judith, Elaine, Marianne, Maggie, Deanna, Gill, Irene, Lizzie & Doris. 10 December 2005

The same can be said of Pat who until recently brought the same unerring support and enthusiasm all the way from Pwllheli in North Wales. She also stayed overnight before returning home with her husband. Sadly, when he died, the long journey proved too much for Pat to drive by herself. She has now very sensibly joined Chester Branch, not only to reduce her mileage but also to dispense with the B&B. The Branch is going to miss Pat very much and we wish her well for the future.

With the cost of fuel and/or public transport, plus the expense of an overnight stay, not all our members can afford to attend our meetings. This always gave me deep concerns when I was Branch Secretary. With the steady trickle of new members joining the Branch, most of whom live in South Wales, it is of even greater concern to our present committee. If the present trend continues, we could soon be struggling to make up a quorum for our AGM. With 'Mohamed and the mountain' in mind, in 2010 the branch chose to abandon our usual summer garden party, which was also our main fundraising event (sending out 4 newsletters per year is quite expensive). Instead members from mid Wales made the long journey to Cardiff in the hope of meeting more of our members - at last! Those who managed to go had a most enjoyable time at St Fagan's Natural History Museum of Wales. Regrettably none of our 'absent' members turned up. With no overnight stay it was an exhausting 200+ mile trek, there and back! Undaunted, a similar trek was arranged in the summer of 2011, this time to Llangollen in North Wales. Those who could go had a pleasant canal trip and were served an enjoyable lunch on the barge.

Sadly Pat was the only North Wales member to join the group. Another long trek, no sign of any 'absent' members but plenty of mountains!

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It will come as no surprise that the branch is trekking the length and breadth of Wales and this year, our funds were looking rather depleted. So it was with a clear conscience that the branch held its customary summer fund raiser/ garden party in mid Wales. Actually it was hosted by Gill and Elaine in their lovely garden, which is not too far from Newtown, Powys. They prepared a magnificent selection of food and it didn't matter that it rained because they had erected a marquee to keep everyone dry. Indeed they put in a huge effort to make it a memorable and successful meeting.

We went for our usual trip to the seaside at Aberdovey in 2010 and 2011 for our autumn meetings but we didn't go this year. At the request of our three ladies from Cardiff we met for lunch at our other favourite venue The Longmynd Hotel at Church Stretton. Their reason was that it would be less far for them to travel and there is a railway station in the town if they weren't able to drive. These ladies have given a great deal to the Association as well as to our branch, but the time is approaching when, like Pat, they will no longer be able travel the huge distance to attend our meetings. Are they going to be left high and dry, or will someone reading this pull out the stops to form a new branch that will better serve those who live in South Wales?

This Branch was formed to serve the whole of mid Wales and the area east of the border known as The Marches. A large enough area for any Branch you might think. Our boundaries have gradually been extended to cover the entire Principality but, as this report hopefully demonstrates, it is not workable. We now have a total of 10 branch members who live in the south Wales region. This branch began with just 8 members...it can be done!

MEDWAY BRANCH

Although small, it is good to see our six loyal members are still attending each month. In addition we have a much welcome newbie, ex WRAC Driver Joyce Miles. Yet again, Janet Cameron has taken on the role of secretary, and Nellie Dodds is our faithful treasurer. Oh yes, and Dot Stedman still keeps us all supplied with tea! The rest of us help in whatever way we can.

March saw the WRAC Grand Reunion in Bristol. Margaret and Barbara Gallafent attended and said it was great to see everyone again, and especially enjoyed the bus ride around Bristol Town Centre.

In June we were kindly invited to Mrs Cleverly's Birthday Party. As an ex senior officer in the WRNS, she invited all of the Medway ex-servicewomen to celebrate with her. We all went and had a marvellous time. As we are regularly invited to WRNS events, our WRAC contingent decided to return the favour! Barbara Gallafent very kindly prepared a wonderful buffet tea, and a great turnout of ex servicewomen had a lovely afternoon. Many thanks to Barbara for all her hard work in making the event so successful.



Janet Cameron, Nellie Dodds and Dot Stedman



Margaret Gallafent and Joyce Miles

This year has really flown by, and before we knew it October was here and time again for the Annual WRAC Dinner Club event, this year in Nottingham; I (Sadie Kemp) travelled up alone, but shared a hotel room with my friend of 32 years Alison Inglis, a member of the Nottingham Branch. It was great to see everyone having such a fun time, with Cathy Monroe and her faithful camera capturing us all crammed on the dance floor strutting our stuff. The next morning was funny to watch, with many members wandering around with sore heads!



Enjoying the WRAC Dinner Club

In November, I once again laid the WRAC/ATS Wreath at the Rochester Cathedral Service of Remembrance. Nellie Dodds was sad not to attend as she was recovering from a nasty chest infection, but she was there in spirit, as were all our other members.

Sadie Kemp



As usual, our own branch Christmas Dinner will be happening early in the New Year. However we did manage to clear a space in our hectic diaries to attend the WRNS Christmas Dinner in the King Charles Hotel. Thank you very much to the WRNS for inviting us... again! Additionally the Gallafent sisters attended the Canterbury Branch's Christmas Lunch where Kate McGregor and Sue Wing made them most welcome, and were definitely the hostesses with the mostesses! We would like to take this opportunity to wish all Lioness readers a very healthy and happy New Year.



Enjoying Christmas Lunch

PHOENIX BRANCH

As planned Phoenix Branch AGM took place at a venue somewhat different from the places normally reserved for such 'business' gatherings. Maggie Purkis and husband Colin very kindly hosted the AGM at their house on 08 July 2012.

Aside from the splendid surroundings and refreshments Phoenix members also benefited from Cathy Munro's attendance as official photographer. As will be seen from the month of May in the Wales and the West's calendar, those present looked very relaxed and at home. The hospitality was excellent on that lovely summer day in July.

Cathy contributed to the proceedings by showing photos of the Grand Reunion which was especially welcomed by those who had been unable to attend. Diaries at the ready it was decided to firm up the dates for the Phoenix post Christmas lunch and a proposed visit to the National Memorial Arboretum in 2013, viz Friday 25 January and Saturday 18 May respectively. The Branch Secretary, Irene Hall, would issue formal invitations to members via their Branch Secretaries, detailing venues, menus and costs.

In early September, and in stark contrast to social gatherings, Phoenix members attended the funeral service held for the late beloved Maureen Deeley, noted for her Standard Bearer expertise and dedication to the Association. Maggie Purkis lead the tributes to a very much admired and respected lady.

Since the dissolution of Crewe Branch Joan Berry, Millie Pover and Sheila Johnson have continued to meet on occasional Saturday mornings to keep in touch with Association matters. At such a meeting on 18 August 2012 Joan presented Millie and Sheila with their Veterans Diamond Jubilee Rosette which she had received via Irene Hall. The Army Benevolent Fund will be one of several charities to benefit from the monies raised from the sale

of the lapel Rosettes. These ladies decided to have a Christmas lunch together on 13 December 2012.

Irene Hall had attended the Marches and Mid Wales Garden Party and participated in the Birmingham Branch Beetle Drive in September. Thereafter 5 Phoenix members attended the Wales and the West Area Reunion held at the Lord Hill Hotel, Shrewsbury on 27 October 2012. This was well attended by up to 55 members overall; special thanks to Margaret Walkenden (Birmingham) for providing the table floral arrangements, Kath Hughes (Marches and Mid Wales) and Pam Richards (Leicester & Nottingham) for their help selling raffle tickets.

The Secretaries spoke in turn of the events which had occurred since last years Reunion. They also announced some of their Branch plans for the future pleasure of their own members, and of those events to which other Wales and the West Branches and beyond would be invited. The serious point made that without the genuine and prolonged effort by Secretaries, and continued support from members, the outlook for some Branches could be in jeopardy, leading to closures.

Happily October's WRAC Dinner Club gathering in Nottingham proved to be the resounding success everyone had hoped and worked so hard for. The event was comprehensively recorded in a fabulous series of photographs taken by Cathy Munro, these were augmented by photos taken by individual members who enjoyed all aspects of the event. The hotel was superb with first rate food and facilities including a swimming pool and sauna plus numerous bars!

Maggie Purkis and her team of helpers had once again excelled themselves to ensure that a good time was had by all, including 43 Dinner Club members who were attending for the first time. Chances are they will be back next year!

Meantime, heartfelt greetings are appropriate for the festive season. Phoenix members started theirs off by accepting the Birmingham Branch's kind invitation to their Christmas lunch on 5 December 2012; one of several to delight in thanks to the work done by Branch officials and their helpers. Happy New Year 2012.

PLYMOUTH BRANCH

This year we have been pleased to welcome five new members to the branch; Jenny Jones in Camelford, her sister Jane in Delabole, Pauline Marr in Torquay, Michelle Grosse in Penzance and Elaine Libby in Dawlish. We look forward to meeting them at our gatherings in the future.

In the last week in June the City of Plymouth was the national host for Armed Forces week. On the Saturday, Veterans Day, HRH Prince Edward and Prime Minister David Cameron were in attendance. Mary Davis was invited to represent the ATS at a VIP buffet lunch and was presented to Prince Edward, whilst before the parade David Cameron took time to have a few words with Marion Edwards. Jane, Marion and her daughter Debbie then took part in the march past on The Hoe. Mary was asked to don her uniform again in October for a photograph to be included in the 2013 calendar of The Federation of Plymouth and Ex-Services Association where she now appears in the month of February.



Marion Edwards (seated) with her daughter Debbie and Jane Evans



Mary Davis

Evon and Ruth went to Nottingham in October for the WRAC Dinner Club weekend. On Saturday morning Jessie took them to the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas, Staffordshire. On her advice they went early because the annual 'Ride to the Wall' was due to arrive there during the morning. Jessie had also booked a mobility scooter for each of them and they were extremely glad to use them because there are a lot of places to see and a huge acreage to cover. Ruth said, "We arrived at the chapel in good time for the 2 minutes silence which is observed every day. Sometimes, I am told, the chapel is crowded to the doors, that day we 3, plus a couple of gentlemen were the only ones there so it was fortunate that we turned up. 'The Ride to the Wall' is a charity ride by Bikers who turn out in their thousands, in 2011 around 11,000 bikes turned up! It was great to see so many people at the memorial for a good cause. Their bikes were parked along the lower roads and stretched on both sides for as far as the eye could see. What an experience in addition to our lovely weekend at the hotel, revisiting with so many friends from long ago or very recent years. Thanks to the committee for their hard work. Evon took the opportunity to see her son on Sunday and I went for a walk around the city and enjoyed the sunshine"



Ruth Jennings, Evon Roberts and Jessie Fairthbrother enjoying the NMA

We are now looking forward to our Christmas gathering in Plymouth when we expect about 40 members and friends to sit down to Christmas dinner. In May 2013 we shall be in Truro again at The British Legion for our 'Cornwall' reunion and we have planned a meeting at Dart Valley Farm, near Exeter, on Saturday 8th June to give our members in the Torbay/Newton Abbot/East Devon areas an opportunity to get together. We continue to have our monthly meetings on the 4th Tuesday of every month at Abbey Hall, Plymouth and would welcome anyone who would like to come and join us.

SCOTTISH AREA

The Scottish Area of the WRAC Association held their AGM in Perth on Saturday 29th September 2012. Thirty nine members from Branches throughout Scotland attended and Lt Col (Retd) Jo Young chaired the meeting. A warm welcome was given to Lt Col (Retd) Sue Westlake, our guest speaker. Col Westlake addressed the meeting and updated those present on current activities within the Association. A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Jean Savage of Aberdeen Branch. Unfortunately Jean was unable to attend the AGM so Joan Bartlett, Chairman of Aberdeen, accepted the certificate on Jean's behalf.

Charitable donations totalling £150 were made to Lioness, the WRAC Association and South West Scotland RnR. South West Scotland RnR is a charity which provides much needed and appreciated holidays in Dumfries and Galloway for soldiers injured while on active service in Afghanistan and elsewhere. The meeting was followed by an excellent lunch allowing time to catch up with old friends and was much enjoyed by all.

The Scottish Area AGM will take place at the Queen's Hotel, Perth on Saturday 28th September 2013. Further details will be given in Lioness immediately prior to this date.

SHEFFIELD BRANCH

The major event this year has to be the wedding of our Chairman, Margaret Dufty to Mr John Hinds. This was on the 23rd November at Huddersfield. The weather behaved itself, they had a fine day and the ceremony was recorded by both the BBC & ITV television.

We hope they continue to be as happy as they both were on that day. John's son Gavin, who is a Sergeant Major in the Yorkshire Regt, was the Best Man & the date of the wedding was delayed until he returned from Afghanistan. We wish them Good Luck and much happiness.

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Mr & Mrs John Hinds

We held our Spring Lunch in May. Same venue as last year and it was equally as good, so we will probably rebook for next year. In June we went to the SUOTC Beating Retreat, something we always enjoy. On Artillery Day, 7th July, we made our annual visit to the Arboretum. This year we were very proud of our member Beryl Holder who has been Chairman of the Royal Artillery Association for many years as well as the editor & distributor of their magazine Ack Ack. During the Service, Maj Gen Bruce Brealey C.B. presented her with a Certificate of Merit in appreciation of her services to the Association as Chairman. What a proud moment that was, I only wish I had a photo of the occasion to include here. In September we went to York for our Northern Area reunion. It's an excellent venue and the ladies of York Branch make it a very enjoyable day, long may they continue to do so.



Enjoying the Northern Area Reunion

In November three of our members were very proud of themselves for marching in London on Remembrance Day. For several years we have been in London for Remembrance weekend, but have invariably attended the Service either in Westminster Abbey or on HMS Belfast. This time what a good decision it was, we had a marvelous day. Such glorious weather, such a fantastic turnout for the WRAC, altogether a rather super day. I would have thought 90 women, all in green, marching superbly would have warranted a mention on TV, but obviously not!



Brenda, Jean and Iris

For our Christmas Lunch I chose a different hotel from the one we have used since before I became a member and unfortunately it didn't meet the approval of some of our members; although it got the majority vote at our meeting. The food was excellent and most of us enjoyed it, but I await with interest (& trepidation) the meeting when we decide where to have our 2013 Christmas Lunch.



Christmas Lunch

This year has seen our membership depleted once again. Sadly one of our most loyal and loved members, Marjorie (Madge) Hedley, died in October and we miss her a great deal. Another 3 are no longer able to attend meetings so we are thinking of holding future meetings over coffee in a local restaurant, to save the expense of the room at Victoria Hall. Anyone wishing to come to the meetings please ring me, Brenda Colley, on 01709 365828 to check venue and time. It will still be held on the 1st Thursday of each Month. Of course should our numbers 'pick-up' we will go back to our usual meeting place, but until such time, please call me and check first.

It just remains for me to say a very Happy New Year to all the readers of this excellent publication and to all the staff who work so hard to bring it to us.

SHROPSHIRE BRANCH

So where did the last year go! By the time you read this report, we will be well into a new year and hopefully I will keep to the New Years resolution I intend to make of; prepare my branch report for Lioness in plenty of time,

instead of the last minute dash as normal. Who said that will be broken easily? So where did my last report end? Oh yes, early June. So much goes on, I have to think really hard. Not easy when you're blonde and senile!

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We had had our trip to Chester Branch earlier in June as per the last report, but still wanted to do a little more this month. This entailed our renting our trusted mini bus for the weekend. Day 1 found us on a day trip to Llandudno. Rather worried as the weather in Shropshire at that time was awful (British Summer at it's worst), but at least we didn't need a boat! Although dry it was very windy by the time we got there. Some of us smaller people had to ensure we didn't get blown away when we went up the Great Orme. The more sensible ones stayed down on the flat and in the shops. All had a super day out and no one got wet. Windblown yes, wet no. Day 2 and all aboard again, this time for a trip to the Nantwich area. Today the weather was good and the sun shone for us. First stop was a Craft/Antique Centre, some could have stayed there all day, not sure if that was due to the excellent lunch or the various stalls. Nancy Tipton couldn't resist buying a new fountain for her garden, kid you not! Must admit she got it at a bargain price so understood why she wanted it. A man kindly put it in the back of the bus for us. Sandra Davies and I flexed our muscles when we got home and carried it into Nancy's house. It is now in situ and working fine, an excellent buy Nancy. After the Craft /Antique Centre we went to Bridgemere Garden Centre. Besides viewing various outlets and lots of lovely plants, we had afternoon tea and later a large ice cream. We know how to live it up at Shropshire branch! At the end of the day some very tired but happy ladies were dropped off home (with fountain and plants).



Going up the Great Orme

At the end of June was Armed Forces Day at RAF Cosford. A number of our members attended this free event. As part of the activities this year there was a guided tour of the Michael Beetham Conservation Centre (not normally open to the public) and a flypast by the Dakota from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight. On arrival there was free tea and coffee with lunch being provided at a discounted rate in the private dining area of Hangar One. As in previous years, those that attended had a super day.

July was a busy month for most of our members attending various celebrations. Tired arms due to all the flag waving. If it's not the Jubilee celebrations it's the Olympic Torch going through the county. What a marvellous time. August and we were on a coach to Chester for a days shopping and then a cream tea trip on a canal boat. We did have an enjoyable walk round the Roman city walls, and an

excellent lunch. Trust us to find a pub called the Shropshire Arms whilst shopping, only for a quick lemonade of course! The heavens decided to open on our way back to the canal boat and by the time we got there Sheila Johnson, Sandra Davies and I looked like 3 drowned rats. This didn't put us off though, nor did the steam coming off our clothes when the sun came out once on board. We had a really good cream tea, and joined in with the fun the company who run these canal trips provided. Not sure if that Roman gentleman got over Sandra blowing the Roman version of a trumpet though. Sheila and he had to put their fingers in their ears!



Sheila Johnson and a Roman deafened by Sandra Davies

September found us in Chester again, this time as guests at Chester Branch's Virtual Race Day. Chester Branch had enjoyed our event earlier in the year and asked if they could borrow our equipment etc to run one of their own. Of course we agreed, with one provision, they had to invite us along. What a super day we all had. Apparently the noise we made shouting for our horses was so loud the office staff on the floor below could hear us. Although I didn't win one race, I along with the rest of our ladies hope to attend the next race day they run. Thanks to Pat Sanders and the rest of Chester members, you always make us so welcome. This month also saw us holding our AGM, Sandra Davies and I were voted in as Chairperson and Secretary. Sorry people, you're stuck with us for another year.

Later in September we were ready to take on the might of other branches by attending Tamworth's Skittles event. We had more people wishing to play on our team this year than previously, so thought we stood a chance. Hilda took off her glasses but it didn't work, we came last! A brilliant time was had by all though, and the buffet as always was excellent, thank you Belle. We are looking forward to a rematch in March and September. Everyone seems to be sending us invites, at the end of the month we were guests of the Shropshire REME Branch at a Social Evening. This entailed us being bought drinks and given lots of food! We then played a horse race game, and very few of our members come away without winning. Plus we all left with a raffle prize, or two in some cases. A really enjoyable evening, strangely enough I have already received a request for us to return in September 2013. Some people never learn do they, we will of course be accepting the invite.



Enjoying the REME Social Evening

In October Sandra, Sheila and I attended the Dinner Club Weekend in Nottingham. Sandra was my navigator and we had no problem finding the hotel. Those who used a Sat Nav instead of a Sandra got lost. Must be a message in that some place eh! I tried to find the Nottingham Caves without Sandra and got lost a few times before eventually getting there. We all enjoyed the weekend and are now signed up for the Fort William event, is Scotland ready for us we ask? We just had a few days to get over Nottingham before a number of us set off for our overnight stay at Blackpool. Yes that's right, we went to see the Blackpool illuminations. The weather was very kind to us and we enjoyed the experience. Couldn't believe Hilda Dakin had never been to Blackpool before never mind never heard of the famous illuminations. Hilda also experienced her first ever transport style cafe breakfast, she thought the mug of coffee was the best she had ever tasted. Also this month was our Area Reunion held at the Lord Hill in Shrewsbury. So nice to meet up with other members of the Area that we only see now and then.



Enjoying the Area Reunion

November found one of our members (Sandra Davies) attending the Cenotaph. Sandra was pleased to be allocated a ticket and honoured to march with other members of our Association. The rest of our branch members who normally parade at COD Donnington Station Church found at short notice, due to roof problems, that we had to parade at a small village church nearby. As normal though, we did get invited to a Curry Lunch in the Officers Mess afterwards, very nice. A first for us, we attended the Birmingham Tattoo at the end of November. Although our seats (thanks to Birmingham Branch and Babs Blay for getting us them) were in the gods, they were excellent and we could see everything that was going on very clearly. We sat with the girls from Birmingham and some from Cambridge/Norfolk. We had areally good time and hope to go again in 2013. Understand next years will be held on 30th November and 1st December. Diary's at the ready girls.



Hilda Dakin and Sheila Johnson



Sandra Davies on Horse Guards Parade

We had decided that as December is a very busy month for the majority of our members we would not hold our branch Christmas Party until the New Year. This also enabled us to accept invites from other Branches to attend their Christmas Lunches. First off was Birmingham Branch and what a super time we had. Thank you ladies and thank you for letting me take the table decorations as my raffle prizes

(I needed 4 for a local function, don't ask!). We then had Chester Branch Christmas Lunch which we all look forward to each year. As always so good to meet up with old friends and have a good natter plus excellent food. One small hiccup this year, they sent the barman out for supplies so normal service resumed very quickly.



Enjoying Chester Branch Christmas Lunch

We don't normally hold a meeting in January, but this January we are holding a Post Christmas Party on the 12th January. We are hoping fellow association members from other local branches will be able to attend. My next report will tell you how it went.

Please note we hold our meetings (2pm or 7pm) at The Red Lion, Holyhead Road, Wellington, Telford. Our meetings are held the first Wednesday of every month (6th of Feb at 2pm or 6th of Mar at 7pm and so on). If you would perhaps enjoy something to eat and/or a natter prior to the meeting then come an hour and half before the stated meeting time. Nancy and I will be there having something to eat so why not join us.

Contact Branch Secretary Chris Powell on 01743 241646 or e-mail chris.powell3@mypostoffice.co.uk for further information or details.

SOUTHAMPTON BRANCH

Southampton calling and wishing you all Good Health and a Happy New Year, how was 2012 for all of you? Southampton Branch, it's fair to say, has had a patchy time, apart from our Worthy Down trip which was thoroughly enjoyed (as previously reported).

Apart from membership being slightly down we have struggled on and of course as with everywhere the weather was so unpredictable! We have though had some very good speakers. Dave gave a very interesting talk and demonstration on resuscitation, it was a good job he brought a resuscitation 'dummy' as I don't think anyone would have volunteered! A talk by The Not Forgotten Association was a real eye opener, so good you could have heard a pin drop.

Four of us were lucky to be guests at Salisbury Branch 65th celebrations. Luckily the weather was good and the hard work and organisation resulted in a superb party, very good indeed. We again had good cover for Remembrance Sunday with members attending several villages and towns. I was delighted to have our Standard Bearer at

Romsey, I think this was a first and Di Gardener enjoyed the occasion. Yet again the weather was good!

As Lyn stated in Lioness 2012/2 she has resigned as Branch Secretary. I know she has a busy home life but we were very sorry to lose her, she really did an excellent job. We wish everyone best wishes for a good 2013

STIRLING BRANCH

Hello to all members of association from Stirling and hope everyone is keeping fighting fit. The Stirling Branch has been through a few changes this year with our Chairperson, Mrs Agnes Castle, retiring and handing over the reins to Ms Ann Borthwick. We would like to say a big thank you to Mrs Castle for all her hard work over the years & welcome Ann to the Chair. Sadly this year we also lost our Treasurer Ms Pat Barnett, Pat worked hard over the years making sure all our subs were paid on time, she is greatly missed.



Enjoying the Scottish AGM

Ten members of the branch had a great day out attending the Scottish AGM in Perth. The food was great, wine poured nicely and a few raffle prizes were won. To top it all Isabel won the competition/shield for best Jubilee item in the craft competition. YeeHa, at last "Stirling" is named on the shield.



Isabel Bodman, winner of Best Jubilee item in the craft competition at the Scottish AGM

WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2013

The next AGM will be held at the National Memorial Arboretum, Croxall Road, Alrewas, DE13 7AR
PDF Compressor Free Version on **Saturday 13 April 2013.**

The programme for the day (to be held in The Pavillion, a permanent marquee structure) is:

11.15 -11.45 Secretaries Meeting
12.00 AGM
13.30 Hot buffet lunch (cash bar)

Provisional Agenda for the AGM:

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Confirmation of Minutes
4. Business Arising
5. Trustees Report
6. Financial Report
7. Report of the Editor of the Association Journal
8. Reports of Committees
9. Motions of Urgency
 - a. Council Resolutions (to include Revision of Constitution)
 - b. Branch Resolutions
10. Any Other Business
11. Date of Next Meeting

Lunch: Lunch will be provided for Association members only, other accompanying guest can purchase refreshments in the Arbour Restaurant. Numbers for the buffet lunch will be restricted so please notify your intention to attend by returning the proforma below by Friday 15 March 2013. No proforma - no lunch!

WRAC Association Plot: You may be aware that the original brick built memorial plinth has not weathered at all well. The Association has therefore commissioned a replacement memorial constructed from granite (to the same dimensions and design), to provide a low maintenance, permanent memorial. It is hoped that the replacement memorial, which will be sited within the plot, will be in place by the AGM.

Visitor Information: Full details for visiting the NMA can be found on their website www.thenma.org.uk or from the postal address above. Refreshments on arrival can be purchased in the Arbour Restaurant. A limited number of mobility scooters, for outdoor use only, can be booked in advance for £5 by calling 01283 792333. Wheelchairs are available for a donation. The daily Act of Remembrance is held at 11.00, seating in the Chapel is on a first come basis. The Land Train will be running tours every 30 mins, booking is only available on the day. Due to building work the overflow car park is likely to be in operation, however a drop off facility and parking for disabled badge holders will be available close to the main entrance. The car park is Pay & Display £3 (free for coaches & mini buses).

To: WRAC Association, Gould House, Worthy Down, Winchester, SO21 2RG (**by Fri 15 Mar 13**) or email details to officemanager@wracassociation.org.uk

I do wish to attend the Buffet Luncheon and the AGM on Saturday 13 April 2013 at the NMA:

Name:..... **Branch**

Dietary Requirements:.....

Address:.....

Post Code..... **Tel No**.....

Email:.....

WRAC ASSOCIATION APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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Send to:

WRAC Association
Gould House
Worthy Down
Winchester
SO21 2RG



I wish to join the WRAC Association as a Life Member and enclose £50 cheque

OR

I enclose £5 cheque for Annual membership which is in payment of the first annual subscription up to the 31 October.

Date Signature

All cheques must be in **sterling** and made payable to "**WRAC Association**"

Subscriptions include "Lioness"

Overseas members should contribute an extra £3.50 a year to cover postage of "Lioness"

Please complete this form in **BLOCK LETTERS**

ATS/WRAC/TAVR Army Number

Last Rank Held: (Present Rank if still serving)

Miss/Mrs/Ms: Surname:

Given Names:

Surname when serving: Date of Birth:

Address for Correspondence:

.....

.....

Post Code:

E-mail: Telephone No:

Units during service:

Date of Enrolment: Date of Release:

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**HAVE YOU MOVED RECENTLY
OR
ARE YOU ABOUT TO MOVE?**

PLEASE let us have your new address as soon as you can and help us reduce the number of *Lioness* magazines which are returned undelivered.

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FIRST LINE AND POSTCODE OF OLD ADDRESS

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TEL NO.....

EMAIL.....

Email details to officemanager@wracassociation.org.uk

or

Post to: WRAC Association, Gould House, Worthy Down, Winchester, SO21 2RG

GIFT AID DECLARATION

AUXILIARY TERRITORIAL SERVICE & WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION

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AND

AUXILIARY TERRITORIAL SERVICE & WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

Details of Donor

Title:

Forenames:

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I confirm that I am a UK tax payer and I request that the Auxiliary Territorial Service and Women's Royal Army Corps (ATS & WRAC) Association and the ATS & WRAC Association Benevolent Fund treat all donations I have made since 6 April 2000, and all donations from the date of this declaration, to either the ATS & WRAC Association and/or the ATS & WRAC Association Benevolent Fund as Gift Aid Donations until I notify you otherwise.

Signed: Dated:

Notes:

1. You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that the charity reclaims on your donations in the tax year.
2. You must cancel this declaration if, in the future, your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income and/or capital gains equal to the tax that the charity reclaims on your donations in the tax year.
3. You may cancel this declaration at any time by notifying the ATS & WRAC Association and/or ATS & WRAC Association Benevolent Fund. The declaration will longer apply to donations you make on or after the date of cancellation or such later date as you specify.
4. Please notify the ATS & WRAC Association and/or the ATS & WRAC Association Benevolent Fund of any change of address whilst this declaration is in force.

Two of our Ladies Isabel Bodman & Pauline Edmond, represented Stirling Branch at the Falkirk Festival of remembrance. Lynn & Liz went to London and joined the sea of green forces that paraded at the Cenotaph. That was a proud day, marching with so many of our comrades.



Isabel Bodman and Pauline Edmond at Falkirk Festival of Remembrance

Congratulations to Lynn & Bob Connelly (née Crickmore) who sneaked off and got married by the Captain of their cruise ship on route to Hawaii.....where were our invites. Stirling branch of the association meet on the last Saturday of each month at 12:00 in the Allan Park Hotel. Any members of the association are welcome to join us.

SUFFOLK BRANCH

Lots of celebrations went on in Suffolk in 2012 as no fewer than 5 of our members reached the grand age of 90 years young.



90 years young!

Olive Wilson, Sylvia Johnson, Nell Cox, Mary Hay (missing from photo is Molly Glegg)

At June's meeting we discussed why those who, for whatever reason, have to go into Care Homes have to pay if they have the means but prisoners do not. Needless to say we all agreed that prisoners should pay, after all our only 'crime' is that we have lived long enough to need this service. Also in June several members went to Felixstowe to help Nell celebrate her 90th birthday, good company, good food and a very enjoyable afternoon.

At the beginning of July we went to Shotley near Ipswich and had lunch at the Shipwreck Restaurant. A pleasant afternoon and even the sun came out to join us. Our Area Chairman, Wendy Hooton, joined us for our July meeting, it was very nice to see her again. We had a quiz on Geography compiled by myself, I'm told it was too hard!

At August's meeting we discussed being a teenager in the 21st century. After discussing the pros and cons we all said we would like to be teenagers again, but in our own era's and definitely not today. In September Sylvia Johnson gave us a quiz on nursery rhymes, talk about rolling back the years! We all got there eventually but there was a lot of thinking and head scratching in the process. At the end of September we went to The Corn Exchange to the show "Remember When", all about music from the 40s through to the 70s which we all enjoyed.

October was our AGM and it was agreed that Sylvia Johnson (Chairperson) and Sheelagh Wilson (Secretary) would continue for another year. Our Treasurer, Marjory Lambert, has temporarily resigned for health reasons so it was agreed that the Secretary would cover the Treasurer's role. November's meeting was a general natter, finalising our Christmas lunch and discussing suggestions for our 2013 meetings. We also had our £5 secret santa presents. Also in November I laid a wreath at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday, other branch members attended the service.

Our Christmas lunch was at the Brickmakers Arms in Ipswich and was attended by 10 members, we also enjoyed the company of Wendy Hooton. An excellent lunch was thoroughly enjoyed by all, well done to the staff at the Brickmakers Arms.

A busy and eventful year in 2012, I wonder what 2013 has in store for us all. From us all in Suffolk, good health and happy days to everyone.

TAMWORTH BRANCH

Our Branch was represented at the Rededication Service at Guildford Cathedral on Sunday 19th May when Tammy, our Standard Bearer, carried the QMAAC Standard to be laid up and Nicola carried the Tamworth Standard. On Saturday 26th May the 'new' Branch in our Region, Phoenix Branch, invited all other Branches for a day at the National Memorial Arboretum. We attended the Church service and afterwards were taken on a tour of the NMA before having a lovely lunch; it looks like this is going to be an annual event which we will look forward to.

In June the Olympic torch came to Tamworth and we had a fantastic day. July saw our members attend a BBQ with the Royal Engineers Association at Whittington Barracks. There was a good turnout, the food was excellent and so was the bar and raffle. In September some of our members attended the Birmingham Branch Beetle Drive, what a laugh! There seemed to be more and more dice on the tables as the afternoon progressed. Then on 14th Birmingham, Shrewsbury, Leicester and Chester Branches came to Tamworth and we had a fun lunchtime playing skittles. Sue from Leicester Branch was the winner. I must take this opportunity to thank Tom for doing the scoring and keeping the banter going.

The five of our members who attended the Dinner Club in Nottingham had a really great weekend. We had another skittles evening with the Royal Engineers, Royal Corps of Transport and the Royal Signals in October, with Fish and Chips, they always go down well; Sean from the REA was the winner that night. On 27th October we all met at the

Assembly Rooms in Tamworth and a taxi took us to Shrewsbury for the Wales and the West AGM. We had a lovely meal and came away with a few raffle prizes. November saw us collecting for the Poppy Appeal in our local shopping centre and on 9th November we had a Poppy Appeal Quiz, which was well attended. We had a buffet, a raffle and name the dog and we raised £263.30 on the night. We have some lovely ladies who knit poppies for us and when we sold them we raised £673.80.

We all looked forward to our Christmas outing to the Castle Hotel on Saturday 1st December where we boogied the night away after a great meal.

ULSTER BRANCH

This has been a very exciting year for everyone with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations going on all over the country. Here in Northern Ireland the Ulster Branch had the pleasure of attending a garden party at Stormont, our parliament building. It was quite spectacular with thousands of people attending. Stormont is situated on a hill and we were positioned almost at the top with a panoramic view of the entire proceedings. We were all waiting with great anticipation when suddenly we heard the excited cheers and along came the Queen accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh. Her Majesty looked positively radiant and the Duke of Edinburgh had a happy smile for us all. One of the highlights for the Ulster Branch was when the local media reporter came across and interviewed the members so that when we arrived home we were able to see the interview on the local BBC news programme.

On Remembrance Day three of our members; our Chairman Mary Wilson, Committee member Sylvia Connachan and new member Joan McCabe, went to the War Memorial at Belfast City Hall to lay the branch wreath. The weather was crisp and bright and although Joan told me that she was a little nervous with so many onlookers there, she looked really smart and she and Mary helped Sylvia lay the wreath with dignity and grace. One couldn't help but be moved by the poignant ceremony. Following the ceremony refreshments were served in City Hall, with a very acceptable cup of tea.



Remembrance Day

Our branch held their Christmas Luncheon in Beechlawn Hotel, Dunmurry on 1 December. As usual the meal was really scrumptious. We had 21 members at the luncheon which is quite good for us as many of our members are frail and unable to attend, or else they no longer drive and have to come long distances. There were a few guests at the luncheon and indeed one of them, Chrissie Tolcher,

a friend of Marie Jenkins, came across from England to be with us. She said she had really enjoyed her time with us and looked forward to returning on a future occasion. One of our elderly members, Ruby Agnew from Newcastle, fell sometime back and broke her leg so I had quite accepted the fact that she would obviously be unable to attend. You can imagine my surprise when her wee soft voice came over the telephone to tell me that she would be attending the luncheon. Ruby is really special, but she also has a kind and thoughtful daughter, Elizabeth, who gives up her busy time to bring her to our functions. The day ended on a jolly note when we had our usual raffle and there were some really nice prizes to be won. I myself won a bottle of mulled wine to supplement the Christmas cheer.

I was deeply saddened recently to learn that our previous Branch Secretary, Alison Warnock, had been admitted to a nursing home. Alison has been a faithful member of the Ulster Branch over the years and I do miss her company at meetings. However, Rose Lodge Nursing Home is quite near my house so I shall go along before Christmas to bring her some liquid cheer together with all the branch craic.

I was perusing through some branch material recently when a photograph of a previous spring bus outing came to view. When I look at their smiling faces I was reminded that come January I shall have to get busy sorting out our next spring outing which will be to the Portrush/Giant's Causeway area. We always enjoy our outings and it is something to look forward to during the long cold winter days.



Memories of a previous Spring/Summer outing

I would like to thank Tanya-Jayne at HQ for her bulletins and the interesting information which they contain. I would also like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

WORTHING BRANCH

Armed Forces weekend was better than ever in Worthing this year. Well, it can only get better being run by a WRAC member! The ATS/WRAC stall was the best of 36 stalls, with the most customers and a wonderful atmosphere, as well as the most and best helpers. This is an event we look forward to every year, and it gives us the money we need to enjoy the year.

In July we went to our favourite hotel restaurant, next to the gardens where the Armed Forces weekend event is held. They look after us well during the weekend, as they do anytime we visit them. Edna Sinclair celebrated her 90th in some style at an excellent lunch party. As a special

present she was given an ATS blazer badge, she had been after one for some time and was absolutely thrilled.



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90 years young!



Our trip to Bletchley Park was enjoyed by everyone, except Janet who missed the coach. It was a fascinating tour and the lunch they gave us was excellent. A thoroughly enjoyable day out that we can really recommend.

Our last event of the year is another firm favourite. Christmas lunch at our favourite hotel brought a very happy year to a close. Our regular monthly meetings are well attended. In fact our numbers are growing, and some of us meet twice weekly in between meetings as we cannot bear to be apart too long.



Enjoying Christmas lunch



HOW DO I SUBMIT AN ARTICLE FOR LIONESS?

Articles for inclusion in the next edition of
**Lioness must be received by
01 JUNE 2013**
editor@wracassociation.org.uk

I am happy to receive copy in many formats including handwritten and hard copies of photos. However if you have access to technology I'd be grateful if you could adhere to the following guidelines:

Text

- If you have access to email the easiest way to submit copy is simply to type it into the body of the email. I don't need a beautifully laid out document as it all gets copied and pasted into Lioness format anyway.
- If you do attach a document can you please ensure it is in Word (Windows) or Pages (Mac) format. This means that the attached document has a .doc or .pages ending.
- Short articles are really appreciated, please try to stick to the equivalent of no more than one side of A4.

Photos

- Please send photos as attachments in a .jpg format.
- Please don't embed photos into the text of documents, they are difficult to work with.
- Hard copies of photos sent by post are also accepted as we can scan them for you.

WHAT A GREAT YEAR

Leona Barr-Jones

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On Your Marks!

The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games have been considered among the best ever. It was a summer of drama, passion, joy, tears and hope, if the Olympics brought us all so much, the Paralympics reduced us all to quivering wrecks and it was hard to believe it when it was all over, the 17 day party that changed Britain forever. It was on 6 July 2005 when the announcement was made that London would host the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics and it would be the most ambitious logistical exercise ever undertaken in the UK in peacetime.

Combined with the Paralympic Games the Olympics brought more than 14,000 athletes and 7,500 team officials to the UK, along with 21,000 members of the media, and around 800,000 ticketed spectators. Athletes from 204 nations took part in 26 Olympic sports held in 34 venues. Of the 10,500 athletes competing in the main Olympics, 4,688 were women and 5,802 were men.



Great Britain, which was the only team to compete in all 26 sports, contributed 542 athletes: 280 men and 262 women. Team GB's medal count - 65, of which 29 were gold, 17 silver and 19 bronze - is the biggest British haul since 1908. The press and media coverage was huge as some four billion people around the world are reported to have seen at least a moment of the Games on television. This figure includes 90 per cent of the UK population. The BBC broadcast around 5,800 hours of Olympic coverage, more than twice as much as for the 2008 Games in Beijing. The International Olympic Committee's broadcasting arm estimates that more than 100,000 hours of Olympic footage has been broadcast worldwide.

Altogether, the Games required a workforce of around 200,000, including more than 16,000 caterers and around 3,000 technical officials. Of these, 70,000 were the wonderful volunteers, the Games Makers, who were selected from more than 240,000 applicants. Around 18,200 members of the Armed Forces were also involved in the Games. As you know many of these

servicemen and women were called in at short notice to make up for shortfalls in security personnel that should have been provided by the private contractor, G4S.

Get Ready!

For me personally it has been an amazing experience. Having left Regular Service in 2011 after 21 years, I set up my own consultancy business and at the end of 2011 Barr-Jones Associates (UK) Ltd were invited to lead the Surface Transport Readiness Programme for Transport for London. So starting in January 2012, I arrived at the London Surface Transport Headquarters wondering what I had got myself into; it was a bit like taking over command of a unit where none of the troops spoke the same language! It was my role as Programme Manager to bring together, make ready and operationally test all of the different projects and plans which made up the Surface Transport Games Time Programme.

I was working closely with the Olympic Delivery Authority and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) towards the twin objectives of supporting a great Games and keeping London moving and open for business where possible. There had been a great deal of investment made on transport improvements across the capital, not just around the Olympic Park, but also the complete refurbishment of King's Cross St Pancras. My Programme included Roads, Traffic, Signals, Buses, River Services, Taxi and Private Hire, Compliance and Enforcement.

On the Roads, we had to design and install an Olympic and Paralympic Route Network to ensure the athletes, officials, media and others could reach venues reliably, the physical measures, signage and traffic signals changes were a huge exercise and you may not know that for the first Games ever no athletes or officials were delayed reaching their events, so this was a great success.



But enough of the engineering bits, part of my Programme also included Travel Demand Management to deliver behavioural change, so stakeholder and local engagement with business, freight companies, spectators and commuters was intense. Some of you may have used the "Get Ahead of the Games" website or Tweets which won a National Transport Award.

The other Olympic project which won a National Transport Award was the Transport Coordination Centre which coordinated all national transport from the start of the Torch Relay through to the Athletes Parade at the end. One of the biggest elements that was taken through to Operational Delivery during the Olympics and Paralympics was the Road Events and the Central London Zone. These teams were fully responsible for all the planning and road closures and stewarding the routes to and from venues. We also looked after a chunk of the stewarding at Stratford and the Olympic Park.

The fun bit in Readiness and Testing is running numerous workshops, desktops and training exercises, where you will be pleased to hear that I introduced them all to the "Bird Table", complete with models on the maps where we ran through the plans and then did some "War Gaming" or scenario planning as they preferred to call it.

Go!

So once all the readiness and testing programme was complete we stepped into the Operational delivery roles and I was really lucky to be asked to be an Operational Manager for Central London. We had set up an Operational Event Control room where we managed multiple events; Beach Volleyball at Horse Guards Parade, The Mall for all Road Events, Hyde Park for the Triathlon and Swims and also the Live Nation Concerts at Hyde Park. Starting when the Torch Relay came into London and with about one million people coming in to watch the Cycle Race we were a bit busy. It was fantastic to be Bronze Commander again and I nearly came to work in my combats, especially when Boris Johnson popped his head in to say well done!

I was able to take some of my team to see the Opening Ceremony Rehearsal, which was amazing and we also saw the Beach Volleyball, Women's Basketball, the Marathon and Paralympic Athletics. The highlight though was treating myself and my partner to tickets for the Olympic Closing Ceremony, which was truly fantastic, I even danced to the Spice Girls!



So as the last athlete left and the dust settled over London and things started to return to normal, the Lessons were identified and sent off to Rio for 2016 and a number of Legacy opportunities surfaced. I am now helping the Olympic Delivery Authority and Transport for London take forward the Transport Coordination Centre and coordinated event planning and operations which we set up for the

In the Marriott Hotel, Grosvenor Square

Games for future events. Prior to the Games, we hosted the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Pageant operations and have just supported the New Year's Eve and New Year's Day Parade. The next challenge on the horizon is to run the operations coordination for the Virgin London Marathon in April and the RideLondon event in August. With the Tour de France, Rugby World Cup and World Athletics on their way to London in the next few years, who knows what the future holds. The great news is that Barr-Jones Associates Ltd has been nominated for two London Transport Awards for the Programme so watch this space.

OLYMPIC GAMES MAKERS Sandy and Angie Stanford-Barclay

We eagerly awaited the arrival of our Olympic tickets and oh what a disappointment when along with thousands of other hopefuls, they failed to appear. However we had another trick up our sleeves, as on that great day in 2005 when London won the honour of hosting the Olympic Games we made a promise to ourselves that we were going to be at the games come what may. Fortunately for us in true belts and braces fashion we had both decided to submit an application to be Olympic Games Volunteers, and so the long journey began.

We submitted our applications in 2010, heard nothing for several months, then out of the blue an e-mail appeared asking us to go for an interview to Warwick University. Everything at Warwick was well organised with video's from Lord Coe and Eddie Izzard and containers of chocolates from Cadburys to keep us entertained whilst we waited for what seemed like hours to take our turn in the interview hot seat. I was very fortunate to have a delightful young man (who looked like he was about 12 years old) to conduct my interview and needless to say I baffled him with details and delights of my army career, and managed to come out feeling very positive. Angie wasn't so lucky, she got a young lady who also looked about 12 but, could hardly speak English. However, as is her way, Angie managed to impress and talk her way through the interview to what she hoped would also be a successful outcome.

We had to wait ages for any news, but at last it came and we were both successful. We had been selected to be drivers for the Olympic Family members and our place of work was to be the Marriott Hotel in Grosvenor Square. Our vehicles were to be brand new BMWs, how lucky were we. I felt that I had really arrived when I saw the huge car park underneath Hyde Park full of BMW's in an assortment of colours. It was a far cry from my time at 68 Sqn driving the bin lorry around Rheindahlen Garrison! For Angie it was similar to her time driving staff cars, except this time they weren't Austin 1800's.



In all we had to make 5 trips to London to attend orientation training, venue training, driver training, collection of uniforms and presentations, some it was boring but the driving proved to be exceptional. We got to visit all the venues that were to be used for the games, and then had carte blanche to drive around where we wanted to familiarise ourselves with the car and SatNav (believe you me you needed to be a brain surgeon to figure out the Sat Nav, not at all like our TomTom).

At last 27 July 2012 finally arrived, after finishing work we excitedly travelled down to London to stay with my brother who had kindly agreed to put us up for the 2 weeks we were to be there. His flat was so close to the Olympic Park that we could hear the noise from the stadium and see the lights in the evening. We had to miss most of the televised Opening Ceremony because of getting up at 4am to start work at 6am, my shifts for the 2 weeks were 6am-4pm, it had been a long time since I done those sorts of hours, and Angie was on a different shift rota but also working long days.

On occasion we managed to finish at the same time and travelled home together on the tube and bus. Quite often we would get off the bus early and walk the remaining distance home, we were often stopped by people who were really interested in the games and wanted to ask us many questions, it was such a festival atmosphere and really interesting to speak to so many nice people.

The next two weeks turned out to be an absolute honour and thrill for both of us, I had the same client for the duration, an 80 year Puerto Rican American and his charming wife. He was the President of the Court of Arbitration for sport, he got to visit all the venues and I had the opportunity to be with him. I was fortunate enough to be at Eton Dorney on the day that Team GB's women won the first Gold medal, I also managed to go to Wimbledon, Greenwich, and Earls Court, and to top all of that I won 2 tickets to the Athletics in the Olympic Stadium. Angie was driving different clients doing a limousine Taxi service, she also managed to visit lots of the venues but didn't really have much time to get to see much.

We managed to get our days off together and visited the Olympic Park on several occasions and of course to go to the athletics. What a great place the Olympic Park turned out to be, well designed open and airy, beautiful wild flower gardens and the worlds biggest McDonalds!

We met loads of fantastic people from all over the world who had also given up their time to volunteer, had a great time and feel very privileged to have done so. Our last day of shifts came around so quickly, and we wished we had volunteered to do the Paralympics as well. Unfortunately we had to go home, me to go back to work and Angie to take a well earned break. We were given all sorts of memorabilia as keepsakes including a lovely silver baton just like the athletes used in the relay races, only ours were engraved with the Games Makers logo. We also got to keep our uniforms (not sure what we will do with them) maybe some of the readers could come up with some ideas, perhaps an auction to raise funds for the association or something along those lines.

It was a great way to spend part of our summer, and for the most part we had the good weather to go with what was an opportunity and experience we will never forget.



Olympic Flame

THANK YOU WRAC – THE LAST INSTALMENT W/425889 Chris Corker née Appleby

The adventure is now over and I cannot begin to tell you how honoured I feel to have been a small part of the Paralympics. In July, after the excitement of the Technical Rehearsal of the Opening Ceremony and collecting my uniform (which I must say reminded me of Guildford Q stores and being issued with my uniform in 1965!) I then had to attend a 5 hour training session at the Athletes Village. The organisation that went into putting on the Games was immense and a very nice highlight was to receive an email (sent to all Games Makers) from Michelle Obama; although I was a bit puzzled as to why the American President's wife was thanking us when it was a British event, but her words sounded very sincere.



Entrance to the Olympic Park



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Kit Inspection

I approached the Athletes Village with great trepidation on my first shift and after passing through various checkpoints and security checks I walked the whole length of the village to the transport hub. By the time I arrived there my eyes were full of tears and I was frantically thinking to myself that I cannot do this. To see these beautiful people, and there were many of them, with such disabilities was something that will stay with me for the rest of my life. When I began to get to know them and to ensure they were on the correct bus for their training or event my whole concept changed. Everyone was so delighted to be taking part in the Games and nations that have been at war with one another were travelling together, socialising together and showing how the power of sport can overcome anything.



First Shift

The food provided for the volunteers was excellent with plenty of choice and you could have eaten as many apples, oranges, bananas and munchy bars and drunk as many bottles of water, cups of tea and coffee as you wanted. On the very hot days I drank more water than I have ever drunk before.

Every shift we received a gift of some kind, a journal, various badges – bronze, silver and gold, two certificates and a silver baton. A letter also arrived thanking all the volunteers for their support from the Prime Minister. Would I do it again – yes!

OLYMPIC TORCHBEARER Penny Spink MBE



Olympic Flame

Penny Spink was a Torchbearer for the London Olympics and proudly carried the torch near Bristol Zoo in the early morning of Wednesday 24th May. "I was quite nervous before the event," said Penny, "but the actual experience was out of this world. I walked the 300 metres, expecting there to be only a few people around at that early hour of the morning, but there were crowds all the way, cheering and waving. It was magical."

Penny who has worked as a volunteer with British Fencing and across all sports for many years, was thrilled to have been nominated. She was also a 'Games Maker' or volunteer helper, at the Olympics in the ExCel stadium in the Docklands area where the fencing took place.

LONDON 2012 OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST **This article and photo is printed courtesy of the MOD website**

Royal Artillery Captain Heather Stanning secured Team GB's first gold medal of the London 2012 Olympics in the rowing regatta at Eton Dorney. The win is also the first time an Olympic gold medal has been won in rowing by a female crew.

Roared on by huge British support along the 2,000 metre course, Heather and rowing partner Helen Glover beat the Australian team into second place with a time of 7 minutes and 27 seconds in the Women's pair.

After winning gold for Team GB, Heather said she was shattered and ecstatic and had this message for her colleagues in Afghanistan:

"Thanks for all the support. I know you have been watching and supporting me all along and I am proud to be associated with you and hope to see you all when you get home."

Heather commissioned into the Royal Artillery at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in 2008, and after 18 months as a Troop Commander in 32nd Regiment Royal Artillery her potential as an elite rower became increasingly apparent. She has had to put her Army career on hold for the last couple of years to focus on her 2012 Olympic ambitions but she plans to return to 32nd Regiment Royal Artillery after the Olympics.

"The Army has been amazing giving me the time I need to train. I am really proud of being part of the Forces, and the Army has been fantastic in supporting me to get me to where I am," she added. Heather also doesn't rule out deploying to Afghanistan if she does return to her Regiment. On current plans she may be heading out next autumn to command the soldiers that have given her such strong support over the recent months.

Commander Land Forces, General Sir Nick Parker KCB CBE ADC, said: "It is fantastic that Heather and Helen have won Olympic Gold today. It is a magnificent result and a testament to their hard work over the last few years. The Army has been very proud to support Heather in her preparations to London 2012, and I have no doubt that soldiers across the globe will be sharing in her success today."

Captain Heather Stanning Royal Artillery

Her Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Craig Palmer Royal Artillery, spoke of his pride when watching Heather and Helen, and hinted towards his plans for Heather's future:

"We are delighted with Heather's win today. I wish to congratulate Heather and Helen on their success; it was an excellent achievement. Soldiers from 32nd Regiment Royal Artillery were thrilled to watch the race from their bases in Afghanistan, while their friends and families watched it here in the UK. I am sure that they have been inspired by her performance and we look forward to welcoming her back to the Regiment later this year. I know that she is keen to deploy with her soldiers to Helmand in 2013."

The Regimental Colonel of the Royal Artillery, Colonel Roddy Lee, said: "We are immensely proud of Capt Stanning. She is a credit to the Royal Regiment of Artillery, to the Army and to the nation. The whole regiment has been behind Heather today – including 32 Regt RA here at RA Barracks, Larkhill, and especially 22 (Gibraltar 1779-83) Bty (from 32 Regt RA) who are deployed in Afghanistan, and who cheered Heather on to victory in Camp Bastion this morning. It is an 'oarsome' achievement and we look forward to welcoming her back into 32 Regt RA and the wider regimental family."

Members of the British Army across the globe watched Heather and Helen's amazing success. Members of her unit, from 32nd Regiment Royal Artillery watched from their bases in Afghanistan. Heather and Helen went into the race as firm favourites after smashing the Olympic record time by more than four seconds in their qualifying heat on the first day of the Games.



**LONDON 1948 WOMEN'S 200M
SILVER MEDALIST (ATS)**

PDF Compressor Free Version

Editor: The following article was published in the September-October 1948 edition of the QMAAC and ATS Comrades Association Gazette. Audrey Mitchell née Williamson was a member of the Association until her death in 2010. A four page article about her participation was published in Lioness 2010/2. Her personal best for the 200m was 25.1 seconds (1948).



*Fanny Blankers-Koen and Audrey Mitchell
some years later
Audrey in her 1948 Olympic beret and jacket*

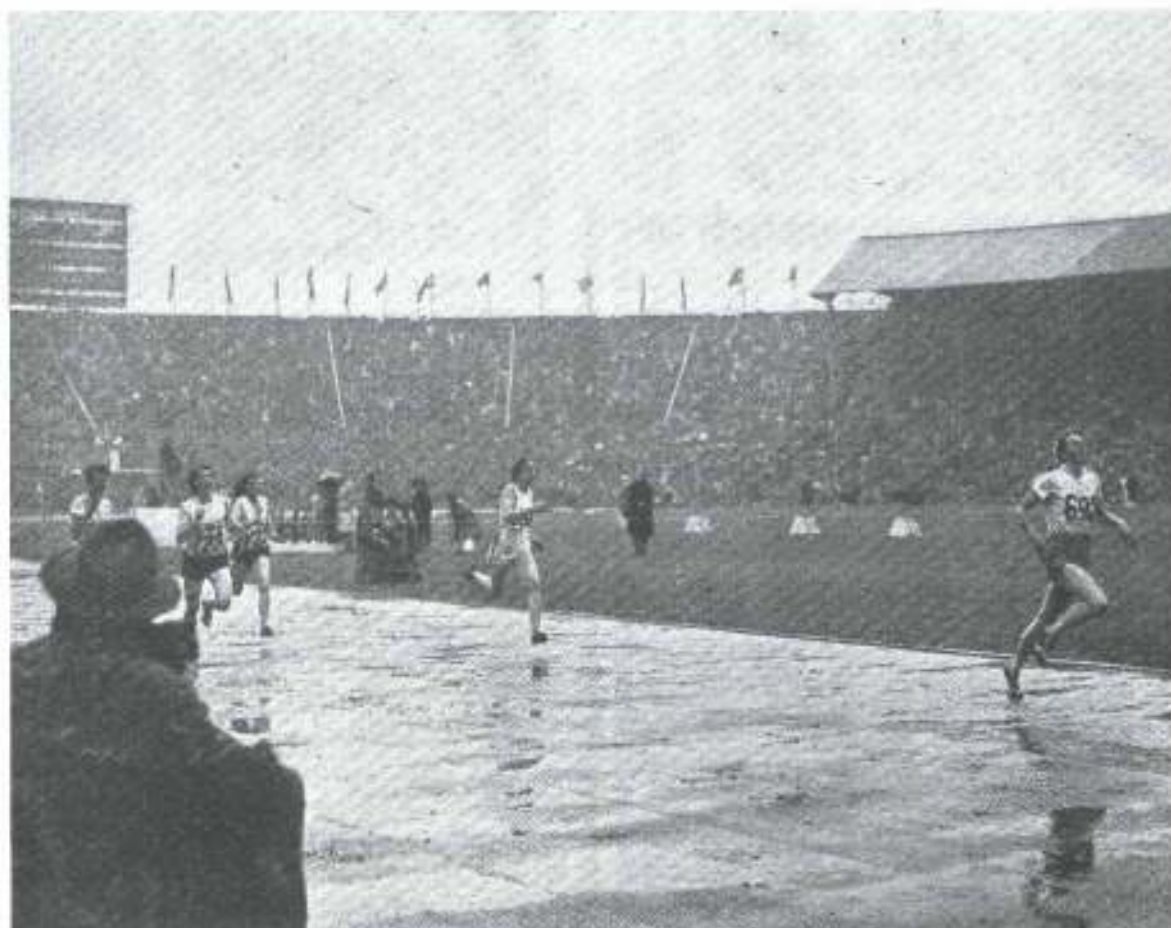


Q.M.A.A.C. AND A.T.S. COMRADES ASSOCIATION GAZETTE

SPORT

XIV OLYMPIAD

DURING the Olympic Games the name of the A.T.S. was raised high by our representatives in the athletics. J./Comdr. A. D. S. Williamson, who is a staff officer P.T., Western Command, won a silver medal for coming in second to Mrs. Blankers Koen, of Holland, in the 200 metres race. She did extremely well to gain this second place for Britain against such a wonderful athletic champion as Holland's Olympic Record holder. We are very proud of a serving member of the A.T.S. being selected to represent her country in the Olympic Games, and do congratulate J./Comdr. Williamson and wish her every success in the future.



A.T.S. Officer second in 200 Metres

[Photograph: "The Times"]

KEEPING THE ATS IN THE PICTURE - 2012

Charlotte (Betty) Webb née Vine-Stevens

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Sixty seven years after serving as a member of the ATS I was, out of the blue, singled out to take part in an episode of the BBC MasterChef programme staged at Bletchley Park, the WWII Government Codes & Cypher School. The seven other guests were representing the Intelligence Corps, WRNS and WAAF.

Following a champagne reception where we mingled with other non military guests including; Iain Standen the new CEO of Bletchley Park, Sir John Turing (nephew of Alan Turing) and Lady Asa Briggs. We chatted about war service and I had great fun explaining about our 'khaki issue'.

We were seated in the library, where we ate and commented upon a delicious dinner prepared by the 3 MasterChef competitors. The event was shown on BBC2 on 19 September 2012. We were introduced with photographs taken during 1939-1945 and a short resume of our duties at that time. My photo had been taken in Washington DC, USA wearing the Canadian summer uniform during my tour of duty in the Pentagon.

On 18 October 2012 the Rt Hon William Hague MP, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs gave a speech at Bletchley Park; he announced Foreign Office funding for the preservation and restoration of Bletchley Park for the nation, and the launch of three schemes to ensure that the UK invests in the next generation of young mathematical and computer science geniuses. I was lucky enough to be one of five erstwhile members of the Bletchley Park team to be presented to the Foreign Secretary, he showed much interest in our wartime roles.

Both these occasions were most enjoyable and above all I was proud and delighted to be able to underline the contribution which members of the ATS made to the war effort.



Editor: At 18 years of age Charlotte Vine-Stevens volunteered for the ATS. Between 1941 and 1945 she became part of the wartime code breaking operation at the Government Code & Cypher School based at Bletchley Park. It is her work in the Japanese Section that led Charlotte to see out the war in the Pacific at the Pentagon. The book *Secret Postings - Bletchley Park to the Pentagon* charts Charlotte's life from a Shropshire village upbringing, to pre-war Germany, a World War 2 adventure at Bletchley Park, the Pentagon and beyond.

The book is available from www.bletchleypark.org.uk or www.amazon.co.uk.

Publisher: Book Tower Publishing (17 Nov 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0955716411

ISBN-13: 978-0955716416

MEMORIES OF D COY, BALTIMORE HUTMENTS, READING

Sylvia D Prior née Eeles W/302195

My husband and I will have celebrated our 68th wedding anniversary on 12 January 2013 and on looking through some old photos I came across this one taken in Reading sometime before we married.



The photo was taken at the wedding of Sgt A Andrews to Sgt Norman Evans. In addition to myself (Pte S Eeles, kneeling) I can recognise J Comd P G Ford, Sub Gilbert, Cpl Robinson, Pte Parkinson and Pte Vierl. Hopefully this photo will bring back some memories.

HONOUR FOR A MARLBOROUGH GIRL

Editor: This is the transcript of an article published in a local Marlborough paper in 1943

Private Alice Mary Witts, only daughter of Mrs Witts of 39 Herd Street, Marlborough, and of the late Mr W C S Witts, has won fame. Her photograph has recently appeared with others in a number of newspapers as one of six people who have made A.A. history. Through the skills of these six (three girls and three men) attached to an Anti-Aircraft Battery in the South of England, the secrets of Germany's new mystery plane have been revealed. It was escorted by two fighters on its' experimental trip, but that failed to save it from the six smart A.A. experts who claimed the "kill."

Private Witts, a radiolocation girl, aged 23 has had 18 months experience. Prior to joining the ATS she was a clerk at the office of the electricity undertaking in Marlborough. She was a pupil at Marlborough Grammar School for six years after leaving St Mary's School, and for a similar period she was organist at the Parish Church at Ogbourne St Andrew. She received her musical education from Miss E F Salisbury of Marlborough.



Private Mary Witts ATS 1920-2010

HOW WE DESTROYED SPY PLANE SEVEN MILES UP Major A M Stuart RA

Editor: This is the transcript of an article published in a local Marlborough paper in 1943. It describes the actions carried out by Pte Mary Witts ATS and her colleagues.

Sirens were howling as the Gunners and ATS girls jumped to action posts around the four 4.5 guns. It was 6.25 pm, a fine late summer day; not a cloud in the deep blue sky, not a ripple on the wide stretch of Channel beyond Portsmouth Harbour and naval base.

I saw a far thin wisp of white vapour very high up. I was told that one of the enemy trio coming in was a Me 109G. This was exciting news. The Me 109G was, and is, the Luftwaffe's latest, smallest and swiftest plane. Fitted with racks to carry two 500lb bombs, it could fly at more than 400 miles an hour. But this one had maybe 20 mph more speed for it carried no bombs. In its' slim belly, Zeiss lens down, was a reconnaissance camera. It was a spy plane, escorted by two heavily armed Focke-Wulf 190s. If it got away it would carry back a beautifully detailed panorama picture of Portsmouth naval base and everything in and around it.

From the Command Post came the yell "On Target", we had the height. It was terrific. Thirty six thousand feet - seven miles up. Guns had shot at planes flying at that sub-stratosphere height before. None had ever scored a hit for the record. Voices bawled and repeated the fuse number. The fuse caps on the noses of the 86lb rounds were twisted to near the extreme limit of range.

"Fire!" The guns crashed, the shells screamed away,

flying up seven times faster than the target plane was flying along. We were shooting approximately five miles ahead of the target. What we calculated was that the spy plane and at least one of the shells would collide neatly at rendezvous. Our shells would reach the spot 40 seconds after leaving the guns. I saw the first shell-bursts make a perfect chequerboard pattern into which the target plane seemed to be flying. The second flock exploded in tiny white puffs ahead of the first. It smeared and the smear was turning dark. A flicker of orange fire jetted out of it and the vapour trail turned downwards. The spy plane was falling, a smoking wreck, to earth.

The gun action had lasted less than a minute; but into those 40 odd seconds was packed the training of years for the oldest members of the integrated gun team, and twelve months at least for the youngest.

GENUINE ANTIQUES Sylvia Johnson

Four ex ATS girls with a combined age of 362 years met purely by chance at the Lord Kitchener Holiday Centre, Lowestoft. We had a great time and kept the other guests entertained with our reminiscing and songs (words unprintable). This photo proves there was nothing wrong with Army grub, we hope to meet again in 2013.



Sylvia Johnson née Brightwell & Mary Hay née Boat from Suffolk Branch and Madge Freeman née Tapper & Lorna Lansdowne née Lutkins from Norfolk Branch



RECRUITING LITERATURE

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Editor: There was an enthusiastic response to the photos provided by Judy Hasnip. I've republished some of the photos with comments received from readers.

CHECKPOINT CHARLIE

Liz Winter née Fry



Liz Winter née W/430457 Cpl Elizabeth Fry

I am the WRAC Provost NCO at the famous Checkpoint Charlie in Berlin. I was actually on duty at the time of the photo being taken. The Army photographer was accompanied by a journalist from The Evening News (Associated Newspaper Group) called Caren Mayer. The publication date was 14 June 1968, the full page article was titled Britain's Army in Petticoats, Dateline: Berlin Twenty one Army Girls in the Divided City of 2,800 Tommies - The Girls say 'They're too Shy'. I was one of a number of girls serving in Berlin in June 1968 who featured in the article. My unit was 247 (Berlin) Provost Company Royal Military Police and we were based in the Olympic Stadium, the girls carried out duties at both Checkpoint Charlie and Checkpoint Bravo, (the check point at the Berlin end of the Autobahn link to West Germany), we also worked in the RMP Control Room and partnered our RMP colleagues on patrols from West Berlin to Helmstedt at the other end of the Berlin Corridor (Autobahn) in West Germany.

WRAC STAFF BAND

Brenda Bailey née O'Rourke W/425309
bbailey93@btinternet.com

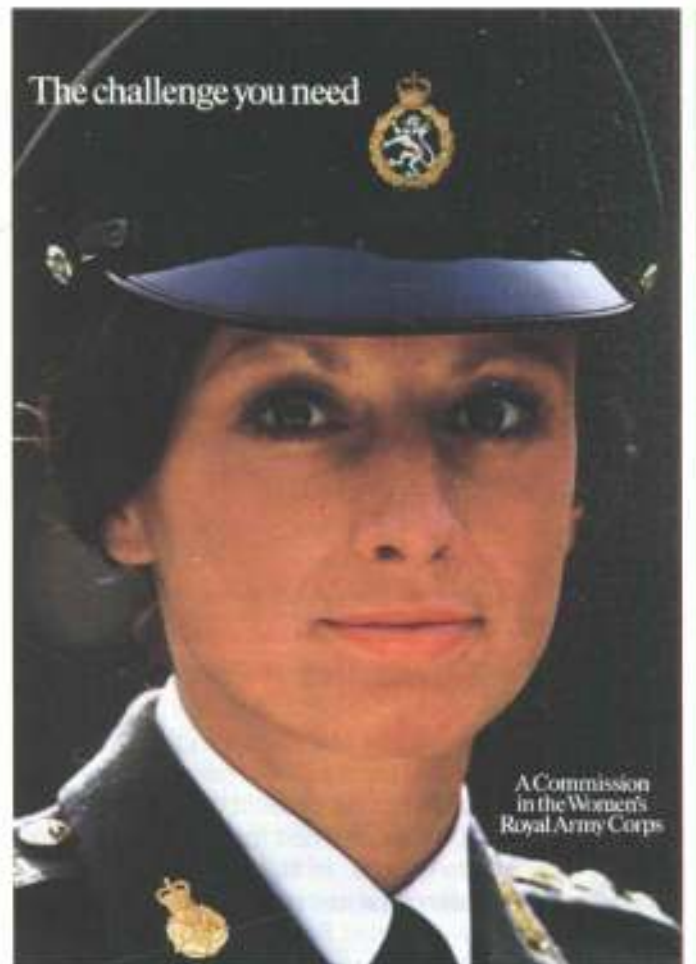
The Drum Major is Carol Holland (Blod). On the front row is Beryl Coggles, Ann West, Ann Woodward, Rita Thurman, Maureen Booth. Also featured are Jacky Cowdrey (French Horn) Leslie Darlington, Ann Rustad (Bass Drum), Cathy Corrigan, Sgt. Hancock (Cornet), Jane Stark (Clarinet), myself Brenda O'Rourke (Clarinet), Maureen Lloyd, Lorraine Jones, Pam Watts, Doreen Arnell, Marian Berrington, Norah Jobson, Maise O'Sullivan,

Pauline Wiles, Helen Goode, Pam State, Pat Morton, Pauline Wiles and Gill Sale.



AVRIL WALTON

Sue Grenville-Jones née Rice



The officer on the front of the recruiting brochure is Avril Walton and she would have been on Course 52. I also have this recruiting brochure as I myself was photographed for it whilst serving at the Army Air Corps Centre at Middle Wallop. To the best of my knowledge everyone included in the brochure was a serving officer or officer cadet. Jenny Goldsmith, with whom I served at Middle Wallop, is also there. I believe that the hairdressing salon (published on page 63 Lioness 2012/2) is the one that existed at the WRAC College, Camberley, certainly in 1969, when I was an officer cadet and had my hair cut there regularly!

PTE BUTTERWORTH?

Pippa Jarmen

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Women's Royal Army Corps
For a brighter future...



Pte Butterworth?

DONNINGTON 1963

Barbara Green née Castledine



1967 - PIPPA
THIS OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH SHOWS COPYRIGHT RESERVED.
USED FOR THE BRITISH INFORMATION SERVICES BY THE CENTRAL
FILE OF INFORMATION, LONDON.

BRITISH INFORMATION SERVICES

"Members of the Women's Royal Army Corps at the Central
change layout at Donnington".
"A 2nd Officer and technical clerk consult a catalogue".
Feb. 1963.

I think this was used for a recruiting advert, I am the Officer
on the right!

.....A FEW MORE MEMORIES?



BAOR 1976



Stirring the pudding!

BENBECULA - PANIC DELIVERY

Jenny McMahon

One of my early postings was to Benbecula in the Outer Hebrides, now known as the Western Isles. It was one of those places you either loved or hated. Sometimes we don't always appreciate areas of outstanding natural beauty, especially when it rains most of the time and gale force winds are normal. There are no trees on Benbecula but there are plenty of lochs and peat bogs, and empty sandy beaches. From the air it looks like an island full of puddles. It was a very close community in the 1970's, the military and the local population. Some of the lads married local girls and made it their home.

There have been two reunions on Benbecula in recent years, the only two in fact since the seventies, both were organised by local women, one of whom married a soldier. The first Reunion was in 2004 which I attended but nearly didn't get to due to the flight from Heathrow being delayed. Fortunately the local airline waited for me. It was very nostalgic when I arrived at the tiny airport seeing lots of familiar (old) but friendly faces. We all had a fabulous weekend, the weather was gorgeous and some of us even went swimming in the sea - the North Atlantic.

Yes it was cold but exhilarating and great fun. We were well looked after by the locals who organised a Reunion Party with Pipe band on arrival and Cel'lidh (Ka'li) band for dancing in the evening. That is Gaelic dancing with the 'squeezey box' (accordion) which we used to call 'pogg dancing'!

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I was fortunate to attend the second reunion, and probably the last, in August 2012. Although the numbers attending had diminished somewhat it was again a very special time. We were blessed with more good weather. There is now a new hotel on the Island which was very comfortable with good food and entertainment. I can recommend the Dark Island Hotel. Benbecula is a lot more visitor friendly than in the seventies, not that it was unfriendly, just bleak and remote, cold and wet, and the only entertainment was the Naafi. Now there are frequent visitors to the Islands, coach loads in fact.

Going back and reliving the 'old times' reminded me of an incident I was involved in. My main role was Medic with a bit of PT thrown in, which was a bit difficult with no gym or sports field apart from a bumpy football pitch. There was a 'sports hall' with a tennis court marked out, but no other equipment, although I did organise training for the camp rugby team. Most of the time I worked in the Medical Centre which was quite an experience to say the least.

Early one morning about 5 a.m. I was called out to take a pregnant mum to the local hospital in Daliburgh at the southern end of South Uist which in actual fact was about 30 miles away. It takes about an hour to get there as the single track road was bumpy and winding with passing places. So off we went in the army ambulance, not equipped for delivering babies! The baby decided to arrive early whilst we were on our journey. Not having any previous training or experience in midwifery, not something you do on a medics course, I panicked! The mother to be said 'the baby is coming', so what do I do? The local GP lived just around the corner so we stopped at his home, it was about 5.30 in the morning. The Doc came out and prodded mum's tum and said in his very enchanting Hebridean accent "oh she'll be fine Jenny, carry on." So off we went.

Mum insisted the baby was coming, I looked and the baby's head came first (thank god), but then I could see the umbilical cord wrapped around the baby's neck. 'Oh God!' (I think I said something else as we do in such circumstances). Instinct told me this was not good. Help! I shouted to the driver to "stop, stop, stop" the vehicle. Unfortunately by this time the mother was very anxious as sadly she had lost a child some time previously. It was also quite obvious I didn't know what to do. I then realised we were in the middle of nowhere (no mobile phones in them days) so decided we had to get going, and shouted to the driver "go, go, go."

I managed to unhook the umbilical cord from the baby's neck. Slowly the baby emerged making a noise and lungs bellowing. I cradled the head and torso but was afraid of moving the new bundle of flesh for fear of an arm or leg dropping off! I worked out 'it' was a baby boy as he had a 'little dinky'. He and I were covered in 'blood, sweat and tears' and some other mucky stuff. We were by this time about ten minutes from the hospital. I tried to reassure mum and just cradled this new life in my hands.

When we eventually arrived at Daliburgh Hospital the nurse came and took the new baby by the legs, tipped him upside down and slapped his bottom. It was only then I found out that the Duty Driver of the ambulance was the Father! I dread to think what was going through his mind and how his driving skills were under the circumstances.

Half an hour later Daddy and I went to see mum and new baby, both were doing very well and looking healthy and radiant. A bundle of joy. This was such an amazing and wonderful experience (although I didn't think so at the time) that I did consider taking up midwifery. It was challenging, exhilarating and messy. Fortunately everyone came through, including Daddy. He must have been panicking too, driving that long journey knowing his wife was about to give birth. A very happy ending, or should that be a new beginning? The Gift of Life.

DONATIONS

Did you know that you can send a donation to the Association at any time? We are often asked if this is possible and the answer is, "Yes, of course it is." Many branches send us donations in memory of members who have sadly passed away but it is possible to make a donation at any time for whatever reason. You can specify whether you want your donation to go to the main Association account – please make cheques payable to WRAC Association – or, if you want it to go to the ATS & WRAC Benevolent Fund then make your cheque payable to ATS & WRAC Benevolent Fund. It is important that you do make out your cheque to the right account. Donations can also be made on line via the Association website or by phone 01962 887570.

Whatever you decide to do, PLEASE make sure that we have a Gift Aid form from you. If you pay tax, the funds can reclaim the tax and it adds to the donation you have made without it costing you any more.

Gift Aid forms are available from the WRAC Association HQ at Worthy Down. If you have made a donation in the past, and you have not sent us one before, please request one now.

If you have never sent us a donation, perhaps you would be kind enough to think about it now and send it in with the Gift Aid form.

Even if you are not thinking of making a donation now, why not fill in the form anyway and send it back. We will file it and have it to hand if you should be kind enough to make any donations in the future. You will not have to look out the form and we can reclaim the tax!

WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

Editor: It is not current policy to give out private addresses, however email addresses are listed where submitted. Should anyone wish to respond to any of the articles below they can do so through the Office Manager or email editor@wracassociation.org.uk.

NOTTINGHAM AND WATCHFIELD

Jean Bradley née Ross
Santa Ana, California

I am trying to trace two friends I served with in the WRAC in 1953. I was bridesmaid to the lady on the right of the photo, her married name is Gwen Britnell (or Britnall).



The photo was taken in Nottingham which is where the lady on the left came from. We were all stationed together at Roberts Hall, Shrivenham where Gwen met her husband Jack who was serving at Air Despatch Watchfield.

HONG KONG
Muriel Magden née Sharpe
Sidney, British Columbia

This photo was taken at Billet 39, McDonald Road, Hong Kong in 1947-48, does anyone recognise themselves?



W/337166 Muriel Sharpe, back row 3rd from the left

EGYPT 1944

Betty Redmile née Keen

Elizabeth (Betty) Redmile (née Keen) is trying to contact Amy Berry, last known to be living in Chorley. Betty and Amy underwent ATS training together in Honiton and then deployed to Egypt in 1944 where they served with the EFI.

6 COY WRAC, LARKHILL 1969

Lorna Margaret Jones née Smythe
dce.lordav@btinternet.com

Lorna Jones née Smythe left the Army on marriage in 1969 and is trying to find her former roommates from Larkhill, all of whom were Drivers. She is looking for Kathy Backhouse, Dee Sargent, Joan Nessbitt (who married a Cook from 49 Fd Regt RA) and Hazel Sambrook (who married an Ammo Tech from Fargo Camp).

BARBARA ALICE BURCH née WARNER ATS
Mr R Burch, Bath

I am trying to trace anyone with details of my mother's service in the ATS. She was born in Northleach near Cheltenham on 02 September 1925. We believe she underwent ATS training in the Weymouth area. She married my father, Sydney John (Jack) Burch in 1948, he was originally from Poxwell near Weymouth. Her good friend was Joyce Bramton but we are not sure if she was in the ATS. I have a photo of her in uniform which I believe is from 1942 or later.

OVERSEAS PAYMENTS

Please note that in future, all payments for subscriptions, postage and memorabilia will only be accepted in Sterling. Please ask your bank for a Money Order or Sterling Cheque.

We regret to have to impose this restriction, but due to the vagaries of exchange rates, the majority of overseas payments fall significantly short of the amount due.

As a reminder the rates for overseas membership are as follows:

Annual Member - £8.50
Life Membership Annual Postage Charge - £3.50

WRAC OFFICERS' DINING CLUB

VICTORY SERVICES CLUB
SATURDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2012

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One hundred and two Officers and guests enjoyed an excellent evening at the annual WRAC Officers' Dining Club Dinner at the Victory Services Club on Saturday 24 November 2012. The VSC had stepped up to the mark and served a superb meal in a convivial atmosphere. I think I'm correct in reporting that everyone enjoyed reliving some Commissioning Course memories courtesy of a background continuous loop slideshow. Perhaps there is room in the future for more photos from personal collections?

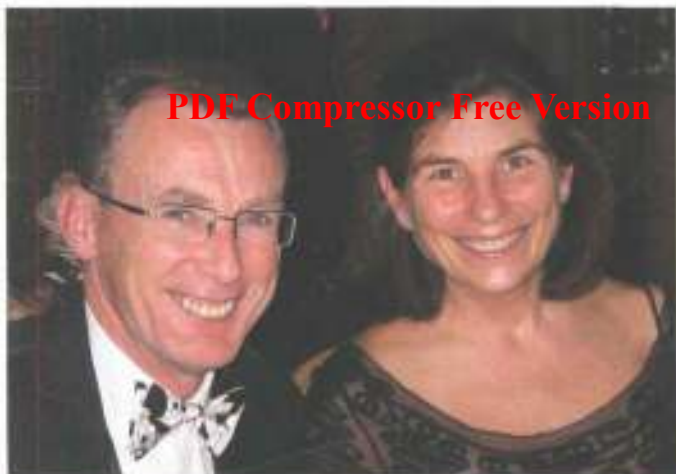
The Reverend Frances Canham had written an excellent Grace reflecting the 20 years since the demise of the WRAC and Diamond Jubilee celebrations for both the Queen and Sue Westlake! I thought it was worth printing it for all to enjoy.

*We're gathered here together, Lord, and feeling quite inspired,
to mark an anniversary - of a Lioness, 'retired'.
A score of years have whistled past, since 1992,
when female integration made our Army something new.
We're all a bit less rampant, too; our roar is more a purr;
our laurel leaves have wilted but not our 'fortiter'.*

*Diamond anniversaries, quite 'de rigueur' have been:
most notably the Jubilee of our beloved Queen.
But in this very Dining Club, albeit more low-key,
a certain Colonel Westlake has become an OAP!
For all her years of loyalty and service to the Corps,
we say, "A happy birthday!" and pray for many more.*

*We thank you, Lord, for finest food, as we sit down to dine
on salmon, lamb and lemon torte - and chilli ice and wine;
we thank you, too, for fellowship, for laughter and for fun
and pray the bar stays open - at least, 'till half past one!
We pray for those still serving and those who can't be here;
Lord give us all the 'fortiter' to meet again next year.
Amen*





Debbie Coupland and Anne Irvine have kindly volunteered to take over running the WRAC Officers' Dining Club and will start with the 2013 Dinner which is scheduled for Saturday 23 November 2013 (at the Victory Services Club). Make sure you put the date in your diary now and spread the word amongst your contemporaries, we had 10 new members this year so let's keep increasing the numbers. If you served as an Officer but are not a member of the Dining Club you can email me sue.hatton@wracassociation.org.uk or phone 01962 887570 for more information.

2013 Spring Lunch

There was no Spring Lunch in 2012 as many Association members attended the Service of Rededication and lunch at Guildford Cathedral in May. It is planned to hold a 2013 Spring Lunch on Saturday 4 May at the Victory Services Club, London. Confirmation of the date and location, plus an application form, will be sent to all WRAC Officers' Dining Club members in due course.

WRAC DINNER CLUB WEEKEND 2012

CROWN PLAZA HOTEL, NOTTINGHAM

Chris Corker, Secretary

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This year the WRAC Dinner Club was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Nottingham which was a complete change of venue as it was in the East Midlands and not the West! It was the largest number of members with 227 attendees at a Dinner Club event and 43 of those were newbies.

The hotel was situated in the centre of Nottingham and was conveniently placed for the Goose Fair, places to eat and retail outlets. Feedback from the members was that the Crowne Plaza was a superb venue with staff that really looked after us for the whole weekend. Our entertainment was again provided by the excellent and wonderful Soul Mates, Kim and Jake, who are booked again for next year and who knows who they may bring along with them to entertain us!

If you are not a member of the WRAC Dinner Club then you are really missing out on a superb event. The application form can be found on the WRAC Dinner Club website www.wracdinnerclub.co.uk or in Lioness page 7. The Dinner Club weekend for 2013 will be held again at the St John's Hotel in Solihull and this is a favourite with the members; it is very difficult to find hotels with a banqueting suite large enough for us now that we are growing and growing. We welcome on to the committee on a co-opted basis Cathy Munro and Karen Radford.

Looking forward to another great weekend and seeing you there in 2013.





WRAC PT REUNION 2012

Kate Bettison

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2012 will undoubtedly be remembered as a year of national celebration and pride, when the whole country rejoiced in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the Olympic Games and the Paralympics. Not to be outdone by all the nationwide events, the eighth WRAC PT Reunion was held in Aldershot from 16–18 September. In keeping with Her Majesty's 60 year reign, some of our Golden Oldies were celebrating their milestone birthdays, so it was with this in mind that our Friday evening theme was 'The Sixties'. Superb decorations were produced by Pat Rosewell and her merry band, together with some memorable music. A fancy dress parade ensured that all the brilliant costumes were judged by our eminent panel of Judy Graham (née Lister) and Elaine Boden. The award of 'Best in Show' went to Helen Ikert, who looked fabulous in her short wig and mini-skirt. The Flower Power costumes worn by Sue Westlake and Sue Barker certainly raised the glamour stakes!



Undoubtedly inspired by the Olympic Games, there was a great display of music to movement taken by Sue Taylor, who had clearly not lost any of her authority! Lynne Greer (née Carslake) Sue Jennings and Pat Rosewell also demonstrated that their gymnastics skills were still very impressive. Who are these silver surfers?!



Pat Rosewell holding up Lynne Greer in a perfect position, overseen by Sue Jennings

As in previous years, Saturday morning was devoted to the traditional netball match, where the Golden Oldies take on the might of the Serving Ladies, in pursuit of the coveted Peglar Trophy. Despite some enthusiastic and determined play from the youngsters, the WRAC PTI's of yesteryear again displayed a fine show of fitness and expertise, by romping home to a 35–11 victory. That said, it is to the serving girls credit that these matches are always played with great spirit and camaraderie. It is just unfortunate that with so many operational tours nowadays, there are fewer opportunities for them to play regular sport.



Our Saturday evening Dinner, held at the Falcon Hotel in Farnborough began with the usual photo call with all the ladies in their finery. Helen Sleightholme, who had kindly volunteered to be Madam Vice, said grace before we all sat down to enjoy our three course meal. After the Parish Notices we welcomed our two Guest Speakers who were going to tell us what they had been doing since leaving the Army. Sara Hunt, who had only been to one previous Reunion, was first on the block and she gave a very interesting account on how she realised her ambition of becoming a writer, after years of working in local government. Her ultimate ambition is to have a play accepted by the BBC. With the Olympics still in mind Pat Rosewell was invited to tell us all about life at Heathrow's Terminal 5 while meeting and greeting the Games competitors. She will always remember asking Seb Coe to show her his footwear as he passed through security!



Sunday morning dawned and it was off to St Andrews Church in Queens Avenue for the RAPTC service, followed by lunch in the new Garrison Mess. All too soon it was time to say goodbye again after another very enjoyable weekend of merrymaking. Some of us only see each other every two years, but the close camaraderie we all shared as PTI's always remains. Our next Reunion will be in September 2014.

WEDDINGS & ANNIVERSARIES

GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

David and Julia Dunn

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David and Julia Dunn, 11 August 1962

David and Julia Dunn (née Norman-Ballantyne) celebrated their Golden Wedding on 11th August 2012. Captain David Dunn, The Durham Light Infantry married Julia at Brigham Church, Cockermouth. Lieutenant Colonel Dunn on his retirement was Corps Secretary to the WRAC and General Secretary of the WRAC Association for eleven years from 1985 to 1996. Ten years were spent at Guildford and one year in Worthy Down.



11 August 2012

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Jim and Sherry Hamilton

L/Cpl Sherry Bartlett, 4th Independent Coy, WRAC at Tanglin Barracks met LAC Jim Hamilton, 1 Squadron Royal Australian Air Force, at a dance in April 1952. They were married on 20th December 1952 and moved to Townsville, Australia in 1953. They lived in Townsville and raised 4 children there before transferring to Sydney in 1974, where they currently reside. Sherry is still in close contact with her bridesmaid WRAC Sergeant Eunice Adams and Private Madge Evans (née Grundy) both from 4th Independent Company at Tanglin



Shirley and Jim Hamilton 1952



2012

WEDDING

Margaret Duffy and John Hind
23 November 2012



Cutting the cake

Dear Editor,

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Many thanks for publishing my article and photo in *Lioness*, also that of my long lost friend S/Sgt Nan Webb (née Cox) with whom I now have on going correspondence. Another consequence of the said publication was a letter from W/317408 Hilda Mary Waite (née Mosley) whose article 'Palestine Remembered' appeared in *Lioness* 2012/1. She was prompted to write by my reference to her Middle East experiences.

With Christmas fast approaching my mind inevitably goes back to that time in Jerusalem in 1945. I was CSM of 512 Company in Allenby Barracks and on Christmas Eve a group of us joined a convoy of 3-tonners headed for Bethlehem. When it became evident that all the seats in the churches had been reserved for top brass we found a service being held in the Field of Shepherds conducted by an Army Padre. It was a beautiful night and we watched a full moon rise, turning from red to silver as it ascended and got smaller. We sang our hearts out during the carols, somehow hoping that this first Christmas since the end of the war was symbolic of new world peace. How wrong could we be. Next day, back in Barracks, my Sergeants and I served morning tea to the rest of the Company and later in the day the Officers served Christmas dinner to the whole assembly.

Christmas 1946 I was serving in Sarafand and my husband to be was in Haifa. We both got leave to meet up at Tulkarm on the West Bank, where he had previously been Station Sergeant. We still had many friends there and enjoyed a delightful Christmas dinner in the Constables' Mess and served to all ranks.

W/5915 Georgina Pratt
East Geelong, Australia

Dear Editor,

I was in London during the Battle of Britain in 1941 and decided I needed some respite. I had previously been to Hereford with the Children's Country Holidays Fund so returned to where I had stayed and was welcomed with open arms. I got a job at Bradbury Lines, unfortunately the contractor was offloading food and cigarettes to local hotels and was fired. We were offered the chance to stay or leave, I decided to go and was walking through Hereford when I came to The Old House which was being used as a recruiting office. I went in, received the Kings Shilling, joined the ATS and served for 13 years. I volunteered to be a driver but became a cook and enjoyed all my service. Hopefully your previous writer re Kings Shilling will retain her 70 year friendship with Canadian and Australian ex service women.

W/140391 SSgt Christine Gibbs

Dear Editor,

Dorothy Pope's article (page 56 *Lioness* 2012/2) was of great interest to me. Early in 1945 RA Ack Ack command was disbanded in Britain. I had been a PTI with them for 2.5 years. I was posted to North Midland District ATS PT HQ in Nottingham. Our unit, all five of us; 2 Junior Commanders and 3 Sergeants, had an office in the Drill Hall and lived wherever a bed was available. I lived with M Coy Pay Corps, but had nothing to do with them, apart from some remedial work with RAMC. My assignments were with the post office.

As mentioned by Dorothy some girls were going to the Far East. A full time 3 week course was arranged for those going. Divided into 3 groups (A, B & C), each week groups had 4 half days of normal work, 4 half days preparing for the work they would encounter overseas and 4 half days of healthy outdoor activities i.e. PT etc. I was the Sergeant who took the "healthy" half days. We worked at Trent Bridge Cricket Ground doing PT and games on the famous turf; a long session of PT, break for lecture, discussion, competition or debate, followed by a game or sports for which equipment was available. The only instruction I had was to keep them outside and occupied. The APO detailed one of the girls who wanted to be a PTI as my assistant. Private Sheila Harbinson was a great help. A second identical course was held and I had six lovely weeks at Trent Bridge. I also remember taking PT at the Palais de Dance.

We were in Newark for a few days when a flood started. Three of us had gone to Nottingham by train on our day off, on returning to the station we found quite deep water coming down the line. There were no more trains that night, on phoning to say we were stuck we were told to stay there "we'll come and fetch you". The journey back was in a 3 ton lorry.

I moved so much in the ATS, usually by myself, that I am not in touch with anyone I knew then. I wonder if anyone reading this was on one of my APO courses?

W/209659 Beryl Manthorp
Norwich

BUPA GREAT MANCHESTER RUN 2013 (10K) 26th MAY 2013

Several Ex WRAC have entered the BUPA Great Manchester Run (10K) to raise funds for the WRAC Association and TROOP AID in memory of Maureen Deeley. If anyone is interested in participating or sponsoring the team please contact Mrs Wendy Hooton by email wendyhootonski@aol.com or phone 07775 505326. You can also sponsor us on www.virginmoneygiving.com/team/wracionesses.

Our team name is WRAC Lionesses.

THE WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year ended 31 October 2012

		Unrestricted			Total	Total
	Notes	General	Designated	Restricted	2012	2011
		Funds	Funds	Funds	£	£
		£	£	£		
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Incoming resources						
Incoming resources from generated funds:						
Voluntary Income	1	20,585	3,150	70,539	94,274	217,137
Activities for generating funds	2	13,315	-	-	13,315	13,450
Investment Income	3	16,120	-	191,745	207,865	139,775
Incoming resources from charitable activities						
	4	14,295	-	-	14,295	6,539
Other incoming resources	5	5,331	-	489	5,820	5,653
Total Incoming Resources		69,646	3,150	262,773	335,569	382,554
Resources Expended						
Cost of generating funds:						
Cost of generating voluntary income	6	42,679	-	25,388	68,067	46,847
Charitable activities	8	60,592	-	261,758	342,350	316,603
Governance costs	9	8,741	-	2,249	10,990	11,654
Total resources expended		132,012	-	289,395	421,407	375,104
NET (OUTGOING)/INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS		(62,366)	3,150	(26,622)	(85,838)	7,450
Transfers between funds	15	3,106	(3,106)	-	-	-
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR		(59,260)	44	(26,622)	(85,838)	7,450
OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS & LOSSES						
Gains / (losses) on investments:						
Unrealised	11	21,601	-	187,542	209,143	(37,967)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(37,659)	44	160,920	123,305	(30,517)
Fund balances brought forward at 1 November 11	18	630,243	35,779	4,780,434	5,446,456	5,476,973
Fund balances carried forward at 31 October 12	18	592,584	35,823	4,941,354	5,569,761	5,446,456

The net movement in funds for the year arises from the charity's continuing activities

No separate Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses has been presented as all such gains and losses have been dealt with in the Statement of Financial Activities

THE WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 October 2012

	Notes	£	£
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible Fixed Assets	10	287	-
Investments	11	5,334,537	5,125,394
		5,334,824	5,125,394
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stock		5,097	5,138
Debtors	12	60,256	2,994
Cash at bank and in hand	13	190,760	329,190
		256,113	337,322
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	14	21,176	16,260
NET CURRENT ASSETS		234,937	321,062
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		5,569,761	5,446,456
FUNDS OF THE ASSOCIATION			
Restricted Funds:			
The Benevolent Funds	16	4,209,649	4,090,530
The Princess Royal's Memorial Fund	17	731,705	689,904
Unrestricted funds:			
General Funds		592,584	630,243
Designated funds:			
Membership life subscription fund	15	9,402	9,458
Lioness life subscription fund	15	26,421	26,321
TOTAL FUNDS	18	5,569,761	5,446,456

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008)

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 17 January 2013 and were signed on its behalf by:

SJ Westlake

.....
Lieutenant Colonel SJ Westlake, Chairman

OBITUARIES - THEIR FINAL SALUTE

W405255 MAUREEN DEELEY née Terry

25 August 2012
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Maureen Deeley was born on 8 March 1942 in Bangalore into a military family. She travelled the world, but mostly the UK, with her parents and siblings until she was old enough to join the WRAC in her own right. She loved to tell anyone willing to listen that at one time there were 26 members of her family serving. She was very proud of her military background and had been known to regale a whole carriage full of people with stories of her exploits and those of her serving family members.

Maureen served as a Stewardess and soon found herself with a plum posting to Cyprus, it was after the conflict between the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots. It was whilst she was in Cyprus that Maureen became a poster girl for the WRAC recruiting campaign. She also met Ray Deeley in Cyprus and they were soon married. They started their family and eventually came back to the UK. It was at this time that Maureen first became ill and was diagnosed with cancer. Her treatment was successful for several years and she was able to continue with her hectic life, but unfortunately without the further children she longed for. Ray Junior was her pride and joy and eventually so were her grandchildren and great grandchild.

Maureen and Ray had settled down in Birmingham when one day she spotted an advertisement on the notice board in her local library. It seemed like a good idea to her that she join the newly reformed Birmingham Branch of the WRAC Association. As usual, Maureen entered into the spirit of the thing with energetic enthusiasm. After a couple of years she became Branch Chairman and set about advertising the existence of the WRAC Association by regularly contacting the local press and television companies. Maureen became the Branch Standard bearer and was very particular about her appearance. There was never a hair out of place with Maureen. It was this smartness that drew the attention of Major Mack, who recruited her to carry the National Standard. Once she had her hands on the treasured Standard she was adamant that she would carry it until her end.

Her last outing with the National Standard was at Brigadier Anne Field's memorial service in the Guards Chapel. She performed her duty with great pride but in terrible pain. Shortly afterwards she received a special presentation by Lt Col Sue Westlake at the Grand Reunion in recognition of her work on behalf of the WRAC Association. She drove home from Bristol on the Sunday and was admitted to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham on the following Tuesday, where she held court for the next five months. A constant parade of visitors kept her spirits up and she was usually able to produce her famous radiant smile. It was only as her illness and pain took hold that her broad grin disappeared. Maureen slipped into unconsciousness and passed away on Friday 24 August 2012 at the age of 70. Her husband and son were with her as she strode proudly onto the big parade square in the sky.



Maureen was a founder member of the WRAC Dinner Club. She was totally committed to ensuring that everyone had as good a time as humanly possible. Even after she left the committee, she was still on the lookout for suitable venues to accommodate the growing number of members. The first notes of the first song would see Maureen strutting onto the dance floor ready to dance the night away. Other dancers would be lucky to keep up with her. This year's Dinner Club was held only six weeks after Maureen's death so there were a few sad moments but everyone had decided to enjoy themselves, as Maureen would have wished. Right up until two weeks before she died Maureen was talking about how much she was looking forward to attending the WRAC Dinner Club in Nottingham. Nobody could ever accuse her of not being determined.

Despite being serious about her Army activities Maureen was also a great sport. She was often the butt of the joke because she was so naive. Once she realised that she had been tricked she would laugh uproariously along with her tricksters. There was one incident when everyone was falling about laughing because it had been arranged for her to be arrested on Birmingham New Street Station for no other reason than the fact that it would be funny.

The British Transport Policeman was happy to take part in the joke. Her face was a picture when he asked her if she was Maureen Deeley and that she was under arrest. The next moment, when she realised she had been duped, her face broke into that glorious smile we all loved.

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Having been a stalwart member of the WRAC Association and WRAC Dinner Club Maureen Deeley will be a hard act to follow. She will be sorely missed at Birmingham Branch, Wales and the West Area and National events.

Babs Blay

**W/246880 JUNE CAPON née MONIER-WILLIAMS
ATS
10 August 2012**



June Monier-Williams ATS

Born in 1925 in Brighton, England, June Eleanor Monier-Williams was the only daughter of Reginald Grantham Monier-Williams and Alice Amelia Russell. When war was declared in 1939 she was evacuated to the countryside as were many British children. She grew up as war dragged on, and in 1943 she enlisted in the ATS. Her army number drilled into her head, even at 87 she could still reel it off. We often speculated as to whether this was the source of her stoicism and tenacity, her firm demeanour and sometimes forceful opinions. Perhaps they were learnt in the harsh years of 1930s and 40s England.

After leaving the Army in 1946 Gran continued on to art school. Painting, textile design and other artistic pursuits were a continued past time in Gran's life. Her Everard Road home was ornamented with many of her works. For much of her life she painted enthusiastically until her eyesight began to fail.

By 1949 she had had enough of Britain, and on the 5th of April she set sail for Australia. Gran was a staunchly British expat. She was the enforcer of bread sauce at Christmas, she reminded us every year that we must sit down and watch the Queen's Christmas message, and she was

the owner of a number of Corgis throughout her life. Even on Friday, in her final hours, we all had a chuckle as the nurse told us Gran had complained that her tea was not made properly. I think one of the few people who could make her tea to perfection was Max, her husband who she married on the 18th December 1954. Max was a strapping young rugby player from New Zealand and together they enjoyed youth hostels, bushwalking and outdoor activities.

Gran was a formidable woman who often came across as self assured and feisty. However, in a beautiful and tender moment of clarity last Friday night, she graciously said goodbye and thank you to us all. Within that tough and staunchly independent exterior was a woman who loved us all and who appreciated us all there, in her life. Gran passed away in the most fitting scene, she was surrounded by those she loved, and who loved her. In a strange act of fate, her oldest friend from art school in England, Pat McCordle, who also journeyed from England to Australia, passed away last week just two days before Gran. They have now taken their next great journey together, and we hope that they rest in peace somewhere drawing pictures side by side again.

This is an extract from a tribute written and read at her funeral by Estelle Petrie 20, representing all of June's grandchildren; Luke Petrie 22, Tobias Petrie 18, Natalie Saliakos 18, Fiona Saliakos 16 and James Saliakos 13. Eighty seven coloured balloons were released at the conclusion of the service symbolic of one balloon for each year of June's life. June is survived by her husband Max, daughters Alison Petrie and Deborah Saliakos and their husbands Damien Petrie and Jim Saliakos and all six grandchildren.

Alison Petrie

**HELEN LITTLE née COLBROOK ATS
5 September 2012**

Bringing in a new year and a new decade, Helen Mary Colbrook was born in Gosforth, Newcastle Upon Tyne on January 1st 1920, spending her early years with her sister Frances in nearby Darlington. Despite this, and the loss of her Geordie accent, she would remain loyal to her roots; her first trip to St James' Park aged 8 making her a lifelong fan.

Her secondary school years were spent at Gosforth Grammar School where she found two loves, music and languages. Despite showing proficiency with the piano it was an impossible mix of French, German, Latin and Greek that took Helen to Hull University in 1938, and onwards to France in 1938.

With the advent of war in the September of that year and the real threat of invasion, Helen faced a frantic rush home with two New Zealand ladies, who made sure she got there safely. Once back in England she spotted an opportunity for self-sufficiency and independence in the male dominated pre war years. Joining up in 1941, being quickly promoted to Lance Corporal, before her ferocious intelligence was spotted while invigilating an exam the following year. With that she was transferred to Bletchley Park. As a translator Helen became a key cog in the operation there, where an entire village worth of people worked in complete secrecy, just a few miles away from

populated areas. For decades Helen kept her activities there a closely guarded secret, and although she would latterly open up, the family never learned of her brave work and achievement. She worked in Hut 5 and was promoted to Junior Commander ATS.

1942 would be a pivotal year for Helen as she went on to marry her dashing Army fiancée Denis Little that September. With the end of war in 1945 Helen left the armed forces to raise a family. Jennifer arrived in 1946, Malcolm in 1948 and, after travelling with Dennis to Germany on his duties, Graham would arrive in 1950. It would prove to be an international upbringing for Helen's children as Dennis' army life took the Littles to Malaya and Austria, before returning to the less exotic climes of Co Durham, Espom and Woking, where the family settled. Helen would spend the next 20 years dividing her time between being a mother and working as a secretary at St Andrews School in Woking.

1970-1990 would see a series of changes for the family: Malcolm moved to Australia, Helen and Dennis would retire to Hampshire, and both Jennifer and Graham would marry. In quick succession grandchildren would arrive in the form of Paul, Louise and Andrew.

Away from the family both Helen and Dennis would become key members of the local community in Shedfield; involved in local history, genealogy, gardening, musical activities and the church. They were hobbies she would keep up following Dennis' sudden and sad death in 1995. In the intervening years she would rediscover her independence, seeing all of her grandchildren grow to adulthood and complete education.

Helen's intelligence and ever present energy for life would keep her going in her 90s. Across ten decades Helen Little left an indelible mark wherever she found herself, surrounded by beloved friends and family. She will be missed for a very long time. Rest in Peace.

Andrew Galvin

KAY HEDLEY née HEATH ATS **21 October 2012**

Kay was born in Willersey, near Broadway on 16 March 1920. She joined the ATS in January 1942 and was stationed at Oswestry. Kay worked on top secret Radar systems, but never told the family what she did until her 80th birthday party! She was a quick learner, and after a few months was training new recruits. She loved Forces life and was married to an RAF officer for over 25 years. They had 5 children. She played piano in a band wherever they were and her lead singer was once Des O'Connor!



In uniform

After the war she worked as a teacher in Primary Schools eventually retiring at the great age of 77. She revelled in getting groups of young singers and instrumentalists ready for their annual concert in Llandaff Cathedral. After retiring she moved to Lincolnshire to be near her youngest daughter and grandchildren. She was proud to be a founder member of the Lincolnshire and District WRAC.



Kay remained independent until she was 91. She died, after a series of strokes, at a residential care home in the Midlands aged 92. Jackie Walton was able to represent us at her funeral.

Jean Evans

Kay Hedley

IRIS HILDA FORBES **28 August 2012**

Iris was born in 1922 in Richmond Surrey, one of 9 children. Her father was a Sergeant in the Metropolitan Police and, when her mother died at the young age of 50, she helped to bring up her youngest brother, Peter, who was only 10 and her favourite.

At the age of 18 she joined the ATS and met her future husband, Bob Forbes, at Chequers. In 1943 they married in Wendover and she moved into his family home in Street, Somerset. In 1944, when she became pregnant with Janet, Iris moved to Culross in Scotland where she stayed with her mother-in-law. In 1945 Janet was born in Dunfermline. Mother and daughter returned to Street 6 months later when Bob was de-mobbed.



Tom arrived in 1947 so Iris had the responsibility of her two children plus two aged and very demanding grandparents-in-law for many years until their deaths. In 1955 the four members of the Forbes family moved to West Wycombe in Buckinghamshire where they bought a house called 'The Works' on a large estate owned by Sir John Dashwood. Iris loved the new freedom this allowed her and she quickly became part of village life; working in various shops, playing piano, singing, dancing and it is here that she began to make wine, jams and pickles with which she won many prizes at Fetes & shows.

Although Iris liked a glass of white wine or a Baileys, she was not a great drinker. Her lack of experience in this field resulted in the Christmas goose landing on the floor one year but it was still delicious although a little gritty. This lapse was never repeated.

Many people benefitted from her natural inclination to help and, in addition, her house became a hub for extended family visits and a refuge for runaway cousins. Camping played a big part in her life and Iris began visiting more London venues and country dancing gatherings where, again, she had an influence on all the young people she met. The Order of Woodcraft Chivalry gave her the stage to show off her cooking skills on an open fire and also to be a mother to anyone who needed her.

In 1965, when both children were settled in jobs, Bob decided he had done his bit and retired which meant that someone had to get a job. Iris & Bob moved to Spaxton in Somerset where she had been offered a job running a new, old peoples' home but this fell through. They then bought a small house in Totterdown, Bristol and Iris trained as a social worker. She became a house mother looking after some very troubled teenagers and it was then that she started bringing home some wonderful rude jokes which the children had taught her. Iris also worked in children's homes in Ledbury, Bromyard and Brecon.

Around 1970 Iris & Bob followed Janet to Wales and they bought a rundown house in Builth Wells with the idea of Bob doing it up. Iris eventually became steward of Builth Cricket Club where she was in her element; organising, cooking, joking and looking after people. When they moved to Brecon in 1975 Iris became an active member of the Brecon Bowling Club, the Meals on Wheels and as a visitor for SSAFA. On Saturday nights she regularly played bingo at the Club. She outlived most of the good friends who shared her table and often remarked how she missed them. She was lucky in the raffles and her cupboards always contained bottles with numbers stuck to them.

Iris looked after Bob throughout his illness and after his death in 1990 focused on helping Janet with her new business in Pilgrims Tea Rooms. As well as making vast quantities of sought after jams & pickles, she helped Janet considerably. This establishment became a meeting place for her and her good friends. Like many others, the staff at Pilgrims respected and loved her.

Iris walked around Brecon every day, shopping, chatting, laughing and cheering others up despite her own health problems. She never complained and never criticised. Iris got on well with her neighbours and she often commented how helpful and supportive they all were. Iris had, what some would consider to be, a hard life but she never complained. A water leak last year resulted in a carpet

carpet being replaced. This was first new carpet she had ever had.

It was only when she was a little older that she was able to enjoy some memorable trips: to the Remembrance Service at The Royal Albert Hall some years ago & the Queen's Garden Party this year. The surprise Ruby Wedding anniversary party and the 90th birthday party this year, both Janet's idea, were highlights of her life. Although Iris gave much of her love & time to others, her family never felt neglected and she gave her undemanding support to all her grandchildren and their partners. She always had time to listen to problems and offer advice or help. She had the ability to make us happy and we will miss her.

Ethel Aylott

W/272805 ESTHER CECILE ARMAGON
née McMORRIS
25 July 2012



Ester Armagon on the left of photo

Esther was just one of the many people, from all parts of the British Empire, who came to this country in its hour of greatest need. As a young woman of 22, with a desire to help the "Mother Country", she enlisted in the ATS in Jamaica on 9th August 1943. She subsequently made the treacherous journey across the Atlantic to England, via the United States, on the Queen Mary, which was being used as a troop carrier.



ATS Recruit Training in Jamaica

She trained and served here, as a private in the ATS, from August 1943 to October 1946. She returned for a short period of service in 1951, but was discharged later that year. Although her service history is a bit sketchy she is recorded as being a clerk and radio operator, and to have spent time in London and Newcastle. Amongst one of the

memories she related to me was the joy of VE Day and being within touching distance of Winston Churchill when he appeared before the celebrating crowd.



No 7 Training Centre, Ester is on the right hand end of 2nd row

She had started training as a nurse shortly after the end of the war, and after her discharge, trained as a Midwife in Hammersmith and Southend. After her marriage in 1953, she moved with her husband and children to Surrey in 1957 and became a Sister at a local hospital. She remained in nursing for the rest of her working life.

Her proudest moments in her later life were associated with various events that were held that were connected with her war service. These included being invited to the VE day anniversary celebrations and the unveiling of the Women at War memorial in Whitehall. She also took part in a short documentary that was screened on BBC2 in circa 1995, which recorded a reunion between her and other commonwealth ATS veterans.

Esther was a very special person and touched many people's lives. Evidence of this was to be seen at her funeral which was attended by more than 130 mourners.

Ian Armagon

W/319736 AGNES (NAN) WATERS née Thomson
22 August 2012



W/319736 Agnes Waters née Thomson, always known as Nan, was our Branch President with the Lincoln & District WRAC/ATS and a dearly loved branch member and most generous benefactor.

Over the last few years since reaching her 80s Nan had suffered health wise with lack of vision and heart problems but neither of these has stopped her from joining in any branch activities and she valiantly braved the elements to attend all meetings possible. Nan passed away in her sleep in hospital on 22nd August and her beloved husband Frank was at her side, together with her ATS friend Jean Sperry. The crematorium was packed and branch members were proud to form a guard of honour in a final farewell to Nan.

Jean Evans

W/389156 GLADYS W POPE née JONES
22 February 1935 - 23 July 2012



Gladys was born in Stourbridge in the West Midlands, she left home and joined the WRAC in April 1955 and served until April 1960. She trained as a Staff Clerk at Yeovil, served in Singapore, the War Office and finally Bovington. She eventually settled in Mere, Wiltshire to raise her three sons.

Her experience in the Army opened her eyes to the world and was something she often looked back on with great affection, cherishing the memories, particularly her time in Singapore. The high regard she had for the armed forces was something that stayed with her and was reflected with her active involvement with military organisations.

In July 1989 she joined the WRAC Association, to which she contributed a great deal. She was Vice President of Salisbury Branch for a number of years, then took on the role of Press Officer. Her regular reports for the Salisbury Journal and Lioness kept Salisbury Branch much in the news. However it was not just the WRAC Association that she was involved in. She was a staunch supporter of the Combined Veterans Association, the Gurkha Welfare Trust and was Chairman of the WRAC Dinner Club for a number of years. She frequently took part in the Remembrance Parades at the Cenotaph, and Forces Week parades in Weymouth.

On first meeting Gladys could appear to be a formidable lady, but this was just a front, for in fact she was a most caring person. She served for a number of years on Mere Town Council and fought many battles for the benefit of the residents, particularly the less well off.

She also constantly assisted the less able members of the Salisbury Branch Association. She was a fantastic organiser and one event for which she will long be remembered is her research into the establishment of Salisbury Branch. The branch records revealed that early meetings had taken place in 1947, so a 65 years celebration lunch was held on 28 June 2012. Gladys planned the whole event and helped to organise it, despite being ill. To say that "a great time was had by all" would be an understatement.

She most certainly was truly "a one of a kind lady". She is greatly missed by the members of Salisbury Branch and also by the many other organisations with which she was involved. A unique lady who certainly did it her way.

Val Trout

W/227623 MARJORIE (MADGE) HEDLEY
née HALL
29 October 2012



Madge was a much loved and valued member of Sheffield Branch and is sorely missed. During the war she was in the Artillery, manning the Ack Ack Battery at Clacton-on-Sea. She was very proud of the fact she had participated in shooting down several German aircraft; I was once reprimanded for telling a group of people she had brought down 5 planes, "No I did not" she replied, "it was 4 planes and a doodlebug!"

She never missed a monthly meeting, our annual marches through York with the Normandy Veterans, or any of our outings. She was particularly fond of our July visits to the Arboretum on Artillery Day. She attended our Spring lunch in May but she became ill shortly afterwards and cancelled her place on the July outing to the Arboretum. At our Christmas lunch (the first one I have been to without Madge there) we drank a toast and mentioned the fond memories we had of her.

After the war she married Robert Hedley and they had three sons. She was a keen member of the Ecclesall Townswomen's Guild and was very active with the Ecclesall Parish Hall, raising money through coffee mornings etc. She is greatly missed by all who know her.

Brenda Colley

DOCTOR MARGARET IRISH
18 December 2012



Mac Maskens-McIntyre, Karen James, Margaret Irish, Val Rogers, Capt Robinson(?)

Margaret Irish was born in Belfast in 1935. She attended Grosvenor School and then studied medicine at Queen's University, Belfast, graduating in 1961. In 1963 she was commissioned into the Royal Army Medical Corps. She spent one year based in Kent before being posted to the British Military Hospital in Benghazi, Libya, a difficult posting for a female officer.

In late 1964, whilst in Libya, she met Clifford and after a short romance they married in 1965. Margaret had been due to be posted to BMH Singapore but due to the rules of service in 1965, she had to resign her commission on marriage. Clifford and Margaret remained in Libya and Margaret worked for the Libyan Health Services as a full time Medical Officer. Her daughter Melanie was born at BMH Benghazi in September 1967, the last baby born there before the British pulled out in 1968. Her son, Simon, was born a year later in Belfast.

In 1969 the family moved to Nairobi, Kenya where Margaret worked as a Locum GP. Then in 1972 the family moved to Lilongwe, Malawi where she had her own small Practice, looking after mainly tourists and expatriates.

On returning to the UK in 1974 Margaret worked as a Medical Officer for Surrey Area Health Authority conducting Paediatric and Well Woman clinics.

In 1981 she returned to an Army environment when she became a Civilian Medical Practitioner with the MOD and was appointed as Medical Officer to the Women's Royal Army Corps, Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Guildford. From 1988 to 1990 she was MO for the Army Blood Supply Depot and from 1990 to 1992 Civilian Medical Practitioner at Emblem Garrison, Belgium. She completed her career working as MO at the Ministry of Defence, retiring in 1995 at the age of 60.

She spent another five years doing part time work for the MOD and the Disability Tribunal Service. In addition to her family, children and grandchildren she enjoyed poetry and collecting Victorian linen, her three Westies also gave her great enjoyment.

A Service of Remembrance will be held at the United Reform Church, 53 West Street, Dorking at 12.30 on Sunday 17th March 2013.

Clifford Irish

ATTON, Mrs Jean, née Sturdy, of Wigston on 24 September 2012, ATS.

BALL, Miss Julie, of Bourne End in January 2012, WRAC.

BLAMPIED, Miss Beryl, of Southampton on 28 October 2012, ATS. **PDF Compressor Free Version**

BONE, Mrs Muriel, née Parsons, of Southampton on 22 April 2012, ATS.

BOOTH, Mrs June, née Beckett, of Holbeach on 14 May 2011, ATS.

BOWLEY, Mrs Harriet (Pat), née Parkin of Mansfield on 14 November 2012, ATS.

BOYS, Miss Kathleen, of Sheffield in November 2012, ATS.

BRACHER, Mrs Florence, née Dembry, of Great Yarmouth on 15 August 2012, ATS.

BROOKES, Mrs Doreen, née Green, of Coventry on 05 September 2012, ATS.

BROWN, Mrs June, née Wardman, of Harrogate on 07 December 2012, ATS.

BUCKLE, Mrs Kathleen, of Pershore on 14 November 2012, ATS.

CAPON, Mrs June, née Monier-Williams, of Melbourne, Australia on 10 August 2012, ATS.

CLARKE, Miss M A, of Cambridge in 2012, ATS.

COOK, Miss Barbara, of Barnsley on 19 Nov 2012, WRAC.

COX, Mrs Sheila, née Bonny, of Diss on 18 September 2012, ATS.

DAVIES, Mrs Mabel, née Thompson, of Harrow on 08 July 2012, ATS.

DONALDSON, Miss Helen, of Aberdeen on 22 June 2012, ATS.

ELLIOT, Mrs M C, of Chester Le Street in 2012, ATS.

ELMS, Mrs Eva, née Richards, of Wisbech on 17 September 2012, ATS.

GREEN, Mrs Muriel, née Flockett, of Chester on 21 July 2012, ATS.

GREENFIELD, Miss Joan, of Gateshead in December 2011, WRAC.

HAMMOND, Mrs Emma, née Lee, of Hull on 01 September 2012, ATS.

HARMAN, Mrs Irene, née Green, of Basingstoke on 10 February 2010, ATS.

HAY, Mrs Marjorie, née Blacklock, of Liverpool on 04 September 2012, ATS.

HEDLEY, Mrs Catherine (Kay), née Heath, of Knowle in October 2012, ATS.

HENDERSON, Miss Mary, of Newcastle Upon Tyne on 22 October 2012, ATS.

HERDMAN-GRANT, Miss Anne, of Yatley on 08 February 2012, WRAC.

HILL, Mrs Josephine, née Hiett, of Cardiff on 30 October 2012, ATS.

HINTON, Mrs Beryl, née Morgan, of Vermont, USA on 08 May 2011, ATS.

HORNE, Mrs Margaret, née Apps, of Sutton Coldfield on 21 July 2012, WRAC.

HULL, Mrs Audrey, née Shorrocks, of Canada on 20 August 2012, ATS.

IRISH, Dr Margaret, of Dorking on 18 December 2012, RAMC

JACKSON, Mrs Winnie, of Northern Ireland in 2012, ATS.

JEPSON, Miss Maureen (Mo), of Peterborough on 26 December 2012, WRAC.

JOHNS, Mrs Gwen, née Guy, of Bath on 18 July 2012, ATS.

JONES, Miss Elsie, of Tunbridge Wells on 10 November 2011, ATS.

LAPHAM, Mrs Elizabeth, née Oldham, of Stockport on 03 December 2012, ATS.

LAURENCE, Mrs Betty, née Bodley, of Hemel Hempstead on 10 January 2012, WRAC.

LILEY, Mrs Joan, née Green, of Isle of Man on 02 August 2011, ATS.

MAITLAND, Mrs Margaret, née Beale, of Banstead in July 2012, ATS.

McGURK, Mrs Gladys, née Bacon, of Preston, ATS.

MOSTYN, Mrs Betty, née Flisher of Bexhill on Sea on 03 August 2012, ATS.

NIELD, Mrs Freda, née Hammond, of Llandudno in December 2012, ATS.

PARKES, Mrs Irene, née Marshall, of Nuneaton, on 17 December 2011, ATS.

PARSELL, Mrs Zoe, née Page, of Willingham on 29 September 2012, WRAC.

RICH, Mrs Dorrie, née Fitt, of Gloucester on 24 July 2012, ATS.

RICHARDSON, Mrs Jeanette, of Scarborough on 27 September 2012, ATS.

ROBERTSON, Miss Barbara (Babs), of Stranraer on 17 December 2012, WRAC.

ROWE, Miss Pamela, of Malvern, ATS.

RUDDLESTONE, Mrs Doris, née Carvey, of Wolverhampton on 31 August 2012, ATS.

RYAN, Mrs Gwen, née Fulcher, of Chelmsford on 02 September 2012, ATS.

SANTER, Miss Frances, of Benington on 26 August 2012, ATS.

SCULLY, Mrs Gladys, née Allen, of Ballymena on 26 May 2011, WRAC.

SHAW, Miss Rosemary, of Bathampton on 22 October 2012, WRAC.

SOANES, Mrs Eileen, of Gorleston on Sea on 20 December 2012, ATS.

THORNTON, Mrs Shelia, née Pearson, of Ripon on 07 April 2012, ATS.

TRAVELL, Mrs Irene, née Abbage, of Norwich on 15 July 2012, ATS.

VIOLET, Mrs Jane, née Gillies, of Vancouver Island, Canada on 14 November 2012, ATS.

WALKER, Mrs Eunice, née Jones, of Chelmsley Wood on 17 December 2012, ATS.

WATERS, Mrs Nan, née Thomson, of Holbeach in August 2012, ATS.

WEHNER, Mrs Irene, née Broome, of Whistable on 03 December 2011, ATS.

WEIGHTMAN, Miss Amy, of Bournemouth on 24 November 2012, ATS.

WELLS, Mrs Jenny, née Flint, of Herne Bay on 14 January 2012, ATS.

WHITELAW, Miss Cecilia, of Peebles, December 2011, ATS.

WILKINSON, Mrs Hilda, of Crawley on 11 December 2012, ATS.

WILLIAMS, Mrs Joy, née Turner, of Chelmsford on 22 November 2012, ATS.

WORSSELL, Mrs Vera, née Simpson, of Eastbourne in July 2012, ATS.



