

LIONESS





WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION

(Incorporating the QMAAC & ATS Comrades Association)

Registered Charity No. 206184, founded in 1919

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Benevolence Funds Case Secretary & Finance Officer - Maj (Retd) G M Shanahan
Office Manager - Ms Tanya-Jayne Park

Message from the Vice President

Life at Association HQ in Worthy Down is never dull and once again we have seen some changes within the Team. Gabi Shanahan handed over the responsibilities of Regimental Secretary (except the financial aspects of the Charity) to Sue Hatton in October and is now the Benevolent Fund Case Secretary and Association



Finance Officer. Sincere thanks to Gabi for her sterling work as Regimental Secretary over the past two years; she has made a real difference to the way we do business. Our grateful thanks must also go to Sue Hatton for generously volunteering to step up into this appointment. Sue is no stranger to the demands of the job having been our Assistant Regimental Secretary for over 2 years and it has not taken her long to get her feet under the table and crack on with the many aspects of the job, including 'Lioness' which continues to go from strength to strength under her Editorship. Tanya Park, our Office Manager, keeps the Association running smoothly on a day to day basis and continues to be the linchpin of Association HQ.

In December 2013, the Regimental Colonel AG Corps gave us notice to vacate our Offices in Gould House by 31 March 2014 in order to accommodate units within Worthy Down affected by the rebuild of the camp. Although not a total surprise we had hoped for more time. However, we have been given a 'stay of execution' until late April 2014 in 'rattle' accommodation across the corridor from our current offices and we are hoping that this time frame will be extended further. The bottom line is that the Association HQ staff will probably be moving towards more home working using Worthy Down as a base for storage, postal address, meetings etc. Our new charity telephone line is already up and running (0300 400 1992 charged at local rate including from mobiles) so please try to get into the habit of using this rather than the 01962 number.

Our Association squad at the Cenotaph in November was the largest yet with 110 of us 'on Parade' under the direction of our Parade Commander Major 'Mack'. As you will see in the photos in this 'Lioness' we were an impressive bunch! Following the parade we said sad farewells to Mack as this was her last year in command and Horse Guards resounded to three hearty cheers! Thank you Mack for your dedication and commitment in this role for the past 12 years, it will not be the same without you.

The Association AGM on March 29th will be held at Guildford Cathedral Refectory and I do hope that it will be possible for many of you to attend. I specifically chose Guildford because it will (hopefully!) enable Association members to see the culmination of two projects: the Memorial Cabinet and Books in the Cathedral and our memorial plaques on the Obelisks at Queen Elizabeth Park. You will find full details and timings in this magazine and I urge you to get your proforma submitted as soon as possible to ensure you receive your Lunch. Book early to avoid disappointment!

Sadly, this is my final Vice President's Message as I will be handing over after the Trustees and Council meetings in July; details of my successor will be announced at the AGM and will be reported in the next 'Lioness'. However, I know that you will welcome the new Vice President with the same warmth and affection that you have always given me.

I would just like to say that I have been extremely honoured and privileged to be your Vice President for the past eleven years and I will greatly miss the challenges and rewards that this appointment has brought; most of all, however, I shall miss all of you. Thank you for making my tenure so memorable and, at the same time, such fun. I will never forget your many kindnesses, your generous hospitality countrywide and the wonderful camaraderie. I have been so proud to represent the Association on so many special occasions and am thrilled that it continues to go from strength to strength and that our legacy is there for all to see at the National Memorial Arboretum, Guildford Cathedral and Queen Elizabeth Park.

Rest assured, the Association will always be in very safe hands and will continue to flourish.

Suaviter in Modo, Fortiter in Re

Sue

Message from the Vice President	1
Letters	2
Articles of Interest	4
Articles from Serving Soldiers	9
Remembrance	10
Branch News	12
Branch Meetings	32
Reunions	35
Grand Reunion 2015	38
WRAC Officers' Dining Club	39
WRAC Dinner Club	41
ATS Reminiscences	47
WRAC Reminiscences	50
Royal Hospital Chelsea	54
Statement of Financial Activities	55
Obituaries - Their Final Salute	57

I can't believe that this is now my third edition of *Lioness*, thank you to everyone for sending in such a great variety of articles and photos. In order to make my role as Editor a little easier could I please remind you of a few do's and don'ts when submitting *Lioness* articles:



Email. A gentle reminder that the correct email is **editor@wracassociation.org.uk**. Please try to use this rather than inundating Tanya with emails that she then has to spend time forwarding to me. Please **type the text into the body of the email** if at all possible. I don't need a beautifully laid out document (it all gets cut and pasted into *Lioness* format anyway), more importantly it means I don't waste a lot of time opening attachments.

Length. Short articles are really appreciated! The equivalent of no more than one side of A4 if possible.

Photos. Please only send **a few good photos**. You select the best ones please; I don't always have the time to sift through your large selection and make my choice, remember that my choice may well not match yours!

Photo Captions. If you can, please put names to faces. I do chase, but the closer I get to the editing deadline I simply don't have time. Unfortunately I don't know all 3000 plus members by sight and neither do many readers. Don't forget that the majority of you who appear in the photos (mainly Branch members) actually represent a minority of the 3300 plus readers, but what I do know from the feedback I receive is that everyone really appreciates seeing names put to faces to help them reminisce. I should at this point confess my guilt at not adding captions on pages 39-40!

The *Lioness* submission 'Special Mention' for this edition goes to the member (who shall remain nameless) who, two weeks after the closing date, submitted 13 separate emails containing a total of 49 embedded photos! Nice photos but.....

A little plea with my Regimental Secretary hat on; as you know we will be undergoing a major upheaval as we move offices within Worthy Down in March/April, do keep an eye on the website for news. With immediate effect please try to get into the habit of using our new phone number 0300 400 1992 (local rate call, including from mobiles) which moves with us wherever we go. Do bear with us as we try to effect as smooth a move as possible! Please also note that as all three Association employees work differing part-time hours the best time to phone HQ is 08.00 - 14.00.

Sue Hatton

BACK COPIES OF LIONESS

As part of our office move we have back copies of a number of old editions of *Lioness*. If you are interested in obtaining any (for a donation plus p&p) please email officemanager@wracassociation.org.uk or phone 0300 400 1992.

Dear Editor,

I am a writer and historian who specialises in World War Two. I have authored many books, most of which are detailed on my website www.gavinmortimer.com. My most recent book, a History of the Special Boat Squadron in WW2, has been very well received by the veterans I interviewed.

The reason for my writing to you is this: I have just begun researching my next book, 'The Greatest', which will be a history of WW2 told through the eyes of the last remaining veterans of that Greatest Generation. I feel it's imperative that their courage and fortitude is recorded for future generations.

I am keen to talk to as many veterans as possible and I am especially anxious to include the experiences of those valiant women who served in the ATS and remain, in general, poorly appreciated by history. I have already interviewed a WAAF radar plotter and a female member of the Auxiliary Fire Service.

Gavin Mortimer
Reid House
Whiteman's Green
Cuckfield
RH17 5HX
Tel: 01444 443337
Email: gavinmortimer@hotmail.com

Editor: If you would like to assist please contact Gavin Mortimer direct at the address above. This is a piece of private research and it not connected to the WRAC Association in anyway.

'SPEAKING' LIONESS

We are planning to have this edition of *Lioness* recorded and made available as an audio magazine on CD.

If you suffer from failing eyesight and would like to receive an audio version of *Lioness* please email officemanager@wracassociation.org.uk or phone HQ WRAC Association on 0300 400 1992 (local rate call, including mobiles).

Dear Editor,

The latest issue of *Lioness* illustrates what a great organisation the Association has become, I wish I had been aware of its existence many moons ago. The front cover, showing various recruiting posters, did not include the pre war one that beckoned myself and friend Jo Austin (née May) back in September 1938. That poster featured a lass in a very fetching ATS uniform raising a bugle to her lips. We enlisted and in January 1939 the 40th Glam. Company was born, we assembled weekly at the appointed venue that was to turn us into "Lady Soldiers" as the local kids called us. I well remember when our uniformed turned up, piecemeal, and the first time I ventured out in public wearing issue raincoat, cap and (oh horror) pea-green stockings! The skirt, jacket, shirts, tie and khaki rayon bloomers (yes) came later.

The 2 weeks training at Blackmore Park, Great Malvern was a delight, bell tented accommodation and earwigs notwithstanding. Even latrine cleaning detail was acceptable (if somewhat smelly), to be compensated for by route marches in the glorious countryside. I recall that the days started with porridge for breakfast and, if you wanted, a kipper to follow (using the same plate). We were pretty hungry young women (maybe some not so young but still hungry) and if you took time out to wash your plate the cookhouse could run out of kippers.

On 25 August 1939 we were called up "For the Duration of the Emergency" and accommodated in barracks to await developments. On Sunday September 3rd we gathered outside the Corporal's Mess to hear, from the only accessible radio, Mr Chamberlains's expected announcement. When it came there was cheering, not only from the Corporals of the Depot The Welch Regiment. From then on everything changed and the Emergency lasted until VE Day 1945. On VE Day I was in London with another Association member, Nan Webb (née Cox), we joined a highly charged crowd celebrating with amongst unforgettable scenes across the city. We were thrilled that Princess Elizabeth was in ATS uniform and that Her Majesty is now Patron of the Association.

Lioness photographs of reunions and anniversaries exemplify the spirit of friendship that was ever part of our service, and all those smiling faces look so young!

W/5915 Georgina Pratt (age 93)
Australia

Dear Editor,

Re the article on page 14 of *Lioness* 2013/2, Great Yarmouth 11 May 1943. This tragedy was written up in *Lioness* back in the 1990s when the full story was told plus pictures of the gravestones of the girls who were interred at Great Yarmouth. The girls were not in a hotel but in an army camp near the sea front. They were returning from an early morning run and had just returned to camp when two German fighter bombers flew in from the sea at low level. They spotted the camp and bombed it, killing 26 of our girls outright.

One girl survived and she came from the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire. I wanted to find out who she was and asked the editor of *The Citizen* newspaper in Gloucester to put an article in the paper. This he did but there were no replies. I don't know if he contacted the Forest of Dean Mercury but I never heard anything. I still don't know who she was. I was living in Gloucester during the time this article first appeared. I think there was also a picture of the camp after the bombing. Our men wept when they recovered the bodies of the girls.

German fighter bombers made low level daylight raids in pairs. I came within a whisker of such a raid myself in my home city of Manchester in 1942 when two Junkers 88 flew at zero feet past our house. They had missed their target and decided to drop their bombs before returning home. They killed 12 people on the edge of the moors but were brought down by Polish pilots in the RAF. One plane lost the entire crew but the other crash-landed and they survived, becoming prisoners of war.

Eileen Mander

Dear Editor,

I'm hoping that one of your former ATS readers might be able to help me find out more information about a relative? WO2 Doris S LaMoss ATS died whilst serving in Burma, her father, Frederick was a pensioned Bugle Major living in Allahabad. If anyone knew of or remembers her I would love to hear more.

Nick Highton
Tel: 0207 193 7075
Mob: 07887 844022
nicholas@highton-assocs.com

90 YEARS YOUNG George Herschel

I was so pleased to see the Newcastle Branch report on page 32 of *Lioness* 2013/2 celebrating my mother's, Elizabeth (Betty) Herschel (née Lowery), 90th birthday in April 2013. The celebrations did not end there as the following week we travelled out to France and Belgium for yet another visit to the Commonwealth War Graves. My mother served with the ATS from 1940 - 1945, mainly in Wellington Barracks, London Grenadier and Victoria Barracks, Windsor.



**12th Heavy Ack Ack Mixed Battery HQ Staff,
Betty Herschel middle row second from left.**

In August 2013 we returned to lay a wreath on behalf of my late father Stan Herschel who served with 232 Field Company Royal Engineers, he was taken POW in June 1940 and liberated in 1945. During this visit we were able to call on the services of the Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Army Cadet Force who kindly laid our wreath at the Menin Gate. We have been able to return to France and Belgium many times, on several occasions utilising lottery funding which is still available to those who served during WWII or are the widows of servicemen/woman who served. We are now making plans to celebrate her 91st birthday next year with yet another trip to France and Belgium.



At the Menin Gate with members of Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire ACF

Editor: The Royal British Legion administer a number of grant and bursary schemes available to assist in the cost of a Journey of Remembrance, in particular for veterans and widows. Full details can be obtained from the Royal British Legion's Remembrance Travel, www.remembrancetravel.org.uk Tel: 0843 316 1167.

EXERCISE MOBILISATION MADNESS 2013

Maggie Purkis

In 2011 Cathy (Munchkin) Munro and Nikki Clifton decided to start a closed facebook group and invite those who have served in the Women's Royal Army Corps to join the sisterhood. The group is called 'The Soldiers Formerly Known as the WRAC', and at the last count there were over 1,100 members. The group provides comradeship, support, and perhaps most of all, an arena for the sort of banter we all remember from our days in uniform; soldier's humour, and it is wicked. Regularly, someone will post the fact that, for example, "25 years ago today, I walked through the gates of Queen Elizabeth Park for the first time. Best decision I ever made, and if I could do it all over again, I'd be there like a shot". Inevitably, several others reply that they feel the same way, and the sisterhood moves into reminiscing mode.

It was on 02 Jun this year that Cathy, who is still serving as Regimental Admin Warrant Officer (RAWO) of 158 Tpt Regt RLC decided to test the truth of those proud boasts and planned a mobilisation and re-training day based at her place of work; the TA Centre in Peterborough. The event was named Exercise Mobilisation Madness, and the invitation to re-enlist for the day on 24 Aug 13 was posted. Within a fairly short space of time more than 60 ex-WRAC Servicewomen had signed up for the Exercise and paid the £22 (for WRAC Association members) or £27 for non-members (the extra £5 would be spent on their first year's subscription). The woman is a recruiting genius! Application forms and Admin Instructions were sent out together with directions to the various venues in use during the Exercise.

The troops began to muster from midday on 23 Aug 13. Inevitably a few had had to drop out, but most arrived at one or other of the hostelrys on the outskirts of Peterborough. That evening several attended the Beer Festival in the vicinity to take on a measure of Dutch Courage.

At 1030 hrs on 24 Aug 13 the Exercise began with convoys of cars heading for Orton Mere Railway Station, following "Tac Signs" previously posted at roundabouts and road junctions (what the residents of Peterborough made of them gentle reader, I will leave to your imagination). The platoon boarded a private carriage for our deployment to Wandsford Railway Station. During the journey we received our ID cards (which had to be produced within the count of 10) and completed our mobilisation documentation, including an Oath of Allegiance, an Official Secrets Act, and other necessary forms.



On board the WRAC Express

The gentlemen of the Nene Valley Railway were absolute stars. Our heartfelt thanks go to David Hickling, Eddy Cooper, Mervin Sparks, Brian Collins and their brilliant team. They looked after us all amazingly well, really entering into the spirit of our Exercise - even went as far as opening the bar. One even admitted that he had served in the RAF, but we promised not to hold that against him.

At Wandsford we grouped up for a platoon photograph, and then spent some time with Thomas the Tank Engine and his crew. Some of us even got to sound the whistle, thus ensuring that all those who had fallen asleep following the excesses of the previous evening awoke in time to enjoy their hangovers to the full. A select few were also invited to visit the Signal Box for a very informative talk on the Health and Safety procedures in place at the Nene Valley Railway. The railway, manned by volunteers, provided collecting tins and all contributions were gratefully received. At 1330 hrs we re-embarked the WRAC Express for the return journey to Orton Mere. During the journey we were served with a delicious cream tea, and/or "other" as the bar was still open.



WO2 Cathy Munro MBE with her Platoon

On arrival at Orton Mere the convoy set off to the venue for Mobilisation Training; 158 Tpt Regt RLC TA Centre, where we were delighted to find the WRAC Flag flying high and proud once more. Having formed up in 3 ranks we were introduced to the real WO2 Munro MBE and the truth began to dawn; no more Little Miss Sunshine . . . *"that's what I remember from recruit training!"* The Drill Hall had been brilliantly laid out; Cathy and her Admin Team (SSgt Swift, SSgt Rogers and Cpl Lilley) had erected tents, festooned cam-netting and really set the scene to perfection. The platoon was split into 4 sections for the forthcoming Mobilisation Training.

The Training NCOs were standing by to instruct the sections in turn. Sgt Scotty Laird (the most long-suffering, patient, self-controlled Armourer in the British Army) instructed in Weapon Handling. Cpl Karen (Radders) Radford (now Police Sgt KE Radford) reminded us of the joys of preparing uniforms and accommodation for inspection. SSgt Marie McChesney (still serving) instructed in NBC Training and Cpl Sarah Hewitt (still serving) instructed in First Parade Servicing and preparation for the forthcoming Driving Competition.



Cpl Karen Radford



SSgt Marie McChesney

I'm not sure what gave it away, but I got the impression that while the "recruits" found the instruction interesting, what they were really waiting for was to have a go at really driving the vehicles parked outside the HQ building, really firing the weapons they had so laboriously stripped and re-assembled, and taking each other on at football under the eagle eye of Cpl Karla Rayment, (pictured) for the PT Cup. All that would come later.

Sadly, during the afternoon, the rain came down and the outdoor activities had to be postponed, which was just as well, as a most unexpected visitor had arrived. LCpl Amanda (Tilly) Tillotson (now Police Inspector, soon to be Chief Inspector) of the SIB, had finally run her quarry to ground after 23 years dogged investigation and was able to arrest and charge Cpl Radford for her previous misdemeanours. Ably assisted by Prison Officer Annie (Moley) Christian the miscreant was escorted from the room, suitably chastened.



LCpl Tilly Tillotson

When the training was complete tea was served; a delicious Cookhouse Stew followed by steamed sponge and custard; courtesy of Ptes Newton and White, two Army Cadet Chefs. After tea, we repaired upstairs to the Mess for a "swift libation" (thanks for manning the bar Angie Rayner) while the raffle was drawn. A very generous £190 had been collected; £140 to be donated to Lioness Magazine, £50 to our favourite Cub Scout Pack (The Klingon All Star Birmingham Scouts) via Akela (aka Lynn Anderson, the senior WRAC Klingon). After that the answers to the quiz were given. The winners were those from Cleveland Branch, who are tasked with hosting the Exercise next time, always supposing they were still members of Cleveland Branch (N.B. if ever you want to win a Cathy Munchkin Munro quiz, slam her fingers in the door and threaten to do it again if you don't win! Just joshin'!). The Exercise ran out in slow time with everyone enjoying another drink in the bar, well, at those prices (thanks Cathy!) it would have been churlish not to.



At the end of the day the re-trained, mobilised platoon paraded to watch proudly as our Flag was lowered once more and the Corps Collect was spoken. The event had been a resounding success. The planning, organisation and execution were faultless. Yes, we were all still of the opinion that if (heaven forbid) the balloon went up again we'd be back in a flash. It all came flooding back; the right-hand-index-finger in an anti-clockwise motion, the shoulders trying to climb up and cover your ears because the Sarn't Major's bellowing just behind you, the very smell of the cam-netting . . . it's just like riding a bike really. Thank you Cathy Munro, on behalf of all us Mobilisation Maniacs; I salute you.

After Note: It has transpired that as well as the £190 made on the raffle, bar profits of £50 were donated to the Junior Ranks Club (the JNCOs were not only grateful, they were heavily impressed with the obvious stamina shown by the WRAC), £20 was also donated to SSAFA, and the guys of the Nene Valley Railway were delighted to announce that their collecting tins offered up almost £100; and that doesn't count the soar in profits at the coffee and gift shop. Good effort ladies, nothing if not generous, The Soldiers Formerly Known as the WRAC.

THE NOT FORGOTTEN ASSOCIATION CHRISTMAS PARTY

Wendy Hooton and Virginia Hopson

Thank you to the WRAC Association panel for giving Wendy and Virginia invitations to attend The Not Forgotten Association Christmas Party at the State Apartments in St James's Palace. It was so exciting to receive the invitation and we visited the Not Forgotten Association website to look at the photos taken at the 2012 occasion. The official invitation arrived together with our table number, guidance regarding documentation to be taken, the dress code and a map.

We met at Charing Cross and strolled along The Mall in strong winds, the leaves flying in the air (not so good for our immaculate hair do's!). We reached St James's Palace on time, the queue was not long and soon we were at the entrance showing our invitation and photo ID to the policemen on duty. The first thing that caught our eye was the large twinkling Christmas tree at the far end of the

hallway and we could hear the Shorncliffe Military Wives Choir singing Carols. Lining the hallway were serving servicemen and women, there to assist the guests and heroes from Headley Court. We made our way up the long staircase to the Queen Anne's room and on our way took photos of the two magnificent cakes on display, which would be handed out to the guests later on.



Wendy Hooton and Virginia Hopson

At the entrance to Queen Anne's room was Father Christmas who gave us a hearty welcome and some chocolate coins and snowballs. The Band of the Blues and Royals were playing as we made our way to our table. Out came our cameras as we took photos of the beautiful Queen Anne red room and Mickie the Pearly King, whom some of you may remember from the ATS 70th Anniversary celebration at the Victory Services Club (Lioness 2008/2). The host on our table was Derek Smith, a Trustee of the Not Forgotten Association. Others on our table were Elizabeth and her daughter Karen, supporters of the Association and Ali and Steve who were representing the Pilgrim's Charity. Ali served in the Royal Navy and Steve was wounded two years ago whilst serving with 42 Commando Royal Marines. We were meant to have two more veterans on our table but because of the bad weather they could not travel, they had reached their local railway station but all trains had been cancelled.

After the National Anthem was played we were served warmed mulled wine, tea and coffee. The afternoon tea courses were plentiful; various sandwiches, chicken on skewers, savoury quiches, jam and cream scones, minces pies, meringues and the wonderful Christmas cake which we saw on display. By each place setting was a miniature bottle of port labelled with the Not Forgotten Association logo, for us to drink or take away.



Whilst the Band of The Blues and Royals played, and the delicious food was served, there was a wide variety of entertainment (which is just one of the things the Not Forgotten Association do). The table entertainment was fabulous; Haurel and Lardy brought a smile to many a face, a balloonist was making amazing animals and the caricaturists were just incredible drawing their pictures in such a short time. Another man showed us origami and a magician enthralled us with his playing card and matchbox tricks. It was then time to "spot the celebrities" and we were more than happy to have our photograph taken with Anton Du Beke, he was appearing in Strictly Come Dancing at the time. Other celebrities we spotted were Hannah Gordon and Esther Rantzen.



Meeting Anton Du Beke

Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester arrived in our room. The Duke met the guests on the far side of the room and the Duchess spoke to everybody on our side of the room. What a privilege it was for us to speak to her, she is so gracious and knowledgeable. As soon as the Royal Party had finished meeting all the guests the Pearly King announced that a concert would begin in the Picture Gallery.

We were welcomed into the Gallery by a lone piper and then the Master of Ceremonies, the Revd Canon Roger Royle, took over as soon as everybody was seated. He was very entertaining. The first entertainer to take to the stage was an international concert pianist Jean Martyn who was also involved in Britain's Got Talent. She played 2 tunes; one was a sing-a-long melody and the other was the Warsaw Concerto. Next were two bubbly singers, The Swingtime Sweethearts, and we all sang along to two WWII songs. The Shorncliffe Military Wives Choir also sang 2 songs. There was a comedian, Terry Cotta, followed by guitarist Chris Andre (brother to Peter Andre) who played the theme tune from Zorba the Greek. That got everyone clapping faster and faster! The finale was Boney M performing their chart topping songs 'By the Rivers of Babylon' and, together with the Military Wives, 'Mary's Boy Child'.

We were so in awe of the brave soldiers who, despite their injuries, made their way to the Palace and we all enjoyed such a varied, hugely entertaining, extremely well organised and magnificent event. Thank you to the Not Forgotten Association.

FROM WRAC TO IBMS



Sandra Richards née Head

Institute of Biomedical Science Council member (and WRAC Association member) Sandra Richards MSc CSci MIBMS has been awarded the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust (OUH) Bronze Award for Volunteering at the Trust's Annual Staff Recognition Awards.

At the awards ceremony Sandra was singled out for consistently going the extra mile to engage with the public to educate people about the role of healthcare science and the importance of screening to patient health. As well as giving a great deal of her free time to work as an NHS Healthcare Science Ambassador and encouraging young people into careers in science, Sandra does a great deal of outreach work around sexual health and screening.

GIFT AID

Gift Aid is an easy way to help both the WRAC Association and ATS & WRAC Association Benevolent Fund maximize the value of your membership subscriptions and donations. When you pay your annual subscription and/or make a donation with money on which you've already paid tax we can reclaim the basic rate tax from HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) on its 'gross' equivalent. For example the gross equivalent of your £5 annual membership is £6.25 so we benefit from your £5 subscription and from the £1.25 we can claim back in gift aid from HMRC, at no additional cost or effort on your part.

In October 2013 every member of the WRAC Association received a letter containing a brand new, HMRC-compliant, Gift Aid declaration. The new Gift Aid declaration included an option for non-tax payers or members who did not want us to reclaim gift aid on their subscriptions and/or donations to 'opt out'.

In total 990 of you returned your Gift Aid declaration – and we would like to say a huge 'Thank You!' to everyone who did so.

Included with the returned forms were donations of £1,311 on which we can reclaim gift aid that will bring in a further £327.75.

We offered incentives and prizes to encourage you to return your forms and we are happy to announce the following:

1st prize of £75	Miss Geraldine Glenys Taylor
2nd prize of £50	Mrs Penelope Newstead
3rd prize of £25	Miss Valerie Anne Mildon

The Branch prize of £100 for the Branch with the highest percentage of completed returns goes to Lincoln & District.

...and finally. We know that there are still some of you out there who have yet to return their Gift Aid declaration. Well, the good news is that it is not too late to do so using either the form that was sent to you in October 2013 or the form you will find in this edition of Lioness.

Thank you all once again...

PERSONNEL RECOVERY OFFICER WO1 Jo McCue RLC

I joined the WRAC in April 1991 as a Movement Controller. I re-badged to the RCT on the disbandment of the WRAC and then to the RLC on the disbandment of the RCT (my middle name is Lucky White Heather)! After 20 years as a Movement Controller I side stepped out of the trade into the Welfare arena for my final 2 years of Service; I am working as a Personnel Recovery Officer (PRO). I'm actually still here and hoping to further side step into an FTRS post next year (all going well). There are 11 Personnel Recovery Units (PRU's) across the UK (including GE) each with the normal Unit set up; CO, 2IC and a number of PRO's who are allocated soldiers who are Wounded Injured Sick (WIS). As a PRO I act as the soldiers Case Manager and point of contact while they are on their recovery pathway, either back to Duty or into Civilian Street.

As a PRO every day is different. I visit each soldier every 2 weeks and I never know what I am walking into when I enter a soldiers home, or what problems and issues I will be presented with. I have a very large 'tool box' to help the soldiers or sign post them to an external agency who can help them; ranging from pensions/claims experts, employment consultants, health professionals, volunteering agencies, housing agencies, education centres and more. Twenty years current military experience, a Counselling Diploma, a host of welfare courses under my belt and life experience with a 16 year old son are also useful 'tools'!



WO1 Jo McCue RLC

My job is to recognise a WIS soldiers need for help and guidance and then dig into my 'tool box' to help them. I try hard to fill the soldiers 'grey space' while they are on Recovery Duty, it's important to do this rather than let them stagnate at home. This ranges from voluntary activities in something they are interested in, further education, sporting activities (where practical) and anything else that may help the soldier focus on their future and boost their well being.

Being a PRO is a thoroughly rewarding job, a little frustrating at times but what job isn't? Seeing a soldier return to work after a period of illness is immensely rewarding, as is seeing a soldier successfully transition to Civilian street into a new job and new 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," 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 (cheque payable to WRAC Association), or, the ATS & WRAC Benevolent Fund (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 0300 400 1992 (local rate call, including mobiles).

Whatever you decide to do, PLEASE make sure that we have a Gift Aid form from you (a form can be found in the centre of this edition). If you pay tax, we can reclaim the tax which adds to the donation you have made without it costing you any more. If you have made a donation in the past, and you have not sent us a form, 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 a 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!

FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE WESTMINSTER ABBEY



CENOTAPH PARADE Carol Traynor and The Tangliners

We feel privileged to be able to take part in the London Cenotaph Parade in November each year. There were even more of us this year (110) and once again the weather was kind and the sun shone all morning. It is such a poignant parade from the moment we gather on Horse Guards Parade Ground; the feeling in the air is tangible, and most of all we recognise how fortunate we are to march past the Cenotaph, to salute and honour those who gave so much for future generations to be free from persecution and live in peace.

Major McIntyre announced this year was to be her last parade. We will miss you on parade Major Mack, with a twinkle in your eye, as you try your best to get us in some sort of order! Many thanks for leading us in the parade in the past years and many thanks to Tanya at HQ for organising the tickets for us to take part.





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SHROPSHIRE BRANCH



St Matthew's Church, Donnington

CRETE

Margaret James (WRAC 1960's)

Each year the Anglican church in the village of Kefalas, along with the Greek military, hold a Service of Remembrance at the Souda Bay War Cemetery in Chania, Crete. This year I was privileged, for the first time, to be able to lay a wreath on behalf of all fallen servicewomen, WRAC and all of the ladies who have served in the armed forces.



Editor: The Association receives an allocation of tickets for both the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey, on the Thursday prior to Remembrance Sunday, and for the Cenotaph Parade. Tickets are open to any member of the WRAC Association who wishes to attend, prior attendance or Branch participation are not a prerequisite.

Cenotaph Parade Tickets - Applications to be made not before 01 Jun 14 and no later than 31 Aug 14 by email (officemanager@wracassociation.org.uk) or letter only. If demand exceeds supply a ballot will take place in early September.

Field of Remembrance (Westminster Abbey) Tickets - Due to space restrictions we only receive a limited number of tickets. However if you work or live in central London and can spare an hour on the morning of Thu 06 Nov 14 we would love some more support for this event. Ticket applications as above.

ABERDEEN **Joan Bartlett**

The group has gained a new member, Sylvia Harris, and she is most welcome. We enjoyed a nice Christmas lunch but unfortunately were short of one member, Jean Savage, we wish her a speedy recovery.

We are "flittin" in 2014, for those South of the Border that means we are changing venues. We have found a Pub with a Snug and have booked it up as it seems a popular choice. Ma Cameron's is an old and well known watering hole, holding many happy memories of our misspent youth! Lunches are also served and I have no doubt that advantage of this will be taken.

BAND **Ann Jones**

There are many of the Band Branch 'retired' ladies who still work very hard, especially over the Christmas period. There are those involved in their local Band rehearsals; performing at Concerts, Church Services, entertaining at Care & Nursing Homes in addition to year round Band competitions. There are also those who act as volunteers for the Royal British Legion, visiting ex-service personnel who are in need of help. May I say 'thank you' to all of these selfless hard workers for giving of their free time. Please spare a moment to remember Dot Harding who, after fighting long and hard of a really awful illness, died on 07 December 2013.

Many congratulations to Betty Clark (aka Chad) who plays a Bb Tuba in the Tewkesbury Town Band, on being presented with a cup for Musician of the year at The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury. All the very best to all Branches for 2014 and I look forward to seeing you all at the Grand Reunion in 2015.

BEXHILL-ON-SEA **Desiree Lye**

We have had to give up our tenancy of the room and kitchen at the Red Cross Centre in Bexhill, due to the fact that our attendees dropped down to as low as 2 or 3 during the Spring and Summer months of 2013. We really needed about 20 seats occupied and paid for for us to pay our way. Instead we have decided to meet at a cafe in central Bexhill called Poppins (in Devonshire Road) which has the added advantage of being close to a bus stop. It is so nice to meet regularly for a cup of tea and exchange news and this is a way we could accomplish this.

In the meantime let me tell you that on 26 November three of us attended the Service of Thanksgiving for Florrie Cox. It was a lovely service and very fitting for such a gentle lady as Florrie. May I wish health and happiness to absent friends; most of whom are now in their nineties, and to the two sick husbands who are no doubt receiving sympathy and love, along with (I hope) cream cakes and chocolate.

BIRMINGHAM **Babs Blay**

Yet again, Birmingham Branch have been careering from meeting to meeting at breakneck speed. Sadly in the last year we have sent several of our older sisters to the big parade square in the sky. Then suddenly, in October, Jenny Byrne was taken from us at the tender age of 68. We attended her funeral and stood as guard of honour as she was carried into and out of the church. Our Branch Standard was laid at the front of the church next to her coffin. A few words were said in tribute on behalf of her WRAC Association friends at the request of her husband, and our Collect was read out, leaving the mourners in no doubt of Jenny's pride in having served.

Over the year we have welcomed new members who have thrown themselves wholeheartedly into Branch activities. It's good to have a few younger legs to do the running around. You can spot our newbies; they're the startled looking ones. Our evening meeting is continuing to gather every 3 months and has developed into a pizza night. Our numbers vary from 3 to 12 but we always have a good time. Please feel free to join us if you feel like it and you fancy a giggle and a pizza.

At our Birthday lunch it was announced that 20 of us would be going to Buckingham Palace for a Royal Garden Party hosted by the Not Forgotten Association. Maggie Purkis picked the names out of a hat and they were announced to the sound of screams of excitement. Dresses and hats were bought and worn with pride on the day. Those of us lucky enough to be chosen had a wonderful time and did the WRAC Association proud. However, our dresses and hats are already in the loft gathering dust.



Garden Party at Buckingham Palace

Our Branch was again involved in Armed Forces Day and 10 of us marched in the parade of veterans. We had great fun on the stall and next year we hope to have a much better display to show to the general public. We might even persuade the children to accept a balloon. Quite a few of us took ourselves off to Peterborough for Exercise Mobilisation Madness in August. We had a fabulous time trying to do some of the things we did in basic training, and others we had never been allowed near! Sometimes we even succeeded, laughing seemed to be the order of the day.

In September we held another of our Beetle Drives. We had members of other Branches attending as usual and there were a lot of criminally bad drawings. It is hard to believe how noisy a parlour game can be but at least this time there was less water spilt. We seem to be getting the hang of it. Marcelle Stevenson won but it was suggested that having 4 dice helped.

Brum Branch has had a change of personnel on the committee. Marcelle Stevenson has stepped down from the Chair and Betty Webb has accepted the role. Thank you Marcelle for your sterling work as the head of our team. We have also appointed a Welfare Officer, Lesley Wallace, she keeps an eye on our members if they are ill and also sends out birthday cards.

When 110 WRAC Association members marched past the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday, 17 of them were Birmingham Branch, we were proud to be a part of the day.



Our Christmas lunch was attended by over 60 members; including Maggie Purkis, Leicester & Nottingham, Shropshire, Tamworth and Hereford Branches. We were particularly pleased to welcome members of London Branch who had made the long trip for the day. Our special guest Sue Westlake said a few words and the Brum Branch Choir serenaded us with Christmas songs. As usual we had a great time amongst friends and enjoyed the wonderful food prepared by the Irish Centre chefs. We look forward to our next soir  e.

Brum Branch's committee try to ensure that there is always something going on and something to look forward to. Please feel free to join us on the first Wednesday of each month at The Irish Centre, Digbeth, Birmingham at 12 noon. "You can count on Brum Branch, we have an abacus."

BOURNEMOUTH

Val Wright

Bournemouth Branch started the second half of 2013 with a delicious cream tea at the Hermitage Hotel which overlooks the pier and the seafront. Sixteen members turned out to enjoy this occasion, we usually average 15-17 at other meetings. On Remembrance Sunday our wreath was laid in Poole by a young lady RAF Cadet who was immaculately turned out and very proud to do this for us. Age and ailments prevented those who have

previously participated in Bournemouth, and others were at the Cenotaph in London.

Other events have been our AGM, Bring & Buy and a guest speaker on the Home Guard, who came in his original Austin 7! That was an amusing afternoon with many similarities to Dad's Army. We finished the year with our Annual Christmas Lunch, this year at the Mayfair Hotel in Bournemouth. The decorative Christmas atmosphere prevailed, the food was perfect and 24 members and 4 guests enjoyed the occasion. We were delighted that Major Mack was able to join us again. The Branch meets at the Premier Inn on Poole Road on the 2nd Wednesday of most months.



Christmas Lunch - average age circa 83 and the total age 2092!

BRISTOL

Jackie Naysmith

Well we hope you all enjoyed the Summer, we forget about those horrible rainy days and just enjoyed the sunshine. It certainly made the gardens bloom and it put a smile on peoples faces. We as a Branch had a good summer, meetings were well attended. Armed Forces Day was held in South Gloucestershire at Page Park. We didn't have a stand this year, but our Secretary was on the information stand and we were able to display some of our material, which did generate interest. It was a perfect day and some of us were in the parade and had our photos taken with the signing of the Military Covenant. Members were also present for the Flag Raising, our Chairman, Stella Fogg represented us at the Flag Raising for Armed Forces Day in Bristol.

In August we had a trip round the harbour in Bristol, it was very interesting and as there was a 'Gromit Trail' (raising funds for the childrens hospital) it was fun to spot the various decorated Gromits that were around. We will certainly book and go again next year, but have a longer trip. Some of us attended a Burma Star service afterwards at City Hall. Gromits (from Wallace & Gromit) were, as I have said, positioned all around Bristol. At the City Marriott they had the 'Beano' version and as we were having a Committee Meeting there we had our photo taken with it.

We had a well attended AGM in October and also in October we attended an Area Meeting at Wilton. Joan Ford once again organised the refreshments, thank you Joan it is appreciated. Maj Mack gave us information on the Association. It is always good to attend these meetings because you meet with the Branches in our Area and also get ideas from them. In November we didn't have any representation at the Festival of Remembrance due

to it being held on a Sunday. However on Remembrance Sunday there were three of us on Parade and Jean James laid a wreath on our behalf. Pat Carter laid wreath at Weston-super-Mare and was joined Pat Kirby and Angela Matthews; we saw the London Parade on TV.



Pat Carter

Our Chairman and Secretary attended a parade and service at the RBL in Patchway, whilst there we met the Chaplain of the Patchway RBL who is ex WRAC Alison Smith. Alison was invited to join us at our December meeting to meet the rest of the Branch. Alison did come, and it must have been one of our noisiest yet; we had a bring and buy, a special Xmas Raffle and also Xmas food, everyone was talking over one another and exchanging cards. It was quite hectic, especially as the room is not very big, however, everyone went home with a smile which is what it is all about. Hopefully Alison will join our Branch, although with work commitments she will be unable to attend meetings on regular basis. Our Secretary attended a St Barbara's Day Service at the Lord Mayors' Chapel.

We are now planning for events in 2014. We have our lunch in February and are going to make this a 'fun' event and wear 'red hats'. In April we are organising a tri-service event to honour the ladies, we are still in the planning stage. We hope to have representation at the AGM in 2014. I would like to thank HQ for 'looking after us all', Lioness and its contents are truly appreciated. On behalf of all members of Bristol Branch may I wish you all a Happy Healthy 2014.

CANTERBURY **Sue Foulks**

At the end of the last branch news we were looking forward to welcoming Sue Westlake to our July meeting for our summer tea party. I'm pleased to report that it was a great success. We were joined by Medway Branch and Associate members from both the WAAF and WRNS. Sue spoke about the changes which have recently taken place at HQ and the role women play in the modern forces, working alongside their male counterparts. We all enjoyed a lovely tea and Sue and Susan Wing (our Chairman) cut the celebration cake made by Susan's sister and beautifully decorated with our badge.

Although we have been joined by the Whitstable Association of WRNS, the number of WRAC members attending meetings continues to decline. At our September meeting we learnt of the death of one of our longest serving members, Florrie Driver, who had been a member since the start of the Branch. In October we had more sad news, from the end of 2013 we would no longer be able to use the Dominican Priory for our meetings, it will be a loss to the many organisations that use its facilities.

A letter was sent to all members giving various options for the future of the Branch. Firstly to disband, lay up our Standard and move members onto the roll of HQ Branch. Alternatively retain the Branch but reduce the number of meetings, having a break during the winter months. Or occasionally hold an evening meeting. Of the members who replied it was clear that they wanted the Branch to continue if at all possible. In November Susan gave us good news, she had found an alternative venue and all members have been notified that our first meeting of 2014 will be on 2nd April at 1.00 p.m. at Housing 21, Cowdray Place Canterbury CT1 3PB. The committee are very hopeful that we will be able to keep Canterbury Branch going and we look forward to seeing some new faces when we meet again in April. If anyone would like more details please don't hesitate to get in touch with our Branch Secretary.

Finally, in December, we all enjoyed a festive buffet meal, our last time at the Dominican Priory. Twenty three members and guests sat down to an excellent lunch with grateful thanks to everyone who helped to make the occasion such a success.

CHELMSFORD **Gina Shadrak**

During the last six months of 2013 we met regularly and here is an account of what we have been up to!

August - We met at the home of the Hon Secretary for a Garden Party, this happened to be the hottest day of the year when it was about 90°F. Fortunately a gazebo saved the day and we had a lovely time together, doing absolutely nothing except eat, drink and chat!

September - Following our summer break we resumed our meetings (at the Chelmsford RAFA Club, 13.00-15.30 on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, if you would like to join us you would be most welcome). We enjoyed a talk given by Margaret Kliskey following her trip to New Zealand. Thank you again Margaret.

October - A quiz on naming flowers and plants caused some hard thinking for a while, but as tea came around we revived and most people managed to find the answers. An opportunity to say 'Thank you' to Margaret Tebbutt who provides the tea.

November - This is usually one of the highlights of the year when we have a talented flower arranging demonstration with a Christmas flavour. Unfortunately, due to a small car incident this had to be postponed until a later date.

December - At the beginning of the month we celebrated by sharing a Christmas meal together. This is an event we look forward to and the food, as always, was very

good. We had a large raffle and were very pleased to welcome our Area Chairman, Wendy Hooton, complete with a decorated antler headpiece. It was lovely to see Wendy and we appreciate the distance she has to travel to be with us.

We are sorry to record the death of Elizabeth (Betty) Gander during October 2013. Betty was an Associate member having served as a Petty Officer in the WRNS. She joined the branch in 1996 and was a very loyal and popular person. She came with us on most of our earlier holidays. Latterly she suffered much ill health so was unable to attend many meeting but we kept in touch with her.

Best wishes for 2014 to friends in other branches and grateful thanks to those at Worthy Down for this splendid Lioness.

CHESTER AND WIRRAL **Pat Sanders**

2013 was very busy for both the Chester and Wirral Branches, what with our meetings and outings every month and visits to other Branches. January saw us meet up with our friends at the Shropshire Branch for their post-Christmas Lunch, I think we all came away with either raffle prizes or eggs! They certainly know how to throw a party. Also in January we had our outing to the Royal Signals Lunch, they invite us to all their lunches, I think it is because we always bring loads of raffle prizes. February saw our Chairman, Brenda Parry, give us a demonstration about how she helps her lambs to give birth. We nominated Doris Wallington to help with the demonstration but she refused!

April saw Jackie Jones and Pat Sanders travel up to Cumbria to see Audrey Barlow and help her celebrate her 90th Birthday. Audrey moved up to Cumbria to live nearer her daughter. A few of us also attended the AGM at the Arboretum and saw the new WRAC monument, very impressive. Members of the Chester and Wirral Branches made the trip to Fort William for a fabulous weekend, it took us quite a while to get over it, especially the Highland games! The trip to the Fairy Forest was very moving, the sound of the lone piper sent shivers up our spines. The Saturday night dinner was hilarious, we can't wait until next year.

In May we finally managed to get to Bodelwyddan Castle, followed by lunch the Edenshine Antique Centre. It was great day out with lovely food. We had a lovely day out to the Liverpool Empire to see Birds of a Feather, before the theatre we had a delicious lunch at the Adelphi Hotel. June saw us off to Lake Windermere where we met up with Audrey Barlow for lunch and then took a trip on the Lake. At our monthly meeting we had a great talk from Maggie Purkis about how the WRAC Association works. Chris Powell helped her along by providing liquid refreshment. The talk was very interesting and we now realise how hard the Council works for us.

July saw us at the Race Day in Shropshire where we had a great laugh and stuffed our faces with a lovely buffet. We were off to our yearly BBQ at Chetwynd Barracks in July thanks to our invite from the Wirral Branch, this year

the weather was sunny which made a nice change. August was our Canal Trip, we look forward to this every year and members from other Branches join us for a great day out on the canal at Chester. September was the 75th Anniversary of the ATS and we had a party at the Chester Military Museum. We watched a video Cathy Munro had made which brought back a few memories for the girls. Hazel prepared a quiz for us which was a vast improvement on the last one! We thought we would never get through the raffle with the amount of prizes that everyone brought, thanks everyone for a great day.



ATS 75th Anniversary celebrations

In October some of us went to the WRAC Dinner Club weekend, of course we could not miss that, a great time was had by all! Congratulations to Doreen Christian from the Wirral Branch who got married (age 82) the weekend of the Dinner Club, everyone wishes both Doreen and her new hubby all the best for the future. A few of us went to the Merseyside Maritime Museum in Liverpool and had a wonderful time looking around the museum. We then went for lunch at the Adelphi and finally a bus tour of Liverpool, a very busy and tiring day but most enjoyable. We had another lunch with the Royal Signals in October, we are becoming fixtures at these lunches although they complain about the number of raffle prizes we win.





Visiting the Merseyside Maritime Museum

This year we had received invites to Christmas Lunches from the CRA Chetwynd Barracks, Liverpool Branch and the Not Forgotten Association, thank you all for a wonderful time we had at all the meals. I do not think the Not Forgotten Association will forget the Chester/Wirral Branches for a long time. I won't say too much of what they got up to apart from there seemed to be an awful lot of sherry glasses in front of Audrey McDermott and Dorothy Garnett. Elsie Roberts (aged 90 this year) danced the legs of the representatives from the firm who sponsored the Lunch, a great day out was had by all.

We also had our own Christmas Lunch and I would like to thank everyone who attended. I'm sure we all agree that the caterers did a wonderful job and Allan kept the bar running smoothly. Luckily he made sure there was brandy for Chris Powell (last year he ran out and he had to run out and buy some) otherwise I think Chris would have strung him up.

We are looking forward to 2014 and are already planning our outings. I would like to thank Barbara and Allan Sanders, if it were not for them we would not have managed to go on our trips out. Barbara has become an Honorary member of the Chester Branch and was voted on as our Welfare Officer, we actually receive Birthday cards and Get Well cards now.

Sadly in 2013 we lost some very precious ladies from the Chester Branch; Betty (Margaret) Jones and Kath Gerrard both passed away and will be missed from our monthly meetings. Louie Stretch and Joan Pillman also passed away this year and, although they did not attend the meetings due to ill health, they will also be remembered. Audrey Barlow moved to Cumbria to be near her daughter and Rosaline Martin moved to Devon; both are staying with the Branch and we will be keeping in touch with them.

CLEVELAND
Audrey Grainge

In June a group of nine members attended the Northern Area lunch at York. We hired a minibus and set off early so we could stop for coffee en-route at an amazing little cafe-cum gift shop. We all had a good lunch and met many old friends and made many new ones. Irene Maclean our Branch Treasurer, who had been doing the job of Northern Area Secretary for quite a few years retired from that post and was presented with a bouquet of flowers for all her hard work by Area Chairman Dot Ryder.



En route to York

On Armed Forces Day we had a stall at Middlesbrough and one at Stockton, unfortunately we did not attract any new members but received plenty of attention. In August we had a visit to Crook Hall in Durham, the weather was kind to us and we shared a picnic, we even had a tablecloth and candle. We had a guided tour by the owner of the Hall and a great time was had by all, especially Maxine and Wendy who were seen cuddling up to a statue of a naked lady. As it was the 75th Anniversary of the ATS we invited some of the ex ATS, some of whom cannot attend our monthly meetings, to our meeting. To help them celebrate we made them a cake and cup of tea, a glass of wine and sent them home with a bunch of flowers they enjoyed their afternoon out and it was good to see them all again.



One of our members Anne Burrows (and her friends Steve, Madge, Karen, and Jim) runs a campaign called Support our Troops. They organise events to raise money to buy items to send to our soldiers, both male and female, serving in Afghanistan. They have been sending items in shoe boxes since 2008. Cleveland Branch have also helped by donating items of toiletries to send, Anne often brought in thank you letters she had received for us to read. With the drawdown of troops approaching in 2014 Anne thought it would be appropriate to have a Memorial stone commissioned to dedicate to all our soldiers who served on OP HERRICK. The stone was unveiled in Albert Park's Memorial Garden of Remembrance, Middlesbrough by SSgt Tracy Serle 1 MERCIAN. 1 MERCIAN are stationed at Catterick Garrison and were the last recipients of the parcels sent out last Christmas. After the ceremony a buffet was laid on for the people of Teesside who had donated gifts and money.



Two of our members, who are part of a Veterans Cafe Club in Darlington, went on a trip to Leeds Armoury. There are 5 floors of exhibits and when they asked "how did they clean the Armour when it was made all those years ago" they were told, "they let the Armour go brown then oiled it", thereby shattering our illusions of knights in shining armour rescuing maidens in distress!

Our Standard bearer has done sterling work as usual for the past 6 months, with numerous funerals and parades we are forever grateful to her for "flying the flag". Regrettably we lost two of our members, Dot Ryder and Chris Corker, to pastures new; Grantham to be exact so I'm sure we will bump into them again at one of the many get togethers, we wish them well. Sadly our expat member, Sylvia Cree, from France has not managed to join us this year as she broke her foot just before she was due to come to England in October. Hopefully she will make it to a meeting in 2014. All in all our branch has been very busy for the past 6 months; several members attended the Dinner Club in October and in November quite a few of the ladies went the Cenotaph in London to do the March Past. For our last meeting of the year Jan brought in a cake for us all to eat, beautifully decorated with the WRAC Association badge, well done Jan!

FIFE & TAYSIDE **Isobel Gordon**

At their pre-Christmas lunch in the Salutation Hotel, Perth on 30th November 2013 eighteen members of the Fife and Tayside Branch celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Branch's foundation. A cake, with the Association badge reproduced in icing, was admired before being removed by the hotel staff who cut it up and served it with coffee at the end of lunch. Among the 18 guests were several of the founding members, although sadly the passage of time meant that all too many familiar faces were missing. On a happy note, the Branch gained two new members who decided to join after seeing a photograph of the cake!



The cake that produced two new members!

GRIMSBY **Gail Davy**

What a lovely hot summer we had, I hope this winter will not be too extreme. In June our Standard, and several members, attended the raising of the flag for Armed Forces Week at Grimsby Town Hall. There was tea and cream cakes to follow. In July we took advantage of the fine weather with a day trip to Bridlington to stroll along the promenade and watch the fishing off the pier. After some retail therapy we looked to our tummies as usual and had meals in our chosen restaurants, followed by ice cream and cream waffles. We asked the coach driver to take a photo for Lioness, but it turned out with no heads (an improvement some might say). August saw us once more feeding the members at a fish and chip lunch and enjoying a good old gossip.

In September the Standard, carried by Carole, and several branch members attended Civic Sunday at Grimsby Minster. After a short parade to the Town Hall once again we received a lovely lunch of salad and trifle or cream cakes (yummy). I think our best pleasure in life is food as in September some of our members attended the Northern Area reunion in York. Unfortunately there are fewer members in attendance each year. I don't know what we can do to encourage some younger ex-servicewomen to take an interest in the Association.



Christmas Lunch at Cleethorpes Golf Club

An early Christmas lunch was attended by more than 20 members and friends. Our guest this year was Diane, the partner of the Legion club chairman where we are made very welcome for our meetings (a little gesture of our appreciation). The food at the Cleethorpes Golf Club was amazing, we all ate too much and went home replete for an afternoon snooze! The December meeting concluded the year with a buffet and some Christmas cheer provided by the committee members. We await eagerly to see what 2014 will bring. I think the New Year resolutions could be for more members, more food and good health.

HEREFORD Sharon Joyce

We have gained eight new members to Hereford Branch since the last issue of the Lioness; Kath Smith, Lynda Armstrong, Alex Marston, Miriam Unwin, Julie Evans, Movita Durber, Jane Griffin-Ash and Angela Smith. We started the summer at The Axe and Cleaver for the Branch's Veterans Meal, Andy and his staff always make us feel welcome.

June saw the Branch Standard busy on parade; at the RBL County Rally, Violette Szaba Day, and the Freedom Parade for The Rifles, an evening Beating Retreat at Ross on Wye and the raising of the flag for Armed Forces Day in Hereford City. In August sixteen members gathered for our annual Picnic and Summer Draw at Queens Wood near Leominster. The weather was very kind to us this year as it was warm and we saw plenty of sunshine (no umbrellas needed this year).

Enjoying the annual picnic



October saw the Standard once again going to Ross on Wye for a RBL Remembrance concert. In November both the National and Branch Standards were on parade in Hereford for Remembrance Sunday, thank you Jo Foster for carrying the Branch standard. The Branch Standard was on parade again the following day for the two minutes silence in Hereford. Also in November I had the opportunity to take the National Standard to the Birmingham Tattoo which was a very proud moment for me as National Standard bearer. Arrangements for next year are already in the pipeline.

July 2014 will be an important year for Hereford Branch as we will be 25 years old. Mary Woollard and Ali Brown have taken on the mantle of arranging a celebration. Arrangements are well in hand with plenty of fund raising events going on or in the planning stage; one is a walk across the Malvern's for our fitter members with lots of support from fellow members. Invitations with full details will be sent out to Branch Secretary's.

HULL Lynne Marsh

Greetings from Hull, the newly announced City of Culture for 2017 and boy are we proud of that! We hope that loads of visitors will come to the city to see all the splendid things that go on here. From a personal point of view, we hope to have a permanent home by then to welcome any of you who want to come and join in with our activities and outings.

We think we were the USP (unique selling point) for Hull's bid to be the City of Culture; the good luck charm for the Lord Mayor, her 'rabbit's foot', if you like. All as a result of a bold approach by one of our members (oh, all right, it was Ann Gresty)!



Ann Gresty recruiting Nadine Fudge

The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Kingston upon Hull and Admiral of the Humber is Councillor Nadine Fudge. She was elected as the 101st Lord Mayor of Kingston upon Hull and Admiral of the Humber on Thursday 16 May 2013 and installed one week later on Thursday 23 May. Two months later Ann bumped into her at the Hull Veterans Weekend, gave her our brilliant flyer, and she joined the Association. The rest is history!



Lord Mayor of Hull Nadine Fudge (WRAC early 1960s)

We have had a good year's social outings, starting off with Eden Camp near Malton, where there are WWII huts filled with wartime memories, both good and not so good. There are excellent projects and sound effects in the huts evoking very clearly those times for the many school parties who only consider WWII as history, whereas for some of us, it reflected life and work in the 40's if not the spirit.



Visiting Eden Camp

We also went to Burnby House and Gardens in Pocklington. We were lucky with the weather as well as the time of year; everything was looking at its best, and despite a large number of visitors there was still a peace and serenity about the place. We had lunch in a small marquee in the grounds overlooking the bigger lake. We couldn't have asked for better and I for one will be going back many more times.



Enjoying lunch at Burnby House & Gardens

We have also been to the BBC studios in Hull; meeting one of our favourite local presenters Peter Levy, but just missing the 'Mayor of Wetwang' aka Paul the weatherman. We did get to sit in the studio in the full glare of the lights and "dozens" of screens, how confusing! The reporters who go out and about have to do nearly everything themselves; filming, including filming themselves

signing off etc, and then when they return to their desks, they have to edit the piece themselves to the given time, and of course, editing out any "naughtinesses"! I feel like a travel agent or PR person for the area in and around Hull but we are blessed with so many splendid places. I have yet to mention Burton Agnes House and grounds, or the city walks around Hull that we have done this year. It is going to be even more fantastic by 2017 and beyond, we do extend an invitation to all of you to come and visit us (see WRAC Association web page for our contact details) and see this great "pocket-size "city.

I am finishing on a sad note. Our Vice Chairman, Mrs Jean Norris died peacefully on 24th November. Carina Sutherland carried the Standard at her funeral. Jean was an active branch member from 1970 and Vice Chairman for the last 2 years. She attended all meetings, went on all outings (she is in all the above group photos) and was a true friend and stalwart of our Branch. We all miss her.

LEEDS Pat Harpin

Once again we have had an enjoyable time with 12 to 14 ladies attending meetings. In August we had a pleasant trip to Wetherby to visit the Market, before having a very tasty Fish and Chip Lunch. There are some interesting shops, a river walk and gardens to visit, this makes an enjoyable day out. We enjoyed the North Eastern Area Lunch in York and are looking forward to meeting again next year. Mrs Elizabeth Bustard was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by our NE Area Chairman.



Elizabeth Bustard and Dot Ryde

Three ladies had a very memorable weekend in London attending the Remembrance Day Parade, other ladies attended local Parades and Services. Trish, along with her husband and colleagues from Northern Ireland, joined the Parade in Blackpool and laid a wreath in memory of those who lost their lives in Op Banner. We had a very enjoyable Christmas Lunch at a new venue in the centre of Leeds and are looking forward to eating there again. We would like to wish everyone a very happy 2014.

Remembrance in Blackpool



LEICESTER & NOTTINGHAM

Sue Slattery

Our meeting in June began with a tour of the Masonic Temple and museum which is situated in the same building at Devonshire Place where we hold our monthly meetings. We were given a very interesting talk about the Freemasons history by David Hughes who was the font of all knowledge. David finished off the afternoon by sharing a cup of tea with us. When we offered to pay for his services he suggested we make a donation of £50 towards the installation of a lift for the use of every one at Devonshire Place.

June was a busy month, sadly our Standard and 4 ladies attended the funeral of Ted Warry, a Normandy veteran. We also paraded in Leicester on Armed Forces Day, along with our standard and 14 ladies. Eight ladies also attended the Armed Forces Day flag raising ceremony at County Hall. The following weekend the Standard and 16 ladies paraded in Nottingham for the National Armed Forces day, (as reported in the last Lioness). On the last day of June we celebrated our Chairman Doris White's 90th birthday. Alison made a lovely cake which was presented to Doris at our meeting. Our July meeting had to be cancelled due to the installation of the new lift. So as not to miss out 22 of us went to the local Wetherspoons for lunch. Also in July seven ladies attended Shropshire Branch Race Afternoon



and buffet which we all thoroughly enjoyed. A few of us made a long weekend of it and stayed in a local hotel. Thanks to Chris and her team for making us so very welcome.

Doris White
celebrates her
90th birthday

In August we had our usual cake and catch up meeting to finalize details of our Sailing Club day on the 20th. That turned out to be another great day; the weather was kind to us, the buffet was once again outstanding and it gave us all the opportunity to catch up with our comrades who we don't see very often. All 50 of us had a great day out, thanks to everyone who helped make this our special event very successful.

Lunch at the Sailing Club



In September our Harvest Festival raised £121. Five ladies travelled by train to Birmingham for a lunch and beetle drive, many thanks to Babs and her team for making us welcome once again. Eight ladies attended the Victory Show in Cosby, our Standard and six ladies paraded with the Parachute Association at Somerby.

Our October AGM brought about a change of Committee Member; Rose Friend has taken on the role of Treasurer from Doris Doswell, who has served in different positions on the committee for many years. Doris always maintained she would finish being an active member on the committee on reaching her 90th birthday.

Seventeen of our ladies attended the WRAC Dinner Club in Solihull, thanks to all the organisers for making this such a fabulous weekend. Also 7 of us travelled to Shrewsbury for the Wales and West AGM, unfortunately we were not accommodated in the Lord Hill Hotel which caused problems for our less able ladies. This was not due to any fault of the committee but as a result of 2 weddings at the hotel. Our standard and 5 ladies attended the funeral of Les Nicholson, Secretary of the Leicester Parachute Regiment Association.

In November our Christmas Fayre raised £109, also 33 ladies enjoyed wine, sherry, and mince pies. Also at our meeting Doris Doswell was presented with garden centre vouchers, chocolates and a birthday card on the occasion of her 90th birthday. A busy month for our Standard and ladies who attended various parades in London, De Montfort Hall, Victoria Park and the poppy match at the King Power Stadium where the Standard and 3 ladies paraded around the pitch at half time. Also in November we were invited to Lincoln Branch for a lunch and quiz, 20 of us travelled by coach to meet up with friends who we don't see very often. Thanks to Jean and her team for a great day



Doris Doswell
90 years
young



Lyn, Jackie, Sue and Joan

A number of our ladies have fallen or been ill these last few months and we wish them a speedy recovery. Many thanks to our welfare officer Pam Richards who sends cards and flowers and visits when possible. On behalf of the branch may I wish you all a happy, healthy 2014 and please keep those invites coming, we will be there!

LINCOLN & DISTRICT

Jean Evans

For the past few years Lincoln have been busy producing hats, scarves and mittens for serving troops, and small blankets for those who have lost limbs. Originally this venture had been to provide skull caps to help prevent helmets causing hair loss, however members and friends became so enthusiastic (memories of the wartime spirit) that our final total was over 5,000. We have now stopped production and this appears to have produced a legacy of Lincoln the Branch of Hats.



Hats!

At the June meeting Averill, our fund raiser, had managed to procure a WRAC No.1 Dress Hat which went as a sealed bid auction for members. The successful bidder was Doreen Horne, who has requested no photos please! June 29th saw 11 members gallantly man a WRAC stand for Armed Forces Day in Lincoln Square, proudly sporting hats from various foreign postings. July was probably our hottest meeting of the year and several members arrived sporting straw hats to ward off the heat. Many envious glances rested on the particularly elegant model sported by Veronica Chamberlain. As millinery appeared to be our theme for the year it was agreed that we should have a hat competition the next month.



Armed Forces Day

August is always our summer picnic with strawberries and cream, which this year we held indoors together with "The Hat of 2013" competition. Joan Sharp was the outright winner modelling an elegant navy wide brimmed model sporting poppies. September was a busy time as our working ladies organised a day walking along the canal followed by a trip back on board boat. We also managed to have a full coach taking us down to the Royal

Hospital Chelsea to visit our former member Bimbo, who can be seen with us sporting her working cap – indeed a true Lincolnian!



Hat of 2013 competition entries



Visiting the Royal Hospital Chelsea

We took our hats off in October as one of our new members, Barbara Chandler, is married to Dennis, who is better known in literary circles as the author Ed Lane. He kept us enthralled with tales from 4 of his thrilling military novels. November was our last meeting of the year and to a woman we all donned a chef's hat to produce a spectacular buffet. We held the event to host friends from other branches who joined us for a party of thanks to Averill Ward and her sister Linda Pedge, who have worked tirelessly on our behalf raising funds at car boot events for the past 5 years.

LIVERPOOL

Pat Brown

The Liverpool Branch continue to meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month (apart from January) at the Adelphi Hotel, Lime Street. Some of us meet up for lunch at 12.00 and have a good chin wag over a pleasant meal, then at 13.30 have our meeting. Unfortunately our numbers are a bit depleted due to infirmity, and sadly a few have given their 'Last Salute', but we still manage to have a laugh and good fellowship. Some of our 'girls' travel a fair distance, ie: Warrington, St. Helens, Orrel, Skelmersdale and Southport.

In May six of us went off to the Imperial War Museum North in Salford, the weather was dreadful but we were chauffeured door to door. We had a good time but most of us were disappointed that Women are not well represented, a small section which concentrated on WW1 was all we could find, we thought the ATS would at least get a mention. On the photo we were as cold as we look, freezing rain and blowing a gale!



Jean Le Vaillant (nee Moffit) Lee Telford, Pat Brown (nee Jady) Janet Vickers (nee Farmer) Christiana Thomas (nee Rowlands) and Pat Prendergast

Some of us joined with other branches at Chester in September to party and celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the ATS, a very good do. On 4th December we had our Christmas lunch, joined by the girls from the Chester Branch, and on 9th joined them at Chester for theirs (we do a lot of eating around here). We continue to look for new members, especially WRAC, to join us. There must be loads of them around the Liverpool area. Those we have found unfortunately are still working so can't join us during the daytime, we will have to see what we can do about that in the future. By the time you read this Christmas will be a memory so we wish all our old comrades best wishes for 2014.

MARCHES & MID WALES

Marianne Hooker

Our membership has remained steady at 35 over the last year, however only 15 members are active and attend meetings. Many of you will know Kathleen Hughes, but you may not know that she fell and broke her hip a few months ago. Kath is making a slow recovery at home, but at the time of writing this, she is unable to travel to any Association functions including our meetings. We are sure you will all want to join us here in Marches and Mid Wales to send Kath best wishes for a good recovery. In March we held our AGM at The Longmynd Hotel, Church Stretton. We were pleased to welcome our Area Chairman, Maggie Purkis, and Area Secretary, Irene Hall, to the meeting which was followed by an enjoyable three course lunch. A contingent of 7 members attended the NMA for what was a lively, enjoyable and very interesting Association AGM. We were all agreed afterwards that the Association is in good hands and looking healthy for the future.

Branch AGM



Our summer meeting was a visit to The Hall at Abbey-Cwm-Hir, a 52 roomed gothic mansion near Llandrindod Wells. We were very pleased that two WRAC Association Trustees, Audrey Smith and Rowena Patrick, were able to join us for a guided tour; 52 rooms filled with an eclectic array of collectables, both old and new, I even picked up some decorating ideas as we went around. The tour was followed by a strawberry tea, which was much enjoyed by everyone; even Carys, who was being frightfully virtuous and sticking to her 'no cakes' diet! I think our Chairman/ Sec deserves a special mention here for managing to lose 6 stone in weight in as many months. Congratulations Carys!

By popular demand we went to the seaside at Aberdovey in late September for a splendid lunch at the Trefeddan Hotel. This gives our members who live on the west coast, and find travel difficult, the opportunity to join us. They did and the sun shone on us all, which only added to a pleasurable day out, especially for those of us who are landlocked in The Marches.

September is usually our last meeting of the year but we enjoyed our visit to Abbey-Cwm-Hir so much that we decided to return when the Mansion is famously decorated in all its Christmas finery. This visit was arranged for the end of November and we weren't disappointed. Beautiful Xmas trees in every room; even the kitchen had a little one adorned with tiny pots and pans! We were delighted that our Vice President, Sue Westlake, was able to join us, as well as Audrey Smith and Rowena Patrick who were eager to return. After our morning tour of the Mansion, and filled with new ideas for our own forthcoming Xmas, we travelled to the Brynafon Hotel at Rhayader for lunch. Here we saw Red Kites circling above us waiting to be fed at nearby Gigrin Farm. Thank you for coming Sue, we all enjoyed your company very much. Now you know where to come when you need some peace to unwind 'We'll keep a welcome in the hillside' and no mobile signal for miles! Chris, the lady who served our lunch at the Brynafon was a WRAC driver in the '70s. She has promised to come to our next meeting, which will be our AGM, at the Longmynd Hotel, Church Stretton in March 2014.



Christmas visit to The Hall at Abbey-Cwm-Hir

November is always a busy time for our members Deanna and Joan, who are both Area Poppy Appeal Organisers; between them they raised £47,361 (and still counting) for the RBL this year. Several more of our members helped with the collection in Newtown, and wreaths were laid at Remembrance Services in Newtown, Clun, Barry and Cardiff. Thank you to all the Branches who have extended invitations to us throughout the year. We are sorry we have not been able to attend many of your events, but please do keep inviting us.

NORFOLK Joan Awbery

Continuing our theme of a luncheon or an outing once a month some 10-12 of us enjoyed a happy summer. It began when we accepted Pepi Simpson's most generous hospitality. In May, on an extremely hot day, we were served a delicious lunch in her garden and were looked after in a right royal style! In June (again in lovely weather) we partied in Joan's garden with friends and neighbours, raising funds for future activities.

In August we spent a very hot and happy afternoon at the home of Marjorie Spears' nephew who possesses a most extensive collection of Army and Airforce memorabilia. We spent much time in the museum and to add to our pleasure we were treated by our hosts to tea and delicious cakes in the garden afterwards.

The weather didn't serve us so well when we went to Bressingham, well known not only for its gardens, but also a vast collection of steam engines. We spent time in the indoor plant centre when it was fine, but after lunch, when we stepped outside to tour the gardens and inspect the steam engines it rained heavily. Our only disappointment with the weather this summer.



Visiting Bressingham, Beryl Manthorp, Joan Awbery, Irene Warren, Lorna Lansdown, Marjorie Spears

We were fortunate that our Secretary, Liz Winter, was able to come to one of our lunches in the Nelson Hotel, Norwich. Liz has so many strings to her bow, being a prominent member of the RBL and a churchwarden, that she isn't always able to join us. In November Beryl Manthorp kindly lent us the use of her Dance Studio for a more formal meeting. It turned out to be distinctly informal, we each contributed to a picnic lunch with wine, so the meeting went on rather longer than intended.



Lunch at the Nelson Hotel Madge Freeman, Audrey Juby, Lorna Lansdowne, Liz Winter, Joan Awbery, Maisie Capes, Joan Whittingham

Our Christmas lunch was planned by Audrey Juby and held at a Country Club on 18 December, attended by several members who are unable to get to Norwich on a regular basis. We would like to wish a happy summer 2014 to all Branches.

PHOENIX Sheila Johnson

Summer Meeting at the NMA - Approximately 40 members, including those from Birmingham, Leicester & Nottingham and Tamworth branches attended the Phoenix Summer meeting. The meal at the NMA was enjoyable, as was the opportunity to tour the NMA grounds in fair weather. This also enabled Cathy Munro to come up with the group photo. Thanks to everyone who made the journey to support the event.



National Memorial Arboretum 2013

Phoenix AGM - An appetising meal and kind hospitality at Maggie and Colin Purkis' home once again, Colin also acted as photographer in chief. The raffle prizes generated a modest profit towards branch funds and nobody came away empty handed!



Sheila Johnson, Mary Davies, Joan Berry, Irene Hall, Nikki Clifton, Cathy Munro, Maggie Purkis

Visit to Edith Francis

- In October Joan Millie and Sheila visited Edith Francis at her Care Home. We also met with some members of her family who were making one of their regular visits. As the ATS 75th Anniversary was in 2013 it was especially pleasing for Joan and Millie to be with Edith. It was lovely to see that she was doing well with the care she was receiving from the Care Home staff and support from immediate family members.



Wales & The West Area Reunion - Shrewsbury's Lord Hill Hotel was the venue and the guest speaker was a local MP. As usual the various Secretaries reported on their Branch activities and outings during the year. A vote of thanks was extended to Irene Hall (Phoenix Branch Secretary) whose term of office as Wales and the West Area Secretary came to a close.

One might say that compared to Branches elsewhere Phoenix is something of a 'slow burner', but the pleasure still exists of meeting up occasionally! Maggie's item in the last edition of *Lioness* (2013/2 page 41) has elicited two new members to date. Best wisher for 2014.

PLYMOUTH **Ruth Jennings**

The old broom is back on the job once more! My grateful thanks to Nikki Rochelle for taking over the secretarial duties for 2 years in order to give me some respite; which I needed and enjoyed, now with batteries recharged I hope to keep everyone informed of our life in the West Country.

I will start with June, quite a busy month during which we held a mini reunion at Dart's Farm near Exeter as a new idea to see how it went; happily deemed to be very successful with 17 of us sitting down for an à la carte lunch and we were pleased to meet ladies from the Exeter and Torbay area. We hope that Lillian, Susan, Jo, Sue, Pauline and especially Eve from the old Exeter Branch will come again on Saturday 14th June 2014, at Dart's Farm at around 12 noon. As I write this on 1st December I do hope that when this reaches all parts of Devon and Cornwall in February or March that 3 months notice will be enough for even more ladies to be able to come to see us from the Plymouth area. Also to meet our Area Chairman, Major Maskens-McIntyre, who we hope will be able to accept our invitation for yet another lunch! Please, if you can, let me know that you plan to join us so that I can warn and prepare Sue-Ella and her staff for the mini invasion.

Still in June the Armed Forces and Veteran's Weekend was once more celebrated on Plymouth Hoe with a very good turnout and many attractions for locals and visitors alike. This year we were not able to take a table in the Veteran's Marquee because we just can't muster enough ladies to be on duty all day with very little respite, but they managed very well without us!

Sadly we reported 2 more ladies who have died during this time. Equally sadly, although we do have quite a few new 'paper' members, we do not see them at meetings. The majority seem to be still working or are involved with family at both ends of life, ie, parents and grandchildren who need help.

In August we had an outing to Otter Nurseries, unfortunately for me I couldn't go due to having a first cataract operation a few days before and so was unable to drive; this left the remaining drivers hard pushed to get all who wanted to go fitted into their cars. They appeared to enjoy the trip very much and I hope to be driving again in the New Year and will be joining the convoy up or down the A38. Also in August Evon held her 'At Home' mini sale to raise funds for Cancer Research. Again not very good weather-wise but eventually, after a quiet start,

Evon and daughter Ruth and grandson Oscar were kept busy dispensing cuppas and cakes etc and selling raffle tickets too. Very successfully collecting £120, well done to all.

October, Ah, yes, the WRAC Dinner Club in Solihull, a great weekend this year in spite of the rather bleak weather; our thanks to 'Team Munchkins' and everyone else who work so hard to get so many ladies mustered into one building for the dinner and dance which gives all of us a really enjoyable long weekend. The following weekend Jane, our Chairman, attended the Secretaries' and Officer's South and South West Area AGM at the Wilton Bowls Club. Thanks to Joan for a very good lunch.

A group of us meet for lunch at the Chinese Buffet on Royal Parade before our monthly meetings and we have some spur-of-the-moment lunches. Sometimes 3 or 4 of us decide to have an impromptu lunch within a few miles of the city, which helps to keep us laughing and swapping interesting tales of our lives, past, present and to come. This leads me into directing you to Margaret Smith's Part 2 of her life as a cinematographer in Belgium and Germany during the war which follows part 1 published in *Lioness* 2013/2 (see page 48 of this edition).

To see out 2013 we were invited to the WRNS Association Christmas Lunch and the following week they came to our Lunch at the Masonic Hall in Stoke, we greatly enjoyed both occasions. January 2014 will bring us to our committee meeting prior to our 1st meeting of the year at our usual venue, Abbey Hall, Catherine Street; which is just behind the Minster Church of St Andrew on the Royal Parade. Details are now found in the new branch listing pages in the *Lioness* which is a great idea. We offer our thanks to the Editor.

Notice: Ex-service Veteran's Memory Café Opens for people with Dementia

An ex-service veterans memory café has opened at Crownhill Family Centre in Plymouth. The café is designed for people with a dementia diagnosis and is run by the Alzheimer's Society. People are invited to bring along their family and carers to enjoy to café as well. The memory café is a great opportunity for people with a diagnosis to meet with each other and share their memories of their time in the services, take part in activities, enjoy some refreshments and socialise for a couple of hours a fortnight. Why not come along and give it a try, or if you know anybody with a diagnosis please pass this information on. The café operates fortnightly from 2pm-3pm, the first café of 2014 is held on Tuesday 14th January and runs every other week onwards from this date. The full address is: Crownhill Family Centre, Crownhill Fort Road, Plymouth, PL6 5BX. If you would like more information about this new group please call the Alzheimer's Society Plymouth Office on: 01752 608900.

PORTSMOUTH **Margaret Bush**

Hello everyone, we are still alive and kicking even though we have not been in the last couple of issues of the *Lioness*! This was due to a little confusion as to who's responsibility it fell upon to make an entry. We continue

to have our coffee mornings at member's homes as there are so few of us now. On that note though we would like to welcome new members Margaret Cox, Tracy Cuthbert and Diana Weston, and look forward to other new members joining us. Sadly we lost two members this year. In addition two members, Mrs Joy Elmer and Miss Teddy Bray (previous branch secretary for 50 years), have gone into nursing homes. Members are welcome to visit when and if they can, details of their nursing homes can be obtained from the Branch. We attended this years 'poppy launch' at Gun Wharf Quays and were beautifully entertained by the Military Wives Choir. We joined other veterans and paraded for Armistice Day in Portsmouth and enjoyed a lovely lunch afterwards. Our fund for the Portsmouth Memorial Wall is coming along nicely, not bad for change collected at coffee mornings, so well done Ladies. We did not have a coffee morning in December, but will meet again in the New Year. So it just leaves me to say best wishes for 2014.

SALISBURY



Editors Note: Josie Windsor would like to thank Lt Col (Retd) Val Trout and members of Salisbury Branch for rallying to the call to support the funeral of WO2 Joan Page (see page 59). Joan's family had been unable to travel from New Zealand for the funeral and thanks to Salisbury Branch there was a good turnout. Special thanks to Maj Mack who gave a wonderful solo rendition of Psalm 23.

SCOTTISH AREA Kate Arnold

The Scottish Area of the WRAC Association held its AGM in Perth on Saturday 28th September 2013. Thirty six members from all 5 Scottish Branches attended. Lt Col Jo Young, Chairman of Scottish Area, brought members up to date on various activities and events within the Association. Lt Col Sue Westlake was unable to join us this year, however, she had kindly sent a report on events in the wider Association world which Jo Young read to the meeting.

Scottish Area were also sorry to hear that after many years of service Lt Col Janet Lawson is standing down as

Vice Chair of Scottish Area. Janet has been awarded a Certificate of Appreciation and she will be receiving this at the Association AGM in March 2014. A number of Certificates of Appreciation were awarded:

Aberdeen Branch. Lucy Burns, Mary Macleod, Helen Thomson and Pat Valentine. As they were unable to attend the AGM Joan Bartlett accepted the Certificates on their behalf.

Dumfries Branch. Helen Craig - Sue Marcroft accepted the Certificate on Helen's behalf.

Stirling Branch. Christina Allan, Jean Collin, Jean Gibson, Mary McMillan, Georgina Rutherford and Janet Strang, all Stirling Branch. As they were able to attend the AGM Joyce Logan accepted the Certificates on their behalf.

Stirling Branch. Helen Burness and Alison McLennan.



Alison McLennan & Jo Young



Helen Burness & Jo Young

The annual Competition this year was for a handmade Christmas decoration and was won by Isabel Bodman, Stirling Branch. Isabel won the competition in 2012 – will 2014 see her three in a row? The meeting was followed by a most enjoyable lunch after which ladies from Fife & Tayside Branch ran a very successful Raffle.



Isabel Bodman accepting the Competition Shield

SHEFFIELD BRANCH **Brenda Colley**

We've had several lunches out this year, not only our Annual Spring lunch, but we also went out in August for an informal lunch. Initially it was just Jean (Treasurer) & I to discuss a few matters but someone learned of it and a bit like Topsy, it grew & grew. We went to RMA in July for RA Day and Eden camp in November for their Remembrance Day parade. Both are annual events that are a must for us and thoroughly enjoyed.



We had a wedding, yet again, this year. Meg Scott became Mrs Sparrow when she married John, a former Chelsea Pensioner. It was a beautiful wedding, lovely venue, a harpist & singer performed throughout the ceremony which was delightful and Meg's son wore his uniform with green beret to give her away. Altogether a fabulous day.



I had my usual week in Lowestoft at Lord Kitcheners Holiday Centre. The photo is of a group of ATS ladies from London Branch who were there at the same time. We had a lovely week & if anyone would like a holiday there give Steve a ring on 01502 573564.



Enjoying a break at the Lord Kitcheners Memorial Holiday Centre

Four of us went to London for Remembrance weekend. We all marched in the parade, 110 of us this year I believe, and there was actually a 'brief' camera shot of us on the BBC. On the Friday evening, instead of seeing a show as we normally do, we went to Chelsea Barracks. It was a super evening, thoroughly enjoyed so we hope to repeat it next year. This year our taxi driver to Horse Guards was Mike Hughes who had been a 'celebrity' on a TV show about the most dangerous place to be a taxi driver (Mumbai), of course I hadn't heard of the programme! A very nice young man, & amusing, there's going to be a follow-up on TV apparently which I shall make a point of watching. We met another young man whilst on the parade, he was 17 and was representing his Grandfather who had been on the Arctic convoys. We told him he should apply for Grandad's medal now that they've been awarded one, at last!

We had our Christmas lunch at a super venue that we tried for the first time last year. Everyone enjoyed the food, the atmosphere and the bit of dancing that we managed to do. On 10 December we attended the SUOTC Carol service. It is normally held in Sheffield Cathedral, but at the moment it looks more like a bomb site with 'diggers' tearing it apart, so it was held at Somme Barracks. We usually go there for refreshments after the service so it saved travelling time and was very pleasant in the "pop-up Cathedral" as The Reverend Canon Burke called it. It just remains for me to wish everyone our good wishes for 2014.

Christmas lunch



SHROPSHIRE Chris Powell

Firstly I would like to wish you all a very happy & prosperous New Year, and a very warm welcome to four new branch members: Michelle Price, Julie Walsh, Alison McGowan and Debbie Wilson. As always it only seems a short time ago that I sat down to write my previous Lioness Branch report.

June found us messing about on the river when we went to the Anderton Boat Lift and took a river trip. This attraction is in the heart of Cheshire; not only did we get to see the boat lift in action, we also got to see how the people lived who designed and built this structure, via the interactive exhibition. We stepped aboard the elegant Edwin Clark trip boat and took a 30 minute voyage through the heart of the Anderton Boat Lift. We then went from the River Weaver to the Trent & Mersey Canal over 50 feet above. Following this, a river cruise up the river Weaver to the Town Swing Bridge in Northwich. On our return we were able to have a light meal at the cafe area but next time, if the weather is as good as it was on this day, a picnic could be on the cards. Lots of local wild life to see (no, not us!) and good walks available nearby. All agreed this was a super day out and the boat lift was an amazing piece of engineering.



Sheila, Nancy, Pat, Sandra & Chris

29 June Armed Forces Day: A gang of our members dusted off their uniforms and made a beeline for the RAF museum at Cosford. We joined other veterans for the dash up to the conservation hanger, where the volunteers are busily working on a Wellington among other things. Their most recent acquisition is a Dornier, although not much of it can be seen due to its wrapping. Again our request for good weather was given and gratefully received! The food was given the thumbs up, yet again, by our resident gourmet, Nancy T!

Armed Forces Day at the RAF Museum Cosford



13 July Horse Race Day at The Red Lion, Wellington: Well what can we say to those who didn't make it? You missed a super day guys. Not only did we have a laugh with the horse races, we had a really good buffet and lots of cakes. Ladies came from Chester branch plus 9 from Nottingham/Leicester branch who stayed the weekend. A fun packed afternoon that everyone enjoyed. Although the weather was so hot the cakes did start to melt! I'm pleased to report that the pub I recommended the Nottingham/Leicester girls to visit for a meal did come up to scratch and they had a really good time there. Thanks to all members including other branches who came along and made it such a great day.



Hats on for the Horse Racing Day

August and we were on the river again and by now we had got our sea legs! We went on a Canal Lunch Trip at the invite of Chester Branch. We had super weather and good food, plus superb company. We laughed from start to finish only to stop when filling our faces. Looking forward to next time Chester! Later on in August we moved from water to rail and had a day trip on the Severn Valley Railway. Our party left Bridgnorth on a train to Kidderminster, stopping off at Highley to partake of a three course meal at a restaurant on the station. After the excellent meal it was back on board to Kidderminster and some time to look around.

September was a busy month, firstly we went to visit our Birmingham sisters at their new venue, The Irish Centre, Birmingham. This was supposed to be a Beetle Drive and lunch, as usual the beetle drive ended up with lots of laughs and cheating going on. We enjoyed the day, the venue and a splendid cooked buffet lunch. Next on our September agenda was our branch AGM. This was held in Nancy Tiptons house as our normal venue can be quite noisy. So thank you for letting us use your home Nancy, and for providing us with the sandwiches etc. September was also the ATS 75th Anniversary. Chester and Shropshire branches had joined forces to put together a celebration fit for the Queen. The venue for this merriment was of course the Chester Military Museum. The food as always was excellent and all the ATS ladies present received a large bouquet of flowers.

Nancy Tipton celebrates the ATS 75th Anniversary



October was another busy month that found a number of our WRAC members attending the WRAC Dinner Club weekend, and returning with only the slight hint of hangovers. Then we had the Wales and The West Area Reunion at the Lord Hill Shrewsbury. It was good to see so many members from all over the area turn up. Lastly was the REME Horse Race Night held at the TA Centre in Telford. We are spoilt every year by our REME friends who invite us to this evening, they provide us with an excellent free buffet and pay for our first drink. A super nights entertainment playing a horse game. Plus time to catch up with old friends.

November was a sad month. The day before Remembrance Sunday one of our ATS ladies died suddenly at home aged 88yrs. Florence (Flo) Margery Poulter nee Davies. Flo was not a very active member of our branch as she and her husband Stan spent a lot of their time going abroad on holidays or going away in their caravan. However she always supported us financially, being one of the first to pay her branch subs and send a letter saying how much she enjoyed our newsletter or whatever we were getting up to. Although I never got to meet Flo in person, I did speak to her on the phone, especially after her husband died in April of this year. She was one of six children and had been married to Stan for 66 years and missed him a great deal. She had no children but lots of nephews and nieces who she adored. One of her nephews kept our branch well informed of Flo's movements as he is local REME member John Davies. During her time in the ATS Flo had been based at Cosford and she had made parts for Spitfires! She was also based in Nottingham where she met her husband Stan. Stand down Flo, duty done.

On Remembrance Sunday we paraded with Sandra Davies, our Standard bearer, at St Mathews Church in Donnington. This was a new location for us as previously we had paraded at the Garrison church. Sadly the garrison church is in need of costly repairs so they have closed it and will be pulling it down. Afterwards we had lunch in a local pub called the Clock Tower.

December – gosh where to start: We were lucky that Birmingham Branch had been able to include us in their ticket request for the Birmingham Tattoo on 01 December. We had super views (albeit high up) and met up with good friends from the Birmingham Branch. A couple of days later, we found ourselves on the train to Birmingham Branch Christmas lunch. Was the train ready for my musical Santa Claus hat? Some giggles showed me they were! That's how the day started and ended; laughter all day, excellent food and company, including 2 ladies from London Branch who sat at our table and must have thought Maggie Purkis of Phoenix Branch and myself both mad. Luckily enough Sandra Davies and Chris Rangelcroft looked sane and sensible.

Another train journey with the Santa hat, this time to Chester Branch Christmas Lunch. Thank you Chester, we always have a super day with you all and your guests from Liverpool and the Wirral, oh and the odd one from Wales of course. Our table took most of the raffle prizes I think so next year we may be banned from buying any tickets. Another first for us, 3 of us went to Nottingham/Leicester for Christmas Lunch. This time my hat went in the car

rather than the train. Super venue and excellent meal plus a gift from Santa. Thank you ladies, we had a ball.

Our Chairperson, Sandra Davies, worked very hard to produce a branch calendar for 2014 using various pictures she has taken through the year. This is the first time Sandra has done this for us and she has made an excellent job of it. All those who placed orders for these will hopefully have received them by now.

SOUTHAMPTON

Jean Doe

2013 was not a very good year for us but we soldiered on! Some of us enjoyed a very good Armed Forces Day in Portsmouth, after last years disappointment they did pull out all the stops this time. The weather was wonderful with plenty of eats and lots to see, a very happy day. We followed this up with a trip into the forest; firstly to Stewarts Garden Centre, then on to Mudeford and finally to Burley for lunch. It was excellent, so good in fact that we returned on 12 December!

We struggled without a Secretary, however Di and Gail produced the monthly Newsletter. In late Summer Lyn offered to return as Secretary and we were delighted, however due to huge family commitments she had to stand down again in November. However that was 2013 so we welcome in 2014 and wish everyone a good year.

STIRLING

Liz Dixon

Hello to all members of the Association from Stirling, we hope everyone had a smashing Christmas and wishing you Wealth, Health & Happiness for 2014. Due to a lot of hard work from our Chairwoman, Ann Borthwick, eight members of the Stirling Branch were presented with their long overdue certificates of appreciation. Two of the certificates were presented at the AGM by Lt Col Jo Young. Well Isabel done it again this year.... yes she won the craft shield for her Christmas decorations at the Scottish AGM. It took us a while to win anything and now twice, all thanks to Isabel.



Enjoying the Scottish AGM

Early in the year the branch ventured out for the day, a wee trip to Sea World at Balloch (Lomond Shores). We enjoyed afternoon tea and then a trip looking around the aquarium. Some of the younger members had a quick run round the fishy area (BFT would have been passed easily) and then scampered off to the cocktail bar across the road to enjoy a glass or two of 'sex on the beach'.



Visiting Sea World

We have been fortunate with the addition of a few new members to the branch this year. Welcome, Kate, Wendy & Angie (yes got her there) to our wee branch, the drinks are on you. Stirling branch of the association meet on the last Saturday of each month at 12:00 at the Allan Park Hotel, any members of the association are welcome to join us.

SUFFOLK Sheelagh Wilson

At long last the roadworks have finished, the buses are running normally again and our member numbers at meetings are increasing slightly, things can only get better! In June Sylvia was to give a quiz but as she was ill we just had a general talk about this, that and the other. We then had Sylvia's postponed quiz in July, it was all about words and we did fairly well for a bunch of 'oldies'.

We had another quiz in August, from myself, with ten categories where you had to find an answer all beginning with the same letter. In August we also went to the Golf Hotel for lunch, nine members went and all had an enjoyable meal. September was "Do You Recognise Me?" when we all took along photos of ourselves from many, many years ago. Apart from the addition of grey hairs and a few wrinkles not much had changed!

Our AGM was in October and it was passed that Sylvia Johnson and Sheelagh Wilson would continue for another year. Donations were sent to the Association and Lioness. November was our Secret Santa and a discussion about ideas for 2014. Also in November I laid a wreath at the War Memorial on behalf of the ATS and WRAC, a few members also attended the service.

In December we held our Christmas Lunch at The Robert Ransome in Ipswich, ten members attended. Well that was 2013 all done and dusted, I wonder what's in store for us this year, hopefully all good. All the best to one and all.

ULSTER Jean Hopper

The AGM of the Ulster Branch was held in September following lunch in Pizzarelli's restaurant in Lisburn. There was a good turnout of members and after the meal we moved to the RBL building for our meeting. The office

bearers were again unanimously returned to office for the ensuing year. During business the question of recruitment of new members was discussed and Maggie Pridgen kindly agreed to undertake pursuing this problem. Members voted for the 2014 Spring outing to be a train trip to Dublin, to include shopping, pub grub and even a Guinness. A very successful Bring and Buy sale and raffle were held at the close of the meeting which gave members the chance to pick up that long sought after bargain!

At the end of October the Lord Mayor of Lisburn, the Rt Hon Margaret Tolerton, invited us to tour the Civic Centre building which is situated on a small island in the River Lagan. It's a unique situation for a splendid domed building. The interior is very modern, with huge windows overlooking the river on one side and the castle gardens on the other. In the Council Chamber and Mayor's Parlour were numerous plaques presented by various army regiments who have resided in Thiepval Barracks over the years. The Lord Mayor then treated us to a sumptuous buffet tea in her Parlour where a photo was taken for the local press. It was really lovely for the Lord Mayor to acknowledge the Ulster Branch in this way. Part of the newspaper caption read "picture of the week" which made all our members feel extra special, a fitting reminder of a special afternoon.



'Picture of the week'

At the beginning of November Sylvia Connachan took me to the opening of the Garden of Remembrance at Belfast City Hall. I hadn't been to that particular ceremony before and I found it very moving. One of our members, Amy Wall, was there looking especially smart in her UDR uniform. After the service we went to the city hall for tea which was much appreciated on a bright but chilly morning.

On Remembrance Sunday three representatives (Sylvia Connachan, Mary Wilson and Maggie Pridgen) took part in the main parade in Belfast and laid a wreath on behalf of Ulster Branch. The ceremony was attended by HM The Queen's Representative in N Ireland, Belfast City Councillors and representatives from various Services and Associations.



On Remembrance Day, in the midst of all the pomp and ceremony, I cannot help but think of the peace and tranquility which surrounds the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire and the WRAC memorial. When I was there some time ago I was feeling very sad as a much loved relative, who had served in the Ulster Defence Regiment, had recently been murdered by terrorists. As I walked around the beautiful gardens I discovered a little tree planted in his memory which helped dispel my sadness. Time seems to pass so quickly and there seems very little time between one Remembrance Day and the next.

Could I take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy 2014, not forgetting the staff at HQ who do such excellent work on our behalf.

WINCHESTER **Herme Emary**

On 15 June three intrepid members (Herme, Lynn and Jane M) and their guests set off for Birdworld. The weather forecast had been promising a fine dry day all week. What did we get, a wet and cold day! The day didn't start well for Lynn, unfortunately her grandson was unwell on the journey and she was delayed. The gardens surrounding the enclosures were lovely, and nice to walk through. When we got to the parrots we were greeted with a cheery "Hello" from one of the birds and a wolf whistle from another. We saw a male Snowy Owl get fed a chick, which it promptly presented to the female which we think was sitting on eggs. During one heavy downpour we went into the Outback Lodge which housed small birds, mainly Budgies. Part of the enclosure was covered and dry, with sand pits for the birds, and part was outside. The birds could fly from one to the other and you could feed them if you wanted too, whilst they flew around your head. We didn't get to see all of the gardens because we got cold, so having stocked up with jam and biscuits at the Garden Centre we came home.

On 12 Sept we once again we gathered at the Golden Lion for our Branch AGM. We were a bit thin on the ground this year. Only 11 managed to make it on the night, what with unexpected work, sickness and trips to London. The food as ever was excellent and as we were all on time most of it was finished before we started the meeting at 7.30. The main discussion centered around which meeting should be during the day and which in the evening, and of course where we would meet. I think we have come up with a fair selection which should suit all tastes. Funny moment of the night: In the process of handing over my subs a £1 coin was dropped into a bowl of tomato sauce, the sight of Lynn trying to find it and get it out was hilarious.



Visiting the AGC Museum, Winchester

On Thursday 14 November fourteen of us paid a visit to the AGM Museum in Winchester. The group included Jackie and Rachel, both first time attendees also 2 husbands also joined us. Ian welcomed us to the museum with a drink and nibbles, and then gave us a very interesting talk as we went round the exhibits. Everyone enjoyed the visit.

On 7 December eight of us (Jane M, Jane F, Shelia, Maggie, Penelope, Herme, Lynn and her grandson Daniel) paid a visit to the British Military Tournament in London. Not a Branch meeting as such but all were given the opportunity to join us. Having met up at the Union Jack Club for a light lunch, we travelled in style to Earls Court in a lovely red stretch Limo. The show was most enjoyable, full of colour and noise. The arrival in the arena of some of the Afghan amputees was very moving. Some of us were wearing our Association fleeces which started up a few conversations whilst travelling. We hope that the member from Bristol Branch who spotted us waiting for our transport, as she was going into Earls Court and came across to say hello enjoyed the show as much as we did.



Enroute to the British Military Tournament

WORTHING **Janet Goldsbrough-Jones**

The first part of the year was not good weather wise, even here in sunny Worthing. Despite this our monthly meetings continued as usual, and only one mid-month lunch meeting was cancelled. Several of us went to the AGM and thoroughly enjoyed both the Arboretum and meeting old friends. We stayed together at a hotel and were driven around in a minibus by Alan Ladd, one of our husbands. Thanks Alan, you did a wonderful job.

Not strictly WRAC Association, but our Secretary is also Chairman of the local RBL, and in that capacity was proud to sign the Military Covenant for Worthing on behalf of all our ex-servicemen and women.

Janet Goldsbrough-Jones signing the Military Covenant



Our big event of the year in terms of preparation was Armed Forces Weekend. We had a good day at Caz and Greta's before the event wrapping hundreds of wonderful prizes. The event itself went very well and made us enough money to keep us going for the rest of the year. We also had a special raffle of a beautiful tiger drawing made by one of our members, Margaret Ladd.

We had a kind invitation from Canterbury Branch to their Strawberry tea in the week after Armed Forces Weekend. Unfortunately we were unable to get enough of us to hire a minibus, and the journey across southern England is horrible. This was a shame as we thoroughly enjoyed the last one we went to.

In September we were very busy. We attended the funeral of Sheila Edyvane, which was a sad occasion. On a happier note, on the 15th we visited Newhaven Fort for Battle of Britain day. On 16th September several of us went on a coach trip to Windsor and then a boat trip up river. It was a bit wet while we were on the boat but cleared up later when we went to the town.



Greta Carlisle, Janet McKechnie and Carol Hill visiting Windsor

Six of us attended the Dinner Club at Solihull and had a very enjoyable weekend together. This was closely followed by a 'goodbye' lunch with two of our members, Sylvia and Marion, who have moved away from us. Our last event of the year was our Xmas dinner at the Chatsworth Hotel. Always a riotously happy event.



Goodbye Lunch: Brenda Mead, Janet McKechnie, Sylvia Stubbs, Marion King



Attending the funeral of branch member Sheila Edyvane (née Puddephat)



Visiting Newhaven: Eddie Sinclair and Jean Pointer with 'General Patton'

WRAC ASSOCIATION FLEECE & POLO SHIRT

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



The new WRAC Association Polo Shirt is a high quality, unisex Fruit of the Loom cotton shirt with embroidered WRAC Association logo. Unisex sizes S, M, L. Cost: £19.50 including P&P.



Fleeces and Polo Shirts can be purchased on-line via the website, by post, or phone 0300 400 1992. Cheques should be made payable to WRAC Association and sent to WRAC Association, Gould House, Worthy Down, Winchester, SO21 2RG.

Editor: It is planned to make this list a permanent fixture in *Lioness*, with the information duplicated on the website. This is definitely a work in progress and is by no means 100% correct, if you wish to amend your details please email editor@wracassociation.org.uk or phone 0300 400 1992. If there is no Branch listed for your area but you would like to meet up with like minded members, and consider forming a Branch, contact HQ WRAC Association.

LONDON

Greater London

When: 14.00 on a Saturday in March, May and September
Where: Hyde Park Barracks, Knightsbridge, London
Contact: Val Gaff Tel: 020 8854 8477

London

When: 1st weekend of each month
Where: Location varies, phone to confirm
Contact: Lauren Fia MacKenzie Tel: 07709 172351

SOUTH & SOUTH WEST

Bath

When: 14.00 on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month, except on a Bank Holiday when the meeting is held on a Wednesday
Where: Manvers Street Baptist Church, Manvers Street, Bath, BA1 1JW
(www.manversstreetbaptist.wordpress.com)
Contact: Sylvia Musgrave Tel: 01225 339904

Bournemouth

When: 2nd Wednesday of the month, except January and August
Where: Premier Inn, Poole Road, Bournemouth, BH2 5QU
Contact: Val Wright Tel: 01202 314047
or Jillian Hurst Tel: 01202 679433

Bristol

When: 10.30 on the 1st Thursday of the month
Where: Broadmead Baptist Church, 1 Whippington Court, (entrance on Union Street), Bristol, BS1 3HY
(www.broadmeadbaptist.org.uk)
Contact: Jackie Naysmith MBE Tel: 0117 971 2524

Plymouth

When: 4th Tuesday of the month (except December)
Where: Abbey Hall, Catherine Street, Plymouth, PL1 2AD
Contact: Ruth Jennings Tel: 01752 363118

Portsmouth

When:
Where:
Contact: Sally Watson Tel: 02392 641747

Salisbury

When:
Where:
Contact: Lt Col (Retd) Val Trout Tel: 01980 623692

Southampton

When: 19.00-21.30 on the 1st Thursday of the month
Where: All Saint's Church Hall, Desborough Road, Eastleigh, SO50 5NH
Contact: Lynda Jenkins Tel: 02380 470965

Torquay

Editor: If you would like to join a number of members in the Torquay area who are planning to get together and meet on a regular basis please contact: Elaine Harwood Tel: 07821 942947 or 01803 394323, alternatively email elaine.wayne@hotmail.co.uk

Weymouth & Portland

When: 13.00 on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month (no meetings from late December to late February and late June to late September)
Where: RAFA Club, Maiden Street, Weymouth, DT4 8AY
Contact: Di Lawrence Tel: 01308 425149

Winchester

When: 2nd Thursday of January, March, September and November plus a summer outing
Where: Location varies depending on lunch or evening meeting
Contact: Herme Emary sec.wrac.winchester@gmail.com

SOUTH EAST

Bexhill-on-Sea

Editor: Bexhill-on-Sea Branch now meets on an informal basis only for a cup of tea and a chat.
When: 14.00 on the 1st Thursday of the month (except January)
Where: Poppins, 40 Devonshire Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, TN40 1AX
Contact: Jenny Nye Tel: 01424 731882

Canterbury

When: 13.00 on the 1st Wed of the month wef 02 Apr 14 (except Jan & Aug).
Where: Housing 21, Cowdray Place, Canterbury, CT1 3PB
Contact: Sue Foulks Tel: 01304 823824

Medway

When: Meetings held monthly, location varies.
Contact: Janet Cameron Tel: 01634 854298

Worthing

When: 10.00 for 10.30 on the last Tuesday of the month (except December)
Where: Cornerstone Methodist Church, Brighton Road (by Steyne Gardens), Worthing, BN11 3EA
Contact: Janet Goldsbrough-Jones Tel: 01903 207485

EAST

Cambridge

When: 19.30-21.30 on the 1st Monday of the month (2nd Monday if a Bank Holiday)
Where: The Railway Vue, Station Road, Impington, Near Histon, CB24 9NP
Contact: Avril Williams Tel: 01954 210859

Chelmsford

When: 13.30 - 15.30 on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, except January and August
Where: RAFA Club, Oliver House, Hall Street, Chelmsford, CM2 0HG
Contact: Georgina Shadrack Tel: 01245 251088

Norfolk

When:
Where:
Contact: Elizabeth Winter Tel: 01263 722271

Suffolk

When: 14.00 - 16.00 on the 3rd Thursday of the month, except December
Where: Ipswich Labour Club, 35 Silent Street, Ipswich, IP1 1TF
Contact: Sheelagh Wilson Tel: 01473 725707

NORTH EAST

Cleveland

When: 13.00 on the 4th Wednesday of the month
Where: Newport Youth and Community Settlement Centre, St Pauls Road (off Union Street), Middlesbrough, TS1 5NQ
Contact: Hazel Crammen Tel: 01642 290830

Darlington

When:
Where:
Contact: Sandra Hubbard Tel: 01388 720366

Doncaster

When:
Where:
Contact: Doreen Lowery Tel: 01302 729463

Grimsby

When: 14.00 on the 2nd Friday of each month
Where: Cartergate Social Club, Cartergate, Grimsby, DN31 1QZ
Contact: Gail Davy Tel: 01472 347868

Hull

When: 12.00-14.00 on the 1st Friday of the month
Where: Location varies
Contact: Confirm location with Janet Marshall Tel: 01482 809042 or Lynne Marsh Tel: 01964 615973.

Leeds

When: 12.30 on the 1st Wednesday of each month (except January)
Where: The New Headingley Club, 56 St Michael's Road, Headingley, Leeds, LS6 3BG
Contact: Pat Harpin Tel: 01226 201628

Lincoln & District

When: 12.00-14.00 on the 3rd Tuesday of the month
Where: Central Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Lincoln, LN5 7PR
Contact: Jean Evans Tel: 01964 534280

Newcastle

When: 12.00 on the 3rd Thursday of the month
Where: Newcastle Companions Club, 45-47 Leazes Park Road, Newcastle, NE1 4PG
(www.newcastlecompanionsclub.webs.com)
Contact: Tanya Hall Tel: 07552 758093

Sheffield

When: 13.30 on the 1st Thursday of the month except January and August
Where: Victoria Hall, Norfolk Street (Chapel Walk entrance), Sheffield, S1 2JB
Contact: Brenda Colley Tel: 01709 365828

York

When: 14.00-16.00 on the 1st Wednesday of the month (except August), phone to confirm
Where: Haxby & Wigginton Methodist Church Hall, Haxby, York, YO32 2JJ
www.haxbyandwiggintonmethodistchurch.org.uk
Contact: Feona Dixon Tel: 01904 633438

NORTH WEST

Bury & Rochdale

When: Monthly Meeting at 13.30 on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at The Old White Lion, 6 Bolton St Bury, BL9 0LQ
Contact: Pat Oldham Tel: 0161 761 7926
Informal Evening Meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Toby Carvery, Burnley Lane, Chadderton, OL1 2QS.
Contact: Susan Feeney Tel: 07813 313508 or Kath Kirtley Tel: 07912 617694

Chester

When: 13.00 on the 2nd Monday of the month
Where: Chester Military Museum, The Castle, Chester, CH1 2DN
Contact: Pat Sanders Tel: 07733 270567

Liverpool

When: 13.30 on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, 12.00 in the hotel foyer if you would like to join us for lunch
Where: The Adelphi Hotel, Ranelagh Place, Liverpool, L3 5UL
Contact: Pat Brown Tel 0151 733 3453

Wirral

When: 19.30 on the 1st Wednesday of the month
Where: TA Centre, Chetwynd, Wexford Road, Birkenhead, L43 9TF
Contact: Pat Sanders Tel: 07733 270567

WALES & THE WEST

Birmingham

When: 12.00 on the 1st Wednesday of the month (except January). There is also an evening meeting every quarter (phone for location)
Where: Irish Centre, 14-20 High Street, Deritend (Digbeth), Birmingham, B12 0LN www.irishcentreirmingham.co.uk
Contact: Babs Blay Tel: 07748 300492

Derby

Editor: Judy Smith would be interested to hear from any members living in the Derby area who would like to meet up on a regular basis. Please contact: Judy Smith email judy.hirst123@ntlworld.com or phone 07790 848364.

Hereford

When: 19.00 on the last Tuesday of the month
Where: The Herdsman, 54 Widemarsh, Hereford, HR4 9HG
Contact: Sharon Joyce Tel: 01905 821189

Leicester & Nottingham

When: 13.30 on the 2nd Tuesday of the month
Where: Devonshire Place, 78 London Road, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 0RA
Contact: Sue Slattery Tel: 0116 259 2743

Marches & Mid Wales

When: 3 - 4 times per year

Where: Location varies, phone for details

Contact: Carys Palmer Tel: 01588 640985

Phoenix (a regional Branch covering Wales, parts of the Midlands and North West)

When: Every 3 months

Where: Phone for details

Contact: Irene Hall Tel: 01743 271155

Shropshire

When: 14.00 or 19.00 (alternates month by month) on the 1st Wednesday of the month. Come 1.5 hours earlier if you wish to join us for lunch/dinner

Where: The Red Lion, Holyhead Road, Wellington, Telford, TF1 2EW

Contact: Chris Powell Tel: 01743 241646

Tamworth

When: The last Wednesday of the month

Where: Royal British Legion, 7 Aldergate, Tamworth, B79 7DL

Contact: Belle Jenkinson Tel: 01827 64156

SCOTLAND

Aberdeen

When: 10.15 on the 1st Monday of the month (except January & May)

Where: Ma Cameron's (Snug Bar), Little Belmont Street, Aberdeen, AB10 1JG

Contact: Joan Bartlett Tel: 01224 596520

Dumfriesshire

When:

Where:

Contact: Dorah Mundell Tel: 01387 811524

Fife & Tayside

When: Last Thursday of the month

Where: Salutation Hotel, 34 South Street, Perth, PH2 8PH

Contact: Kate Arnold Tel: 01577 830136

Glasgow

When: 13.00 on the 2nd Monday of the month

Where: RHF Museum, 518 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, G2 3LW

Contact: Joyce Steele Tel: 0141 322 5639

Stirling

When: 12.00 on the last Saturday of the month

Where: Allanpark Hotel, 20 Allanpark, Stirling, FK8 2QG

Contact: Irene Watterson Tel: 01786 469597

NORTHERN IRELAND

Ulster

When: Meetings 3-4 times per year

Where: Location varies, call to confirm details

Contact: Jean Hopper Tel: 02892 675747

NATIONAL & OVERSEAS

Band

When: The Band Branch is a national Branch and does not meet on a monthly basis. Phone for details of our next meeting.

Contact: Ann Jones Tel: 0117 9406185

Mediterranean

When: Hopefully twice a year

Contact: Samantha Stretch samanthastretch@hotmail.com

Spanish Mobile: (0034) 722 389205 UK Mobile: (0044)

7804 249320

PHOENIX

Although administered from Wales and the West Area the Phoenix Branch exists to provide a focus for all those who would like Branch Membership (regardless of location) and the chance to meet friends, albeit only 3 or 4 times a year, but are unable to make it to regular monthly meetings. We'd love for you to join us, especially at our annual lunch at the National Memorial Arboretum. Call Maggie Purkis on 01952 251717 or 07808 139543.

WRAC LIONESSES 2nd FUNDRAISING EVENT

Event: British 10k London Run

(Marking the centenary of World War One)

Place: Central London

Date: Sunday 13 July 2014

Time: 09.35

If you are interested in joining the WRAC LIONESSES team please contact Wendy Hooton by email wendyhootonski@aol.com or through the WRAC Association HQ. If you would like to sponsor us you will find our fundraising page on the Virgin Money Giving website www.virginmoneygiving.com/team/wraclionesses2, we are raising funds for the WRAC Association and Help for Heroes (who are the events main charity this year).

You can find information about the event and details of the route on www.british10klondon.co.uk. We finish the run in Whitehall by Banqueting House and Horseguards Parade. COME AND SUPPORT US! If you can be by the Women at War Memorial in Whitehall (100 metres from the finishing line) cheering us on wearing your green WRAC Association fleeces, t-shirts or hoodies it would be awesome! My grateful thanks to London Branch for offering to provide refreshments after the event.

Reunions

HIGH MILL HOUSE, PICKERING 26-29 JULY 2012

'Inspired by friends and written with pride'
Julie White

Friends Forever

(to be said in a 'Big Brother' style voice)

Day One - our arrival at High Mill House Pickering.
All friends brought together as one, started giggling.
Our Summer Reunion – the theme 'Jubilympics',
with plenty of bunting, high tea – what a right mix!

There was Jan, Liz and Rose, then came Deb, Dawn and me Julie.
Not forgetting Elaine, Phyl and Glynn – who really was POORLY!
Next to arrive, Lou and Anne, without any fuss,
That's another two friends joining Baby Jesus.
Then Nerys roared in, with one Pansy Potter...
who's now taken root as a 'true-Royal' squatter.
Finally, Donna and Annette complete our truly mixed bunch,
where our weekend will end with a traditional brunch.

First, Nerys brought us dinner, a splendid Lasagne
Sharing memories and tales of the times served with her.
The laughter began and continued all night,
'Til we crept up the stairs and switched off the night light!

Day Two – off to Whitby involved taking the train.
The weather was fine, without a trickle of rain.
WHOO! WHOO! went the whistle and we all cheered out loud,
We're the WRAC girls and boy are we PROUD!

Fish and Chips was our lunch choice, some medium, some small.
A wonderful plateful was consumed by us all.
"I'll have tea!" was the cry from those far and near.
Only Elaine asked for coffee – "Ninety pence for you dear!"

Then Annette brought us dinner, a lovely 'warm' curry.
Just in time for the Olympics Opening Ceremony.
A magnificent spectacle, a delight to be British
Showing just where we've come from, without being kitsch.

Day Three – was our Tea Party, lots of bunting on show.
Guests included the Queen and Prince Philip – oh NO!
Charles and Camilla were there, so was William and Kate.
Then Prince Harry arrived to make it first-rate.

Throughout the day, trains went by without stopping
Some people took photos of the 'Queen', who had dropped in!
The drivers waved gladly – they were all volunteers.
I think that our stay brought out plenty of cheers!

Day Four – in the household, was a truly sad time.
As we all said 'GOODBYE' and 'TAKE CARE' as a rhyme.
Our friendship is real, deep and strong without doubt...
We're in it together and there's NOWT TAKEN OUT!



*L to R: Ann Davidson, Dawn Flemming, Nerys Owen,
Lou Lee, Liz Fearon, Elaine Smith (kneeling), Jan Ford,
Sharon Potter, Glynn Cardy, Julie White*



*Back row: Rose Barbour, Jan Ford, Elaine Smith,
Glynn Cardy
Middle: Ann Davidson, Donna Wilson, Nerys Owen,
Dawn Flemming, Debbie Cooper,
Liz Fearon, Annette Cassam
Front: Lou Lee, Phyl Mattinson, Sharon Potter*

THE LAST KINE REUNION? Gladys Stapylton

In early September four former Kine Theodolite Operators met at the Victory Services Club for a reunion lunch. We

were joined by John Shuter, the widower of one of our dear colleagues (Phyl Hunwicks), who is now a Chelsea Pensioner. Several other younger relatives and friends also came to make up a happy party.



Julie Carr (née Kemble), Nita Organ (née Erskine), John Shuter, Gladys Stapylton (née Tulett), Muriel Webb (née Shaw)

Over the years we have had many happy reunions; from those attended by hundreds for lunches and dinners in the early postwar days, to weekends in Tenby (we all trained at nearby Manorbier) and Lichfield (to visit our tree and bench at the National Memorial Arboretum). We are now a much smaller party as the years fly by and travel becomes ever more of a problem. There was quite a bit of enthusiasm for another reunion, from both Kines and supporters, so who knows? It was good while it lasted and never say never!

We still have an occasional newsletter with a circulation of nearly 100. Many are still living independently or with their husbands, others are in sheltered accommodation or retirement homes. Long may we keep in touch.

POSTAL BRANCH REUNION Margaret Grant MBE



Val Sanders, Janice Bond, Laura Meacher, Isabel Bodman, Maggie Watt, Ella Reast, Brenda Griffiths, Margaret Moule, Isobel Duffy, Jean Legg, Sylvia Knowles, Chris Fretwell, Margaret Grant MBE, Margaret Smith

On the 17-18 October 2013 members of the Postal Branch Association met for their AGM and weekend reunion in Blackpool. It was great to meet up with them all, especially as it was our 25th Reunion. Some members spent the weekend touring around Blackpool and some watched the dancing at the Tower Blackpool.

At the Hotel we played Bingo, had a lucky dip, raffles and a quiz each evening after dinner. We also joined in with the hotel entertainment. There were a few hiccups with some rooms but the food and service were good, especially at our Gala Dinner on the Saturday.

I presented each member with an engraved wine glass which Cathy Munro had organised for me, they were received with thanks. I was then very surprised as I was presented with a lovely plaque and an M&S card for a large sum of money. I was overwhelmed as I enjoy organising the reunions and did not expect anything in return, Thanks again to all members. Looking forward to our next one!



Margaret's presentation



Three members who have attended all 25 reunions! Margaret Smith, Sylvia Knowles, Margaret Grant MBE

P&EE SHOEBURYNNESS 11TH WRAC REUNION Janet James

Once again, and with many thanks to the organising efforts of Jo Crutcher, former members of the WRAC who had served at the Shoeburyness Proof and Experimental Establishment (P&EE) from the years between 1954 to the disbandment of the unit in the mid-80s, met in October for their 11th biennial reunion weekend. The reunion was held at the Marriott Hotel in Northampton.



Our numbers (including husbands who had mostly also served at Shoeburyness) were in the mid 40s and would have been greater but sadly, as age increases so too does illness, so a few last minute apologies were received. Nevertheless we were really delighted this year to greet two new attendees; Midge Jones (nee Lundgren) from the 1960s, who had read of our doings in Australia (a testament to the travels of Lioness), was able to meet up with a number of friends from the same years. The second new attendees, Jean Dowell (Massie) had heard of our gatherings through her daughter, and an incredible chain of coincidences. Jean, who is of my vintage (late 1950s) was also able to meet up with other friends from that time. I really never cease to marvel that, after having written about our reunions for more than 10 years or so we are still being contacted by old Shoeburynessians. So anyone who may wonder whether it is worth contacting Lioness to find old friends....it definitely is!



Heather Smith, Mr Jones, "Vera", Midge Jones (née Lundgren)

"Vera" always mysteriously manages to reappear at each reunion, immaculately dressed as ever! I imagine

that she was, as many of us were, rather interested in the wartime photographs in Lioness 2013/1. Not too much had changed at Shoebury 10 years or so later, although DUKWs rather than horse and cart had made access to the sands rather easier.



Jean Dowell (née Massie) seated far left of middle row, photographed circa 1955, attended her first reunion in 2013

NORFOLK & SUFFOLK VETERANS **Sylvia Johnson**

Members of Norfolk and Suffolk Branches met up again in 2013 at the Lord Kitchener Holiday Centre, Lowestoft. All are ardent football fans, be it Ipswich Town (The Tractor Boys) or Norwich City (The Canaries). Supporting our teams on the football pitch we are arch enemies, but at Lowestoft we are one big happy family. With God's good grace we will do it all again in 2014.



The '49ers' **Julie Collinson, née Hitchcock**

The Staff Band of the Women's Royal Army Corps was founded sixty-five years ago. Perhaps unsurprisingly, the young women who became members of the ensemble in its inaugural year are known as '49ers'.



The first twelve recruits, with Sergeant Stevens and Bandmaster Goddard Editor: Julie Collinson's mother (Winnie Pollard) is pictured 3rd from right, front row

The band was stationed in Guildford, as it would be throughout its history. In the decades following the band's formation, its original musicians maintained contact with their former colleagues. Many '49ers' have, sadly, passed into history and those who survive are now octogenarians. Nevertheless, a reunion is held each spring, in Guildford, for the lifetime comrades, their families and WRAC bandswomen from successive generations who wish to attend.



With membership numbers increased, the fledgling band rehearses at its home in Guildford

A contingent of '49ers' celebrate the 40th anniversary of the band's inception



HARROGATE FRIDAY 20 MARCH - SUNDAY 22 MARCH 2015

The Grand Reunion in 2015 will be held at the 4* Majestic Hotel in Harrogate. This is a venue which comes highly recommended and we hope you enjoy the move to the northern half of the UK. Harrogate is easily accessible by train, car and plane and the Majestic's central location has made it a popular venue for party conferences and large events. The Majestic is set in eight acres of private gardens and is a well-loved landmark in the elegant spa town of Harrogate.

The format will be similar to the 2012 reunion. The themed dinner will take place on the Friday evening with the buffet being the popular choice, along with entertainment provided by Soul Mates – back again by popular demand! Carrying on through the weekend, the AGM may be held on the Saturday afternoon followed by the Gala Dinner on the Saturday evening. Entertainment for the Gala Dinner will be provided by the Yorkshire Band of the Royal British Legion, with music being played both during dinner and for a short time afterwards. As always throughout Saturday there will be the opportunity to explore Harrogate and catch up with friends old and new. On Sunday morning there will be a short church service which we hope will be followed by a parade through one of the parks in Harrogate. Both events will be supported by the Yorkshire Band of the Royal British Legion.

As with recent practice the **booking of accommodation is by the individual member**. The Majestic have reserved all 170 rooms for us on Friday and Saturday nights for those who want to stay on site. The rooms are all of a good standard with free wi-fi and you will be able to take advantage of the Health and Leisure Club with indoor pool and there is plenty of on-site car parking. The costs of the rooms per night will be:

Single Room	£100 including breakfast
Double/Twin Room	£110 – single occupancy including breakfast
	£120 – double occupancy including breakfast

Accommodation can be booked now direct with the hotel.

It is planned that the total cost to members, **excluding accommodation**, will be approximately £55.00 per head. This is an increase of £5.00 from 2012 and represents great value for money. For this price you will get one buffet supper, one Gala Dinner, limited wine on the table for both nights, entertainment, decorations and room hire. This bargain of a weekend is generously subsidised by the WRAC Association.

APPLICATION FORMS TO ATTEND WILL BE PUBLISHED IN LIONESS 2/14 (and online via website)

For more details on the Majestic Hotel in Harrogate go to their website www.pumahotels.co.uk or call 01423 700300.

Alternative Accommodation: Harrogate plays host to many conferences and as such has a wide selection of alternative accommodation available. For further details contact the Harrogate Tourist Information Centre via www.visitharrogate.co.uk or phone 01423 537300.



WRAC Officers' Dining Club

VICTORY SERVICES CLUB SATURDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2013 Sue Hatton

Just under one hundred serving and retired Officers and guests enjoyed an excellent evening at the annual WRAC Officers' Dining Club Dinner at the Victory Services Club on Saturday 23 November 2013. The event was magnificently organised for the first time by Debbie Coupland and Anne Irvine, right down to the lovely Mess Tin flower arrangements. As ever we welcomed some first time attendees, please do spread the word for future years.

Editor: Please help Anne and Debbie in the planning and organisation of future events by ensuring that you return your application form and payment before the closing date! Perhaps your email details have changed, or perhaps you have just found us? Either way just email Debbie on debbiecoupland14@gmail.com.





WRAC DINNER CLUB 2013

Babs Blay

It was the second weekend in October and ladies from far and wide were converging on a place in the Midlands to meet old friends and new. The WRAC Dinner Club members were gathering in Solihull for another fun filled weekend of laughter and dancing.

Members started arriving as early as Wednesday, and by Thursday there was a real buzz around The St John's Hotel. Other hotel guests looked stunned as they came across hordes of middle aged women all talking at once and bursting into gales of laughter. The bar was packed to the rafters with people determined to have a good time and the noise levels were rising. At one point, the committee tried to hold a last minute meeting but had to retire to Madam President's room because excited members wanted to say hello.

On Friday morning the committee beavered away setting up the reception room with all sorts of goodies. DC members then worked their way around the room; booking in, buying raffle tickets, ordering wine for their tables, picking up leaflets, entering a competition, replacing their remembrisson, sorting out their name badge, buying a DC polo shirt and tote bag and finally, entering the magical world of Munchkin's Merchandise, where they were transported back to their days in uniform. Anything from fridge magnets to Christmas cards, engraved glassware to t-shirts, sweatshirts to DVDs, chocolate to placemats, to key rings and too many other things to mention. Cathy Munro was happy to discuss ideas and possibilities with the excited members, it was just like watching 'Open All Hours' with Cathy in her shopkeeper's overall.



The local hostelrys and restaurants of Solihull were extremely glad to see so many ladies looking for good food and a pleasant drink on Thursday and Friday night, although they might not have expected the giggling. Saturday dawned and the main topic of conversation at breakfast was the Triennial General Meeting due to take place that morning. Having discussed several important matters the members made their decisions and somehow managed to find plenty of subjects to make them laugh. It was announced during the meeting that Maureen Deeley's family were dedicating a tree to her memory and a few friends set off to join them. It was suggested that those of us left behind might like to raise a glass in the bar at the same time as the dedication. The bar was full to bursting for the occasion and when the signal was given, a respectful hush fell. It was pointed out at the time that it was the quietest we had been all weekend or would be again.

And so to the main event the WRAC Dinner Club Gala Dinner, followed by entertainment! Members were invited to congregate for pre-dinner drinks at 18.15 and they were there in all their finery, raring to go. The doors were flung open and members streamed to their tables to the rousing sound of Lass of Richmond Hill. Two hundred and seventy ladies had booked for the meal so the room was buzzing with excitement. After the usual toasts to Her Majesty and absent friends (followed by a rather irreverent Grace by Madam President, Maggie Purkis) we were served a delicious meal. It's surprising that anyone even noticed the food with all the chatting and laughing.

One of the most entertaining things we do at the WRAC Dinner Club is the traditional raffle. The ladies buy plenty of tickets to enhance their chances of winning a fabulous prize, we don't 'do' booby prizes. The runners skipped to the tables with the goods and demanded to see the winning tickets before surrendering the cuddly toy, M&S voucher or something delicious. Everyone was excited because they knew that as soon as the raffle was over it was time for the serious business of dancing the night away.

Our entertainers, Kim and Jake, were as keen to get started as we were for them to strut their stuff, and at the sound of the first note the dance floor was packed. They know that we love to dance and they know the music we like. By the time they packed up their equipment we had danced ourselves to a standstill and sung ourselves hoarse. It was 02.00 when we were invited to vacate the room, so a snake of revellers headed for the bar which was to stay open. It was nearer to 04.30 when the rear guard headed for their beds. Our roving photographer Cathy Munro MBE has captured the atmosphere of the evening in her photos. The sheer joy on everyone's face was almost tangible, Dinner Clubbers will be scouring the pictures to see if they were caught on camera!

Sunday morning arrived all too soon and members gathered for breakfast and more chat before our Farewell Service. Sharon Burman lead us in celebrating and giving thanks for our camaraderie, and the sheer joie de vie of our weekend. Jenny Cockerill, a local deputy Head Teacher, and sister-in-law of a committee member, played the keyboard for us so that our hymn and WRAC song could be sung with gusto and in key. With a song in our hearts and long journeys ahead we dispersed to our far flung corners until we can do it all over again in October 2014. Solihull have been warned to expect us and don't seem too concerned.







THANK YOU! Carol Traynor and the Tangliners.

The WRAC Dinner Club in Solihull in October once again produced a wonderful weekend; the Saturday evening dinner was fabulous, the three course meal was delicious with the tables set beautifully, the waiting on staff were lovely, and the evenings entertainment with Kim and Jake made the evening extra special. The energy they put into their singing is just amazing; just the right kind of music for us that takes us back to our service days, the dance floor was heaving and bouncing from the first song until the last, which shows so well what a wonderful atmosphere Kim and Jake create, it just wouldn't be the same without them. When Kim sang "Chirpy Chirpy Cheep Cheep" it was as though the floor and the roof was going to lift off, everyone joined in with the words and actions, so many thanks to Kim and Jake and here's to the next time.

Many thanks to the Dinner Club Committee for their hard work, in order for us to have such a great weekend. St Johns Hotel was once again very good; with nice clean rooms, comfy beds, good breakfasts, nice staff, and good shops and cafes within walking distance. What more could we ask for; all this combines to make our weekend memorable, which enables us to meet up with old pals, and make new ones and enjoy each others company.



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 0300 400 1992.

WRAC Association 2014 Diary	Reduced to £2.50
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
WRAC Association Fleece	£25
WRAC Association Polo Shirt	£19.50

Do you have memories of the ATS during WW2?

The authors of a major new book being published by HarperCollins to mark the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War would like to hear from former servicewomen for their research. Bestselling authors Duncan Barrett and Nuala Calvi are interested in speaking to former WRNS, WAAF and ATS women about their wartime experiences.

Please call Nuala on 07763 689 149 or 020 7450 6155, email womensforces@hotmail.co.uk or write to 33 Buchan Road, London, SE15 3HQ.

Editor: If you would like to assist please contact Nuala direct at the address above. This is a piece of private research and it not connected to the WRAC Association in anyway.

WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS DINNER CLUB

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

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.

MRS/MISS/MS

INITIALS.....

SURNAME.....

FIRST LINE AND POSTCODE OF OLD ADDRESS

.....

NEW ADDRESS (including full postcode)

.....

.....

.....

TEL NO.....

EMAIL.....

Email details to officemanager@wracassociation.org.uk

or

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

HOW DO I SUBMIT AN ARTICLE FOR LIONESS?

Articles for inclusion in the next edition of Lioness must be received by Friday the 4th July. Please email to 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

- Please **type the text into the body of the email** if at all possible, I don't need a beautifully laid out document.
- **Try to avoid sending text in attached documents.** If you do attach a document can you please ensure it is in Word (Windows) or Pages (Mac) format i.e.the attached document has a .doc or .pages ending.
- **Short articles** are really appreciated! The equivalent of no more than one side of A4.

Photos

- **3 or 4 good photos only, you select the best, I don't have the time to sift!**
- Send photos as attachments in a .jpg format.
- Do not 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.

ATS CENTENARIAN Fanny Hughes



Fanny Hughes celebrated her 100th birthday in October 2013 by receiving her War Medal 1938-1945 from Sir Paul Beresford MP

MORSE CODE Margaret Davies (née Heppenstall)

Editor: This is an edited transcript of an audio recording which can be heard on www.thememoryproject.com



I was selected to do Morse; the little dots I'd seen and the little noises I'd heard were, of course, Morse Code but I hadn't known. They said "you're going to do Morse" and, of course, I'm the sort of person that puts up a kick and a fight at everything. I was told "you're doing it, you're doing the test, you're going to do something, you're going".

And do you know, they were right. I loved it, it was like learning another language. I was sent down to London and billeted in a beautiful old house. All the old houses there had been emptied and their furniture taken out. We went to the War Office to do our work, I'd never been to London in fact I had never been out of the Midlands really. I was absolutely amazed at it all; going to London seemed like going to heaven. I did my test and passed it and

and started work at the War Office.

We did shift work including nights, and sometimes a double shift which was exhausting. Everybody smoked like mad to keep themselves awake. They used to say, "come on, Heppenstall, have a smoke, you'll keep awake;" but I didn't, and I still don't. There was bombing all the time we were in London. It was very dangerous. and they kept moving us around to different accommodation. I ended up in Queen Anne's Gate which was about 10 minutes walk to the War Office. When you went on nights there was bombing starting and (although I thought nothing of it at the time) it was sort of fun. You could hear the bombs coming over but when it stopped dead, you waited a minute or so, and that's when the bomb dropped. You didn't want to be under there, so we'd run. We'd dart into doorways and steps and run like mad, and then go to the next one with our gas masks and our tin hats. Once we got to the War Office we'd course into the depths and we were safe.

One of the off duty attractions were free theatre ticket. When we were off duty we rushed to a kiosk in Trafalgar Square where they had tickets for all the operas, ballets and shows. Everybody rushed to get these tickets and for the first time in my life I saw a ballet and I heard an opera, *La bohème*. I was dazed and thrilled with it all.

Later in the war the American Army arrived in London. As we came off duty one morning (we came up into the daylight blinking after night duty) we could hear a military band in the distance. We were used to that but this military band was playing Glenn Miller "String of Pearls." When the band got closer we could see they were leading American troops all marching to the sound of Glenn Miller.

One Sunday morning when I came off a night shift I was terribly tired. I got to my billet in Queen Anne's Gate and looked at the Orders of the Day to discover I was down for Church Parade at 11:00 (it was now about probably 8:00 or 9:00). I felt that after the night I had had I couldn't manage to go. But as you know, that wasn't taken into consideration. If your name was on the list you went. So I thought 'right, I'm going to be disobedient, I'm not going to go to church, I know I'll get punished. I'll get put on a charge, I'll get punishment, but it's worth it'. I just wanted to go to sleep so I was disobedient and went to bed. About two hours later I was rudely awakened by the most exquisite bang I'd ever heard, I shot out of bed onto the floor and there was glass falling in. A bomb had hit the Wellington Barracks chapel and most of the congregation were killed. I think the band was killed, and if I hadn't been disobedient, I would have been there! The Teleprinter Squad had been there and a lot our girls didn't make it.

This is when I started to realize that war wasn't all fun. I don't think I thought I was fighting for my country, I had just wanted to get away from home. Of course I realized there was more to it than that and now I'd do anything in the world to bring peace and get people to talk instead of fight. That's what it did to me; it changed my life and because I had survived and I had grown up. In many ways, and this is a funny thing to say, I had the war to thank for my growing up a well-balanced person. I do see other people's problems now. I do understand the cruelty. The thing I hate most is cruelty and what is war but cruelty.

SINGAPORE 1951

Gwenda Easton née Burbidge



I wonder if any of the 'girls' recognise themselves. This photo was taken at GHQ Tanglin on the occasion of a parade for Brigadier Coulshed, I'm leading the Platoon.

REMINISCENCES PART TWO

Sgt Margaret Smith née Paine

ATS Cinematographer

Editor: Continued from Part One, published on page 13 of Lioness 2013/2

So, after 12 months of courses and exams we were deemed fit enough to sally forth amongst the unsuspecting BAOR, little did they know what was in store! Our first posting was on the outskirts of Dunstable Downs, next door to a pub (good move!). We had civvy billets and a 15cwt pick-up truck with our equipment on board. This included 2 projectors and 10 generators. We showed training films of tanks, aeroplanes, arms, you name it, and there was a boring film about it. We had a short Movietone News to start with, then on with the main feature. I don't know about men but the films used to send us girls to sleep. We all knew about hull-down tanks, leading edges of aeroplane wings, how to fire a rifle and the visual difference between ours and the German's. I am sure that the men would already know the difference. After about 18 months the fighting was gradually turning in our favour and volunteers were needed to go to Germany or Belgium.

Needless to say, we all volunteered as one. But this time we had a 10 ton truck with a fixed generator in the back. That didn't deter us from frightening the hell out of Hitler! I often wonder if the MOD knew what they were doing entrusting us with very expensive equipment and transport and letting us loose on our own. After a few practise runs; which cleared the roads nicely for us, we were given the OK to proceed, (in an orderly fashion, of course) to board an LCT from Hull to Antwerp.

We were billeted in a block of flats and had a room of our own, with our very own cook, dining room and bathroom, a veritable home from home. Our trucks were parked in our own large garage almost next door. We worked in pairs, my partner was Win Dowd (where are you now Dowdy?).

One would do the driving during the day, but after the evening shows, which didn't finish until after 10 or 11

at night, the other would do the night driving. We were away from base for 2 weeks, sent clutching a list of locations, units and map references; having no idea where we were half the time, life was fraught sometimes. We showed entertainment films; Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers, Bob Hope, Bing Crosby, Diana Durbin (remember her?) and a very jealously guarded Popeye. The roar that went up when we showed Popeye was tremendous. After the films there was always a great show of interest about our projectors. The most frequently asked question was how did we know when to switch from one machine to the other; which we never divulged and felt quite smug about it.

The sleeping arrangements were made for us by the unit we were visiting; which were British POW camps, miles from anywhere. The look on the face of the Officer Commanding when we arrived was a joy to behold. They would have been advised of our visit, rank and name but not gender, so, bags of panic. Normally we would be housed in the nurse's home at the nearest military hospital, or civvy billets, but being all men at the camps there were always invitations to bed in the men's dorm! We would complete our programme then head back to base on a Friday for the weekend. We would check our equipment on a Saturday morning and service the truck, and then the rest of the weekend was free. Eventually I was awarded my 2nd stripe.



ATS cinematographers at work in Aldershot 1941,
© IWM (D 5503)

After about a month we went back to base for a long rest, mostly to catch up on sleep, which was greatly appreciated. Most evenings were free but one night a week was 'make do and mend' night and it was lovely. We would all gather in the rear room, sew on buttons, clean our shoes, write letters and generally gossip and our OC would read us a story or poetry, it was a great evening. Our officer was an absolute pet; I wish I could remember her name, she was always willing to listen to us if we had a moan about something and would try to put things right for us.

We were moved after about 6 months and sent to Germany, Hamburg was the first stop. I know we were badly bombed at home but we had retaliated in spades, I was shocked by the destruction. Again we had flats, and again off we went with our films and units. Sometimes I felt we should have fired rockets for the units to fetch us in, the places we ended up in beggared belief (and a lot of cattle would agree).

It was a very sobering time in Germany and eventually the cease fire came. We were called in and made redundant, then all posted to different positions until it was time to demob. I was awarded my 3rd stripe, (full sergeant, would you believe) and was posted to BAOR HQ in Brussels, with General Ike Eisenhower as top dog. We were based in the Century Hotel and I had my own office and assistants. A great change all round. Now it was squeaky clean shoes, brightly polished buttons, hair off your collar, no loud talking, definitely no shouting, no slamming doors, no running.....I was expected to do the real Sgt stuff. My job was to assist in bringing outlying personnel into a holding unit prior to embarkation to Guildford for demob.

The job itself wasn't arduous and the life was quite pleasant but very much a culture shock. Handling some of these girls sometimes proved very difficult; weeping and wailing and nobody wanting to go home. There were the loud-mouths who couldn't wait, the trouble makers who were anti everything of course, but when it came to leaving a life when every minute of every day was accounted for; clothes when you needed new ones and food on the table; which you didn't need to shop for or cook, the future looked bleak. I had to get them down to the dockside with all their worldly goods and get them on the boat still in tears. A great many of them consulted me about staying in the army, which they could ask about when they arrived in Guildford. I explained to them that it would be made a more regimented army than in the wartime ATS, where things were a little more relaxed. However, I knew that one day I would get a list for demob and my name would be on it. Lo and behold, it came and joined all the others on the dockside waiting to become a civvy.

I did nearly 4 years in the army and enjoyed it, it was a good life if you obeyed the rules, which we had to do anyway. If someone were to ask, "Would I do it again?" the answer would be a resounding, "Yes," if, of course, I could do the same job. Like the others I shed a few tears along the way, so many memories to cherish.

FROM AUSTRIA TO THE ATS Frances Nunnally née Huppert



Shivers of remembrance went through me when I received the ATS 75th anniversary edition of Lioness. When the ATS was formed in 1938 I had only been in England for a few month. I arrived in May 1938, a Jewish refugee from Nazi occupied Austria. Coming to Britain saved my life; my parents, only brother, many relatives and friends perished in the Holocaust.

I joined the ATS in November 1941 and was sent to a training centre in northern England before being posted to Gibraltar Barracks, Bury St Edmunds, where I spent the rest of the war. I was part of a Platoon consisting mainly of girls like myself, refugees from occupied Europe. I think that most of us had ambitions to play an important part in the war effort, however our status as foreigners (having come to England from enemy territory), precluded such hopes. We were only allowed to work in kitchen and dining hall positions.

From November 1941 to February 1946 I worked in both the men's Dining Hall and the Officers Mess. We carted buckets of food that weighed more than we did, scrubbed scores of tables and swilled Mess Hall floors the size of a football field. There was an ancient dishwasher called 'Old Bertha', however frequently the plates and utensils (hundreds of them) had to be washed by hand, leaving our fingers sore and in shreds. When we had dates at night we were embarrassed to explain that our hands looked like that because our wartime service consisted of doing domestic duties.

Thinking back on it now I'm so proud that, though not at all glamorous, our jobs did contribute to bringing the war to a successful end. After all our brave soldiers did have to eat! Many of us who had arrived as refugees and served in the ATS learned after the war that our families had perished. But life went on; we married, had children and became grandparents and great grandparents. Coming to England saved our lives and for that we are ever grateful.

WRAC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

Joining is easy and membership is open to any woman who has served in the ATS or WRAC as a Regular or Territorial Army soldier.

**Annual Membership £5
Life Membership £50
Overseas Annual Membership £8.50**

**Apply on-line via the website
www.wracassociation.org.uk,
email
officemanager@wracassociation.org.uk
or phone 0300 400 1992**

RHEINDAHLEN AND MÖNCHENGLADBACH 1960'S TO 2013 Lin Thornton (with humour by Carol Traynor)



Jan Burchett-Vass and Cherry Harbon reporting for duty

In June 2013 I was fortunate to take a trip back in time, not with Dr Who, but with a group of friends back to Rheindahlen and Mönchengladbach. One of the group, Carol Traynor, had heard that Rheindahlen Garrison was being handed back to the Germans by December 2013 and had casually said on her chatty emails 'wouldn't it be good to have a look around before the handover happens'. Well, in a flash 6 of us were on board; 3 of us, Carol, Cherry Harbon and myself (Lin Thornton) had served in Rheindahlen back in the 60s, although at different times. Anne Gurney had briefly been there before being sent onward to Bielefeld. Jan Burchett-Vass and Rita Broomfield had never been to Germany, so for them it would prove to be an eye-opener of a week.

On Monday 03 June 2013 we all met up at St Pancras and took the Eurostar to Brussels then on to Cologne. We'd decided to have a couple of nights in Cologne for sightseeing before taking a local train to Mönchengladbach on the Wednesday. Through the WRAC network a walk around INSIDE the Big House, where we'd worked, had been arranged for us. That was to be the icing on the cake. Cologne gave us the opportunity to introduce Rita and Jan to the culinary delights of Germany, currywurst and schnitzel, and of course German beer. We lunched outside at a restaurant looking out onto the Rhine, our waiter was our generation, sporting a Teddy Boy hairstyle, and certainly gave value for money. Afterwards we made our way to a local railway bridge where, over the years, people have locked padlocks on the wire fence to remember people. There must've been thousands and thousands of locks all twinkling in the sunshine. Carol and Anne each put a padlock on. Then it was back to the Cathedral and some refreshment in front of the Dom, as the Germans call it.

On Wednesday we made our way on to Mönchengladbach. On arrival we had to take 2 taxis to the hotel. Jan's driver asked if we had come without our husbands. I'm sure Jan put him straight, however the reason I mention it was the next evening we were sat in the hotel lounge chatting about our day at the Garrison when suddenly a voice said "the taxi driver said he is very upset because he

was waiting for you all to give him a call to take you to Rheindahlen camp." The voice was a British guy who had just got out of a taxi, had word really spread about these 6 English women on the loose! Next thing the British guy sends across 6 beers for us. We suspected that he was from the Garrison but unfortunately we never got round to verifying that.



Arriving at Mönchengladbach

Back to Wednesday; after dropping off our luggage at the hotel, we took a couple of taxis to the Garrison where we met our contact, Jackie, at the Naafi. She had carried out all the necessary checks, arranged Visitor passes for us and would escort us around the Big House. The first thing that struck us was the security, even when you consider we were about to hand it back to the Germans. In the taxis we drove through a vehicle checkpoint, in this instance our two taxis were waved through, I guessed we were already 'on the books'. Later when we returned by bus it was stopped and we were asked to show our passports. How times change.



Outside the 'Big House'

Our first impression was that things didn't look too bad. The Garrison was clean and tidy, in full lush growth, and very quiet. In the 60s there were thousands of people living and working there and the place was buzzing, at the time of our visit there were probably no more than a couple of thousand. Jackie walked us from the Naafi up to the Big House, on coming into view my immediate response was 'its lost a floor!'. I could only see two floors when I

knew from my old 1968 photo there were three floors. The IRA had attacked the Garrison in the 70s; this resulted in the building of a thick concrete perimeter wall, which from a distance 'hid' the ground floor and created the illusion of only two floors. There was also an iron fence all the way around. We walked to the entrance, the same one used by the three of us back in the 60s. When we got inside the Big House it seemed very empty, there were many derelict rooms. Carol and I had both worked in Northag/2ATAF Commcen that was in the basement. We found the stairs we'd used, made our way down, and then tried to orientate ourselves which I must say was quite difficult. However, in the darkness (yes we'd got a torch) we reckoned we finally located where it had been. It was stripped of everything, extra walls/partitions had been built, but we are pretty certain we had the right place. Then it was upstairs to find Cherry's old work place, HQ BAOR Commcen. Cherry believes she got the right place and the right door too. Part of our mission had been accomplished. We then went across the road to Telephone House where a friend, who had been unable to make the trip, had worked. We gave her feedback. In some ways it was quite sad to see the old place so run down and quiet, but brilliant that we'd been able to come back and see it one last time.



**Cherry Harbon,
Carol Traynor,
Rita Broomfield,
Jackie,
Jan Burchett-
Vass, Anne
Gurney, Lin
Thornton**

Next it was time to try and locate our blocks, the cookhouse, the Marlborough Club, Queensway

Club and Globe Cinema. Over the years many buildings have either been pulled down or simply become derelict. Some areas had also been fenced off and together with foliage growth, it made identifying blocks and cookhouse quite difficult. The only building that was overgrown was the Marlborough Club, other buildings were still in use. The Naafi was open and other blocks were being used as community centres and accommodation. Our blocks were all empty. Accommodation blocks 18, 16 and 14 had been knocked down 7 years ago and were replaced by three new three-storey blocks, which put a different perspective on the layout. There was much discussion about where we were; with hindsight I believe Carol had identified the correct location, even though Cherry and I felt the road wasn't big enough. So with Carol's blessing we can say all buildings/locations were identified.

On Friday we returned, this time under our own steam on the No. 23 bus, to locate the Shack. Anyone who served in Rheindahlen during the 60s and 70s, and maybe the 50s, will be familiar with the Shack, even if they didn't drink! It was THE place to frequent at weekends, and especially Sundays. Over the years there were various stories that it had been knocked down, or was now a private house. We were determined to find it, and get the t-shirt! Carol had managed to get a 2004 map of the Garrison and Cherry

had obtained an aerial photo from Google earth. Cherry also had a postcard of the Shack from the 60s which said it was in the village of Leloh. The problem was the security fence, miles of it, and obviously there for good reason. We found the path we wanted, but we were the wrong side of the fence. We tried wire cutters, makeshift ladders and digging the fence up...well maybe not, but it just shows how desperate we were! It was a scorching hot day, about 30°C, and we were running out of water but we soldiered on. Having checked some distance of fencing we were beginning to run out of steam.

We were sitting in the shade contemplating whether we would have to admit defeat when I saw Rheindahlen Library across the road. Some people came out and I asked for directions to Leloh. The route was via a footpath access point between two sections of the security fencing then across open farmland and grazing horses to the village. Leloh was very quiet and the odd person in their gardens didn't bat an eyelid at the sight of 6 bedraggled over 60s women staggering along on the hottest day of the year, looking lost in their little hamlet. Did they offer refreshment? Not a chance, they were probably thinking "Oh mein gote itz ze Shackers comenze bac to our peaceful place – vie hav hat 47 years oft shhhh unt quitenzen – unt nowe dey ave comenze backe – shnell shnell putenz allas biers suzzammane int ze sellars shnell". Then there it was, we found ourselves standing in front of the Shack. Definitely now a private home but very obviously the Shack, mission accomplished. I should add that Rita and Jan couldn't believe this building in front of them was The Shack, no run down barn or empty out-building, but a brick built very respectful residence. Why 'Shack', well I guess because it was called Haus Schutz, nearest translation 'Shack'!?

On our journey back to MG we stopped off in Hardt, a small town a few miles outside the Garrison, for refreshment. I was also hoping to find the chippy we used to use, ever the optimist! I do believe I found it, different owners and layout, and had my Halb Hähnchen mit mayonnaise! Heaven!



The 'Shack' in Leloh

Sunday proved to be another eventful day. We left MG and returned to Cologne ready to catch the ICE train back to Brussels on Monday. We did some more sightseeing and also went back to the rail bridge and the padlocks. Jan wanted to place a padlock in memory of Scatty; a lady whose passing we'd been informed of on the Monday we left London. She was a great pal and friend of the Tangliners. Cherry fancied a trip on the Rhine, they do an hour's cruise with a reduction for the over 60s. Whilst on the cruise we saw there was a market on the banks of the Rhine so decided to have a look. We had a browse and were on our way back when Rita discovered that her purse was missing; we believe it was pickpocketed from her bag. Fortunately there was only one card plus about 40 euros in cash, but that doesn't make it any better and we all felt a bit knocked back for Rita.



Cologne: In memory of Stella 'Scatty' Scantlebury

In July 2013 various events and Parades were held marking the closure of the Joint Headquarters (JHQ) and the Rheindahlen Military Complex (RMC). The 470-hectare was due be handed back to the German Federal Authorities by December 2013. Whilst we heard no official comment on its future, one rumour is that the whole area will be returned to nature as a site of special interest for flora, fauna and birds.

Our visit was rather a roller coaster of a 'journey'. We came away with a variety of mixed emotions; pleased that we went back, disorientated with what we saw and found, and saddened to see the demise of what had been a thriving Garrison in the 60's now simply consigned to history. I should add that the local Germans are sorry we're leaving too. The NATO personnel stationed and working in Rheindahlen Garrison over the years contributed a great deal to the economy of Germany, and the local communities and Mönchengladbach are feeling the squeeze. The best postscript however was finding the Shack, a place, which although consigned to history, still breathes as a private house.

'PENSIONER TO DRIVE SIX TON TRUCK'

Editor: This is an excerpt from an article published in the Londonderry Sentinel on 11 September 2013, written by Olga Bradshaw

On September 13 2013 Maisie Crawford was behind the wheel of a massive six-ton military truck for a driving lesson with the Royal Air Force 502 Aux Squadron at Aldergrove. Having signed up for armed service during the war years, Maisie was distraught to find that she was too short to qualify as a driver, so she had to content herself with hanging about with the mechanics instead.

Life at Maisie's childhood home at Alexander Place just off Foyle Road was anything but dull with Maisie around. "I was 15 years and three months old when I joined up in September 1956 in the Women's Royal Army Corps (WRAC). So I was quite a bit too young," she says with a twinkle in her eye, "You had to be 17-and-a-half with parental consent or 18 to join in your own right, so I was neither. "I signed up because being in the Army was something I always wanted to do. I was living here and through the war years, family was involved,

cousins and that, and my Uncle Albert was a night watchman, fire watching," she said.

So what did her family think when they discovered what wee Maisie had done? "My mother only knew I had signed up when a policeman came to her door and asked 'Do you have a Maisie McNulty here?' "I was sitting at the table and I said to my mother 'Mother, you know my birthday is October the 3rd, 1938', which made me three years older than I was. "My mother looked at me and the policeman looked at her, and she just looked back at me and the policeman just said 'That's all I need to know, that she just lives here'," she says, laughing at her skills at manipulation. She continued: "So that was what was required the policeman calling to see that I was who I said I was, but I wasn't the height of tuppence. "I think he knew rightly and got out of the house right and sharp before he said anything else.



**C Coy 351 Ulster Bn WRAC, Ballykinler, 1950's
Pte Maisie McNulty is standing, second row, second from left**

"I went to Duncreggan Camp for initial training, and was already training there when the policeman called at the house to find out who I was. "I loved every minute of it. It sunk through to my mother when I brought a full kit home with me that I was in the TA, I was a weekend soldier," she said, leading to the reason she is being interviewed. "But there was one thing I always wanted to do and that was join the regular Army, but my mother would not sign the papers, so I was a weekend soldier and always home in time for tea. "I never got to drive the lorries. I was too small, but they did let me do 'static' driving, that's learning how to drive sitting in a seat. "They let me do that with the rest of the class and I was quite happy, but I never got to drive a real truck because I was too wee." The standard size is five feet two, so I could not drive. It was heartbreaking because I could not do it, but I always kept myself around the people in the Motor Transport section. "There were always jobs to do in the garage," she said.

Maisie admitted that it had come as a shock to find out that the Sentinel had arranged for her, totally behind her back, to drive a huge military truck. Now aged 72, Maisie learned to drive for real in car at the age of 69, when she passed her test. "The hours spent on learning and driving since, I have been able to get to all my old haunts, and I have met up with quite a few pals who were drivers through the Legion and I was vice-chairman of the Army Corps of Transport," she said.



Maisie Crawford née McNulty tries her hand at 'Truckin'

68 COY MÖNCHENGLADBACH 1955

Jean Cundy-Borge

(née W/371578 Driver J Evans)

These pictures were taken in 1955 by two photographers from Picture Post whilst I was serving with 68 Coy in Monchengladbach. I was given a trip on a Steamer on the Rhine provided I wore my uniform, I am photographed with LCpl Stuart Hayward REME.



RSMs CONVENTION

Agnes Doig



RSM Hooper B. RSM Bradburn M. RSM Tindall M. RSM Pittman F. RSM Evans M. M. RSM Evans M. RSM Hildyard A. RSM Bell H. RSM Schofield B. RSM Sanders H.
RSM Shenton H.

RSM Mallard E. RSM Mantell J. RSM Wiffen J. RSM Gratton B. RSM Castellano J. RSM Savage C. RSM Hadley F. RSM Purton A. RSM Clarke E. RSM Head F.
RSM Hope M. RSM Wild G. RSM Holmes K.

RSM Norcott M. RSM Newham L. Colonel J. Rivett-Drake Major R. Green RSM Fahy M. RSM Robertson J.



A picture taken on a visit to Battersea Dogs Home 18 July is now the Royal Hospital Chelsea's Facebook cover photo featuring Bimbo Coleman, Audrey Merton BEM, and Madge Cole

KEEP DANCING 04 December 2013



The tradition of the Annual Cheese Ceremony at the Royal Hospital Chelsea dates back over 300 years to 1692 when the hospital asked a local cheesemonger to provide the pensioners with cheese as a Christmas treat. The Dairy Council have been providing the cheese for over 50 years. This years event featured an appearance by Strictly Come Dancing stars Erin Boag and Anton Du Beke.

*Audrey
Merton BEM*



Madge Cole and Anton Du Beke 'keeeeeep dancing'

CHRISTMAS GRANTS LUNCH 06 December 2013

Sue Hatton, Dorothy Hughes, Madge Cole, Sue Westlake, Win Phillips, Bimbo Coleman, Audrey Merton BEM



Statement Of Financial Activities

THE WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31 October 2013

		Unrestricted				
	Notes	General Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2013 £	Total 2012 £
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Incoming resources						
Incoming resources from generated funds:						
Voluntary Income	1	90,784	2,950	63,873	157,607	94,274
Activities for generating funds	2	-	-	-	-	13,315
Investment Income	3	17,892	-	140,803	158,695	207,865
Incoming resources from charitable activities						
	4	4,637	-	-	4,637	14,295
Other incoming resources	5	4,859	-	1	4,860	5,820
Total Incoming Resources		118,172	2,950	204,677	325,799	335,569
Resources Expended						
Cost of generating funds:						
Cost of generating voluntary income	6	63,552	-	25,054	88,606	68,067
Charitable activities	8	31,177	-	243,887	275,064	342,350
Governance costs	9	12,658	-	3,523	16,181	10,990
Total resources expended		107,387	-	272,464	379,851	421,407
NET (OUTGOING)/INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS		10,785	2,950	(67,787)	(54,052)	(85,838)
Transfers between funds	15	11,949	(11,949)	-	-	-
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR		22,734	(8,999)	(67,787)	(54,052)	(85,838)
OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS & LOSSES						
Gains / (losses) on investments:						
Unrealised	11	77,476	-	525,943	603,419	209,143
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		100,210	(8,999)	458,156	549,367	123,305
Fund balances brought forward at 1 November 2012						
	18	592,584	35,823	4,941,354	5,569,761	5,446,456
Fund balances carried forward at 31 October 2013						
	18	692,794	26,824	5,399,510	6,119,128	5,569,761

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 2013

	Notes	2013 £	2012 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible Fixed Assets	10	1,368	287
Investments	11	5,937,956	5,334,537
		<u>5,939,324</u>	<u>5,334,824</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stock		5,722	5,097
Debtors	12	68,908	60,256
Cash at bank and in hand	13	115,219	190,760
		<u>189,849</u>	<u>256,113</u>
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	14	10,045	21,176
		<u>179,804</u>	<u>234,937</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS			
		<u>6,119,128</u>	<u>5,569,761</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			
		<u>6,119,128</u>	<u>5,569,761</u>
FUNDS OF THE ASSOCIATION			
Restricted Funds:			
The Benevolent Funds	16	4,592,136	4,209,649
The Princess Royal's Memorial Fund	17	807,374	731,705
Unrestricted funds:			
General Funds		692,794	592,584
Designated funds:			
Membership life subscription fund	15	26,824	35,823
TOTAL FUNDS	18	<u>6,119,128</u>	<u>5,569,761</u>

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 16 January 2014 and were signed on its behalf by:



.....
Lieutenant Colonel SJ Westlake, Chairman

Obituaries - Their Final Salute

NINA GARNHAM

13 June 1922 - 9 December 2012

Nina was born on 13 June 1922 in Ypres. Her mother served as a Clerk in Belgium in the First World War and her father worked for the War Graves Commission, Nina had three sisters and one brother. On return to the England the family lived in South Harrow, Middlesex.

Nina was going to work at Kew Gardens but instead joined the ATS. She enlisted on 14 November 1941 and after 2 weeks in Droitwich she went to Blandford for basic training. She then attended a Firing Camp at Ty Croise, Anglesey before being posted to 504 Bty Mixed Ack Ack Royal Artillery in Nottingham.

Whilst being drilled on the parade ground Nina took exception to being shouted at and walked off. A Gunner Corporal was told to get her to return to the parade ground. Nina said "I'm going to pack and go home" and went into the barrack hut and started to get her clothes ready to pack. The Corporal pleaded with her but Nina was adamant. In the end the Corporal (George Graham) said "If you don't come back I'll have to marry you!". Nina did return to the parade ground but had told George that if that man shouted at her again she was definitely going home. Nina and George were both posted to 504 Battery and George asked Nina out for weeks before she consented to do so.

At the end of the war Nina was demobbed from Lowestoft. Nina and George were married on 25 March 1944 and were blessed with two sons, Peter and David, and had a very happy marriage. For many years Nina attended ATS/ Royal Artillery reunions in York. At first members went for the weekend but as membership grew and comradeship of the war years was renewed most 'girls' stayed for a week to holiday together.

Helen Morse

MARGARET M KITCHEN BEM

née Johnson

24 November 1919 - 2 July 2013



Margaret (Peggy) originally joined the Women's Land Army as she was anxious to "do her bit" but was then persuaded by a friend to join the FANY. As she was in Motor Transport she was transferred to the ATS. She served until 1943 when she left having married Sgt Geoffrey Kitchen, a pharmacist with the RAMC, who had been stationed in Richmond with the Green Howards. They emigrated to New Zealand and then moved to Australia.

On Monday 14 December 1942 at 20.25 four Beaufighter night fighter aircraft of 219 Squadron RAF Scorton were scrambled to intercept enemy aircraft in the North East of England. As the second aircraft became airborne the pilot radioed Scorton Control Tower to say that he could not control the aircraft. (It was later discovered that the canvas weather cover had been left on the tail plane). The aircraft reached Richmond where it crashed in a field.

Twenty-two year old Pte Margaret Johnson leapt from her ambulance, on what is now Green Howards Road, and ran down the steep hillside to reach the front of the burning aircraft. Machine gun ammunition and cannon shells exploded continuously as she tried to reach the pilot in the front cockpit which was partly buried in the soil of the grass covered field. Margaret tore at the canvas covered fuselage to free the pilot, simultaneously crying for help. Seventeen year old St John Ambulance Cadet, Ray Thornton, ran towards her, he could not make out if the person was trying to get into or out of the aircraft. The person's clothes were alight and Ray wondered if he should do a rugby tackle and smother the flames on the grass. As it happened, he hit the figure on the run to carry it away from the blazing wreck into the arms of others. One of them used an open blanket to smother the flames. It was only then that Ray realised that the figure was that of a woman, and not till later that she was ATS and not aircrew.

The London Gazette of 9 March 1943 refers to the award of a British Empire Medal to Private Margaret Mary Johnson "in recognition of gallant conduct in carrying out hazardous work in a very brave manner". Margaret was very proud to be presented with the BEM by His Majesty King George VI personally.

Ann Page

Editor: The information for this Obituary was taken from an article published on page 8 of lioness 2009/1.

EDNA M RUKIN née RAWLES

15 July 2013



Edna Rukin died peacefully aged 91 on 15 July 2013 in Northallerton. She had fond memories of her time serving in the ATS, working on Radar Early Warning systems on the South coast, where she made many good friends. She enjoyed attending reunions in York. She is sadly missed by her children, grandchildren great-grandchildren and friends.

Linda Daniels

W/276778 WO2 JOYCE I ALLIBONE
07 January 1926 - 06 July 2013



Joyce was the youngest of three children and was born in Northampton. She attended Northampton Art College but the outbreak of WW2 saw an end to her artistic career as she signed up. She was posted to an AA battery in the Folkstone area and then went on to serve in Germany, where she arranged the luncheon at which Monty said farewell to his Army of the Rhine. Her Junior Commander when she first went to Germany was Mary Churchill. Joyce also served in Berlin at the end of the War, which she found very distressing with many starving and orphaned children. After the War she continued her service in the Army and left in 1965. Her Commanding Officer at the time commented 'a good organiser, administrator and Instructor – she is also an excellent draughtsman', so her artistic talents were still in evidence.

Joyce continued with public service, becoming a paramedic in Nottingham where she lived until retiring and moving back to Northampton in the 1990's. She suffered from profound deafness as a result of her War service and attended a group for the deaf in Northampton where she was a lively and active member. She was also a very keen bird watcher and spent many happy hours travelling around the country bird watching. Joyce died on 06 July 2013 aged 88. She leaves two nephews and nieces and is sadly missed.

Martin Letts

JENNIFER A BYRNE née LIGHT
26 September 2013



Jenny Byrne joined the Women's Royal Army Corps Association 25 years ago. Right from the start she threw herself into its activities and events, attending meetings whenever she could. Jenny was one of life's caring people. Even when she was unwell herself she would be concerned for her comrades in Birmingham Branch. At her last meeting with us in September she was asking about some of our elderly members who had been suffering various ailments. Jenny had a way of tilting her head so that you knew she was really interested in everything you said.

In 1996 Jenny and 3 other Birmingham Branch members decided that the WRAC needed a luncheon club, just like their big sisters, the ATS. They spoke to Ann Deakin about it and as the saying goes, from little acorns great oak trees grow, and the WRAC Dinner Club grew from that discussion. From the first sedate luncheon, which 67 members attended, to October 2013, when 270 members were dancing their socks off, the membership has grown to over 700. We, her Army sisters, are convinced that Jenny is jiving away with our friends who have moved on to the big dance floor in the sky.

Jenny's passing will leave a big hole in our ranks and our hearts. Stand down Jenny, your duty is done.

Babs Blay

**SGT DAPHNE M McGAVIN née
BOARDMAN
11 January 2013**



Daphne Boardman served in the ATS from 1939 to 1945, she was based in the War Office in London working with the Royal Corps of Signals. Daphne's first billet was bombed and she had to move to Buckingham Gate. She subsequently moved to Knightsbridge and finally to Highgate.

In 1945 she married Andrew McGavin, a Musician in the Grenadier Guards Band. The marriage lasted 68 years until her death on 11 January 2013 at the age of 92. Daphne was a very popular person, a very efficient Sergeant at the War Office and is very sadly missed.

Andrew McGavin

**W02 JOAN M PAGE
12 February 1943 - 27 August 2013**



Joan was born in Scarborough on 12 February 1943. She was a career soldier; starting her 22 years of service at Mandora hutments in Aldershot, moving to the Queen Elizabeth Park Guildford in 1964 where she worked in stores and administration. In 1972, at the height of the Cold War, she was posted to 29 Coy in Rheindahlen, returning to admin role in Aldershot in 1975. Joan also had fond memories of serving in Malta. I first met Joan in 1980 when we served together at HQ 1BR Corps in Bielefeld, she was the WRAC Company Sergeant Major and I the WRAC, now QARANC, dental hygienist. We became pals and kept in touch ever since.

Having completed her 22 years service Joan went to live at South Newton near Salisbury and I to Stoke-on-Trent, but we had a date every other Friday to speak on the phone for hours. We talked of old comrades articles that I had read in Lioness, politics and God, who Joan called the big G. Although Joan did not go to Church she was a committed Christian and we discussed bible passages and the people we were praying for. Joan believed in the power of prayer and would tell me of the people she met in Mr T's cafe and her friend Roz. Joan really walked with God and once told me that although she was very happy here on earth, it was nothing compared to how happy she would be when she got the big posting and could sit at God's feet and listen to him.

Joan was sensitive to other people and told me the story of the time she met a homeless lady in Salisbury. Joan felt the big G tell her to give the lady the money she had on her, it was a large sum so Joan was hesitant and thought she might have imagined Gods instructions. The message came over again so Joan handed over her money to the stunned lady and walked away thinking 'I hope she doesn't just go and spend it on booze or worse'. Many months latter Joan met the lady again and she looked totally transformed. She told Joan that with the money she been given she had turned her life around and now had a steady job and a place to live. She couldn't thank Joan enough, but Joan said 'don't thank me, thank God as he told me to give you the money'.

Joan was a well respected, valued and popular member of the WRAC. She was the life and soul of the Warrant Officers & Sergeants Mess. Joan did not suffer fools gladly but was a warm and wonderful person who always made time to really help anyone in difficulties, she will be sadly missed by family and friends.

W02 Josie Windsor

**PATRICIA L SWANSON née COULTHARD
28 May 1944 - 18 September 2013**

Patricia joined the Territorial Army whilst at University where she was reading Maths and Computer Science. She was attached to the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers (Tyne Tees Regiment) and was Commissioned on 23 January 1966, she completed her service on 20 January 1968.

Jean Evans



W/65526 WO1 KATHLEEN FOXLEY
29 June 2013

WO1 Kathleen (Kay) Foxley enlisted into the ATS on 20 June 1941. She served as a Driver and eventually a First Class Driving Instructor until March 1949 when she transferred to the recently formed WRAC/TA. On 25 February 1952 she returned to mainstream WRAC where she served in various postings on the home front. From June 1967 until January 1968 she served as WO1 Admin in FARELF, finally taking her discharge with Exemplary Service on 31 March 1968. She was awarded the France and Germany Star 1939/45, the Defence Medal, the War Medal 1939/45 and the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

Kay was an active and loyal member of the Liverpool Branch of the WRAC Association for many years until infirmity prevented her from attending meetings. Kay sadly passed away peacefully on 29 June 2013 after a fairly long illness, she is sadly missed by her old comrades and friends. R.I.P Ma'am.

Pat Brown

SHEILA J EDYVANE née PUDEPHAT
1929 - 19 August 2013



Worthing Branch was sad to lose one of our founding members of the revived Branch. Sheila attended our first meeting and missed very few since, despite moving into a Nursing Home a few years ago. She was brought to meetings by her sister Jean and daughter Joanne. She was a loyal member and hated to miss a meeting. We will all miss her and I shall particularly miss her radiant smile. Several members of the branch attended her funeral in Southwick, a lovely church service, her wreath was in the shape of the ATS badge. The family then went with her to Kent where she is now buried.

Janet Goldsbrough-Jones

KATHLEEN (RUTH) YOUNG
05 May 1911 - 05 July 2013



When Mary Barker, Doreen Pledge and myself joined Southampton Branch in the early eighties we were informed of the founder members, of which Ruth was one. Without a doubt she was a pleasant, happy lady. Fairly quiet, but very much a knowledgeable person, rising to the rank of Major during the war. Ruth had a long history of poor health following an operation, eventually unable to attend meetings. She moved into a Nursing Home but still kept a keen interest in Branch news, she donated £80 to buy the pole for our long awaited Standard.

Jean Houghton and myself visited her just after her 100th birthday and presented her with a painting by Mary MacDonald. Despite her poor physical health Ruth was bright and alert and her daughter Anne took her out most days. She was a very happy, contented lady, one I wish I had known in her prime.

Jean Doe

LAST POST

ALDRIDGE, Mrs Joan C, née Delamont, of York on 31 August 2013, ATS.
ALLIBONE, Miss Joyce I, of Northampton on 06 July 2013, ATS/WRAC.
BARTLETT, Mrs Ivy, née Noble, of Basingstoke on 14 September 2013, ATS.
BISHOP, Mrs Mavis, née Coulson, of Bishops Waltham on 22 December 2012, ATS.
BYRNE, Mrs Jennifer A, née Light, of Castle Bromwich on 26 September 2013, WRAC.
CAMPBELL, Mrs Dorothy, of Falkirk on 02 March 2013, ATS.
CLARK, Mrs Vera, née Warren, of Penryn on 04 January 2012, ATS.
CHANT, Mrs Betty, née Orton, of St Austell on 09 July 2013, ATS.
COLLEY, Mrs Lynne, née Pateman, of Bath on 29 September 2013, WRAC.
COOMBES, Miss Marjorie W, of Torquay, ATS.
COX, Mrs Florence I, née Holland, of Bexhill-on-Sea on 13 November 2013, ATS.
CROSSLAND, Mrs Brenda, of Guisborough on 21 July 2013, ATS.
CURTIS, Mrs Edith J, née Mayhew, of Victoria, Australia on 12 December 2012, ATS.
DAVIS, Mrs Mary, née Angove, of Plymouth on 26 December 2013, ATS.
DEVEREUX MURRELL BEM, Mrs Margaret née Goldson, of Emsworth on 28 July 2012, ATS.
DRIVER, Miss Florence M, of Margate in 2013, ATS.
EDYVANE, Mrs Sheila J, née Puddephatt, of Lancing on 19 August 2013, ATS.
EFFORD, Mrs Joan D, née Firmin, of Horsham, ATS.
EXTON, Mrs Jennie, née Raine, of Salisbury on 11 September 2013, ATS.
FOXLEY, Miss Kathleen, of Liverpool on 29 June 2013, ATS/WRAC.
HALES, Miss Audrey M, of Cambridge on 07 March 2013 ATS.
HANDYSIDE, Mrs Elizabeth M, née Thomson, of Edinburgh in 2011, ATS.
HARDING, Mrs Dorothy, née Atkinson, of East Grinstead on 07 December 2013, WRAC.
HARGREAVES, Mrs Doreen E, née Dewar, of Lytham St Annes on 07 September 2013, ATS.
HENDERSON HARRIS, Mrs Ruby, of Scrabster on 29 May 2013, ATS.
HEPWORTH, Mrs Violet B, née O'Donnell, of Liverpool on 08 December 2013, ATS/WRAC.
HURST, Mrs Edith M, née White, of Gosport, ATS.
JOHNSON, Mrs Peggy, née Bradbury, of Fleggburgh on 05 April 2013, ATS.
KIRK, Mrs Enid, née Pilling, of Ashton-under-Lyne on 26 November 2013, ATS.
KITCHEN, Mrs Margaret (Peggy) Kitchen, née Johnson, Australia on 02 July 2013, ATS.
LISTER, Mrs Susan, née Allen, of Wetherby on 17 October 2013, ATS.
LUFF, Mrs Nellie, née Aitchison, of Portsmouth in January 2013, ATS/WRAC.
MACLACHLAN, Mrs Muriel F, née Pitts, of Colchester on 07 September 2013, ATS.
MAYNE, Mrs Gwendoline, née Sly, of Callington on 27 March 2012, ATS.
McGAVIN, Mrs Daphne M, née Boardman, of Rayleigh on 11 January 2013, ATS.
McLELLAN, Mrs Joan C, née Pealing, of Ruabon on 08 August 2012, ATS.
MILES, Mrs Ann M, née Gabourel, of London, on 22 July 2013, ATS/WRAC.
MINTON, Mrs Audrey E, née Potter, of Coventry on 02 October 2013, ATS.
NORRIS, Mrs Jean, née Kellington, of Hull on 24 November 2013, ATS.
PAGE, Miss Joan M, of South Newton on 27 August 2013, WRAC.
POULTER, Mrs Florence M, née Davies, of Wellington on 09 November 2013, ATS.
POYNER, Mrs Zillah, née White, of London on 25 July 2013, ATS.
PYKE, Miss Natalie M, of Brighton on 06 August 2013, WRAC.
ROBINS, Miss Peggy, of Clydach on 25 December 2012, ATS.
ROWLING, Mrs Margaret (Irene), née Willey, of Newton Aycliffe on 22 August 2013, WRAC.
RUKIN, Mrs Edna M, née Rawles, of Northallerton on 15 July 2013, ATS.
REEVES, Mrs Gladys (Pat), née Cox, of Cullompton on 30 June 2013, ATS.
SMYTH, Mrs Doris, née Winter, of Bangor on 18 September 2013, ATS.
STEELE, Mrs Eileen M, of Alfreton on 29 June 2012, ATS.
SWANSON, Mrs Patricia L, née Coulthard, of Spilsby on 18 September 2013, WRAC.
TOWNSEND, Mrs Janet W, née Nougher, of West Harnham on 21 July 2013, ATS.
TURNBULL, Mrs Elizabeth, née Oliver, of Dumfries on 27 July 2013, ATS.
WILSON, Mrs Hazel, née Rule, of Eastbourne on 01 June 2010, ATS.
YOUNG, Mrs Kathleen R on 05 July 2013, ATS.

WRAC Association, Gould House, Worthy Down, Winchester SO21 2RG
 Tel: 0300 400 1992 (local rate call, including mobiles) Email: officemanager@wracassociation.org.uk
 Benevolence: benfund@wracassociation.org.uk Lioness: editor@wracassociation.org.uk
 Website: www.wracassociation.org.uk

