

MINUTES OF ADEN VETERANS ASSOCIATION

GLOUCESTER BRANCH MEETING

HELD AT THE TOBY INN BROCKWORTH

WEDNESDAY 2ndOCTOBER AT 1100

Act of Homage and Welcome

Chris Price. welcomed everybody to the meeting, after which, he read the Act of Homage.

Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from: Michael & Judith Compton, Brian & Jan Sewell, Emlyn Phennah, John & Rose Longhurst, Andy McVeal, Chris & Karen Mead and John Friedberger.

Chairmans Address.

The Chairman advised the meeting that Michael Compton had retired from the position of secretary (ill health). A card has been sent wishing him well and thanking him for his years as branch secretary.

Welcome to a new member Rodney Buckton former Colonel in the Northumberland Fusiliers.

Paul Baker, Mayor of Cheltenham, will be hosting the 57th Anniversary of the Withdrawal from Aden on November 29th. We meet at the council office and proceed to the war memorial in the Long Garden.

Michael (Mickey) Morressey DL will be representing the Lord-Lieutenant. Following the service the RAFA club will be open for a hot drink and hot dog at £3 per head.

Ray Bunnage proposed that he could set up a page on our website 'My life in Aden' for members to write a short account of their time in Aden and the Protectorates. This was agreed.

During September, Ray reported that there were 146 visits to our website, of which 89 were new visits. The visits came from the UK, USA, Yemen, France, Thailand and Saudi Arabia plus 12 other countries. The places with most views were, Weymouth, Gloucester, Bristol, Sanaa (Yeman), Brent, Ashburn (USA) Cheltenham, Birmingham, Columbus (USA).

Chris Blick proposed that we set up a National List of AVA Members with their addresses. This will be discussed at a future committee meeting.

The Christmas lunch will be held at Bowden Hall Hotel.

Alex Chalk (ex Cheltenham MP), Siobhan Baillie and Richard Graham both past MP's for Stroud & Gloucester have been invited.

The meeting was then closed.

After the meeting we were entertained by Air Marshal Sir Dusty Millier KBE, who joined the Air Force in 1967 to carry out a 2 year apprenticeship and qualified as an Airframe fitter. He retired in 2008 as an Air Marshall. His talk covering his childhood and his Air Force career was most interesting.

Footnote

Since the above meeting. Dennis Flampton has volunteered to become Acting Branch Secretary. This appointment will form part of the January meeting.