



1926 - 2022



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We take this opportunity to record members' memories of Her late Majesty The Queen, may she rest in peace.
(see pages 2 - 6)

MEMBER'S MEMORIES OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH THE SECOND.

Thank you to those members who responded to the request in last month's newsletter for their memories of our late, sadly departed monarch.

John Swann (Ex Royal Navy)

I retired from the RN in July 2012 after 38 years service and subsequently Linda and I were honoured to be invited to a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in June 2013.

Although we were not in the receiving line to speak to Her Majesty, we were only one row back so we were really lucky to see her at very close quarters. She definitely had an amazing presence and we were also surprised at how small she was! It was a very enjoyable afternoon and a very precious memory.



John and Linda Swann at
Buckingham Palace

Jim McDermott (Ex - Intelligence Corps)

I was 8 years old in Feb 1952 when King George 6th died and I remember my mum crying. The following year in June (and I was nearly 9) we had a school trip to London just before the Queen's coronation and there was a real buzz of excitement in the air. Everyone at school received a copy of the New Testament and I still have mine. I never met HM the Queen in person but saw her from afar several times.

At the huge Army Silver Jubilee Review on 7 July 1977 at Sennelager the Intelligence Corps contingent had just been issued with the new cypress green berets and this was their public debut. My three children complained that every time something interesting drove past the stands the people in the row in front all stood up and blocked the view! We all sat down to lunch with the Queen, well, we were seated in one of several hundred marquees but all eating the same excellent lunch. When it was time to return to barracks our German coach driver appeared to have become lost as he turned left down a lane when all the other coaches turned right on to the main highway. Round the next bend we stopped and he ushered everyone out of the coach. Minutes later HM the Queen's limo drove slowly past, the Queen smiling and waving inches from where we stood. My kids cheered and waved and I threw up my very best salute. May she rest in peace.



HM Queen Review of the Army
Sennelager 070777

Bill Craig (Ex - Royal Signals) sent in this press cutting of a precious memory when he met HM the Queen at a Buckingham Palace Garden Party on 11th July 2006.



NEWS

news@spectatornewspapers.co.uk

Tea at the Palace for Bangor couple

by Helen McDowell

IT'S not every day you get a formal invitation to afternoon tea, let alone with Her Majesty.

But one Bangor couple are still pinching themselves after spending a glorious afternoon at a garden party at Buckingham Palace - where they were chosen from among thousands to be presented to the Queen.

"It's a day you'll never forget, really. It was just incredible," says Carron Patterson.

She and husband Bill Craig enjoyed the blazing sunshine and regal surroundings as they and 8,000 other lucky individuals from across the UK gathered on the palace's manicured lawns on July 11.

Their invitation from the Lord Chancellor came out of the blue in April, and the couple presume it was due to Bill's work with the Royal British Legion (RBL), as its regional organiser for Northern Ireland.

This unexpected special day out was crowned when they met Queen Elizabeth II herself.

Says Carron: "One



Bill Craig and Carron Patterson attended a garden party at Buckingham Palace recently.

gentleman usher came over and asked us if we would like to be presented to Her Majesty and, of course, we said yes. He took a few details, names and where we were from and about Bill's job and that was handed to the Lord Chancellor.

"As the Queen came down, the Lord Chancellor introduced us to her and we had a very nice chat with her. She was asking Bill about his work, and was very knowledgeable

about the work of the Royal British Legion. She meets probably millions of people and it never ceases to amaze me that she is so knowledgeable about so many different subjects.

"She spoke about how important the whole aspect of the RBL is, especially for the ex-service people from our own Troubles and other conflicts.

"She also said that there was no conscription here, but there was no shortage

of sign-ups from all communities here."

Her Majesty's knowledge also extends to regional accents, as she spotted that Bill was not from Northern Ireland. "Bill is from Dundee but has been here about 16 years."

The Queen spent around 10 minutes chatting to the couple, and ended by encouraging them to explore the palace grounds and enjoy the bands.

This was the highlight of the event, which also saw the local couple enjoy the beautiful palace gardens, the music of several military bands and an afternoon tea washed down with the Buckingham Palace garden party special blend.

The chat with Her Majesty made Carron and Bill minor celebrities in their own right. "We were enveloped with people asking 'What did she say?'

"When we got back to the club (the Union Jack Club, where they stayed) there were some people who had also been there and congratulated us for being selected to meet her. One man from the Royal Navy, and his partner, were shaking our hand."

Even coming out of the Palace saw Carron, Bill and other garden party guests become the object of the attention of sightseers.

"It was quite funny because when we came out of the palace there was the usual collection of tourists standing outside and a crowd of children aged around 13 to 17. I don't know what on earth they thought was going on, or who on earth they thought we were, but they were taking photos and applauding us and we were posing for photos for them," laughs Carron.

oracle' that

Anna eyes

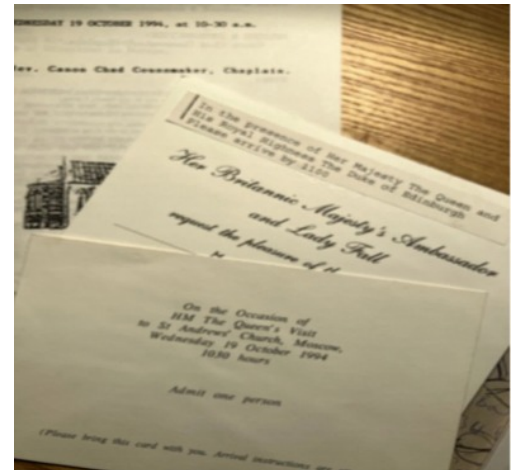
Linda McDermott (Ex WRAC/Intelligence Corps)

October 1994 at the British Embassy in Moscow. Months of planning had gone into the Queen's State Visit and it's something that will always stay in my memory. Not only was I presented to Her Majesty and the Prince Phillip, but I also had the privilege of attending the lunch with the royal party in the white and gold room of the embassy. The view through the windows provided the unusual sight of the Union Flag flying over the Kremlin which was on the opposite side of the river.



One of my tasks during the state visit was to help with the children's church service in St Andrew's Church. Previously, it had been used as a recording studio for a Russian record company but had been returned to the British church by Boris Yeltsin in recognition of the Queen's trip. HM The Queen had requested that the service included the presence of the British children who were given the day off school to attend. My main responsibility was to look after the young girl who was presenting a bouquet before the service, which she managed without mishap. As the Queen accepted the flowers, she remarked how well the girl had done.

Afterwards, there was a reception back at the embassy before the royal couple and their entourage set off for St Petersburg, just as the snow began to fall.



At the time, I was the Embassy's CLO (Community Liaison Officer) and had apparently been included in the guest list for lunch in recognition of my work with both the embassy community and other English speaking embassies. With the mantra of "don't fall over" I managed to execute a fairly competent curtsey as I was presented to their majesties before lunch. I was struck by how petite she was. I had imagined her as taller but there was no mistaking her clear gaze.



Saint Andrew' Anglican Church, Moscow

Dave Lawrence (Ex - Intelligence Corps)

During 1981 I was at Templar Barracks, Ashford in Kent, the then-Headquarters and Depot the Intelligence Corps on my Drill & Duties Class 1 (D&D1) course; a qualification needed for promotion to WO2. I was then a Sgt.

As well as the usual extremely enjoyable activities expected during a D&D1 - drill, map reading, shooting, military law, drill, first aid, duties of a Warrant Officer, drill, field exercises (how DID we fit it all in in 2 weeks??) - we had the additional pleasure and honour to experience a visit by the late Her Majesty The Queen on Wednesday 25th March 1981.

I was given an incredibly important assignment, along with my mate Terry McGrath (another 'dark-sider'), to man the entrance to Repton Manor and ensure the security of the building prior to the arrival of HM - whereupon she was to be given a briefing on the 'interesting' things that were taught and 'done' there.

Our initial excitement was curbed somewhat when the fine detail of the assignment was given to us - we were to act as 'shadow warriors,' dressed in combats, protect the entrance to the Manor and disappear into a side room just before HM stepped into the entrance. SHRIEK!

So, the closest I got to HM was watching her as she walked past the side door - through a spy-hole, similar to those used in hotel rooms. I then had to usher myself and Terry into the hidey-hole to avoid being seen by the royal personage, a duty we performed to the utmost level of professionalism!

We did later get a proper view of the royal party as we joined everyone else to line the route as they were driven away out of the barracks. Job done!

Contributions to the monthly Branch Newsletter are always welcome on any topics members think will be of general interest. We aim to provide uplifting stories and attempt not to duplicate messages already sent from RBL HQ. Copy should be sent by email. to the editor Jim McDermott at jim.mcdermott77@ntlworld.com

Preferred format is unformatted MS Word and any photos, cartoons or pictures should be submitted separately as JPEGs.



HM Queen visiting Templar Barracks
March 1981



Repton Manor, Templar Barracks

Lt Col (Retd) David Whimpenny (Ex - Royal Signals)

My first encounter with Her Late Majesty was during Sovereign's Parade at Sandhurst in my junior division, where her majesty's famous eye for detail can't have failed to notice that Officer Cadet Whimpenny's boots were not the shiniest on parade; which she graciously overlooked having asked what regiment I was going to and when I confirmed I was heading for The Royal Corps of Signals and not joining the Household Division.



Subsequent meetings were being presented to Her Majesty at the Festival of Remembrance on joining the RBL Board. I then had the honour of hosting Her Majesty at the NMA at the dedication of the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment Memorial, during which I spent several minutes chatting to her about the development of the NMA and the Remembrance Centre and Aspects buildings. The famous press photograph from this event was headlined in the Sun "The Queen Sheds a Tear for the Fallen". It was a hot day and I sat behind Her Majesty and watched the bead of perspiration fall from under her hat which she dabbed away with her gloved hand as it fell level with her right eye.

My final encounter was at Westminster Abbey when Chris and I were privileged to sit two rows behind Her Majesty and The Princess Royal during the RBL centenary service.

I am proud to have served Her Late Majesty both as an officer in her Armed Forces and working with the charity of which she was patron. She was a wonderful sovereign and genuinely welcoming human being with a sharp wit and warm sense of humour, the likes of which I doubt we will encounter again. God give rest to her soul.

God Save The King

Dear Branch Members,
The death of our late sovereign Queen Elizabeth II will have been occupying all our thoughts and many of you kindly responded to the request to share your memories of Her Majesty in this issue of the Branch Newsletter - thank you.
Our Branch Standard Bearer, Dave Lawrence was honoured to be asked to participate in the Queen's funeral event in London but was unable, for personal reasons, to attend.
Remembrancetide approaches and on page 9 you will find details of our annual Branch dinner. This is always a lively social event and there re several spaces left.
Regards to all,
Jim McDermott
Branch Chairman

BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022
Our 2022 Branch AGM will be held at the Greenfields Sports & Social Club, Holt Drive, Loughborough LE11 3HZ, on Saturday 12th November, commencing at 2.00 pm. Full details and agenda will be sent to members direct during October



Latest Stats

Here is our oft repeated message about a really easy way to contribute funds to the Poppy Appeal. We are registered as RBL Y Services (Garats HaY) Branch with #easyfundraising, which means over 6,000 shops and sites will now donate to us for FREE every time you use #easyfundraising to shop with them.

See how much we have raised since we started raising funds via easyfundraising 	RBL Y Services (Garats HaY) Branch	
	Donations	
	Donations Total	Last 30 Days
	£2, 454.47	£41.49
	Number of supporters 94	(As at 300922)

These donations will help SO MUCH, so please sign up to support us – it's completely FREE and doesn't take long.

Cut and paste this link to get started:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/rblyservices/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_medium=email&utm_content=rm-en-n1

NATIONAL BRANCHES DISTRICT – STANDARD BEARERS COMPETITION 2022

National Branches District (NBD) Standard Bearers' (SB) Competition took place on 25 September 2022 at Barton under Needwood. Beth Grey (a member of the National Memorial Arboretum Branch) won the competition and retains the John Clark Cup. She will be re-appointed as NBD SB at the annual meeting in January. Our very own Dave Lawrence was awarded 2nd place and will be Deputy NBD Standard Bearer again next year.

Well done Dave.



A warm Branch welcome to two new members this month.

Kevan Dunn-Beeching
Brandon Metherell MBE

Branch Membership stands
at
444

Find the Branch Website
online at

<https://garatshay.org.uk/>

REMEMBRANCE WEEKEND DINNER QUORN GRANGE HOTEL, QUORN, LEICESTERSHIRE

On Saturday 12th of November 2022, the Saturday of Remembrance Weekend, the Branch will be holding its traditional dinner in a Loughborough area hotel. On this occasion the venue will be the Quorn Grange hotel. A separate dining room has been reserved for our party and we still have 10 places available. Your Branch committee would be delighted to see any of our members, but especially those who live in the local area, attend this event. The price is £30 per head. This will not include drinks, but will include the excellent menu choices set out below.

Should anyone wish to join us at this dinner in Quorn, they should email their meal menu choices to dennis.weir1@ntlworld.com by 1 November. Payment can be made on the night of the dinner. **Why not join us? You will certainly be among old friends.**

Dress: smart casual

RBL Y Services Branch Dinner Menu

QUORN GRANGE HOTEL

88 Wood Lane, Loughborough, LE12 8DB,

£30.00 per person

Starters

- Golden vegetable broth, garlic & herb croutons (V).....A*
- Smoked salmon & spinach roulade, watercress, salmon caviar.....B*
- Oak smoked bacon & thyme risotto, parmesan crisp.....C*
- Sweet potato scone, baby spinach, poached hens egg, hollandaise (V)..D*

Mains

- marinated pork cutlets in honey & mustard, pomme anna, calvados au lait..A*
 - Leg of lamb, savoy, leek & mint, lamb jus with red currant..B*
 - Salmon fillet, bean & chorizo broth, samphire, lemon balm...C*
 - Twice baked stilton souffle, grape, fig & rocket, apple vinaigrette (V)..D*
- Served with vegetables & potatoes*

Desserts

- Desserts Strawberry cream parfait, white chocolate & mint crisp (V)....A*
- Tiramisu, tia maria caramel, mascapone ice cream (V)....B*
- Cherry & almond frangipane, amaretto (V).....C*
- Passion fruit crème brulee, apricot & coconut cookies (V).....D*

Choice of teas or coffee

ENDS