

GLOUCESTERSHIRE BRANCH ADEN VETERANS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF BRANCH MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY

7th OCTOBER 2026 AT TOBY CARVERY BROCKWORTH

1. Chairman Rick Rutter welcomed everyone to the Meeting and asked those who could to stand for the Act of Homage, and Exhortation, given by the Branch President Chris Price.
2. Apologies have been received from Dennis Flamson, Jane Wathern, John Freidburger, Stan and Tricia Shearer. There were 25 Members present.
3. The Minutes of the April meeting were accepted, proposed by Brian Serrell and seconded by John Longhurst. There are no matters arising.
4. The Chairman then gave an update on the 2027 Plan for the closure of the Association. Key points are :

The Gloucestershire plan will appear in the last edition of "The Dhow" in March 2027

Our Service will be at St. John's Church, Churchdown GL3 2DB. with around 100 expected

Clive Candlin, Geoff Giles and Graham Mottley from the National Association hope to join us.

Northern Branches will not be holding events on the 28th November 2027.

Gloucestershire Branch will hold the annual Withdrawal Remembrance service as usual on 29th November 2027 at the Cheltenham Long Garden.

5. Rick reported that the AVA Membership is now 639 Full Members, 140 Associate Members and 30 Life Members.
6. Rick also gave details of the Aden Memorial Stone to be placed at the Royal British Legion Garden of Remembrance, Alrewas. Clive Candlin's appeal for funds has already received a donation of £20,000 from a West Dorset Branch Member, and a further £5,000 from the Royal

Northumberland Fusiliers Association. An approach was made to BP, who operated the refinery at Little Aden, and also managed the RN fuel stocks at HMS SHEBA, for a donation. They declined to help. The expected cost of the memorial is around £35,000 including a one-off cost of £10,000 for maintenance in perpetuity. A dedication service is planned for Summer 2027. It is hoped that we will have a number of our members present.

7. Rick reported on a very successful weekend at Weymouth, with the final gathering taking place between 18-21 June 2027.

8. Rick read through upcoming events

28th October Dedication of the Field of Remembrance Cheltenham Long Garden at 11.45

4th November Lunch at the Farmers Club, Gloucester. Jean Stubley advised that it was a 2-course lunch for £16, with a limited choice menu

8th November Remembrance Sunday Service and Parade Cheltenham 10.30

11th November Armistice Day Cheltenham Long Garden 10.30

29th November 59th Anniversary of Withdrawal from Aden Cheltenham Long Garden 11.00

9th December Christmas Lunch at Gupshill Manor Tewkesbury 12.00 for 12.30. Jean asked that menu choices be given to her, and payment made by BACS wherever possible. Our bank details are: sort code 30-98-29, Account number 01482601. Gloucestershire Branch Aden Veterans Association. If any member wishes to pay by cheque, please telephone David Gearing (Treasurer) 01249 444495 for the address to send. At the time of the Meeting, we have 22 attendees; members may bring a guest, and we expect some Members from the Guards Association.

Our next Branch Meeting, and quiz, will be on 6th January 2027 at the Toby Carvery Brockworth at 11.00

9. Branch President Chris Price presented a Royal British Legion Certificate to Robert Parrant, our Standard Bearer. Rob was 1 of 3 Standard Bearers to

receive this award from the Cheltenham Branch of the RBL.

10. Ray Bunnage reported that we have had 73 visits and 184 views of our website in the last 30 days, average time of visit was over 5 minutes, with visits from UK, India and Italy.

11. Padre Brian Woollaston gave details of the Order of Service for the 29th November Commemoration at the Cheltenham Long Garden. An invitation has been extended to the Mayor of Cheltenham and also Roy Roberts, RBL, plus their Standard. It is not known yet which other dignitaries are able to attend

12, In Any Other Business, Rick advised that the Branch Committee has set aside £1,000 for the 28th November 2027 event. AVA Members will be provided with their buffet lunch by us; other attendees via the Facebook group, will pay a small charge.

Sally Welzel asked what was happening to funds remaining with the National Association at closure. Rick advised that the latest view was that remaining Branches (10 in number) would receive an equal share.

Jim Major asked that at the closure of each Branch Meeting, the President and Chairman circulate amongst Members for informal discussions. This was agreed.

13. The meeting concluded with a 20-question quiz, set by Jim Major.

14. The Branch raffle today raised £68.50. Our thanks to Rose Longhurst for organizing.