

ADEN VETERANS ASSOCIATION
GLOUCESTERSHIRE BRANCH

Branch Meeting Wednesday 1st October 2025

Toby Carvery Brockworth

1. Branch Chairman Rick Rutter asked Members to stand for the Exhortation and Kohima.

2. Apologies. Apologies have been received from Chris Price, Sir Dusty Miller, Jim Major, John Freidburger, Sheila and Hugh Gibson, Dave Brown, Pam Ward and Dennis Flamson. There were 23 Members in attendance.

3. The Minutes of the 2025 AGM were accepted into the record. This was proposed by Brian Serrell and seconded by Hazel Wrighton. There were no matters arising.

4. Jean Stubley gave the latest information on the Christmas Lunch at the Bowden Hall Hotel, Upton St. Leonard. Where possible, would Members please pay by BACS. The Branch Bank details (Lloyds Bank), are sort code 30-98-29 account number 01482601 Aden Veterans Association Gloucestershire Branch. Otherwise, please send cheques to our Treasurer David Gearing (6 Thurston Court, Park Lane, Chippenham SN15 1LT), payable as above. Branch Members may bring up to two guests.

5 Rick provided an update from the National Committee meeting held in Blackpool with Branch Representatives. The latest aspiration is that the final Reunion and AGM will be held in September 2027 in Blackpool. There would be two regional Service, one in the North (Selby Abbey?) the other in the South held in Gloucester. The plan is to hold them as near to the 29th November 2027 as possible. No travel costs would be paid from National funds. Branches wishing to join their regional Service and lunch must pay their own travel and lunch costs. The National Committee's view was that there will be two years to fund/save for the Regional events. Our Branch Committee decided that the most significant date for the 60th Anniversary will be Monday November 29th 2027. Consequently there will be a Service on that date at the War Memorial in Cheltenham, with guests invited from local organisations who have supported our Branch. We will then establish our new Aden Veterans organisation.

If there is sufficient interest in a Service for the closure of the National Association this could take place on Sunday 28th November at St John's in Churchdown. The Service could be held at 11.30 hours followed by a buffet lunch. The Church and hall can seat 150 people. There is a large car park

with easy access for those with mobility difficulties. It is also reasonably close to the M5.

6. Jean Stubley advised that the November 5th lunch will be at the Miller & Carter, Quedgeley, 1200 for 1230.

7. Any Other Business. Chris Blick reported a change in the procedure for this years Wreaths to Paddington on 11th November. This year there will be no personal accompaniment; GWR staff will handle the wreaths on route, and at Paddington. Chris has kindly donated the cost of the wreath,

Ray Bunnage reported that our website has had 78 visits in the last month, from UK, USA, France, Norway, Netherlands, Australia and New Zealand.

Judith Compton said that a family run fundraiser for the Sue Ryder hospice, in memory of Michael, had raised over £3,000,

7. Our raffle today raised £57; thanks to Rose Longhurst for organising.

8. Our guest speaker today was Rod Harrison, his talk entitled "My Flying Career". Rod gave a very full account, illustrated with slides and video, of his career as a pilot in the RAF and beyond. His service included time in Aden, and later in Oman. He flew a wide variety of aircraft worldwide. Rick thanked him for an enthralling talk, and we were pleased Rod could join us for lunch.