

MINUTES OF ADEN VETERANS ASSOCIATION GLOUCESTERSHIRE BRANCH
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE TOBY INN BROCKWORTH ON
WEDNESDAY 2rd JULY 2025 at 11.00 am

1. ACT OF HOMAGE, AND WELCOME.

Chris Price, our Branch President welcomed all present to the meeting and read the Act of Homage.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence were received from Ray Bunnage Emlyn Phennah Peter House Sheila & Huge Gibson Dusty Miller John Friedberger Peter Crooks Mike Ward.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM.

The minutes of the AGM held on 3rd July 2024 had been shown on the Branch website and were circulated before the meeting. These minutes were proposed as an accurate record by Sally Welzel and seconded by Rose Longhurst.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM.

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

5. REPORTS BY COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Chairman – Rick Rutter presented his report:

Having recently returned from a very sunny and warm few days in Weymouth, organised by the West Dorset Branch who put on another excellent weekend with a warm welcome on the Friday evening, the Gala Dinner on the Saturday and an excellent buffet on the Sunday.

Unfortunately Carol Parrant and Hugh Gibson were unable to travel on the advice of their respective doctors. We wish them both well and hope that they make a speedy recovery and will be able to join us for our Wednesday lunches in the near future.

I have some further developments to report on the final closure of the Aden Veterans Association in 2027. The arrangements will be outlined by Clive Candlin, our National Association chair, at this year's AGM in Blackpool and in the November issue of the Dhow.

Since our last Branch meeting, which celebrated our 17th Anniversary, a small group attended the St. George's Day service at St Barnabas Church in Gloucester.

We were also represented on ANZAC Day at Leighterton.

There was a good turnout to remember the 80th Anniversary of VE Day in Cheltenham.

In June many members attended the Remembrance Service at Earthcott Green. David Rae, the Memorial Woodlands managing director, asked if we could read the lesson at the Service. Dennis Flamson gave an excellent reading which went down well with all who attended the Service.

It was an honour and a privilege for our Branch to be asked to perform this at such a prestigious event, remembering those who have given their lives in the service of their Country since the turn of the millennium. Robert Parrant carried our Branch Standard on many of these events. My thanks go to Robert for his commitment and dedication to the Branch.

I would also like to thank Dennis Flamson who stepped in to carry our Standard into the Gala Dinner in Weymouth. My sincere thanks to all of our Branch members who have attended Services, lunches and other events

There are a few significant events which we will be attending in the next two months. Please join us if you are able to:

August 15th in Cheltenham The 80th Anniversary of VJ Day

September 4th to the 9th in Blackpool The National Association AGM and Gala Dinner

September 14th in Cheltenham The Battle of Britain Remembrance Service

1st October our next Branch meeting at the Toby Carvery.

I would like to pay a special thanks to Dennis Flamson for his excellent work as our Secretary, to David Gearing our treasurer, to Sheila Gibson our Vice-chair and to Jean Stubley our Social Secretary who both keep the social side of our Branch running smoothly. Sally Welzel has been very proactive in researching and planning for November 2027. My thanks go to her.

Finally thank you all for attending today. Without the active support and commitment of you, our members, the Branch would not be so active and flourish as well as it does.

It is a pleasure to be your Chair.

Rick Rutter
Branch Chairman

Secretary Dennis Flamson presented his report

Welcome to our 2025 AGM.

We are pleased to report that we have been consistent with our efforts to maintain our members numbers at the various events that our branch attends. At present we have 47 members on our books. The usual stalwarts who attend our venues and events total about 10 to 15.

Our thanks must go out to our Jean Stublely for her excellent choices for our lunch venues.

Our branch enjoyed a good attendance at the excellent event at EarthCott Green, about 12 attended.

Weymouth weekend went very well with an excellent Garla Dinner. About 16 members from our branch enjoyed the evening. According to Sylvia the raffle raised £445. The attendance was 70.

The march on the Sunday was really down in numbers about 12 marched with only 2 Standards present. Sign of the times. About 37 were in the stand to watch the parade.

To summarize my time in this post I have noticed that I send out by Email, Post and Phone calls but get very little response, only the usual suspects who always respond. Again, a sign of the times. I will endeavour to continue to contact them in the same way.

With reference to the 60th anniversary in 2027 talks and meetings are still on going and will be communicated in due course

Dennis Flamson
Branch Secretary

Treasurer – David Gearing presented his report

Once again I am very happy to report that we have had another successful year from a financial standpoint. Whilst the cost of goods and services continues to rise, we have covered this by our fundraising through raffles and Branch donations, to the extent that we ended the year with £35 more in the bank than when we started.

In simple terms, you will see from the financial statement that the pluses cover the cost of the minuses. We, of course, have a very healthy bank balance of £3,515 as we head into the final years as a National Association.

Going forward, our major expenses will be our Anniversary event at the Long Garden, Cheltenham, plus the day to day costs of running the Branch.

I am very grateful for the continuing support of Branch Members, now and from the time the Branch was formed. We have always gone forward on a firm foundation, and this bodes well for the future.

I will be pleased to receive annual donations today, or online to our Bank account at Lloyds sort code 30-98-29 account number 01482601.

So that the signed original copy of the accounts may be entered into the Branch books, may I ask for a proposer and seconder to accept the accounts. Proposed by Brian Serrel, seconded by Rose Longhurst.

David Gearing
Treasurer

6. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Election of Officers-Branch Chair. The meeting members were asked if anyone else would like to fill this post. No one came forward. Rick Rutter was asked if he would continue as Branch Chaiman and agreed. The vote of hands was unanimous. Rick was elected.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was a brief discussion on the ongoing Medal situation to move things forward. The MP Mr Camaron Thomas was helping future developments.

The Grave of an ADEN Veteran in Cheltenham was debated should we have a short service For the family. This will be investigated and agree shortly.

A discussion on the 60th anniversary 2027. It was decided to wait for the national chairman's report to go forward.

8. CLOSURE

The meeting closed for the raffle and lunch.