

The Not Forgotten Association Northern Ireland

Patron

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal

President

His Grace The Duke of Abercorn KG

Vice Presidents

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Captain Desmond McCahon

Mrs A Kirkwood MBE

Mrs E McMurray MBE

Chairman

Mr J I Davies MBE

Vice-Chairman

Mr B Higgins BEM

Hon. Secretary

Mrs J McCabe

Hon. Treasurer

Mrs C A Titterington

Events Organiser

Ms Y A Mulholland BEM

Publicity Officer

Dr D Longmore

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Bankers

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Honorary Solicitors

CMG Cunningham Dickey, 18 May Street, Belfast BT1 4NL

Our motto:

NE OBLIVISCARIS – Lest We Forget

Registered Charity: NIC100602

Origin, Role and Activities of the Association

The Not Forgotten Association is a unique national tri-service charity which provides entertainment and recreation for the serving wounded, injured or sick and ex-service men and women with disabilities. We do this through a wide and varied programme of Activities including outings, holidays, events and the provision of television sets and licences.

The Association was formed in 1920 by Miss Marta Cunningham CBE who was born in New Orleans in the United States. She received vocal training from some of the best singing teachers in Europe before making her first appearance as a soprano soloist in the Coronation concert at the Crystal Palace, London in 1901. In 1919 Marta was shocked to discover that there were thousands of wounded and lonely servicemen still in hospitals up and down the country.

After discovering that 600 injured patients were lying in one Ministry of Pensions Hospital alone, Marta was spurred into action. She went on to form The "NOT FORGOTTEN" Association for the 'comfort, cheer and entertainment' of the war wounded.

On the 12th August 1920 the Association went on to hold its first Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. Within a year some 10,000 men had been entertained. Marta and her friends invited these men out for afternoon tea and entertainment to alleviate the tedium of their lives and to give them something to which they could look forward to.

The Association in Northern Ireland was formed in 1930 by Sir Frederick Money Penny.

We provide:

- In-house entertainment and concerts for those confined to ex-service care homes, in our case The Somme Nursing Home in Belfast.
- TVs for those whose mobility is restricted or who are otherwise largely housebound, TV Licences are provided where a financial need arises.
- The provision of travel and holidays for disabled ex-service personnel. These include trips to Tattoo events, theatre outings, lunches and much, much more.

In addition to the above Her Majesty The Queen graciously allows the Association to hold a Summer Garden Party in Buckingham Palace and a Christmas Tea Party in St James's Palace each year.

Please note that the Association is not empowered to assist wives or widows, or undertake welfare casework, but it enjoys the support and close co-operation of all the major ex-service welfare organisations.

Chairman's Report



It is my pleasure to once again present the Chairman's Report.

The last 12 months have been a very busy and challenging, albeit an equally gratifying time for our Association. We continue to provide a wide ranging programme of events and activities for the serving wounded, injured or sick and disabled ex-servicemen and women in Northern Ireland. None of this could have been possible without the hard work, dedication and encouragement of my fellow office bearers and the continuing support of our excellent band of volunteer members. As Chairman, I offer my deepest thanks and appreciation to you all.

I am absolutely delighted to include that The Princess Royal has agreed to extend her Patronage of our Association for a further three years until December 2021.

During the year our programme of events included attendance at the Association's Annual Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in May. A further group attended the Annual Christmas Party in St. James's Palace in December.

Our Annual Christmas Lunch was held on Friday, 30th November at the Park Avenue Hotel, Belfast. Over 100 veterans and carers attended from

a number of service, regimental and other old comrade associations together with representatives from the Royal Navy, Army and the Royal Air Force. Entertainment was provided by The Swingtime Sweethearts and a piper from The Royal Regiment of Scotland. We enjoyed the company of Al Gonclaves, Head of Finance and Executive Officer, together with Anne McGinley, Assistant to Head of Events, who travelled over from London to attend. Local representatives from JTI UK who funded the event were also in attendance.

The lunch was a great success and clearly enjoyed by all those who attended. I would like to place on record my sincere appreciation to the organising committee, which coordinated all the necessary planning arrangements, namely: Ben Higgins, Yvonne Mulholland, Carol Titterington, Joan McCabe, Terry Bashford and Gordon Cork, together with those volunteer members who acted as table hosts.

Throughout the rest of the year we hosted a number of local events, including road shows and lunches. We continue to work closely with the Somme Nursing Home in arranging for residents to experience outings for lunch and to attend events and shows, including the Annual Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance at Belfast Waterfront Hall and the Belfast Tattoo. I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to our Events Co-ordinator, Yvonne Mulholland, who works extremely hard to ensure that our events go to plan and without any major problems.

I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude to those who have financially supported our work. In addition to a number of personal donations, we have received contributions from The Dean of Belfast's Christmas Sit-out for Charities, The Milibern Trust, The Leopardstown Park Hospital Trust, The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund, the Merchant Navy Association of Northern Ireland, the Northern Ireland Disabled Ex-Services Association, Blind Veterans UK and The Aircrew Association Northern Ireland. We also owe a huge debt of gratitude to all those from outside the Association who continue to support our work.

Throughout the year, the Association was represented at a number of important events and services. These included the World War 1 Armistice Centenary Service in Belfast Cathedral, Remembrance Sunday at the

Cenotaph, Belfast City Hall and the Garden of Remembrance when an Association Badge Cross was placed. I am most grateful to our volunteer members who devote their valuable time to represent the Association.

By kind permission of the Chairman, Lieutenant Colonel Ernie Telford and members of the Board, our Annual General Meeting was held in the Somme Nursing Home, Belfast on Thursday, 3rd May 2018. This important event in our calendar was formally opened by Major Jonathan Kitson, the Home's Executive Director. Glynis Gillam and Helen Wheatley from Blind Veterans UK were our primary speakers and they gave us a most interesting and inspirational presentation on the work of this important military charity.

One of the highlights of our 2018 Annual General Meeting was the presentation of the Association's Presidential Certificate to Brian Roberts by our President, the Duke of Abercorn KG. This prestigious certificate was awarded to Brian for his long and meritorious service to the Association and the wider ex-service community in Northern Ireland.

Sadly, Brian died on the 11th November 2018 whilst visiting his son Stephen in Cheshire. He had been a dedicated and committed member of our Association for over 30 years and will be sadly missed by us all.

During November we also lost another of our longstanding and dedicated members, Billy Ellis, who passed away after a long illness. Our thoughts and prayers are extended to both families. Sincere condolences are also extended to our esteemed President on the passing of his wife, Sacha, the Duchess, who died peacefully in London on December 10th after a short illness.

I would like to extend, on behalf of all our members, friends and supporters, our sincere congratulations to David Cowley, the Association's National Chairman on his appointment as an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, awarded in the recent New Years Honours List. David works tirelessly for The Not Forgotten Association and this formal public recognition is a testimony of many years of dedicated service.

Finally, my personal thanks go to the Association's Chief Executive, Brigadier James Stopford and his staff in London for the help and support they have given us throughout the year. I would like to add a word of special thanks to the Duke of Abercorn, whose wise counsel and support as our President means a great deal.

With my very best wishes to you all for the year ahead.

Ne Obliviscaris.

John Davies

**John Davies MBE
May 2019**

Not Forgotten Christmas Tea Party at St James Palace London

In late September I received an invite from the Not Forgotten Association Northern Ireland to attend a Christmas Tea Party at St James's Palace, London, with HRH Prince Michael of Kent in attendance.

I accepted the invite and along with a few other veterans which included members of The Ulster Defence Regiment, Queens Own Highlanders, Adjutant General Corps, Grenadier Guards and Royal Engineers, we all gathered at George Best Airport Belfast, around lunch time on 5th December 2018, where we were introduced to each other by our Not Forgotten Association escort, Mr B Higgins BEM.

During the introductions, I heard a call from a member of the group, an Ex Sapper who had joined the Junior Leaders Regiment, Dover at the same time as myself in 1974. We were both in the same troop in B Squadron. As Ex-Fred's, Junior Sapper Alan Jones and I had not seen each other for 42 years even though we both settled in Northern Ireland and lived about 20 miles apart.



During our visit, the group was accommodated by courtesy of The Not Forgotten Association and ushered by our NFA helper Mr G. Patience BEM, with a two-night stay in The Union Jack Club, prior to the Christmas Tea Party.

On the arrival at the event at St James Palace, we were met by several ushers from the Tri Services.

During the party we had high profiled celebrities introducing themselves to us as well as entertainers doing their light entertaining. The main highlight of the entertainment was being entertained by the pop group Boney M.

The VIP, HRH Prince Michael of Kent, even with his tight schedule managed to make time to meet and speak to as many veterans as possible, prior to his departure.

After the Tea Party we were then entertained by local entertainers, were we all joined in with a sing-a-long.

Our group then returned to The Union Jack Club to finish the 2-day event with an evening meal, raffle, a good old chin wag on old times and memories.

The following day, we returned to Belfast after a short flight home, where we all parted on our separate ways with promises of meeting again?

With many thanks to the Not Forgotten Association committee for their invite and efforts in making the event such a success for all the veterans who attended.

In the Picture L-R. Helper, Mr G Patience BEM, NFA Escort, Mr B Higgins BEM, Mr. (J/Spr) Keiller. Mr. (J/Spr) Jones.

Mr. P. A. Keiller.
Vice Chairman
REA NI Branch

Buckingham Palace Summer Garden Party



The Menorca Holiday



Not Forgotten Christmas Dinner 2018

The Not Forgotten Association holds charity throughout the year in aid of disabled, serving members and families of the armed forces.

This year the Association offered 100 places to various associations including the RE Association Northern Ireland branch. Events Organiser Mrs Yvonne Mulholland BEM sent an invitation to our Branch President Major Bobby Morrow TD for two members to attend The Not Forgotten Association Christmas fayre at the Park Avenue Hotel, Belfast.

Mr Jim Hyslop and I accepted and when we arrived at the venue, we were given a hearty welcome and a drink. Guests were directed to their respective tables and introduced to other association members. Not Forgotten Association Vice Chairman Mr Ben Higgins BEM gave an opening introduction to all those present.

The event offered brilliant Christmas Fayre and excellent service laid on by the hotel staff. Entertainment was provided by the Swing Time Sweethearts who had flown in from London and their excellent performance included Christmas songs and old-time boogie tunes. A piper from the Royal Scottish Regiment based at Palace Barracks, played some background music. This was followed with a fund-raising raffle which raised more than £640 towards The Not Forgotten Association's future activities.

The event was brought to a close with the Chairman Mr John Davies MBE thanking everyone for their contribution. We were asked to stand whilst the National Anthem played, and everyone was wished a safe journey home.

The Not Forgotten Association is one of the many associations that our branch has continuous contact with.

It is indeed a most worthy cause.





Fun at Bennet House Respite Break with Billy on the accordion



Derek wins a cuddly toy



Blesma NI representatives at the local Christmas party



Mr Price wins the Hamper at the local Christmas party

Activities Report for 2018

April

We began our financial year with a road show in the RBL Londonderry with a two course lunch and entertainment by the Singing Digger man with approximately thirty people in attendance.

Then at the end of the month a group spent a week at the RBL's Bennet House in Portrush where we were very well looked after by the RBL team. A fabulous week with good food and accommodation, outings, relaxation, friendship, and a lot of craic/laughter.

May

May was when our AGM was held at the Somme Nursing Home with a wide range of veterans and organisations in attendance.

June

This month was one of the highlights of the year with a small group escorted by Yvonne and Gordon, attending the Summer Garden Party held at Buckingham Palace. Yvonne was fortunate enough to obtain tickets for the Queen's Birthday Parade (Trooping the Colour), which was held two days after the Garden Party. The group met several celebrities at the Garden Party including Brenda Blethyn from the TV Crime series Vera. Nigel from our group asked if he could have her landrover from the TV series and she replied "it's broken pet".



The garden party trip ended with a visit to the Chelsea Hospital and the National Army Museum.

Also, in June a small group visited the RUC GC / PSNI Memorial Garden at Police HQ in East Belfast. An excellent tribute to the RUC / PSNI and well worth a visit which takes about an hour with a volunteer guide – but visit must be made by appointment.



August

On a bright sunny August day, we held our annual celebration of Founders Day for thirty veterans and carers with the ever popular Lagan cruise followed by a lite lunch in the new AC Marriott Hotel in Belfast. A beautiful morning for the trip, just a pity we were not getting on to the larger ship to sail away for foreign land.

September

Two major events in the NI calendar.

First, we had a group, which included Residents from the Somme Nursing Home, attend the Saturday Matinee of the Belfast Tattoo in the SSE arena.

The second event was the Presentation of the Royal Irish Regiment New Colours in the Titanic Quarter

Both events were thoroughly enjoyed by all.



November

Another busy month with attendance at several Remembrance events and our local Christmas Party.

This month also brought us much sadness with the loss of two long-standing committee members, Brian Roberts and Billy Ellis. Our organisation was represented at both funerals; Yvonne attended Brian's funeral in Wales, and the Chairman with other Committee members attended Billy's in Belfast.



Founders Day

December

A quieter month but by no means an inexpensive one.

We sent a small group to the prestigious Christmas Tea Party and concert in St James's Palace, London. The veterans were provided with afternoon tea in the presence of Prince Michael of Kent, followed by entertainment by a range of artists including the ever popular Boney M.

Yvonne A Mulholland BEM
Events Organiser



Presidential Certificate Presentation



Park Avenue NI Christmas Dinner

Presidential Certificate

Brian was awarded with a Presidential Certificate by our President, the Duke of Abercorn KG, at the 2018 Annual General Meeting held on 3 May 2018 to recognise his valuable work over many years in support of veterans in Northern Ireland and an extract from his nomination for this prestigious award follows:-

“Mr Roberts has been involved with The Not Forgotten Association for almost 40 years and he is an immensely proud, dedicated and most effective volunteer member who represents all that is best in our Association. He works remarkably hard and successfully at forging close links with other ex-service and regimental associations, with the ultimate aim of ensuring that the work of The Not Forgotten Association is promoted to the fore and to the fullest extent. Despite being in his early 80s and not enjoying the best of health, he regularly represents the Association at Remembrance events and church services, together with routinely visiting past members who are now sadly frail and infirm. Mr Roberts is also actively involved with the Northern Ireland Disabled Ex-Servicemen’s Association and has held the post of Treasurer within that organisation for over 30 years.

Mr Roberts total dedication, willingness and enthusiasm for the work of The Not Forgotten Association is a total inspiration to his fellow members, the ex-service and wider community in Northern Ireland. His widely recognised contribution merits nothing but the highest praise and I most strongly recommended that he be awarded The Not Forgotten Association Northern Ireland Presidential Certificate.”



The Duke of Abercorn is pictured presenting his Presidential Certificate to Brian Roberts. Also shown is Brian's wife, Mary

Remembrance Events 2018

The Chairman, John Davies MBE, attended the Field of Remembrance at Belfast City Hall on Monday, 5th November, where he laid a poppy cross on behalf of the Association. On the National Day of Remembrance on Sunday, 11th November, the Chairman accompanied by Major Bobby Morrow TD, laid a wreath on behalf of the Association at Belfast City Hall Cenotaph. The attached photograph shows John (near) Bobby (far) returning to the City Hall from the Cenotaph. In the afternoon of the 11th November the Association was represented by Colin Elder at the Armistice Centenary Commemorative Service held at St. Anne’s Cathedral, Belfast.



Bereavements



Mr Brian Roberts



The Duchess of Abercorn



William (Billy) Ellis

THE 'NOT FORGOTTEN' ASSOCIATION
NORTHERN IRELAND

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

for year ended 31 March 2019

INCOME	2018/19	EXPENDITURE	2018/19
Bank B/Fwd	£10,934.93	Garden Parties	2,881.39
Cash B/Fwd	8.25	Outings/Events	1,825.75
Donations	16,380.01	Roadshows	543.50
Bank Interest	11.81	Bank Charges	8.90
Xmas Dinner G Party	1,432.00	Admin Expenses	840.93
London Donation	1,000.00	AGM	195.00
		Somme N Home	366.00
		Balances c/fwd	
		Bank 31/3/19	23,097.28
		Cash 31/3/19	8.25
	£29,767.00		£29,767.00

In my opinion the accounts are drawn up so as to exhibit a true and accurate view of the Fund's affairs according to the best of the information and explanations given and as shown by the books of the Not Forgotten Association Northern Ireland.

Signed:  Mrs Carol A Titterington, Treasurer

I have examined the receipts and payments and confirm the Income and Expenditure Statement is a true record of these accounts.

Signed:  Mr David Keith, Auditor
Date: 17/04/2019