

**Patron: HRH The Princess Royal  
President: Brig P Dennis**



**29 June 2018**

**WFRA NEWSLETTER**

**Volume 9 Issue 26**

### **OBITUARIES**

It is with regret that we inform you that 24515448 Pte John LAKING of Torquay died recently in Rowcroft Hospice, Avenue Road, Torquay TQ2 5LS aged 62. John served with C Coy 3rd Battalion The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment from 26 April 1979 to 25 April 1981. No funeral details known.

### **001 ANNUAL CRICH PILGRIMAGE SUNDAY 1 JULY 2018**

The 95th Annual Pilgrimage to the Crich Memorial will take place on Sunday 1 July 2018. Those attending are reminded to arrive by no later than 1430 hours as the gates are closed at that time to allow for the Civic Dignitaries procession. Usual facilities/refreshments are available from 1230 hours.

Reminder from RHQ Mercian (Nottingham) office:

It is to be noted that there is to be NO camping on the site or the adjacent field. Those wishing to camp are asked to pitch at an official site.

### **002 FORESTERS LOTTERY RESULTS - JUNE 2018**

The Foresters Lottery winners for June are;

1st Prize - £30.00 Lt Col P G Gilby

2nd Prize - £20.00 Mr J W Carlin

3rd Prize - £10.00 Mr G Carran of Derby



Nottingham Castle Closure for Major Redevelopment.

This weekend is the last chance to visit Museum of the Mercian Regiment (WFR Collection) for two years whilst Nottingham Castle Closes for its major redevelopment. The Castle is free admission up until Sunday July 1<sup>st</sup>. If you can't get to the Castle by the 1<sup>st</sup> then why not visit 'Remembering World War 1: Museum of the Mercian Regiment (WFR Collection) on tour' at Mansfield Museum. The first of a series of mobile displays by the museum looks at 1918 and the history of the Sherwood Foresters for that year. Mansfield Museum is free to visit and open Monday-Saturday 10am-5pm (except Bank Holidays) and is on Leeming Street.

### 003 WORCESTER BRANCH DATES FOR DIARIES 2018

Saturday 30 June: Fun Day at Barbourne Ex Services Club 1300 hrs – 1600hrs.

Sunday 1 July: Crich Pilgrimage.

Sunday 12 August: Worcester Show, Gheluvelt Park.

Wednesday 15 August: VJ Day, Burma Star, Evesham TBC.

Sunday 26 August: 1045 hrs Short Wreath Service Regt Stone, Gheluvelt Park. Vernon, Burma & Malaya.

Saturday 15 September: Drumhead Service 1200 hrs Gheluvelt Park (Pump House end) Band of the Grenadier Guards will be present.

Sunday 23 September: MVRA Commemoration at NMA.

Sunday 28 October: 104th Anniversary Battle of Gheluvelt. Gheluvelt Park, Worcester. 1100 hrs for 1130 hrs

Sunday 11 November: Remembrance Sunday.

Worcester Branch are organising a coach to the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas on Sunday 23 September 2018, picking up at Malvern Link 0800 hrs; St John's (Tower Blocks) 0820 hrs; Croft Road, Worcester at 0830 hrs. Arrive at NMA 10-1030 hrs and leave at approx 1600 hrs. Act fast if you want to go the price is £8 per person. We have a lot of interest in this trip and the seats will be offered to the Veterans Breakfast Club the day after next meeting the 1 July 2018. **This has been done to ensure coach is full as last trip to Cosford the Branch made a loss!** There will be a service and march past at the Mercian Volunteer Grove to mark the service of the Territorial's and Volunteers in WW1. Tenbury Wells Band will be providing the music. This will be followed by Mercian family picnic (please bring own picnic or there is cafe on site) WFRA Standards and members very welcome to share this day with MVRA. Dress is Berets, Blazers and Medals if participating. If you do not want to be involved in the ceremony please feel free to explore the NMA. To reserve your seats contact:- Nigel Fish on 01684 576013 or Libby Massam on 01905 356537 Pay at next meeting 31 July 2018 or post cheques to Mrs Libby Massam, 24 Portland Street, Worcester WR1 2NL. Cheques in favour of WFRA Worcester Branch

### 004 EXTRACTS FROM ARMED FORCES PENSION SOCIETY SUMMER NEWSLETTER

#### **The Association of ex-Service Drop-In Centres (ASDIC)**

ASDIC comprises like-minded organisations which manage drop-In centres serving the needs of veterans throughout the United Kingdom. All over the UK there is a steadily increasing number of Drop-Ins where veterans may go for help and advice, or simply for companionship. 25 Drop-Ins have joined so far, with some 40 more to go. They vary hugely in their modus operandi but all serve the same broad purpose, providing social and welfare support to veterans and their families. The primary purpose of ASDIC is to link Drop-Ins together so they can share ideas, give mutual support, feed off each other's experience and help one another overcome challenges as they develop their services to veterans. The [ASDIC website](#) gives full details. Anyone knowing of a Drop-In centre not listed on the website is encouraged to contact the ASDIC team.

## Veterans ID Cards






In newsletter 6/17 we reported that the government had performed a volte-face on the question of ID cards for veterans which it once thought a bad plan, but has now embraced the idea. Unsurprising, since it had obvious flaws, the original idea of stamping driving licences with a letter V appears to have been shelved. Instead, veterans will in future be allowed to keep their ID card on leaving the Service. How those who have already surrendered their ID cards will be dealt with has yet to be worked out. Latest update from the government website can be [found here](#)

## The Veterans Orthopaedic Service (VOS)

The first of its kind in the UK, it delivers two outpatient clinics per month and is available to those who have served with HM Forces (including National Servicemen). It is based at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital (RJAH) near Oswestry in Shropshire and can be accessed by all former servicemen who are eligible for NHS treatment, wherever they live. Patients must be referred to the VOS by their GPs which mostly treats arthritic lower limb problems and especially hip and knee replacements. The Service is led by Lt Col Carl Meyer RAMC, a consultant military orthopaedic surgeon at RJAH. [Full details here](#)

A H L McDOUGALL  
for Executive Committee

### Social media

-  [Mercian Museum \(WFR Collection\)](#)
-  [Mercian Museum \(WFR Collection\)](#)
-  [Stand Firm Strike Hard](#)
-  [Worcestershire Soldier](#)
-  [Worcestershire Soldier](#)

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