



# BNTVA

the Charity for Atomic Veterans  
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## Monthly Newsletter – December 2017

Welcome to the December edition of the BNTVA Monthly newsletter. This printed version will be distributed to anyone who requests it. We will aim to take the news items from Social Media and the Newsdesk and collate them together. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please contact us using the above contact details.

### NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Happy New Year to our Nuclear Community. It is at this time of year that people make New Year's resolutions and talk about getting fitter and giving up drinking and smoking.

My resolution this year is to work as much as possible helping our Nuclear Veterans and continue to provide help and support to anyone who we can. 2018 has arrived very quickly, 2017 seems to have rushed by in a blur, the board of trustees have achieved so much in the year and should be congratulated on the new Charity structure, communications to members and the awareness that has been generated by Social Media.

The NCCF will continue to provide help via the Care, Wellbeing and Inclusion Fund, with the DNA program and remembrance projects all progressing in 2018. It will be another busy year for the BNTVA, our AGM at Weston Super Mare in May, the All Tests Reunion at Weston Super Mare in September and the unveiling of the enhanced memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum in October. For anyone who has not attended the All Tests Reunion, it is a great event with lots of laughter and fun, this year was a great success and this year will be bigger and better than ever.

With the 60th Anniversary of the largest bomb to be detonated on Christmas Island in April 2018, many Veterans and their families are planning on returning to the Island. This will be a very special trip for everyone. Our board of trustees continue to work hard on all aspects of the Charity and we will continue to campaign for recognition for everyone involved in the tests.

Everyone on our membership database will be receiving a new membership pack at the end of January which will include a new membership card and details of the NCCF program. I thank you for continuing to support the BNTVA and hope that you have a great 2018. Our focus is to help any Veteran and their families as much as we possibly can.

As always, if you need us, please contact us and a member of the team will be available to help and guide you.

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## CHRISTMAS ISLAND VETERAN BURGLED

Ex-Royal Navy veteran who was burgled on Saturday 4th of November in Reedham, Norfolk. He had his photograph album stolen which was full of photos of his naval service. His name is Christopher Woollands.

Amongst other places, he was at Christmas Island in 1957 aboard HMS Cossack, a guard ship. He saw one bomb which was Grapple X. He also served on several other ships, (listed below).

We are appealing to any veterans who knew him through Christmas Island or any of the ships listed below, if you have any spare photos of these events, or could copy any that you think would be of interest to Christopher. If you could forward them to the address's below we will pass them on to Christopher. Maybe we can give this veteran some of his fond memories back, I'm sure you wouldn't like to lose yours.

So, come on ship mates let's see what we can do for him. Ships he served on. HMS Perseus HMS Saint HMS Comus HMS Cossack HMS Undine HMS Carysford HMS Indefatigable. By e-mail [e.barton@bntva.com](mailto:e.barton@bntva.com) or by post to. E. Barton. PO Box 1223. Spalding. PE11 9GD

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We are hoping to offer a new service over social media to allow families to let us know when one of our Veterans has passed. This will then go out over social media to inform anyone who would like to attend the funeral. We would like your input to help us get such a sensitive matter correct.

If you would like to help us create this service for you, please email Susan at [s.musselwhite@bntva.com](mailto:s.musselwhite@bntva.com).

Do you have a story or a lost connection that you want to find? The social media team would like to help you find that lost connection or share your story, if you would like to have something go out over our social media or have pictures that you'd like to share, please email Susan at [s.musselwhite@bntva.com](mailto:s.musselwhite@bntva.com)

I had a rare day off over Christmas and went for a walk with my lovely wife Mel and two Dogs (Oreo and Monty) it was nice to relax and enjoy the countryside.



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## INSTAGRAM

Instagram BNTVA have launched Instagram, if you would like to take a look and follow us please do . mediabntva

## BRITISH ATOMIC VETERANS EVENT – 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER AYLESFORD KENT



I was invited to make a presentation on behalf of the BNTVA at the RBLI in Aylesford, Kent.

The event was well attended with veterans and their families meeting up. Old photographs and memorabilia was displayed with veterans telling stories of their time on the island.

Ron Watson also attended and met some fellow Royal Engineers who were on the island at the same time.

A thank you to the RBLI for inviting us to raise awareness of the BNTVA.

## Chairman's Final Thoughts

2018 will ring new challenges and the team will continue to work hard on your behalf. As always if there is anything you want us to undertake for you, please get in touch. Our veterans should never be forgotten and need recognition for their sacrifices.

I hope that you are enjoying the newsletter and that it is keeping you informed of the work that we continue to do. If we can help you in anyway, please do get in touch.

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