



ROYAL MILITARY POLICE  
OLD COMRADES LINK UP  
NEWSLETTER #125 NOVEMBER 2017



**NEW CONTACTS**



**BROWN**

Former 24516137 Sergeant David Brown, Squad 7902. David served from 1979 until 1994 with 115 Provost Company, 176 Provost Company, 150 Provost Company, Belize Detachment, Gibraltar Detachment, CRIO, 113 Provost Company and 175 Provost Company.

**CRAIGIE**

Former 24232771 Acting Sgt Stuart Craigie, Squad 7411. Stuart joined the Army in 1971 as a Junior Leader in the Royal Artillery (The Hampshire Gunners Regiment) and transferred in to the RMP in 1974. He served in 115 (Sennelager), 175 (Blair's Yard/Mount Pottinger/Lisburn Road/Belfast), AFCENT, 115 (Hameln) and 156 (Colchester). After leaving the Army in March 1983 he joined the Cambridgeshire Constabulary as a Police Constable and spent the majority of his Police service on the 'Traffic Department' in and around the Peterborough and A1 area. He retired from the Police in 2005. I am pleased to say that Stuart now lives but a stone's throw from me so I think we shall be meeting up in the near future.

**DAVIES**

Former 23806153 Warrant Officer Class 1 Kenneth Davies, Squad 806. Ken served from 1960 until 1994 with 1 (Br) Corps Provost Company with attachments to 20 Armoured Brigade Provost Unit and 11 Infantry Brigade Provost Unit. His service was continued in the Territorial Army with 42 Division Provost Company, 126 Infantry Brigade, 1 (Br) Corps Provost Signals Company, 116 Provost Company and CVHQ 2 Reserve Company.

**EGLON**

I met former 23020118 Lance-Corporal Roy Eglon during a recent trip to Normandy. I will let him introduce himself. 'A brief pen picture of my National Service in BAOR. After departing 433 Squad I arrived at 1(Br) Corps in September 1954. In October 1954 HQ BAOR transferred from Bad Oeyenhausen to Rheindahlen, subsequently it was feared that the civilian population would occupy, as squatters, the vacated properties, and it was decided to flood the small spa town with RMP to perform 24 hour foot patrols as a prevention. The town was split into four sectors (A, B, C & D) with a different Pro Coy providing a Section for each Sector. In November I went with a Section to live in a luxurious villa in 'Charlie Sector' which was later referred to as 'Crab Sector', for reasons which I need not mention, apart from saying that the person causing the problem was dealt with by having all his uniform clothing dumped into a bath of cold water.



It soon became apparent that the civilian population were going to behave themselves, and all the provost companies were withdrawn with the exception of 1(Br) Corps who then vacated the comfortable villa, and moved into the original RMP Post in the centre of town. This Post was a small rundown hotel, with a broken boiler, and no form of heating or running hot water. By this time it was bitterly cold with frozen snow underfoot. After performing a patrol the only means of keeping warm, was to climb into bed fully clothed, where most of us remained for the duration. This state of affairs became so intolerable that notification was made to Bielefeld that unless we were withdrawn, there would be a mutiny. Accordingly we were pulled out just in time to spend Christmas in Coy HQ.

I was never in Bielefeld very long, and was soon dispatched to our Oldenburg Section for a few months before returning, and almost immediately going to Lubbecke. This was a half-Section of Cpl 'Topper' Brown and 3 L/Cpls, performing 24hrs on duty, followed by 24hrs off. I spent the summer of 1955 there, and it was a very easy number with just the Pay Corps who never caused any problems. Our villa which we occupied was literally only a couple of feet from the Barre Brau Brewery. Back to Bielefeld and off to Oldenburg once more where I was to remain until I was demobbed. The

detachment occupied the villa of the former Gauleiter, who was the Nazi party leader for the Weser-Ems region. One of the fuses in the cellar was marked 'Hitler zimmer'.

In November 1955 it was decided that Oldenburg would be transferred to 194 Pro Coy who were then based at Hamburg, and I looked forward to spending my last week in BAOR there, but it wasn't to be, when 194 was moved to Hannover. In April 1956 I was demobbed in Hanover and returned to the UK without the need to go to Inkerman.



### **FROST**

Former 23864961 Corporal Stanley 'Jack' Frost, Squad R25. Jack saw Junior Service from 1961 – 1962 at AAJLR. From 1962 until 1969 he served with 6 Infantry Brigade, 51 Gurkha Infantry brigade, 17 Division and 19 Infantry Brigade provost units.

### **GARD** (Amended entry from previous edition – with my apologies)

Former W/415116 Corporal Eileen Gard (nee McClory). Eileen was in the first intake of WRAC Provost (TA) in Edinburgh c1961. She enjoyed the life and then joined the Regular Service and went on to train at Kensington where she remained for two years where she carried out a number of special duties. She was then posted to Singapore, Aldershot and Bulford and in 1966 was discharged when she married the late Mick Gard.

### **STEVENS**

Former 24442701 Sergeant Brian 'Barney' Stevens, Squad 7905. Barney was a Junior Solder with JLR RAC from 1978 until April 1979. After training at Chichester he went on to serve with 158 Provost Company, 174 Provost Company (Pointer Detachment) – later 175 Provost Company, 227 Provost Company, Minden Detachment 114/115 Provost Company, 156 Provost Company, 177 Provost Company, 152 Provost Company(V) and ARC Mp Bn (V). Barney's rank on leaving the Reserve Forces was Warrant Office Class 1. The photograph on the left shows Barney during his days with the AMF.



### **STEVENS**

Former 23138020 Lance-Corporal Kenneth Stevens, Squad 503. Kenneth served from May 1955 for two years firstly with the Royal Signals and then with the Corps in 6 Armoured Division Provost Company BFPO 10.

### **TRICKETT**

Former 24164168 Sergeant Andrew 'Andy' Trickett. Andy served with the Coldstream Guards from 1972 until 1976 and following an attachment to London District Provost Company and training at RMPTC, he went onto served with the RHQs of both 1 RMP and 2 RMP in Northern Ireland, 113 Provost Company, Hong Kong Provost Company and finally 174 Provost Company, Tidworth.

### **ULLYETT**

Former 23250964 Lance-Corporal David Ulyett, Squad 527. David served in SHAPE from 1956 for three years and then served with the Army Reserve until 1962.

## **YOUR CORRESPONDENCE**

Roy Oswick mentioned Police Driver Training in an article last month. This prompted a couple of responses. The first was from Tex Pemberton who said, 'Just read the item by Roy Oswick in Newsletter 124 in which he says that he and Ernie Watson were the first RMP candidates to take part in a course at the Hendon Police Academy. I think that the Late Maurice Squier and I may have been the first, in November of 1965, when we were trained to a class 1 drive standard (Top Gun!) in order to return to BAOR and start the 'White Mice' SOXMIS driver training.'

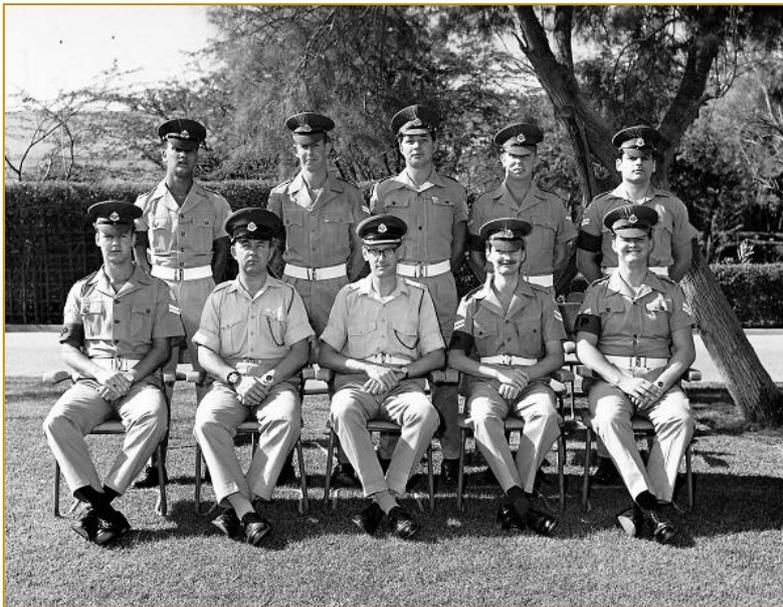
Jim McKinley was the second to respond on this subject. 'What great memories Roy Oswick's comments on the Met Police Advanced Driver's Course at Hendon brought back. Clive (Taffy) Williams, the late John Burton and myself were privileged to attend this course back in 1971. This must surely rank as one of the best courses I ever attended and certainly held me in good stead on joining the NZ Highway Patrol some years later.'

Looking back over my course reports The two stand out vehicles were the Rover 3500 and the Jaguar, the only time in my life I have had the privilege to drive one of these vehicles and at the same time push it to both its and my limits.

Oh the joys of the skid pan, admittedly with all glass removed in the event of some small mistake, learning how to get both in and out of a skid. It did though come as quite a shock after the first couple of hours of the course to discover that we knew absolutely nothing about driving a motor vehicle despite, in my case, having learnt to drive at the AAJLR, Tonfanau in 1964. Admittedly on 1 Ton Austins and 3 Ton Bedfords.

The final driving test was taken in the Rover 3500 but unfortunately I missed out on a Class 1 pass by just one point, as the examiner wrote on the test report "should have stopped at ped xing although not legally bound to do so.

If I remember correctly a Met Police Officer was required to have a minimum of 7 years' experience on standard patrol cars before even being considered for the course so I think we were very lucky and privileged.



Also in your last newsletter Brian Andrews, made mention of the ACD at Helmstedt and although I was never actually posted there I did on many occasions visit during my term as IC Reinsehlen Det, 7th Armd Bde Pro Unit. This made me think of another unit which I have not seen mentioned, being HQ P&SS Gulf, a joint Service Police unit in Bahrain based at HMS Jufair.

I have enclosed a zip folder of photos from my time there in 1969 but unfortunately the only names I can recall are myself and Taffy Williams, and sometimes I have difficulty with that. Perhaps someone can help with the other names!

The last time I saw Taffy Williams was in the mid-1990s when he was a Major in the Australian Military Police based in Brisbane.' Ed: Jim, many thanks. The last I heard Clive was still residing in Australia. The photograph above is the RMP element of HQ P&SS taken in 1969. I am sure to get some names on this one, even I recognise a few faces.

-ooOoo-

OK, enough is enough, even I cannot take any more comments about *The Last Post*. I did watch the whole series and pray that a sequel is not on the cards. Don Bastow will close the matter. He said, 'You didn't think I would let this despicable projection of life in the Royal Military Police slip by without a short/sharp note to the 'Creators', did you? The only creditable part of this episode, is the fact I received a reply of sorts. It would be interesting to know just how many complaints the BBC received.'

Don wrote to the BBC's Complaints Department pointing out all the misgivings of the said programme. The following is the reply from the BBC. "Dear Mr Bastow. Thanks for contacting us regarding The Last Post. We've received a range of feedback on this programme. To allow us to reply promptly, and to ensure we use our TV Licence fee resources as efficiently as possible, we're sending this response to everyone. We're sorry we can't reply individually, but we hope this will address most of the points raised. The Last Post was inspired by Peter Moffat's childhood memories of what it was like to grow up as a young boy on a military compound in Aden in the 1960s and the pressures this put on his father as a soldier and family man, and on his mother as an army wife. It is a fictional drama set against this backdrop and was never intended to be a docu-drama portraying real-life events. With this in mind, our desire was to explore a group of characters (officers, soldiers, wives, locals) and the relationships between them. As with any drama, a certain amount of dramatic licence was sometimes used in order to tell the story. It is not possible to film in the Yemen at present but



strenuous efforts were made to find locations that best matched the look of Aden and its surroundings in the 1960s. We endeavoured to create the world as accurately as possible, taking expert advice, and taking into account available resources and legal constraints – for example, it is not permissible to simply exactly reproduce certain elements of military dress. Our core actors underwent a week long boot camp prior to filming with a military adviser but there is

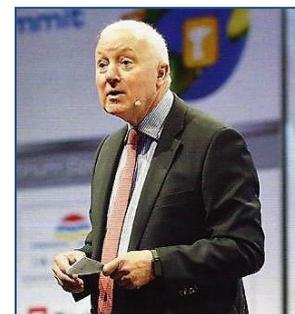
obviously a limit to what can be taught in a short period, and actors are required to focus not purely on skill drills during filming, but first and foremost on delivering their lines and the appropriate emotional performance to bring authentic human truth to the scene. We appreciate that even the most minor deviation from accuracy can be irritating to viewers who have personal experience of similar situations, but we hope we have explained that we conducted thorough research to make the story as realistic as possible. Nonetheless, your feedback is much appreciated and has been circulated to the programme makers. Thank you for taking the time to contact us. Kind Regards BBC Complaints Team. *Ed: Let the programme RIP now. Thank you for all your comments, some of which I could not publish. May I suggest you, like me, keep taking the tablets! The photograph top left was taken from the BBC's website advertising the programme.*

I thought Euan Grant would not let me get away with it. He said, 'The photo of a very fit and handsome looking RMP NCO is a good one, and similar to me when I was very young and I am still a good 70 years - just to answer your question!!!!!!' *Ed: Hope your move to Cheshire goes well.*



One of my regulars is Jim McIntosh who appears to have an endless supply of sporting photographs. In his latest message he said, 'As interesting as ever, especially about 'The Last Post'. All my comments to Jenny now vindicated! Re the 1(Br) Corps Pro Coy reunion; I have delved in my football album and am attaching a photo of the company football team circa 1963-64. Names that I can remember are: Me, Allan Barley, George Gerrard, Mick Shuster -?-?. Front Row: -?-?-?-Baden Wilson,' I was able to add a couple of names, front left Neil Featherstone, then I think it is Les Henderson, Johnny Herbert, unknown and Baden. I am sure we will have the other names soon.

Funny how a name pops up and Johnny Herbert's name had been sent to me by Baden Wilson as John had had just been awarded a Lifetime Award 2017 by the German home improvement industry. I remember John leaving the Corps in Bielefeld and going to work for the NAAFI, obviously it was a wise move. Congratulations.



I was contacted by Jim Barnes who said, 'My name is Jim Barnes and I live in North Queensland Australia. I am so sorry to read about the passing of Geoff Brien. I served in the same unit as Geoff, 28 Comwel Bde Unit, in Malaysia in 1963. He was a great fella and well-liked and respected in the unit. In 1965 I returned to Australia. My wife and I caught up with Geoff and Eileen in 2011 at their home in Weston Super-Mare. We had not seen them since 1965. They made us very welcome.' I was reminded that it is eight years since I met Jim at Southwick Park. For those of

you that remember him, either from his service with the British Army or the Australian Army then you can contact him through me.

John Sherwin, who served with 247 Provost Company 1951 – 1952 picked up on the mentioning of Helmstedt and sent in the photograph shown opposite. He said, 'This was the 247 detachment at Helmstedt, originally Goring's hunting Lodge. From 247 we travelled to Helmstedt and returned daily to ensure the autobahn was kept open.'



-ooOoo-

Derek Meade responded to an e-mail which I sent out in connection with Depot Branch. He said, 'Being here in Normandy, I did not attend a parade as such although I attended a Service on Saturday 11 November in the church in Vassy, where Standards and representatives of local Armed Forces associations, emergency services etc. were paraded. It is a public holiday on 11<sup>th</sup> November here and all war memorials are decorated in the national colours with many Tricolours flown. On Sunday 12 November, I went to the CWG Cemetery at St Charles de Percy where I placed a cross on the grave of LCpl W T Burbridge, Corps of Military Police who was killed on 13<sup>th</sup> August 1944, aged 24 years, during the breakout from Caen. There are 806 war graves in this cemetery and L/Cpl Burbridge is the only CMP.'

### **124 Provost Company**

In the last edition some of you may have noticed that 124 Provost Company was not mentioned and that is because at the time, I was somewhat rushed, and could not find anything about such a company. Well it turns out that 124 Unit (Vulnerable Points) was certainly active in Ceylon in 1944 and part of Corps of Military Police (Ceylon). It is documented that in February 1944 Captains AV Lovell-Knight, H Leighton and WA Heald arrived in Ceylon to take over command of A, B and C companies.

### **125 Provost Company**

I have found little information on 125 (Vulnerable Points) Provost Company except that it was situated in the Bombay area in 1945,

As far as I can establish, and I refer to *The Redcaps* by GD Sheffield the Vulnerable Points (VP) Wing of the Corps was formed in 1941 from men of lower physical categories and was used for guard, patrol and security duties. This released valuable infantrymen for their correct role. VP personnel became known as 'Bluecaps' which related to the colour of their cap cover.

## **CAN YOU HELP**

Does anyone know the whereabouts of former 24071059 SR Weir, last known address was in Whitstable, Kent. Contact me if you have any information.

The following request has come via WO2 Stacey Welden, HQ PM(A) & 1 MP Bde. She said, 'We've had a request on Face Book to track down a veteran, can you help?

The message reads, "I am looking for an old friend of mine who served with my husband in 158 Pro Coy in Bulford Camp in 1991. His name is Michael Horne....can you help me at all?" The message is from Bettina Carnell who has reached out to the FB group Old Mates, Lost and Found but had no joy.

Ed: If you are able to help please contact me and I will pass on the info to Stacey.

## **RMP ASSOCIATION NEWS**



The Northern Ireland Branch, together with members of 2 Pln (NI Det) 174 Pro Coy, 3 RMP, attended the annual Remembrance Service (Op Banner) at the Memorial Gardens, Palace Bks, Holywood, on Sunday 5th November. A wreath was laid on the RMP/RMPA Stone and a Poppy Cross on the Iraq 6 Stone. Members then moved onto Groomspoint, Co Down, for the RBL parade and service.



The Depot Branch is planning a 7 day, fully guided, trip to Berlin next September (ETD 9<sup>th</sup> September). After looking at costs and routes it has been decided to do the trip by rail. Of course, like so many trips of this nature, costs will depend on the number attending. At this stage please let me know if you are interested in such a trip.

Here is your link to the 248 Guard Report for October 2017.

[http://248gsu.de/index.php/der-guard-report/gp\\_download/send/3-guard-report/284-guard-report-oktober-2017](http://248gsu.de/index.php/der-guard-report/gp_download/send/3-guard-report/284-guard-report-oktober-2017)



My thanks to Pauline Leach for sending in this photograph of Royal Military Police plot at the Garden of Remembrance.

### **NOTICES AND INFORMATION**

The following text is from a leaflet the distribution of which has been requested to get the project off the ground. It has already been sent to the branches of the Association and will also be given publicity in other Corps related media sites. I am sure that many of you reading this have a story to tell so here is your chance. Please follow the instructions as to how to

submit your stories, please do not send them to me.

*“The BFG Legacy Project is beginning – and you can be a part of it. By the time the last units in 20 Armoured Brigade leave Sennelager in 2019, British Forces will have been stationed in Germany for nearly 75 years. To mark this lengthy period of overseas deployment, HQ BFG is producing a high quality glossy coffee table book: British Forces in Germany – The Lived Experience. Over this period of time literally hundreds of thousands of British Servicemen and women have spent at least some of their active service in Germany, be that as a part of BAOR, UKSC(G) or BFG. In addition are the tens of thousands of civil servants and support staff that have underpinned the community either as Teachers, Doctors, Dentists and Nurses to Engineers and Project Managers. BFG has already*

approached these people through the internet – [www.bfgnet.de](http://www.bfgnet.de) – and via Facebook as well as internally through the Army command system.

Now it is the turn of the civilian population to help. We are looking therefore for stories of British / German relationships formed during this period, and perhaps looking at the more unusual stories and where possible photographs or images of items connected to these happenings. It may have to do with a local German / British Society, or Sporting Club, it may be to do with exercises on the Hannoverian Plain, or it may just be a pleasant social meeting; after all a great number of marriages occurred between British Troops and German Women, and some occurring as early as 1946.

Please send you stories in the first instance to the Legacy Project Officer at the following email address: [bfg-hq-legacyproject-ogpmailbox@mod.uk](mailto:bfg-hq-legacyproject-ogpmailbox@mod.uk). We are looking especially for good quality photographs of meetings (famous people) and events that clearly show British / German activities. If it is easier to send items through the post please use the following address: Legacy and Projects Officer, HQ BFG, Catterick Kaserne, Detmolder Str 440, 33605 Bielefeld”

## DEATHS

### **BOLSTRIDGE**

Brian Griffiths sent in the following information regarding former 23657983 Lance-Corporal Michael John Bolstridge. . ‘I regret to advise that our Branch has received notification from New Zealand on the death of Michael Bolstridge. Michael lived in New Zealand and was a member of RMPA Western Australia Branch. Michael had visited the Branch in 2016 with his wife and was the guest speaker at our Annual Dinner. Michael Bolstridge and Eric Heath have been friends for many years since they served together in BAOR. Michael had been battling ill health for some time. Michael was very proud of both his UK civilian police and RMP service. He served with Ports Provost (Southampton), 24 Infantry Brigade (Kenya) and 2 Divisional Provost Company.

### **COLLINS**

Brian Griffiths sent in the following information as some former members of the Corps may remember the deceased. ‘It is my sad duty to notify all members of the sudden death of Margaret (Margo) Rose Collins. From information to hand, it would appear that Margo had passed away at home, on or about Tuesday 14 November 2017. Margo and her husband Dave (deceased 2010), had together joined our Branch in 2008 as a husband and wife team and gladly accepted as Honorary Branch Members. Both were proud of their past service and close connections with the Royal Military Police in Berlin having first met in the WOs’ & Sgts’ Mess at 247 (Berlin) Pro Coy RMP. I am aware that both had close involvement with particular occurrences during the cold war era, as described in the non-fiction book *BRIXMIS* by Tony Geraghty,

Margo’s WRAC service commenced in 1958 and had UK service until 1961 when she was discharged at the rank of Corporal. In 1963 Margo re-enlisted and served at the War Office in London. During 1964 Margo was transferred to BRIXMIS in Berlin as PA to the Chief of Mission until 1966, and after marriage, was later discharged from service at the rank of Sergeant.

### **DAVIES**

Don Bastow furnished the following information. ‘On 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2018 former Lance-Corporal Tommy Davies, age 88, who served with 105 Provost Company, British Troops Austria, passed away. Tom joined 255 Squad at the RMP Inkerman Barracks Woking, back in October 1951. During his training Tom was very much involved in both Boxing and Cross Country running for the RMP Depot. In March 1952 he was posted to 105 Provost Company, British Troops Austria, and served in Klagenfurt, Graz, Zeltweg and Vienna. Since Vienna was located in the centre of the Russian Zone of Austria, mobile teams, consisting of a British, American, French and Russian Military Policemen patrolled the respective Allied areas of the City in the same vehicle. Tom was one of British representatives of this patrol.



Shortly after his demob in 1954, Tom joined the Liverpool Constabulary, now Merseyside Police Force. In 1973 despite being shot in the chest, he still successfully led his team to arrest members of an IRA cell in Liverpool. For this operation he was awarded the QGM. By the time he retired in 1989 he had risen to the rank of Detective Chief Superintendent (Head of Northern Region Crime Squad), and received a well-earned Long Service Medal. Tom returned to his Austrian postings in later years.

The last time was to Vienna in 2005, along with other members of the 105 Club (Austria); to celebrate the Austrian Nation's 50th Anniversary of Independence.

### **NOBBS**

23346564 Lance-Corporal Tony Nobbs died on the 29<sup>th</sup> October 2017 after a long illness aged 81. Called up for National Service, he trained at Inkerman Barracks, Squad No 607 and was stationed in Cyprus 1957-59. He was a member of the Cyprus Veterans and a keen member of the Aldershot Branch travelling in from Windsor until he was unable to drive

### **SLOCOMBE**

I received the following message from Mike Slocombe. 'Just to let you know that my brother former 23745466 Lance-Corporal CP Slocombe died yesterday (14<sup>th</sup> November). Pete transferred to RMP from the Royal Engineers in 1962 joining squad R12. He was the person responsible for me joining. He served in Malaya before transferring in 1966 to the Royal Green Jackets. He was mentioned in despatches in Northern Ireland and after leaving HM Forces served until retirement with the Prison Service. He died peacefully in a hospice.

### **WILLIAMS**

Former 22465989 Lance-Corporal Albert Williams passed away on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018 following a long illness. Bert, as he was known during his service, enlisted in the RMP March 1951 and trained in 219 squad Inkerman Barracks. After training he was posted to Tripoli in August and then to Egypt Canal Zone in October 1951 where he stayed until his release in February 1953. On his return to civilian life he worked for the Co-Operative Dairy in Birmingham. He was a strong supporter of the Birmingham Central Branch and the Birmingham Ex-service Federation.

-ooOoo-

As this is the last newsletter before the big fella in the red suit appears with the intention of melting our plastic I guess I must wish you all the very best. May you have a wonderful Chrimbo and throw all caution to the wind and have that second helping of Christmas pudding; life is too short and M&S do a great range in expanding waistline trousers! Merry Christmas to you all from Joy and me.

Compiled by Bob Egelton

02392 265645

07913 997233

joybob@btinternet.com