

WARNING!



How Nick Griffin's BNP are exploiting vulnerable servicemen to promote the politics of segregation and extremism.

Background to Nothing British

Nothing British was founded by James Bethell and Tim Montgomerie in March 2009 to help protect Britain's fragile qualities of freedom, tolerance and fairness from the forces of extremism and racism sweeping Europe, represented by the British National Party, its surrogates and other neo-fascist splinter groups.

Our approach is to try to understand the causes of the anger and frustration which leads reasonable people to the popular nationalism that introduces intolerant and confrontational attitudes into the fabric of British society.

Through our news service at nothingbritish.com, seminars and publications, Nothing British seeks to analyse the policy failures that have led to these decisions and advocates brave solutions that sometimes challenge the liberal Establishment's orthodoxy.

And through our campaigning we oppose the BNP by appealing to Britain's inherently benign values and by mobilising traditional British institutions respected by the vast majority of this country.

James Bethell

James Bethell, 42, is Director of Nothing British.

James has worked as a journalist at The Sunday Times, was managing director of the Ministry of Sound and is currently Director of Westbourne, the communications company.

Tim Montgomerie

Tim Montgomerie is editor of ConservativeHome.

Tim established the Conservative Christian Fellowship in December 1990 and was its Director for thirteen years. He has been a speech-writer for the Conservative Party. He was Iain Duncan Smith's chief of staff and helped him to establish the Centre for Social Justice.

Tim launched ConservativeHome in 2005 and the group now includes Conservative Intelligence and America and the World.

Maurice Cousins

Maurice Cousins is a Researcher for Nothing British and Deputy Editor of Nothingbritish.com.

Maurice has worked as a Research Assistant at Conservative Friends of Israel. He has previously worked for Douglas Carswell MP and for Douglas Murray at the Centre for Social Cohesion. His interests are in political extremism, foreign affairs, Islamism and US-UK Special Relationship. He has written for ConservativeHome's Platform, The Henry Jackson's blog - The Scoop - Harry's Place and the Spittoon.

“It’s politically beneficial for us to be seen with these organisations. We are also involved in other veteran organisations such as *Help for Heroes* and *Soldiers off the Street*. It definitely doesn’t hurt the party to be connected to these groups.”

Nick Griffin, 1st November 2009, The Sunday Post.

1 Executive Summary

Background

The co-opting of Britain's military heritage by the BNP and its surrogates is a deliberate political strategy designed to strike a chord with disaffected swing voters at a time when patriotism is officially unfashionable and to create a veneer of respectability that disguises the BNP's damaging reputation for criminality, corruption and violence.

The BNP are investing heavily in rhetorical, graphic and organisational associations with the military through a number of sophisticated modern techniques assisted by a small but visible cadre of ex-Servicemen. Increasingly the BNP is using Astroturf organisations like veterans groups and charities to create entry-points for new recruits and create an alliance of friendly-looking organisations.

These were the findings of our report, *Stolen Valour* (October 2009). This note provides an update on the BNP's efforts to build a veteran's outreach organisation that mimics the style of Help for Heroes and Veteran's Aid.

It reaches the following conclusions:-

Key conclusions

- The BNP have dedicated key personnel, organisational subtlety and considerable patience to launch a surrogate organisation with a clean political skin that purports to provide succour to homeless veterans.
- Nothing British could not find any operational delivery by this organisation, Soldiers off the Street (SOTS).
- It would appear that its principle *raison d'être* is to provide the BNP propaganda machine with a fresh, seemingly unimpeachable example of selfless social action with a patriotic/nationalist twist.
- Nick Griffin takes liberal use of this opportunity with SOTS and FEBA sound bites for his speeches, videos and written material about how activists are sacrificing time and money to support British veterans.
- Nothing British condemns this cynical use of vulnerable veterans for political advantage. Whilst politicians throughout history have sought to make capital out of their associations with the military, rarely have we seen such a blatant example of an Astroturf enterprise exploiting the good intentions of a generous public whilst hiding its true provenance.
- Military charities, policy makers, veterans and the media must take care in the Christmas season to avoid any collaboration with SOTS that can be used by Nick Griffin's BNP to promote the politics of segregation, confrontation and extremism.

2 Soldiers off the Street (SOTS)

Soldiers off the Street is a homeless veteran's organisation set up by Hugh William Murray, the former Secretary of the Welsh division of the British National Party, and his wife Marie Murray.¹

According to its official materials, SOTS,

*"aims to provide clothing and food for ex-service personnel throughout the UK, actively finding locations that will accommodate them, attempting to reunite ex-service personnel with their families, setting up offices all over the UK and finding volunteers to help run them."*²



Bill Murray with BNP Leader Nick Griffin (March 2009)

However, SOTS is not simply a veterans' support group. There are strong links between SOTS and the BNP which were exposed by Nothing British in October 2009.³

This note seeks to explain the true motivation behind the SOTS organisation as a warning to those approached for partnership.

2.1 Work of SOTS

It is not known whether it has any medically trained staff or experienced veterans that can assist its day-to-day operations. There is no evidence to date that SOTS has actually helped any ex-servicemen off the streets.

Mr Murray and his wife have, however, organised a number of publicity stunts to raise funds and awareness for their cause.

Between 27th and 29th November 2009 SOTS organised (bottom right) for two ex-servicemen to sleep on the streets rough.⁴ According to Mr Murray, the two ex-servicemen are Chris Robinson (Royal Logistic Corps) and Kenny Jones (Royal Welsh Fusiliers).

There is a **Kenny Jones**, Cheshire, that appears on the BNP's membership list and he is listed as being involved with ABEX and a civil servant. Kenny Jones is also photographed as being a BNP activist in North Wales,⁵ though it is not clear that this is the same Kenny Jones.

Christopher Robinson, Conwy, Wales, appears on the BNP membership register and he is listed as running the Caemarfonshire branch of Soldier Sailor Air Force Association (SSAF) Forces Help. He listed on SOTS as a fundraiser. There is a Christopher Robinson on Facebook with "friends" links to several known BNP activists, though it is not clear that this is the same Christopher Robinson.



SOTS banner from web site



BNP members and SOTS activists Chris Robinson and Kenny Jones

¹ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hlQz3pJSzaY>

² <http://www.soldiersoffthestreet.com/index.html>

³ <http://www.nothingbritish.com/10/nb-reports-new-bnp-front-to-charities-commission/>

⁴ <http://www.soldiersoffthestreet.com/Sponsorship.html>

⁵ <http://bnp.org.uk/2009/05/another-fantastic-bnp-day-of-action-in-wrexham/>

In the same month, SOTS launched a petition on the Number 10 website with 587 signatories (25th November 2009).⁶

BNP Euro candidate Ennys Hughes



Kenny Jones holding a copy of *Voice of Freedom* and campaigning for the BNP in Euro Elections

Bill Murray in his former role as Secretary of the BNP in Wales with Ennys Hughes and Kenny Jones

⁶ <http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/HelpSOTS/#detail>

3 There are strong links between SOTS and the BNP

SOTS claims it "is not and never will be affiliated to any political party, it is dedicated to physically help [sic] as many ex-service personnel gain as normal a life as possible".

SOTS's site does not mention that it is in any way connected to the BNP and it carefully avoids stating the names of the organisers.



Bill Murray (right) shaking hands with a BNP activist and proudly displaying a party rosette and a copy of its newspaper, "The Voice of Freedom"

3.1 SOTS Director Hugh William Murray, former Regional Secretary of the BNP in Wales and a BNP North Wales organiser. ⁷

SOTS's office telephone number matches that of Mr Murray's home telephone number found on the leaked BNP membership register. ⁸

According to newspaper reports that are not denied by the SOTS, the veterans group apparently operates out of an office in Wrexham which is owned by the mother of Ennys Hughes, the BNP's lead candidate in Wales in the June 2009 European elections. ⁹

William Murray has deliberately sought to spread confusion about the exact nature of his relationship with the BNP. As far as Nothing British can establish, this is the timeline of his membership:-

4th September 2009 – Mr Murray said he was still a member of the BNP and that he was "seriously considering" resigning his membership to concentrate on SOTS. ¹⁰

15th September 2009 – SOTS is incorporated into Companies House. ¹¹

18th September 2009 – Three days after SOTS is incorporated Mr Murray was promoting himself as being a member of the BNP on the BNP's Social Network site. He also advertised his official BNP email address. ¹²

19th September 2009 - Murray committed himself to joining a BNP march to bring soldiers back from Afghanistan being organised for St George's Day 2010. ¹³

8th October 2009 - SOTS told Nothing British via email they no longer have any involvement with the BNP.

27th October 2009 - Mr Murray said he left the BNP on August 24th 2009. ¹⁴

7th December 2009 – Mr Murray telephones Nothing British to complain that we had informed the charities *Talking to Minds* and *Action for Armed Forces* about SOTS's background and links to the BNP. He said he was going to report Nothing British to the national newspapers.

⁷ Also known as "Bill Murray". Mr Murray's "BNP Forum" profile: <http://bnp.org.uk/members/billmurray/>

⁸ Wrexham is also where the BNP's merchandise wing (Deeside), Excalibur, which is managed by Arthur Kemp, a neo-Nazi and white supremacist with links to the murder of the former head of the South African Communist Party. http://www.searchlightmagazine.com/index.php?link=hate_factory

⁹ <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/questions-over-former-bnp-members-help-for-exsoldiers-1808083.html>

¹⁰ Nothing British print screen from the "BNP Social Network" taken on 26th October 2009.

¹¹ Companies House records.

¹² Nothing British print screen from the "BNP Social Network" taken on 18th September 2009.

¹³ Nothing British print screen from "BNP Social Network" taken on 9th October 2009.

¹⁴ <http://www.leaderlive.co.uk/news/80612/man-says-wrexham-charity-not-a-front-for-the-bnp.aspx>

7th December 2009 – The same evening a BNP-supporting blog, *The Green Arrow*, which is run by BNP member Paul Morris, reported Mr Murray's complaint.¹⁵

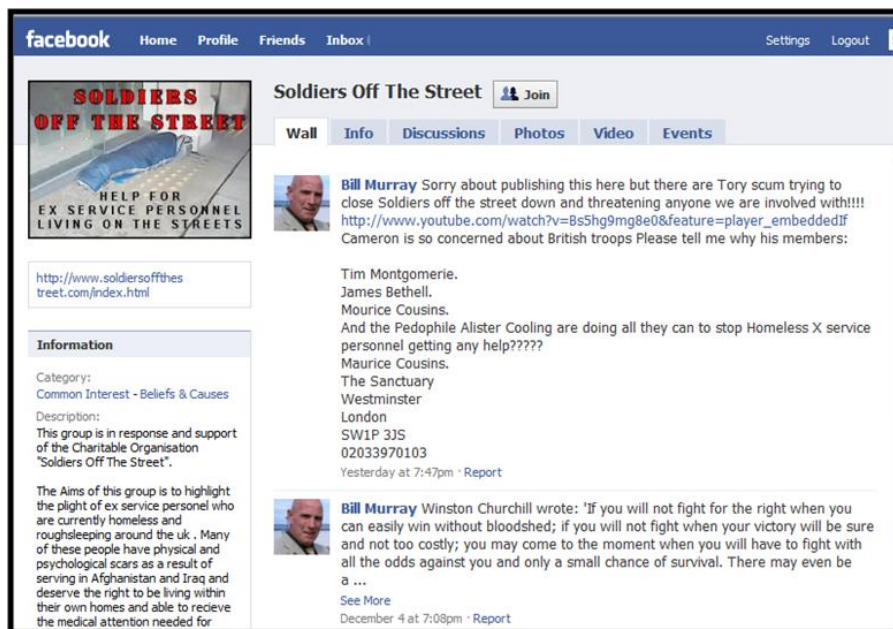
Alister Cooling has never been an employee of Nothing British or ConservativeHome.¹⁶

Meanwhile, fellow *Bullingdon Club* member and "friend" of the Rothchilds, the lipless **James Bethell**, who runs the anti-British *Nothing British* site and writes for *Conservative Home*, that also employs paedophiles as writers [Alister Cooling], has launched a vicious attack on *Soldiers off the Street* accusing them of being a front for the **BNP** and a **Bogus Charity**. Surely a solicitors letter should be send demanding a full apology and retraction?

Now I know for a fact that *Soldiers off the Street* are a non political organisation and have no links to the **BNP** other than one of their staff was a former member. But that does not stop conservative/UAF supporters ringing around sites that link to **SOTS** and "advising" them to remove their links.

Cameron is not fit to lick the boots of a soldier let alone send them off to die or see them return maimed and leaving organisations like *Soldiers off the Street* to pick up the pieces.

7th December 2009 – Mr Murray posted slanderous comments about Nothing British on SOTS's Facebook page.



The screenshot shows a Facebook post on the 'Soldiers Off The Street' page. The post is by Bill Murray and contains the following text:

Sorry about publishing this here but there are Tory scum trying to close Soldiers off the street down and threatening anyone we are involved with!!!
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bs5hg9mg8e0&feature=player_embedded
Cameron is so concerned about British troops Please tell me why his members:

Tim Montgomerie.
James Bethell.
Maurice Cousins.
And the Pedophile Alister Cooling are doing all they can to stop Homeless X service personnel getting any help????
Maurice Cousins.
The Sanctuary
Westminster
London
SW1P 3JS
02033970103
Yesterday at 7:47pm · Report

Winston Churchill wrote: 'If you will not fight for the right when you can easily win without bloodshed; if you will not fight when your victory will be sure and not too costly; you may come to the moment when you will have to fight with all the odds against you and only a small chance of survival. There may even be a ...'
See More
December 4 at 7:08pm · Report

Bill Murray's remarks on SOTS's Facebook page (7th December 2009)

¹⁵ <http://www.thegreenarrow.co.uk/index.php/writers/arrow-straight/884-david-cameron-quot-interested-in-cutting-and-runningq>

¹⁶ You can read our response here: <http://www.nothingbritish.com/11/alister-cooling-bnp-lies/>

3.2 Known associations with the BNP and its members

SOTS proudly displays links with the veterans charity FEBA. FEBA is a Scottish-based charity that accepted money from the BNP in September 2009 after a series of financial issues.¹⁷

SOTS Facebook page contains 3,822 member (25th November 2009). Many of these members are unrelated to the BNP. There are, however, a number of high-profile, relatively-senior members of the BNP who contribute to the group by offering support, advice and services.¹⁸

For example, **Roger Phillips**, who owns the online nationalist-products retail Patriot Products and held a stall at the BNP's Red, White & Blue festival. Mr Phillips is well known for making the racist "*spot the white man in Wembley*" film.¹⁹

27th October 2009 – Mr Phillips wrote: "Good luck with this group I fully support this and if there's anything I can do to help please message me on here."

Another example is **Rachel Firth**, the BNP's "Babe in a Box". She caused outrage after raising funds for the Royal British Legion and the BNP in August 2009.²⁰

28th November 2009 – Ms Firth wrote: "I'm organising my next sponsored stay in a cardboard box, last time I did 24 hours in a box, this time I'm thinking 48 [hours]? And this time I want all the money to go to the Soldiers of the Streets!"

And a final example is **Mike Mosley**, an ex-Iraq war veteran and BNP member. Mosley (no relation so Sir Oswald, as far as we know) is frequently paraded on the BNP's internet network as an attack dog against the government on military matters.

3.3 Nick Griffin's use of SOTS in his speeches

1st November 2009 - Speaking to The Sunday Post on a visit to FEBA in Scotland, Griffin said:²¹

"It's politically beneficial for us to be seen with these organisations. We are also involved in other veteran organisations such as Help for Heroes and Soldiers off the Street. It definitely doesn't hurt the party to be connected to these groups."



Roger Phillips (left) with BNP Leader Nick Griffin



Rachel Firth sleeping rough for the BNP and Royal British Legion (August 2009)



Mike Mosley (right) with Nick Griffin



Roger Phillips at Red, White and Blue 2009 wearing a BNP "Enoch Powell" t-shirt

¹⁷ <http://www.nothingbritish.com/tag/feba/>

¹⁸ <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=170833376313>

¹⁹ <http://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/view/107141/Fury-over-BNP-spot-the-white-man-film/>

²⁰ <http://www.nothingbritish.com/08/can-the-british-legion-have-really-shared-charity-donations-with-the-bnp/>

²¹ <http://lancasteruaf.blogspot.com/2009/11/bnp-exploit-scots-heroes-to-gain-votes.html>

4 Other high-level BNP links

In a March 2010 email to Garry Bushell, a TV critic who suspended his patronage with SOTS, Bill Murray wrote:

“We have NO connection with the BNP. I was a member and resigned there is a hate campaign going on with Tim Montgomerie, James Bethell and Maurice Cousins with their site Nothing British.”

However, the following people are listed as being *Facebook* “friends” with Murray.

All screen grabs were taken on 25th March 2010, some seven months after Murray says he left the BNP.

Simon Darby – Deputy Chairman of the BNP and PPC for Stoke Central.



Bob Bailey – leader of Barking BNP, councillor and Romford PPC.



Chris Beverley – BNP councillor, PPC for Morley and Outwood and Chief of Staff to Andrew Brons MEP.



Clive Jefferson – BNP PPC for Copeland and Campaign Co-ordinator to Nick Griffin MEP. Jefferson is also listed as being on the EU pay roll.



Mark Collett – Head of publicity and BNP PPC for Sheffield Brightside and Hillsborough.



Peter Mullins – BNP Defence spokesman.



Tanya Jane Lumby – Listed as one of three senior BNP officials on the EHRC's submission to London County Court. The other two included Nick Griffin and Simon Darby. She is married to Richard Lumby, a BNP West Midlands official.²²



4.1 Website links

Daniel McDonald – PPC for Horsham.

McDonald has two companies listed as being sponsors of SOTS: Easy Security Services Ltd and Southern Securities PLC.

²² <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article6982345.ece>

5 Associations with the English Defence League (EDL)

SOTS and the EDL have for several months maintained public links. The EDL display a link to SOTS and it has made no effort to distance itself from the anti-Islam group.



SOTS link on the front page of the EDL website (25th November 2009)

EDL member James Donnachie is also a regular contributor and member of SOTS (see Facebook profile below).

27th November 2009 – Mr Donnachie wrote *“im offering if anyone can help me another charity walk il gladly walk accross the whole off england to support our troops if some one will help me by givin me adive on wot to do etc... email ...”*



Blackburn EDL member James Donnachie is a regular contributor to SOTS Facebook

6 Association with the Racial Volunteer Force (RVF)



The *Racial Volunteer Force* is a violent neo-Nazi group which splintered from *Combat-18*.

The RVF is rabidly racist organisation that regularly promotes hatred of non-whites and Jews. In the past its magazine has featured anti-Jewish articles with headlines such as “*Roast A Rabbi*”.

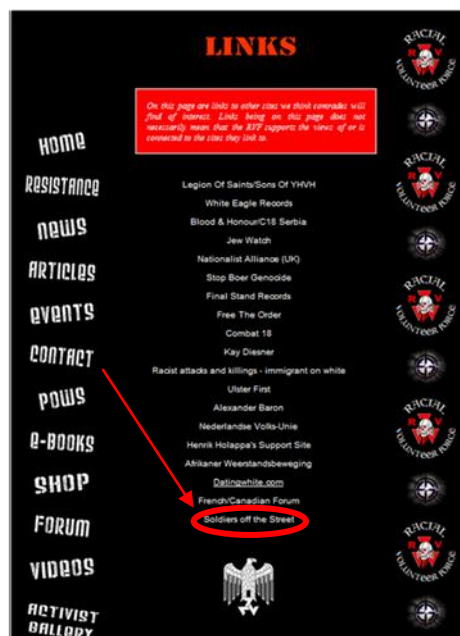
Another edition featured bomb-making instructions and praise of the Soho bomber David Copeland, who was jailed for life for murder after attacks targeting the gay community and ethnic minorities in London.

In 2005 five members of the RVF were sentenced for a total of fifteen years for race hate crimes. In his judgement, Judge Jeremy Roberts told the court that the RVF was formed in 2003 to “*encourage readers to resort to violence against people with non-white backgrounds.*”²³

RVF has also targeted personalities such as Vanessa Redgrave and Anna Ford, and had forced Frank Bruno’s mother to move after printing her address.²⁴

April 2010 – Nothing British discovered RVF had posted an internet link with SOTS on its website.²⁵

SOTS is listed as being a site of interest to fellow neo-Nazi “comrades” and it sits alongside a long list of race hate merchants including *Combat 18*, *Jew Watch* and *Blood and Honour Serbia*.



RVF links to SOTS

²³ <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/4408272.stm>

²⁴ <http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2005/nov/04/ukcrime.race1>

²⁵ <http://www.rvfonline.com/links.htm>

7 SOTS's attempts to link itself with official veterans organisations

To lend credibility, SOTS has approached a number of authentic organisations including the British Limbless ex-Servicemen's Association (BLESMA), the Chaseley Trust (a charitable hospice) and a number of veterans associations.

Bill Murray sent the following email to a number of organisations: ²⁶

"Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you to introduce a new organisation called Soldiers off the Street (SOTS) with a dedicated group of people determined to help the forgotten ex service personnel whose lives have been affected by homelessness. We only went public at the beginning of September and have had over 6,000 visits to our website and have already helped two homeless ex personnel back into family life.

We are about to add a links page to our site and are inviting you to swap banners helping both organisations gain more visits, our website address is www.soldiersoffthestreet.com

We look forward to your favourable response."



FEBA works as an associate with SOTS and receives money from the BNP



Colonel Bob Stewart's Action for Armed Forces are listed as having links with SOTS (removed from SOTS 7th December 2009)



Veteran mental health charity Talking 2 Minds was listed as working in association with SOTS (removed from SOTS 7th December 2009)

²⁶ Email obtained from a veteran's association.

8 SOTS Patrons

SOTS lists a number of individuals on its web site as being “patrons”. These have included people who have honourably served their local community, ex-servicemen and women and well known personalities.

Some of these individuals were unaware of SOTS’s BNP background when agreeing to become involved with it as an organisation.

8.1 Garry Bushell

In March 2010 Garry Bushell, the TV critic and campaigner, suspended his patronage to SOTS after Nothing British contacted him.

According to Mr Bushell, he became a patron of SOTS after a *Facebook* exchange with Bill Murray and his name was placed on the SOTS website.

On his blog Mr Bushell publicly distanced himself from the organisation until his concerns about SOTS’s extremist links were answered.²⁷

He wrote:

“I have asked them to remove my name as patron until these allegations can be properly investigated, and SOTS disassociate themselves publicly from the far-Right. Any decent person would sympathise with the organisation’s stated aims. No decent person would wish to associate with covert extremists.”



Screen grab taken from SOTS’s website (15th March 2010)

²⁷ <http://www.nothingbritish.com/03/garry-bushell-suspends-patronage-over-sotss-links-to-bnp/>

9 Confusion about SOTS's charitable status

SOTS is not registered as charity, but it is apparently seeking charity status and yet Murray calls it a “Charitable Organisation” on its Facebook page and there are confusing references to SOTS applying for charitable status.²⁸

4th September 2009 – Mr Murray wrote that he had received a letter from the Charities Commission acknowledging receipt of an enquiry to set-up a charity.

On the BNP Social Network he implied that SOTS had put in an application for charitable status.

“I have had an email from someone saying they would not donate because Soldiers off the Street are an organisation not a charity. This is from the Charities Commission:

“You’re thinking of setting up a charity. That’s great. We are delighted that you want to play an active part in a charity. When your organisation has an income of £5000 or more you are required by law to register with us. It is not our policy to register charities who do not meet this minimum requirement.”

I can assure everyone that the Soldiers off the Street “organisation” are doing everything by the book!”

Bill Murray, 4th September 2009, BNP Social Network. (Taken from a screen grab 26th October 2009)

6th October 2009 – Charities Commission wrote to Nothing British by email and informed us that “no application to register Soldiers off the Street as a charity has yet been received”.²⁹

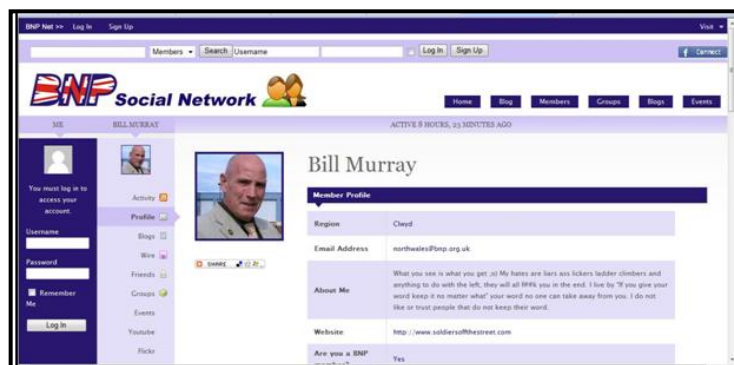
22nd October 2009 – Charities Commission says, “Soldiers off the Street’ is not a registered charity, and must not claim to be a registered charity. We have not received any application to register from an organisation by that name.”³⁰

27th October 2009 - Mr Murray said he intended to seek charitable status for SOTS but that he needed to raise £5,000 before he could make an application.³¹

8th December 2009 – SOTS’s Facebook page confusingly refers to itself as a “charitable organisation”.



SOTS company house records



A screen grab of Bill Murray's BNP Social Network page. It was taken on the 18th September 2009.

²⁸ SOTS <http://www.soldiersoffthestreet.com/Mission%20Statement.html>

²⁹ <http://www.nothingbritish.com/10/charities-commission-responds/>

³⁰ <http://www.nothingbritish.com/10/charity-commission-statement-on-our-campaign/>

³¹ <http://www.leaderlive.co.uk/news/80612/man-says-wrexham-chaty-not-a-front-for-the-bnp.aspx>

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