



THE NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2016

BR0753



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Loneliness is not always a choice

Telephone Buddies - Through Telephone Buddies, you can give individuals an opportunity to talk to someone, experience companionship and be part of the community.

Hospital & Home Visits - As a Home & Hospital Visitor, you can give individuals an opportunity to talk to someone, experience companionship and be part of the community.

Bereavement Support

Contact Nick Launders <mailto:nicklaunders@gmail.com> (ctrl and click to follow link or phone 01491 628 243) for more information.

Editorial

The AGM lies ahead, on Monday 19 December, at the Christ Church Centre followed by our Christmas Lunch. We are hoping for a good turnout.

Key at the AGM will be Committee changes. In particular we are losing our sparkling Poppy Appeal Organiser, Shirley Lees, who – with the splendid support of her husband David - has transformed our annual Appeal results.

Her innovations include the highly popular Launch in the Market Place, when Miss Sam Brown and her Ukulele Band have entertained us for the last four years, with the Mayor formally buying the First Poppy at 11am. Initially Sam had some twenty players, but this year she exceeded fifty, all of whom seemed to be enjoying themselves hugely- as did the crowd.

Shirley has made greater use of the town's Cadet Forces on the Saturday of the Remembrance Weekend, deploying them in small groups in strategic locations around the town. David has transformed the sorting and counting of the coin in collections and the banking of the money. He has also displayed his skills as a bar tender at the Christ Church Centre for our numerous lunches and events.

Shirley's success as our Organiser is reflected in the Appeal total during her term in office of over £168,000

Shirley has found her own replacement, Annie Arscott who is at least as innovative and enterprising as Shirley.

Stan Ainsley is also stepping down after four years as Branch Secretary, a role in which he has been a great success. His management of the Branch's affairs has been invaluable. Discussions are in hand to identify a successor (or two) but I will not tempt fate by speculating who we have in mind.

Anne Evans wishes to relinquish her role as Events Manager and we would be glad to hear from anyone wishing to join the Committee to take over from her. I am delighted to report that Anne will be continuing as Assistant Editor, a role in which she excels.

And so on to 2017, but first a Merry Christmas to you all.

Poppy Appeal 2016 raised a staggering £20,808.72



Photographs courtesy of the Henley Herald

Shirley Lees, after an incredibly successful tenure as our Poppy Appeal Organizer, hands over to Annie Arscott
Bon Chance & Thank You Shirley!

Annie Arscott picking up her new with role with some expert advice from John!

Don't give up your day job John!

Dates for Your Diary

Meetings are held on 3rd Monday of the month unless otherwise advised
(eg 24 April to avoid Easter and School Holidays)

Venue – The Christ Church Centre

Talk 11.30 (**please be seated by 11.20**)

Lunch 12 for 12.30 (**Please book for lunch by the Thursday before**)

2016 Diary

19 December 2016 – 11.30 AGM followed by Christmas Lunch

2017 Diary

16 January - tba

20 February – Talk by Malcolm Lewis *“Nelson’s Victory - Her story from 1758 to 1804”*

20 March - tbc

24 April

15 May

19 June

17 July

21 August

18 September

16 October

12 November – Remembrance Sunday Lunch

00 December - Christmas lunch?

News

1st Poppy Sold in Oxfordshire - 27 October 2016

Brian Hughes and John Green attended a ceremony at the Vauxhall Barracks in Didcot where the first Poppy was bought by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire. The poppy was presented by a robot used by the Bomb Disposal unit based in Didcot! Brian carried the County Standard and John the Branch Standard. The event concluded when County Chairman Lynda Atkins activated a mortar which showered the parade with poppy petals.



Photo courtesy of the Henley Standard

Armistice Day 11/11/16

Malcolm Page gave the exhortation and Kohima Epitaph when Henley paused for 2 minutes in remembrance of the fallen of the many conflicts endured by this country. The Last Post and Reveille was sounded by Stuart Henderson. During the silence the Branch Standard and Dunkirk Veteran’s Standard were lowered by Brian Hughes and John Green



Pupils from Badgemore Primary School with John Green outside the Old Fire Station

Fields of Battle Exhibition

The highly successful Fields of Battle exhibition at the Old Fire Station held over three weekends attracted a wide range of visitors all of whom commented very favourably about the impact of the display. No doubt the highlight was the visit by 30 pupils of Badgemore Primary School.

John Green, dressed in WW1 uniform tried to answer the many searching questions raised by the young people. It was most encouraging to witness the enthusiasm and curiosity shown by these youngsters.

This & That

RAF Benson has a new station commander.

Gp Capt Hamish Cormack returns to Benson. He said: "Having spent many of the happiest years of my career at RAF Benson, I am genuinely thrilled and feel enormously privileged to be returning to take command of the station. It has always had an air of proud but quiet professionalism, with a focus on people, which creates a very special atmosphere."

College in Holland donates to the Poppy Appeal

For two years in succession John Green has given talks about WW1 to sixth formers at a college in Duiven near Nijmegen, Holland

Needless to say he spoke in English, not being Dutch! The College donated €100 to the Poppy appeal for each talk and they have invited him to speak again in 2017 - by which time he may have brushed up on his Dutch !