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Editorial

“I slept, and dreamed that life was beauty, I woke, and found that life was duty”
Ellen Sturgis Hooper, American poet – 1840.

Last Post

Sadly, we lost Daphne Hughes early in July. Daphne was born on 17 January 1919 and joined our Branch in 1998. Protracted illness had prevented her from attending many functions in the past two years, but she had been a great supporter before that time.

She joined the ATS in 1938. When she told her father, his reaction was “You fool. What will I do with your ponies?” It was a four year peacetime engagement. She was surprised to find that, with the war at its height, in 1943, she was discharged, Six months later she joined up again as a FANY. She served in Europe before going to the Far East in August 1945. In India she was posted to HQ 17 Indian Division and sent to Burma; but they had moved so she pursued them to Singapore. Before she reached Singapore, 17 Ind Div was in the Dutch East Indies. She eventually caught up with them and spent a year on Labuan (Bay of Brunei) sorting out and caring for former internees of the Japanese, getting them fit and ready for repatriation to UK, Holland and elsewhere.

She held the 1939-45 and France/Germany Stars, the defence and war medals. She will be sadly missed.

Events Report

Branch Lunch and Talk – July 21

David Innis spoke about the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum and issued a standing invitation for a group visit or individually and assured us of a warm welcome.!

A Social Evening - St Mary's Chantry House - 25 July

Maj Steve Anning's presentation on **'War: what's different, what hasn't changed'** was very informative and drew a number of salient questions from the gathering. It was a slightly disappointing turnout of branch members, but those who did come brought friends and family to sit out and enjoy the good weather in the very pleasant surroundings, with wine and delicious finger food.

Great War Centenary - Sunday 3 August

The Drum-Head Service was held in the Market Place at 15.00 - a new memorial to Henley and District's “forgotten” soldiers of the Great War. The ceremony was led by the Queen's Representative, the Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, Tim Stevenson, who unveiled a memorial plaque that included the almost 90 “forgotten men” whose names had been identified by Mike Wiloughby in his researches. Similar plaques will be installed in Holy Trinity and St Mary the Virgin churches in Henley. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor gave readings and Lesley and Mike Wiloughby presented a copy of Mike's book “Bringing them Home” to the Lord Lieutenant. A dozen pigeons were released and the fly past by the four Tiger Moths was spectacular.



Centenary fly-past over Henley

The solemnity of the occasion was enhanced by the presence of 11 Legion Standards, and the 2 minutes silence marked by a bugler sounding the Last Post and Reveille. The Lord Lieutenant said afterwards *“I thought that the organisers got it absolutely right. It was a very dignified occasion and was one of those services that will have helped people to stand back and reflect on what happened in 1914 as well as everything that followed. Henley always does these things extremely well”.*

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Act of Remembrance Rotherfield Peppard and Greys – 4 August

Nick Launders reports that all the events were well attended and most moving.

We hope to publish photographs of the tea party at Peppard War Memorial Hall when they become available to include in the next Newsletter.

Centenary Service – War Memorial Place - 4 August

John Green, together with Standard Bearer Brian Hughes was at a service at War Memorial Place, site of the War Memorial Hospital, conducted by a local resident, David Tapp - on the actual centenary of Britain's declaration of war on Germany following the invasion of Belgium. John Green also attended a service at Cookley Green, with our MP, John Howell among others, and laid a wreath.

The Great March – 10 August

As readers may have seen that the Henley Standard (15/08/14) reported on the successful completion of the Great March. John Green set off with many others on a march to commemorate a similar march undertaken by a 700 strong battalion of the Sherwood Foresters, in which his father was serving. John reports on the event:

“A Drumhead Service was held in Newark market place. Despite heavy rain, the legacy of the storm Bertha, it was well attended. Led by two bands and headed by a regular unit of 3rd battalion Mercian Regt (successors to 1st/8th Sherwood Foresters) we marched through the main streets of Newark cheered on by the local populace mostly sheltering under umbrellas or in shop doorways.



A restored WWI field kitchen drawn by a shire horse brought up the rear – Thanks to the tropical downpour, within minutes we were all soaked to the skin - a good way to keep cool!

Watering stations along the route ensured there was no danger of internal dehydration either!

Towards the end of the 16mile trek on the final steep ascent to Radcliffe the sun finally broke through! There was a strongly felt spiritual presence of the 700 Sherwood Foresters, who 100 years ago, marched light heartedly towards an unknown future from which so many did not return, At our destination a moving

Drumhead Service of Remembrance and Reconciliation was held and Civic dignitaries, including visitors from Germany and Holland, were also present. After a grand reception and presentation of medals, it took about 24 hours to dry-out - in every sense of the word! Finally due to the fantastic support I received, a sum of over £1200 has so far been donated to the Poppy Appeal.....and we are still counting”

John should be congratulated on completing the March – it was obviously a very emotive action, but one that also raised a substantial amount for the Poppy Appeal – Thanks and well done John!

Subscriptions

Please note that the overall annual subscription has gone up by £1 therefore £18 will be collected from Direct Debit subscribers - Cash payers please forward your Subs in the amount of £18 to Secretary c/o Ash Tree Cottage, Maidensgrove, Henley-on-Tames, RG9 6EZ as soon as possible. (NB branch subs still stand at £3)

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Future Events

Monday 15 September – Branch Committee Meeting and Lunch

Speakers will be Shirley Lees on the Poppy Appeal and Nick Launders on Welfare matters

NB Please book in good time by letting Stan Ainsley know – this is a heart-felt plea from Doug who provides us with a really good lunch – but on occasion has had to dig deep to feed the late comers – lets spare him a further ordeal!

Sunday 21 September - 75th anniversary - Battle of Britain Thanksgiving Service at Westminster Abbey

Find information regarding booking at the end of this document..

Wednesday 15 to 18 October - Kenton Theatre "Accrington Pals" Henley Players

The setting is WWI, and is about a "pals battalion" raised in Lancashire. The lives of the men in the trenches is contrasted with the lives of their women-folk back home. It is described as "poignant with amusing interludes".

Monday 20 October - The National Chairman visit and Branch AGM - 11am

The AGM will be followed by a talk and question and answer session by the **National Chairman, John Crisford**. We will be inviting representatives from seven local branches; we expect about 30 will accept. Booking for lunch will be essential. A booking pro-forma is attached.

Timings 11am – National Chairman arrives; AGM begins

11.30 - Branch Reps arrive – Address by National Chairman and answers questions.

12.15 – bar opens.

12.45 – lunch.

Sunday 26 October - Rotherfield Greys War Memorial

Garden of remembrance will be dedicated at 12 noon

Saturday 1 November - Henley Concert Singers sing for Poppy Appeal – 7.30

Rotherfield Grey's Village Hall for the RBL Poppy Appeal **NB** The RBL have been asked to provide some finger food/canapés for; this event. We are therefore looking for a number of eager volunteers from our Branch to oblige. Please see Anne Evans at the September meeting if you are able to help.

Saturday 8 November - RBL Poppy Appeal Concert 'In memoriam – lest we forget' Aliquando Choir

Tickets @£20 on sale from: Stan Ainsley on 07935755905, Anne Evans 01491 578238 or via booking form below OR on line from www.aliquando.co.uk - Tickets at £20 are now on sale and early booking is strongly advised.

Sunday 9 November - Remembrance Services & Lunch

A Remembrance Sunday Service will be at All Saints' Church, Rotherfield Peppard at 1045 am.

Details of the traditional Remembrance Parade in Henley and customary lunch will be in the next Newsletter.

Tuesday 11 November – Armistice Day Ceremony - further information in the next newsletter

Welfare

There is a growing need for home visiting in our area. Volunteers are still urgently required. Please contact Nick Launders if you would like to help. (01491 628243 and or nicklaunders@gmail.com).

The Legion's Website (www.britishlegion.org.uk)* is the primary source of information on all its activities and policies. If needs be you can visit any library where you can access the World Wide Web - the services is free and the librarians will show you the ropes! Otherwise the **helpline 0808 802 8080** is open from 8am until 8pm for seven days a week; the Team are prepared to answer any question you may have, not just welfare.

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Poppy Appeal & Events

Wednesday 15 to 18 October - "Accrington Pals" at the Kenton Theatre
Shirley is organising collections for the Poppy Appeal at each performance.

Saturday 25 October - The Poppy Appeal Launch
The Launch will take place in the Market Place and Sam Brown and her Ukulele Band will be present.

Friday 7 and Saturday 8 November. Street Collections
Street collection will start on Friday 7th November

We need your help to plant poppies – National Appeal
This year the Tower will play a unique role in the commemorative events across the UK marking the outbreak of the First World War when we mount one of the most stunning artistic commemorations of the centenary.

From 18 July the Tower's moat will start to turn entirely red through the installation of over 800,000 ceramic poppies, each one beautifully handmade in the studio of artist Paul Cummins.

With over 800,000 poppies to plant, we have a big job on our hands, and we invite you to get involved. For further information about volunteering and what will be involved download the volunteer brief (PDF, 57.4 KB). You can sign up as an individual by completing the online form, or if you want to volunteer as a group (over 6 people) please email poppyvolunteer@hrp.org.uk - and we'll send you a registration form.

See more at: <http://www.hrp.org.uk/volunteer/sthash.FHidmfqo.dpuf>



Saturday 8 November - Aliquando Choir singing for the Poppy Appeal
You know from the last newsletter that this will be an extremely special and moving event featuring the premiere of an especially commissioned work for Henley and the wider community, in the presence of special guests and Peter and Elisabeth Owen. Peter is the nephew of Wilfred Owen and will read one of his uncle's most famous poems. The programme includes Cherubini's Requiem in C Minor, Patrick Hawes new commission "I know the music" of Wilfred Owen's poem and Elgar's Nimrod which has been very beautifully arranged for full choir. We would strongly urge members to support this event and urge friends and family to book early to secure seats.

Bookings by phone 01491 578238 & 07935755905 or by using this booking form below.

<p>RBL Poppy Appeal Concert 8 November</p> <p>Booking Form</p> <p>Name.....Address.....</p> <p>Contact details.....email.....</p> <p>Please send me:tickets @ £20 each - I enclose a self-addressed & stamped envelope and cheque in the amount of : £..... made out to Aliquando Choir.</p> <p>Please send form and remittance to Aliquando Choir, 6(b) Wilson Avenue, Henley on Thames, RG9 1ET</p>
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