

THE
NEWSLETTER
WINTER 2019

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THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION



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Henley's 2019 Remembrance Sunday Service

Henley Town Hall steps were bedecked with wreaths of poppies laid by veterans, representatives of our community groups and charities, civic dignitaries, and members of the public. The wreaths lay poignantly on the steps just under the memorial to the soldiers from Henley who gave their lives fighting in the two world wars.

Their bravery will be commemorated each year on Remembrance
John Maxwell Edmonds' Kohima Epitaph:

*"When you go home, Tell them of us and say,
For your tomorrow, we gave our today"*



Photos courtesy of Henley Standard

Dates for your Diary

Meetings are held on 3rd Monday of the month unless otherwise advised.

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 by email to Helen Walsh on helenwalsh2014@gmail.com or 01491 638885

Meeting & Talks 2020

20 January - John Green - 'A Hill too Far'

John, the Chairman of the Branch, has raised funds for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal for more than 25 years through various treks including Wainwright's Coast to Coast Walk, UK 3Peaks, Tibet, Nepal, and Bhutan.

He will be giving an account of his latest fundraising adventure at the age of 84, trekking through the highlands of Ethiopia led by Rebecca Stephens MBE the first English woman to climb Everest. This includes reaching the top of Ras Dashen, the highest peak in Ethiopia at 15000ft. Was it a hill too far?

If you would like to support John, please go to the JustGiving website: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/john-green48> or send a cheque made payable to 'Royal British Legion' to Mrs A Arscott, Poppy Appeal Organiser, 4 The Court House, Northfield End, Henley-on-Thames RG9 2JN

17 February - Lyndon Yorke - 'Survey of UK, Then and Now'

An international aerial survey specialist since 'Pontius' was a Pilot! – Lyndon has carried out aerial survey in 120+ countries varying from conventional mapping – oil mineral surveys, environmental monitoring, agricultural/forestry surveys and setting up the Google flying in Europe. In some countries his actions have been construed as spying and he has been jailed three times and shot at five times.

16 March - Toby Greenwood - 'In and Out of Law'

Toby was born in Mombasa and had a humble beginning where his family lived in an old army hut with an outside loo. But at the age of nine he was sent to boarding school in the UK. He started his career in law as an articled clerk to his uncle at £5 a week. Toby qualified as a solicitor in 1979 and rose to senior partner position 1994. Toby was involved in setting up Henley Citizens Advice Bureau, Eyot Centre and the Face of Henley charities. He was a scout leader in Stoke Row for several years and set up a spring camp to bring cubs and scouts closer together

20 April - Bruce Duncan MBE - 'The Lone Soldier'

Due to his early childhood, Bruce was accustomed to living and working with people from different races, cultures and religions. This made him suitable for employment on loan to the armed forces of third world countries friendly to UK. He was assigned to six such deployments during his 37 years in the Army; an unusually high number. These were in sequence: Brunei, Sudan, Nigeria, Oman, Kuwait and Jordan. Bruce will explain the reason why UK adopted a policy for Loan Service and then gives a snapshot of the benefits and challenges he and his family experienced in the six countries in which he served on loan.

18 May - John Hudson - 'Honorable Artillery Company's Light Horse Cavalry'

John is a member of the Honorable Artillery Company's Light Cavalry that was reformed as a ceremonial unit of the HAC in 1979, and takes on Guard of Honour Duties at Buckingham Palace. Light Cavalry's duties include escorting the Lady Mayoress on the Lord Mayor's parade along with providing a carpet guard at the Law Courts. In April 2004, the Captain General of the HAC, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, presented to the Light Cavalry a Royal Warrant that enacts the rights and responsibilities of this sub-unit of her famous Regiment.

"We welcome suggestions for speakers for future events. Please email henley@saraabey.com".

"We would like to thank Henley Branch Member Richard Pinches for his kind assistance at our 90th Anniversary celebrations in June 2019 and for permission to use his official photographs of the day published in our Summer Newsletter. An album illustrating the day's events is now available to view at all our Branch events.

Gurkha Evening 12 October



Photo courtesy of The Henley Standard

Samantha Thirlby-Smith who runs the Happy Gurkha and whose staff are former Gurkha soldiers, orchestrated a very 'Happy Gurkha' evening for around 45 members and friends of the Henley and Peppard Branch of the Royal British Legion. The dinner of delicious Nepalese curries and side dishes was held in the Christ Church Centre on Saturday 12 October.

John Green, branch president, gave the Exhortation at the start which focused the minds on the terrific contribution the Gurkhas have made to the British Army for more than 200 years, after which Samantha gave a short presentation showing how the Gurkha Welfare Trust works to bring supplies to remote villages in Nepal. £120 was raised from the evening and a number of guests signed up to become sponsors of the Trust.

A very happy and interesting time was had by all, so much so that the branch have decided to have another such event in the future, so watch this space!



Poppy Appeal

At the Branch AGM, Annie Arscott, our poppy appeal organiser presented the results of the collection period 2018/19 September to September as £32,000 including Peppard. An increase of £6,000 from last year.

26th October 2019 John Green launched this year's Poppy Appeal by selling the first Poppy to Henley's deputy Mayor in the Market Square. The launch was accompanied by Sam Brown and her Ukulele Band



The money raised by the appeal will go towards helping members of the British Armed forces, both those in service currently and veterans, as well as their families. Annie Arscott, the poppy appeal organiser said that the importance of the Poppy Appeal launch is to raise money for the poppy appeal, and to kick off two weeks of collecting here in Henley where she is so grateful for people's generosity.

The RBL's aim is to get over £50 million this year and it's there to support servicemen, their families and the veterans, and for the civilians who support the soldiers at GCHQ. Annie's son, James, is a Captain in the Royal Marines, who is about to be deployed operationally toward the end of the year so she knows first-hand how valuable the support of the Royal British Legion can be and how important it is to support them.

Henley came to a halt on Sunday 10 November as hundreds of people paused to honour the soldiers who sacrificed their lives for their country. The Remembrance Sunday service, held on the Town Hall steps, was attended by veterans, servicemen, civic dignitaries, members of the Royal British Legion, local armed forces and reserves units, cadet forces, and youth organisations including the Brownies, Scouts, Cubs and Guides, as well as the many members of the public who paid their respects to the fallen

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*



Photos courtesy of Henley Herald

