



# THE NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2017

BR0753



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## Website :

[www.rbl-henley.org](http://www.rbl-henley.org)



## Poppy Launch 2017

Mollie Jeffrey - Membership Secretary

Annie Arscott - Poppy Appeal Organiser

RBL Committee Member - Stan Ainsley

## Sam Brown's Ukulele Group entertaining the crowds gathered for the Poppy Launch 2017



## 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 or phone to our Branch Secretary **Email** c.w.davies70@btinternet - **phone** 01189 722527



**18 December 2017**  
**Branch Christmas Lunch**  
**11.30 for Lunch at 12**



## Events - 2018

**15 January - Peter Blaker** 'The role of 1st Green Jackets (our county regiment) in suppressing the Brunei Rebellion in December 1962'.

**19 February - Dr Noel Snell**  
'The History of Medicine'

**19 March - Michaela Clarke**  
Editor of The Henley Herald

**16 April - David Lees**  
'Life in France during wartime'

**21 May - Margaret Thomas,**  
'Community fundraiser for Sue Ryder in Nettlebed'

## Members Offer - RBL Enamelled Lapel Pin



Henley Branch has in stock a number of membership lapel badges to offer to existing members.

The badges are made of high quality enamel and feature The Royal British Legion lion design, measuring 19mm x 12mm.

The cost of each badge is £5, as advertised on the RBL shop website. However, by ordering from the Henley Branch

Membership Secretary and collecting your order at a Henley Branch meeting this will save you the RBL's shop's charge of just under £4 for postage and packing. If you are unable to attend a meeting in the near future your order can of course be posted to you at a much reduced rate.

Please place your order with Henley Branch Membership Secretary Mollie Jeffrey (Mollie@billjeffrey.com), making sure to include your contact details, and she will confirm payment and collection arrangements with you.

## Poppy Appeal



**PLEASE WILL YOU SUPPORT MY  
FUNDRAISING PARACHUTE JUMP  
IN AID OF  
THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION?**



Not to be completely outdone by Stan, John and David who have raised so much money for the Legion on the Nijmegen Marches, yet admittedly far less ambitiously I've signed up to do a parachute jump to raise funds for our Branch Poppy Appeal.

I'm not absolutely sure what got into me but at the launch of our Poppy Appeal in Henley market square on 28th October it suddenly seemed a terribly good idea to do this. Somehow I convinced myself that it would be terrific to leap out of a plane at 14,000' in tandem with a handsome Red Devil. However terrifying the prospect seems to be now that I'm all booked in for 1st May 2018 at Old Sarum Airfield in Salisbury, there's no going back!

It would be wonderful if you would be willing to sponsor me in aid of the RBL by following this simple link to my JustGiving page:

**<https://www.justgiving.com/Mollie-Jeffrey>**

Donating this way is simple, fast and totally secure. Your details are safe – JustGiving will never sell them on or send unwanted emails. Once you donate, they'll send your money directly to the charity. So it's the most efficient way to donate - saving time and cutting costs for the charity.



Thank you so much!  
Mollie  
Henley Branch Membership Secretary

## 'Lest we Forget'



Michael Willoughby and his wife Lesley of Henley and on behalf of 'Lest we Forget' placed poppy crosses (modified as attached picture) given to them by the Local Branch of RBL, on the graves and memorials on 290 soldiers and airmen in their recent 12 day trip of over 1000 miles around Belgium and France.

One such grave was of Lieut. John Edwin Pugh RFC at Gosselies Cemetery. He rowed for Shrewsbury School at Henley Regatta in 1914 and was the last British Airman shot down in WW1. He died of his wounds the following day on 12th November 1918 aged 19.



## **GREAT PILGRIMAGE 90**

**DATE - Sunday 5 August 2018 - Thursday 9 August 2018**

**LOCATION - Ypres, Belgium**

In the biggest membership event in its history, The Royal British Legion is recreating its 1928 pilgrimage to World War One battlefields.

A decade after the end of WW1, veterans and war widows visited the battlefields of the Somme and Ypres before marching to the Menin Gate in Ypres on 8 August 1928.

Exactly 90 years later, thousands of Legion members will recreate The 1928 Great Pilgrimage to visit the same battlefields and then, on 8 August 2018, carry their standards along the same route to the Menin Gate, to commemorate the last 100 days of WW1 and represent an entire generation that served while defending their country

Members of the public are welcome to watch the parade to the Menin Gate where a Remembrance service will be held. Following the service, spectators can head to the Great Square for an afternoon of exhibitions and musical performances.

Additionally, an organised tour commemorating the last 100 days of WW1 includes the GP90 event. The five day tour visits battlefield sites in France and Belgium such as Ypres, Mons and Loos.

Please go to our branch website ([www.rbl-henley.org](http://www.rbl-henley.org)) and you will find a link to the main source of information on the main RBL main where you will also see a video of the 1928 Pilgrimage - ( Image credit: © Imperial War Museums (Q 47901) )

Our branch will be represented by John Green carrying the branch standard. His grandson Edward will lay a wreath and he will be wearing his great-grandfathers wwi medals.

### **Message from a branch member**

"You would have been very proud of me. I was on a beach in Antigua at 11.00 their time on the 11th November, and I said I would be pleased if anyone would like to join me in the 2 Minute silence. Which everyone did and I was thanked for arranging it.

**Sandra Moon**



## The Face of Remembrance

Councillor Kellie Hinton encouraged Henley to support the Royal British Legion, to donate generously and to remember the sacrifices of past heroes. She said it was important for all members of the community – including the young children of our town – to understand the full meaning of Remembrance Sunday.

She referred to an event she had attended, which had been organised by Councillor David Eggleton and the Royal British Legion, for local school children in Year 5. The children had been asked what Remembrance means to them. Her address included the emotional poem (below) created at this event, written by children from Sacred Heart School highlighting the word "Remember"

*Remember everyone who didn't see the next sun rise,  
Every day we will not forget them,  
More people have died than we could ever imagine,  
Every year poppies will rise; wear yours with pride,  
May we be silent to pray and keep them in our hearts,  
Buried in unmarked graves,  
Everyone gather on remembrance day, to  
Remind us of the peace the fallen have brought.*



Courtesev of The Henlev Herald





As reported elsewhere in this Newsletter and the local Press the Remembrance Service and Parade was one of the best attended in recent years.

Conducting the service for the last time in Henley was The Revd Canon Martyn Griffiths, Rector of Henley with Remenham. He is also our Branch Padre.

His address set the tone for this significant event in the town's calendar and as always his message of remembrance, peace and hope for the future struck an appreciative chord in all those present. His leadership will be missed.

## Henley Primary Schools Remember



Year 5 pupils from Sacred Heart, Badgemore, St Mary's and Rupert House primary schools took part in a Remembrance Day event at Makins recreational ground on 11 November.

Cllr Dave Eggleton had arranged the gathering at which each school composed and read a poem about what the red poppy means to them.

John Green addressed the pupils and explained the full significance of the poppy, that it was not just for remembrance but for peace and hope for the future. He also stressed the Poppy Appeal funds are used support ex-service men and women who had been scarred physically or mentally by war.

Finally the children placed crosses in a plot of remembrance



## Peppard and District

This year we especially remembered those who fell at the Battle of Passchendaele, especially Ernest Henry Pike who was killed on 16 August 1917 and his step-brother Albert Bernard Knight who died of wounds on 25 July 1918. Both these names appear on The Peppard War Memorial, sited in All Saints' churchyard.

**Nick Launders**

## Repatriation - Royal Marine James Holloway

Wed 8th November saw the repatriation of Royal Marine James Holloway. The details of his death have not been disclosed. However the passing of the cortege at the " Final Turn" en route to the John Radcliffe was honoured in the traditional way.

Among those in attendance were the Lord Mayor of Oxford, The Chief Inspector of Police, RBL county chairman, RBL Oxford City president also 25 veterans from the three armed services and about 150 members of the general public.

At the passing of the cortege Associations and RBL standards were lowered including Coldstream Guards, Household Division(Banbury), Royal Dragoon Guards. RBL Islip, Kidlington, Marston, Oxford City, Peppard (Colin Davies) Henley-on-Thames (John Green). This brief but solemn event has, fortunately, become less frequent in recent years

### Wreath laying - 13 October 2017

A wreath was laid by John Green on behalf of the Branch at the memorial of the battle of Hohenzollern Redoubt fought near the village of Auchy les Mines in France 13/14 October 1915 by 46th (North Midland) Division (TF). The Division suffered 3,763 casualties of which 1308 were killed and only 7% have known graves. John's father, then a sergeant with 1st/8th Bn Sherwood Foresters was awarded the Military Medal.

The wreath laying ceremony was attended by associations representing the counties of Leicestershire, Staffordshire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire whose territorial regiments suffered so greatly.



The Mayor of Auchy les Mines laid a wreath. Standard bearers of local ex-service organisations also attended. After the ceremony the Mayor invited participants to "vin d'honneur" and splendid buffet at the village hall.

### Poppy Appeal 2017

The next edition of the Newsletter will carry all the information about the highly successful launch and proceeds of the 2017 Poppy Appeal

### Editorial Post Script

My grateful thanks to Anne for this bumper Newsletter, which she had done while I was out of action. I had planned a long editorial, but there is no space. So, I briefly commend the Remembrance Weekend and all who participated. I look forward to our Centennial Commemorative Year of 2018.

Lastly I wish to express gratitude to our Padre, Martyn, He has served us remarkably well and from the time he joined the Committee, has given the benefit of his wisdom and experience for which we are all grateful.

We wish him a happy retirement, and I wish you all a very Happy Christmas

**Malcolm Page**



*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.*

