

**HENLEY & PEPPARD BRANCH
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - NEWSLETTER
WINTER 2014**



Editor - Malcolm Page (01491 578712)
malcolm.page55@btinternet.com
Assistant Editor – Anne Evans 01491 578238

Distribution - Stan Ainsley (07935 755 905)
stanainsley@hotmail.com

Editorial

In Flanders fields the poppies grow, between the crosses, row on row. &
If you break faith with us who die, We shall not sleep, Though poppies bloom in Flanders fields.
Lt Col John Mc Cray

This letter brings you news of our recent branch activities as well as information about a number of interesting events and future dates for your diaries. During this auspicious year, many wonderful initiatives have blossomed country wide such as the 'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red' in the Tower of London, and locally too in our own communities and schools. Read more about the poppies in the tower initiative and the chance to hear first-hand from Fiamma Montagu, the producer of that exhibition.....read on!

Oh! PS – please kindly book early for events/lunches by telephone, email by or the form attached.

Breaking News of interest for your diaries !

Wednesday 26 November –Talk by Fiamma Montagu, Producer of the Exhibition at the Tower 'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red' @ Christ Church Centre 7.30 for 8pm
Tickets £10 from **Memories-4-U** in Market Place Mews, Henley or Stan Ainsley 07935 755 905

Monday 8 December –Committee Meeting 10.30 - Christmas Lunch 12 for 12.30
NB – a new initiative for a trial period has been arranged and agreed with Henley Handibus to offer a door-to-door service – Please read further detailed information below.

2015 Lunch Meeting Diary

Mondays 19 January 16 February 16 March 20 April 18 May 15 June 20 July 17 August 21 September 19 October 8 November 14 December	In general the timings are as published below unless otherwise advised Talk 11.30 Lunch 12.00 for 12.30 Speakers for our monthly lunch date next year are in the process of being established and will be detailed in the next Newsletter
---	--

**HENLEY & PEPPARD BRANCH
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - NEWSLETTER
WINTER 2014**

Previous Events

Monday 20 October

The National Chairman John Crisford's visit and Branch AGM



Saturday 8 November

RBL Poppy Appeal Concert - Aliquando Chamber Choir Conductor – Patrick Hawes



Poppy Appeal Report



Static Collections	6097.14	Up 14%
House to House	5526.65	Up 18%
Street Collections	8477.36	Up 38%
Provisional total at this date	20,101.00	Up 24%

It has been an exceptional year. There were 4 days of street collections rather than 3 this year & that has produced additional donations without any adverse effect on the other day's street collections or the house-to-house or static collections.

The launch day with the ukuleles & the last day with the cadets & military vehicles were

HENLEY & PEPPARD BRANCH
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - NEWSLETTER
WINTER 2014

particularly successful. There were a number of effective new collectors including those recruited by Stan & Nick at the Volunteers Fair. The schools packs of special product proved especially popular and Brian has once again surpassed himself personally collecting £4 536.59 - almost a quarter of the total.

Additionally we received donations from:

Accrington Pals - The Henley Players kindly donated half the programme sales at Accrington Pals

Alan Mead who kindly donated all the proceeds of sale of his book, Kalanyot about the paratroopers.

Henley Concert Singers at Rotherfield Greys village hall.

Poppy Appeal Concert organised by Aliquando Chamber Choir Raised over £6000 - A packed St Mary's Church was treated to a world premiere of a piece of music composed by Patrick Hawes to the Wilfred Owen poem, I Know the Music, read by Major Paul Smyth MBE and performed with distinction by Aliquando Chamber Choir and West Forest Sinfonia. The concert was a fitting memorial to the casualties from Henley and surrounding villages in this centenary year.

The Roaring 20s Party which raised over £5000 was organised by Connie Butt and Sam Thirlby. It was a fabulous evening. The town hall was transformed into a haven of feathers and pearls. Everyone got into the party spirit with some wonderful flapper dresses from the ladies. Beetlejuice shook the cocktails and the Sound Force Big Band packed the dance floor with great jazz. A highlight of the evening was a very special curry cooked by the The Happy Gurkhas.

As well as terrific fun, it was a successful fund raising event for the Poppy Appeal, with some especially generous raffle and auction prizes, including a week in a villa near Biarritz. Our thanks to the organiser, Connie Butt, her daughter, Sam Thirlby Smith, our guests the mayor and mayoress, Martin & Glynnis Akehurst and all who contributed to the success of the night."

News

November 13th 2014 *Picture of Rt Hon Theresa May with Standard Bearers*



John Green and Brian Hughes attended a dedication at Hennerton Golf Club of a memorial to the air crew of a US B17 Flying Fortress "Sunrise Serenader" which crashed near Wargrave on 13th November 1943.

The aircraft was on-route to a bombing mission over Germany when it inexplicably exploded. Eight of the ten crew died instantly, one airman manning the ball turret was killed when the plane crashed into the Thames, and one crew member, Radio Operator Alan Purdy survived having managed to bail-out at about 1000 ft into the trees!

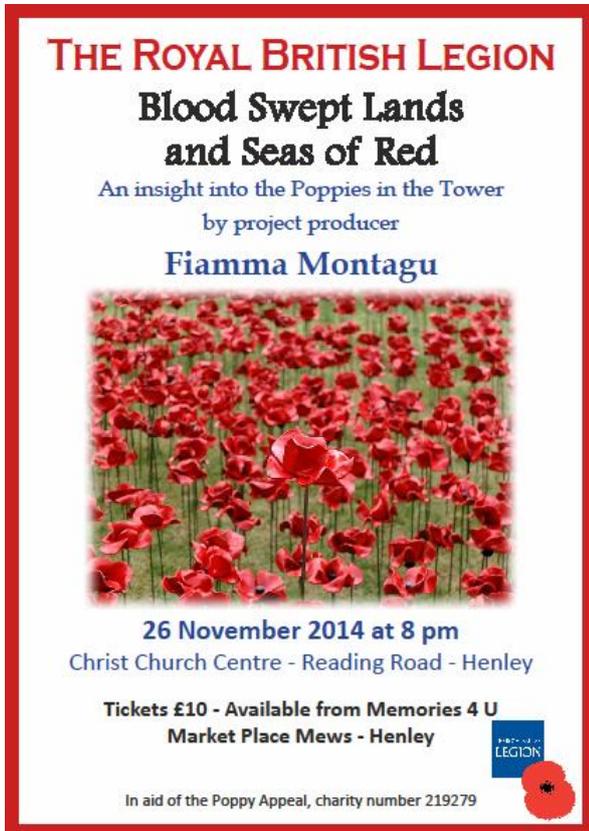
Brian's presence at the ceremony was particularly poignant because as a schoolboy he actually saw the plane explode. Brian, with the Branch Standard, flanked the memorial with the Wargrave Standard Bearer while the memorial was unveiled by Rt Hon Theresa May (Home Secretary) and Brigadier General Dieter Bareihs, USAF, US Defense Attache. As the national anthems of Great Britain and the United

States of America were played by students of Shiplake College, Standards were lowered and a two minutes silence observed.

HENLEY & PEPPARD BRANCH
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - NEWSLETTER
WINTER 2014

Events

Wednesday 26 November 2014 - Talk on the installation of the Poppies at the Tower of London.
Christ Church Centre at 7.30 for 8pm – Tickets £10



We are delighted to announce that Fiamma Montagu, Producer of the Exhibition "Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red" will give us a unique opportunity to hear how this amazing display came to life

Come and hear her talk - Tickets are £10 each and can be obtained from Stan Ainsley – Tel 07935 755 905 or any Committee member. Alternatively they can be bought from **Memories-4-U** in Market Place Mews, Henley.

NB - This is open to all members, friends and non-members.

Fiamma has been working with the artist Paul Cummins to create this amazing installation. She says:

"From the outset, the scale of the project seemed daunting. In terms of the ceramic poppies themselves, we have had to add a further 200 poppy makers in addition to the original team in Derby and have scoured the country for people prepared to dedicate themselves to this. I was lucky to find some wonderful and

knowledgeable teams"

Monday 8 December 2015 – Committee Meeting followed by Christmas Lunch – Christ Church Centre

NB – a new initiative for a trial period has been arranged and agreed with Henley Handibus to offer a door-to-door service for those members who struggle a little to get to our meetings for whatever reason, or may simple find it more convenient. This trial will have no costs attached for branch members and their guests.

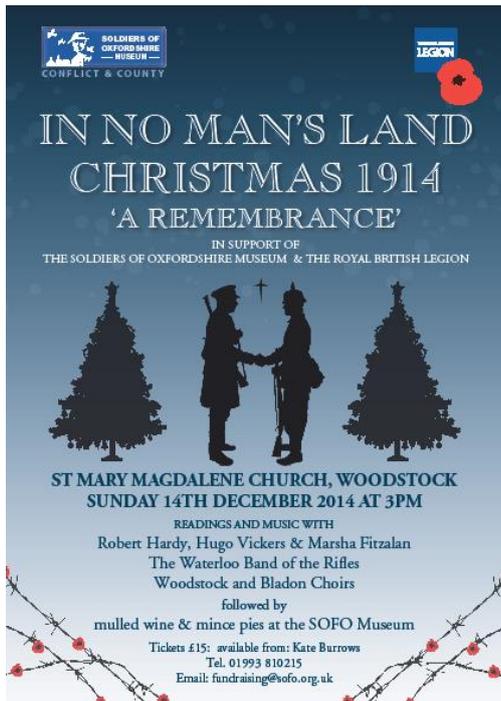
The trial will take place on 8th December for the Christmas Lunch and the service will cover Henley and Peppard addresses and will involve collecting from the home and taking to Christ Church Centre and returning to the members home after the lunch.

NB - Please kindly let Stan know if you are planning to come to the Branch Christmas Lunch and would also like to take up this trial offer of transport provided. The same format to book applies – phone Stan on 07935755905 or fill in the form provided below for your convenience.

Please let Stan know in good time.

HENLEY & PEPPARD BRANCH
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - NEWSLETTER
WINTER 2014

Sunday 14th December – *St Mary Magdalene Church, Woodstock* - Tickets £15 @ 3pm
A concert in support of The Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum & The Royal British Legion.



Readings and Music with

Robert Hardy, Hugo Vickers & Marsha Fitzalan
The Waterloo Band of the Rifles
Woodstock and Bladon Choirs

Mulled wine and mince pies at the SOFO Museum

Tickets from Kate Burrows – 01993 810215
Email – fundraising@sofo.org.uk

Henley & District Talking Newspaper

This is an audio version of the Henley Standard which is available to the blind and partially sighted. For further information on this service, please contact **Richard Hodgkin on 01491 573192**.
www.henleytalkingnewspapers.org.uk.

Last Post

Sadly, we have lost Dr Chris Lee. He was born in Manchester and attended North Manchester High School. After employment by the Air Ministry, working in meteorology he took a degree in general science then was called up for National Service. He was in the Royal Corps of Signals, and served in Egypt and Cyprus. Subsequent employment was with the Colonial Pesticide Research Institute. Later he became deputy director of the Mosquito Research and Control Unit in the Cayman Islands. After this appointment, Hazel and he settled in Henley.

For the next 20 years until retirement, Cliff travelled extensively. He wrote many scientific papers and was awarded a PhD in science by London University. He became a member of our branch in in 2002 and Hazel and he regularly attended our lunches until quite recently. He died suddenly at home, on Sunday 28 September 2014.

Our condolences go to Hazel, her daughters Carole and Sarah and to all other members of the family.

On Tuesday 21 October a tree was planted at Phyllis Court Club in memory of Daphne Hughes. Malcolm Page was invited and gave a short address on the lines of the obituary in the last issue of the Newsletter.

**HENLEY & PEPPARD BRANCH
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - NEWSLETTER
WINTER 2014**

Branch Booking Form for Lunch or any other named event (eg social events or outings)

Name ----- Talk & Lunch - -----
Please reserve----- at £---- each

OR

Name - ----- Named Event-----
Please reserve----- at £ ----- each

NB – Cash on the day please

Send to – Stan Ainsley, Ash Tree Cottage, HoT, RG9 6EZ
Phone - 07935 755905
Email – stanainsley@hotmail.com

Sign.....

Date