



THE
NEWSLETTER
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On 6th February
this year Her Majesty the
Queen became the first British
Monarch to celebrate a Platinum
Jubilee, marking 70 years of service to the
people of the United Kingdom, the Realms and
The Commonwealth.





Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee will be celebrated at home and abroad in many different ways and great initiatives set in motion, some of which caught my attention and a couple in particular I'd like to share with you.

But first please add the special date of Sunday the 5th of June to your diary, when our local RBL Branch of Henley & Peppard will celebrate locally, by taking taking part in a special Church Service of Evensong in St Mary's Church Henley at 4pm by kind invitation of Fr Jeremy Tayler.

Branch Standards will be on parade and it would be wonderful to see you all there

The Queen's Green Canopy generating the planting of large, celebration trees, new **majestic avenues of trees**, urban planting, and expansive new forests that will benefit future generations. Every planting is being recorded on a digital Queen's Green Canopy map which will be presented to Her Majesty at the end of the Jubilee year.

The Queen's Green Canopy is also working to protect 70 ancient trees and woodlands that are a valuable part of the UK's heritage and history and has launched a special training programme to teach unemployed young people new skills in tree planting and management, as well as a Young Foresters Award to highlight the value of trees to school children. The Queen's Green Canopy will continue throughout 2022 and into March 2023.

Our own 'Majestic Avenue' - The Fairmile

It is written that in the late eighteenth to early nineteenth century there was no finer public entrance to a town anywhere in the kingdom than the Fair Mile in Henley. The Fair Mile was then blessed with Elms on either side planted in 1751 but which eventually succumbed to disease. To celebrate the Queen's Coronation Princess Margaret planted the first Oak tree of the avenue of trees which now line the Fair Mile approaching Henley-on-Thames from Oxford.

The Queen's Birthday Parade (Trooping the Colour): Over 1,400 parading soldiers, 200 horses and 400 musicians will come together in the traditional Parade to mark The Queen's official birthday, usually held on the second Saturday in June.

Beginning at Buckingham Palace, the Parade will move down The Mall to Horse Guard's Parade, joined by Members of the Royal Family on horseback and in carriages. The Parade will close with the traditional RAF fly-past, watched by The Queen and Members of the Royal Family from the Buckingham Palace balcony.

Tickets for this incredible spectacular are available to the public and applications for the ballot are open until the end of February. Please visit gbp.army.mod.uk from the week commencing 17 January 2022 to apply.

The Big Jubilee Lunch:

Every year since the idea began in 2009 The Big Lunch has encouraged communities to celebrate their connections and get to know each other a little bit better, coming together in a spirit of fun and friendship. In 2022 The Big Lunch will bring the Jubilee celebrations into the heart of every community.

People are invited to share friendship, food and fun with neighbours as part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

A Big Jubilee Lunch can be big or small - street party or picnic, tea and cake or a garden barbeque. The Big Lunch provides tips and ideas for hosting an event.

Over 1400 people have registered to host Big Jubilee Lunches so far, with events being planned across the length and breadth of the country, hopefully in Henley and surrounds too!

Anne Evans - Branch Chairman



PS Please note that we are also on the lookout for interesting articles and/or pictures to include in our Newsletters. If you would like to contribute please send your article and photo to me 2anne.evans@sky.com, as soon as possible. I look forward to hearing from you soon.





SANDRINGHAM HOUSE

5th February, 2022.

Tomorrow, 6th February, marks the 70th anniversary of my Accession in 1952. It is a day that, even after 70 years, I still remember as much for the death of my father, King George VI, as for the start of my reign.

As we mark this anniversary, it gives me pleasure to renew to you the pledge I gave in 1947 that my life will always be devoted to your service.

As I look ahead with a sense of hope and optimism to the year of my Platinum Jubilee, I am reminded of how much we can be thankful for. These last seven decades have seen extraordinary progress socially, technologically and culturally that have benefitted us all; and I am confident that the future will offer similar opportunities to us and especially to the younger generations in the United Kingdom and throughout the Commonwealth.

I am fortunate to have had the steadfast and loving support of my family. I was blessed that in Prince Philip I had a partner willing to carry out the role of consort and unselfishly make the sacrifices that go with it. It is a role I saw my own mother perform during my father's reign.

This anniversary also affords me a time to reflect on the goodwill shown to me by people of all nationalities, faiths and ages in this country and around the world over these years. I would like to express my thanks to you all for your support. I remain eternally grateful for, and humbled by, the loyalty and affection that you continue to give me. And when, in the fullness of time, my son Charles becomes King, I know you will give him and his wife Camilla the same support that you have given me; and it is my sincere wish that, when that time comes, Camilla will be known as Queen Consort as she continues her own loyal service.

And so as I look forward to continuing to serve you with all my heart, I hope this Jubilee will bring together families and friends, neighbours and communities – after some difficult times for so many of us – in order to enjoy the celebrations and to reflect on the positive developments in our day-to-day lives that have so happily coincided with my reign.

Tom Servant

Elizabeth R

Recently, the Henley Army Cadets have been busy on a company weekend, covering skills ranging from fieldcraft to to shooting. For some of our newer recruits, it was their first weekend away from home, and under some intense weather conditions. Colour Serjeant Franklin, Serjeant Addiscott, Corporal Barrow & Corporal Iveson were presented with the Commander's Certificates of Appreciation for outstanding efforts during the training. Two Henley cadets also achieved their Basic star passes. The next Company Weekend is in May, focusing on fieldcraft scenarios.

Henley Detachment said goodbye to Company Serjeant Major Jessica Smyth and Serjeant Maria Korsunova. They have both spent many years with the Army Cadets, achieving their Duke of Edinburgh awards at Gold and Silver level and becoming National Orienteering champions. Company Serjeant Major Jessica Smyth recently received The Wellington Award; this is awarded to the Best Senior Cadet within the Company.

As Company Serjeant Major departed, it left a gap in our Cadet Leadership team. Cadet Colour Serjeant Charlie James has recently been promoted to fill the role as Company Serjeant Major. He has been a part of the ACF since 2017, achieving many things along the way, including the Rifles Skills Competition, Senior Cadet Instructor Cadre, Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award, and representing the Royal British Legion as a standard-bearer.

Many of the cadets recently achieved Duke of Edinburgh section awards. Serjeant Abbie Addiscott-Allen, Corporal Pati Gwiazda and Corporal Amelia Jacob all achieved Silver section awards, and Cadet Angelika Gwiazda achieved a Bronze section award. Big congratulations to Corporal Pati Gwiazda, who completed her Silver Award.



CSM Jessica Smyth handing over to CSM Charlie James

Previously

Henley Detachment, Oxfordshire Army Cadet Force, held their Annual Christmas Dinner and Awards Ceremony. There were six awards to be won; Best Recruit, Best Cadet, Best NCO, Best Drill & Turnout, Best Shot and The Fearn Shield. All these awards acknowledge the determination, commitment and progressions of Henley's cadets over the last year. A massive well done to the cadets for a fantastic and successful 2021.

Awards won:

- Best Recruit – Cadet Callum Lee
- Best Cadet – Lance Corporal Millie
- Best NCO – CSM Jessica Smyth
- Best Shot – Colour Serjeant Charlie James
- Best Drill and Turnout - Grace Iveson
- The Fearn Shield – Serjeant Stephanie Green

The Fearn Shield is awarded to the cadet who has supported the Detachment Commander the most)



Henley Detachment say farewell to Ex-Cadet **Colour Serjeant Ashleigh Poolan** who has spent four years at Henley Detachment and has achieved 4 star, Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award, Senior Cadet Instructors Cadre and is a national Orienteering Champion.

Henley Detachment also say farewell Lieutenant (Lt) Nathan Scott who has also spent four years at Henley Detachment. Lt Scott has taken on a new appointment as the County's First-aid training officer.

Cadets from Henley Detachment spent a weekend away in February, at the Weekend Training Centre in Bicester. These weekends happen every 3 months and give the cadets a chance to undergo further training such as Target Competition Shooting and Weapons Handling.

The Army Cadet Force is a national youth organisation sponsored and supported by the Ministry of Defence for 12 to 18-year olds; Army Cadets provides a challenging and varied syllabus based on military themes.

Henley Army Cadet Force parade every Wednesday from 1900 to 2130 at The Drill Hall on Friday Street and are currently looking for new Cadets and Adult Volunteers, feel free to come along and experience something new.

Please email the Detachment Commander, 2Lt Mel Fearn on 3360hayne@armymail.mod.uk

Poppy Appeal

The Poppy Appeal Organiser's Log

Thanks to the Henley and Peppard community and a small dedicated team of volunteers, our 2021 Remembrance Poppy Appeal was a great success. Our appeal raised over £35,000 towards the charitable aims of the Royal British Legion, increasing pre-pandemic levels by more than 50%.



This was against the national trend. The final UK figure is yet to be confirmed by RBL, but, with the pandemic's toll on the nation, it is predicted that the total amount collected will be low. So, locally, it would be wonderful if we could try to help raise more funds throughout the year. I would be very grateful if any members with great fundraising ideas or who have some spare time to volunteer for the Poppy Appeal could get in touch with me.



In tandem with RBL's ambitions to futureproof its charitable aims, Henley's younger generation took the lead in launching Henley-on-Thames Community Poppy Appeal into the future in 2021, with Henley Army Cadets and Gillotts school Head Students presenting the appeal to the town. And the future looked bright!



We are thankful to our volunteer, Richard Pinches for not only collecting the highest level of donations - £2,352 - but also for introducing the filmmaker, Luke Walker, who created an inspiring film of the appeal's launch. You can watch it on YouTube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3KNC38i0X9I>

Our Poppy Appeal has a new structure to help it run more efficiently even with the low numbers of volunteers coming forward to help. And now, we are very thoughtfully supported by our Parish Church, St Mary's and the local banking community, especially Barclays and Nationwide. St Mary's gave us free use of the tranquil Chantry House as our Poppy Hub and storage, and the banks generously provided an effective counting and recording system.

In 2021, for the first time, we established a joint team effort with Henley Tesco to set up an in-store Poppy stall during Remembrance. It was very successful. If we can increase our volunteer force, we should be able to do the same in Henley Waitrose.

We were also able to form a strong new relationship with our neighbours at RAF Benson, and a team of their officers helped us to collect donations. We are hoping to work more closely together in the coming years.



I am in awe of the generous efforts of our small team of registered volunteers. They contributed so much, not just with collecting donations but also cleaning and sorting stock, managing distribution logistics, going the extra mile with classic military uniforms and vehicles, and most importantly, winning our townsfolk's hearts.



In 2022 RBL is marking the 40th anniversary of the Falklands War, as well as celebrating our patron, Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. There will be two commemorative lapel pins marking these occasions available from late Spring to help us to raise donations.

Sara Abey - Henley-on-Thames Poppy Appeal Organiser - henley@saraabey.com

Arthur's Birthday

This month we received an email from the Membership Support Officer for Oxfordshire & Northamptonshire concerning one of the last veterans of WW2, who was celebrating his 100th birthday on 27 February 2022.

Arthur had served in the Northampton & Norfolk Regiments during WW2, seeing active service in Egypt and Sicily before being wounded and returned to service in the UK. He had been an active member of the RBL, and his wife was a PAO for 52 years.

The downside of living into great old age is that inevitably loved ones, family and friends have sadly passed on, and Arthur now lives alone and doesn't have many visitors. The local RBL Branch, therefore, visit Arthur regularly and have arranged with the Royal Anglian Regiment for some serving soldiers, armed with a birthday cake and some beer, to visit Arthur on his special day.

In addition, they have requested that the wider RBL community send cards to Arthur to make this an even more special occasion for him and the Henley Branch will be sending a card on behalf of all our members. Hopefully, he will have a wonderfully enjoyable day that we will have played a small part in.

Sometimes it is in just little ways that the RBL can help its members and if there is anything that you feel we can do to help someone who is part of our community please do let us know.

Karen Grieve



HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY

Taking it one step further, John Green found the Egypt emblem on Regimental Badge of the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment and Karen arranged to have this special card printed for us all to sign.

Thank you Karen & John

The Falklands Conflict - 40th Anniversary Commemoration

Thousands of veterans, civilians, and bereaved families will be invited to attend an event at the [National Memorial Arboretum](#) on Tuesday 14 June to mark 40 years since the end of the conflict.

Our commemorations will focus on the broad range of military and civilian involvement in all aspects of the Falklands campaign, which was unprecedented in modern times.



The Falklands Conflict started on 2 April 1982 and was the first military action since the Second World War that utilised all elements of the Armed Forces.

The conflict lasted 74 days, during which seven ships were lost to enemy action, nine aircraft were shot down, and 255 British personnel lost their lives. Their names are all inscribed on the Armed Forces Memorial at the Arboretum.

On the morning of the event there will be an opportunity for unit associations to conduct intimate commemorations at their respective memorials within the Arboretum.

In the afternoon, the Royal British Legion will hold a special, commemorative event centred around the Armed Forces Memorial. This will feature veteran testimonies from key moments in the conflict as well as the [Act of Remembrance](#).

This event will bring together the experiences of veterans of the conflict from across all three of the Armed Services, as well as those Merchant Mariners and other civilians that played a pivotal role in supporting the Task Force.

Registration for this event is open to veterans of the Conflict and their spouses/partners, as well as members of civilian organisations that supported the Task Force and will be open until 29 April 2022.

Those wishing to attend the event are asked to contact their respective Regimental or Service Association to register their interest. For further enquiries please contact falklands@britishlegion.org.uk.

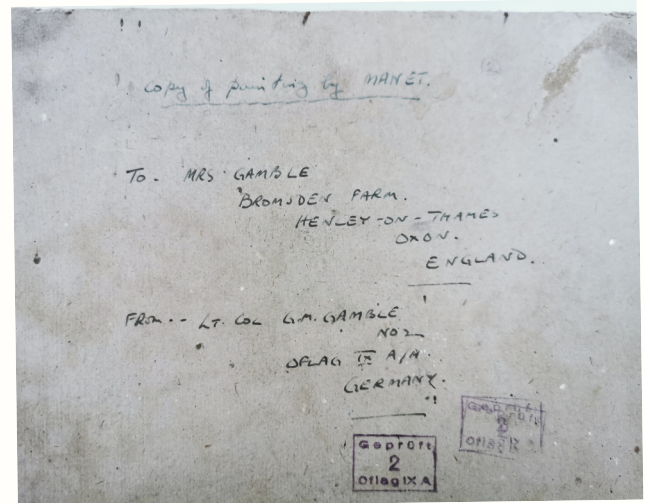
A Chance Encounter

Some weeks ago I was in the market place chatting to Walter Good a 95 year old ex Coldstream guardsman and in the course of our conversation I mentioned I had served with the Sherwood Foresters.

He said he had something at home which referred to the Foresters which would I like to see, little did I realise that I was going to see an item of world war memorabilia of very special significance.

This was a copy of a painting by Manet (12" by 10") on board rather than paper. On the reverse "To Mrs Gamble, Bromsden Farm, Nettlebed, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon. From Lt Col G M Gamble No2 Oflag IX A-H Germany.

Walter also showed me an obituary of Col Gamble's widow Diana published in the Henley Standard in 2001, which sheds more light on the circumstances of Col Gamble's wounding during the fighting retreat to Dunkirk and his eventual capture. He was imprisoned in Schloss Spangenburg North East Hesse, which resembled the more infamous Colditz castle to which many of the attempted escapees from Spangenburg were sent.



Col Gamble was the senior British Officer at Schloss Spangenburg. While there he took the opportunity to assemble secret wireless receivers and to pass the latest war news to his colleagues. They were routinely destroyed by the guards, but he persevered to keep morale buoyant. He was awarded an OBE on 20th October 1945 for 'Services while a POW'

With the help of Anne Evans who knew of the family in Shiplake we discovered Col Gamble's son Hugo and his wife Annabel. We were able to meet and show them the picture which they had never seen before

So how was it that the picture came into Walter Goods possession. Many years ago when the Henley Rural District Council was abolished, the painting was being thrown away during a 'clear out'. Luckily Walter rescued it because of the inscription on the back thinking that one day it might be of interest to some military minded person. Well it was, that's me!

Obviously we will return the picture to the family where it belongs. The family already have several watercolours painted during Col Gamble's imprisonment.

As a foot note I have done some research about Col Gamble's career with the Sherwood Foresters. He had the rare distinction of fighting in both world wars. In the Foresters regimental history from 1915 it refers to "a small but useful looking intake' including 2nd Lieutenant Gamble. On the 15 of May it records Lt Gamble as being wounded. On the 17 June 1917 during the battle of Lens it is reported that "D Company and Captain Gamble advanced at zero hour. They worked up the trenches and Capt Gamble and the remains of a platoon reached some houses full of Germans who poured out into the darkness and very severe fighting took place. Three officers including Ct Gamble and 76 other ranks were wounded"

A first authentic report received at Battalion HQ came from Captain Gamble CO D Company who came back wounded in the arm and chest.

By 1938, now Lt Col Gamble, he commanded the 2nd Battalion before moving to Borden as part of the spearhead of the BEF (British Expeditionary Force) before it went to France.

On 28th May 1940 during the fighting retreat to Dunkirk, the Foresters were ordered to fill a gap in the line, and it is recorded that the commanding officer and the adjutant were hit by a bomb from a German aircraft, the former being seriously wounded and latter killed.

The rest as they say is history. What a brave soldier. We honour his memory and are proud to share this with his descendants.

NOT FORGOTTEN

John Green RBL Branch President

Wartime Memories

By James McConville - a member of our branch

I was born in Birmingham in January 1935 and have vivid memories of what transpired around me. In 1938 my parents recalled that I asked "what is Czechoslovakia?" Hitler was making a move.

Early in 1940 Dad and Bill Lewis from next door dug an Anderson Shelter between our two gardens. The Birmingham Blitz began in earnest that summer and I was down in the shelter every night listening to the drone of the German bombers and the whistle of the bombs before they exploded. Everyone expected a German invasion and Dad had an armoury of weapons and ammunition including a shotgun, .22rifles and a revolver.

RAF men arrived in the carpark behind our garden to erect two Nissan huts and a barrage balloon. In the middle of one night during the Birmingham Blitz the Balloon caught in the branches of our oak tree. Firemen released the Balloon using searchlights and axes. I escaped from the shelter to witness the event but was hastily banished! Soon after WAAFs arrived to take over. I used to help deflate the Balloon for repair by rolling on it with them.

Raids were stepped up in late 1940 and I was sent with Mum to the grandparents in Lancashire. A miserable time with only one Christmas gift and I had to wear wooden clogs to school! Our house suffered huge damage when a landmine exploded in the road. Dad who was a chartered engineer with Lucas stayed on with friends to make parts for Spitfires and, later, Lancaster Bombers for assembly at Castle Bromwich.



Eventually the house was repaired and heavy raids continued until May 1943. Birmingham was the armament centre of the UK and the third most heavily bombed city after London and Liverpool but only referred to in the news as "a Midland City". Mum and I were often together in an indoor Morrison Shelter listening to the whistle of bombs and explosions.

In 1944 my parents invited many Royal Australian Air Force men to stay under the Hospitality Scheme for visiting Servicemen. Jack Kronborg was just 20 when he first took off to Germany as Skipper of a Lancaster Bomber. We talked many times on the phone until he died aged 97 in 2021. Ron Jacobs was a Bomb Aimer on a Lancaster Pathfinder Squadron and, unusually, was awarded two DFCs. Harry Carpenter was a Lancaster Rear Gunner and received a Caterpillar Badge for bailing out of a Lancaster (and surviving). They became like big brothers helping me with my homework. They all survived and we visited many of them after the War both in Australia and the UK.

On VE Day Hitler was burned on an enormous bonfire in the car park. Later I remember climbing onto our garage roof with Dad who brought up our wind-up gramophone. We played Land of Hope and Glory many times and folk from nearby gathered and cheered.

Exactly 10 years after VE Day I was a Troop Commander in Malaya leading a Troop of 120 Malays in the Jungle. The Regiment fought in all parts of the peninsular and guns included Coastal, Heavy and Light AckAck and Field Guns, supported by Searchlight and Mortar Troops. I have a regimental photograph with myself and fellow Officers who included five MCs and one VC. Pat Porteus, was awarded the Victoria Cross in the 1942 Dieppe Raid.

The Malaya Campaign against Chinese Terrorists lasted from 1948 to 1960 and MOD Stats show it was longer than any other campaign with more servicemen killed, 1443, than in any other campaign since the War including Korea and Afghanistan. Until recently I marched at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Day with Malaya Veterans and Ghurkhas.

Lt Col Peter Guy Blaker - RIP

Photo courtesy of Henley Standard



November 10th 1936 - February 2nd 2022

In 1955 National Service followed and he was commissioned into the West Yorkshire Regiment in which his mother's uncle had won the Victoria Cross. He said it was the making of him.

Peter went to Jesus College Cambridge to read law but rather than becoming the fourth generation in the family firm in Henley, he wrote to his father to say he couldn't go through with being a solicitor and that he was going back into the army.

He joined the 1st Green Jackets 43rd and 52nd, as his former regiment had been renamed, and in April 1962 sailed with the battalion to Penang in Malaya on the last-but-one troopship ever to voyage to the Far East. Six months later the Brunei Rebellion broke out and, as platoon commander, Peter took part in what was perhaps the final gunboat action in imperial history, including a gruelling night-time march through swamps and jungle, culminating in a successful dawn attack on a village which had been captured by rebels.

Peter met and married Hiltegund Bastian and they remained together in a relationship he described as tempestuous though they loved each other dearly.

Singapore was Peter's next posting, where Alexandra was born and where they received the news that Peter's beloved father took his own life. This left an indelible mark on Peter.

Nicholas was born in 1975 in Townlands Hospital in Henley while Peter was back in Northern Ireland.

The following year he was on the move again, this time to Cyprus to become part of the UN contingent there, followed by a spell at the headquarters of the British Army on the Rhine at Rheindahlen and then, on promotion, to the Ministry of Defence in London where he joined the defence intelligence staff responsible for negotiating with the Warsaw Pact countries.

He returned to the Royal Green Jackets as a company commander in Celle in Lower Saxony, punctuated by a tour of Belfast in 1971, the year his son Dominic was born in the military hospital in Hanover



After that he was selected to command the officers' training corps at Cambridge University until in 1982 he joined the Royal College of Defence Studies in London and led a group of senior officers on a tour of Hungary, Finland, Germany and France.

This was followed by his final posting to SHAPE, the NATO headquarters in Belgium. After only a few months there, he fell prey to his latent manic depression and retired early from the army in 1984. After a spell in civvy street he retired for good in 1996.

He bought a green Volkswagen van which he turned into their weekend cottage and they spent the next decade on safari around Europe. He also drove an old Trabant, one of the last produced in East Germany, which when he developed macular degeneration in both eyes and could no longer drive, he gave to Sir William McAlpine's museum at Fawley. He was chairman and president of the Berkshire Automobile Club.

By 2006 Peter could no longer drive or read, which made him unable to participate in community life and both embarrassed and upset him. However he and Hildegund sang with the Henley Choral Society for 30 years, and on one occasion impressed everyone by singing 'O for the wings of a dove' in his attractive tenor voice.

He was both Chairman and President of the Peppard and District branch of the Royal British Legion until it amalgamated with Henley, and in 2019 became President and more recently Patron of the merged branch.

He had a deep Christian faith and between 1985 and 1997 was lay chairman of Rotherfield Greys parochial church council and predominantly responsible for the building of an extension to the church to mark the Queen's golden jubilee.

A proud pedant, he was a stickler for the correct use of language and was a contributor to Thought for the Week in the Henley Standard, where he expounded his sometimes controversial but always thought-provoking views. His hope was that, on his death, he would be remembered most for the fact that whenever he found someone in distress he would go out of his way to comfort them.



As an aside - Peter was an expert on the Battle of Kohima (and Imphal) which changed the course of the Second World War in Asia. In 2013 a poll conducted by the British National Army Museum voted the Battles of Imphal and Kohima as "Britain's Greatest Battle"

Peter made a special pilgrimage to the War Cemetery in Kohima of 1,420 Allied war dead which is maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The epitaph carved on the memorial of the 2nd British Division in the cemetery has become world-famous as the Kohima Epitaph.

It reads: 'When you go home, tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow, we gave our today' These poignant words were spoken by Peter many times over the years, especially on Remembrance Sunday and at every RBL Meeting and event.

We will miss him enormously!

Heather Green RIP

Heather Green was born in July 1930 in Hornchurch, Essex. In a memoir she wrote for the family she describes how she grew up in that area and in 1940 witnessed the Battle of Britain raging overhead the nearby RAF Hornchurch.

Later in the war years the family moved to near Cambridge, and as her father was involved in the construction of concrete runways for the many bomber bases springing up east Anglia, she witnessed the bomber armadas departing and returning.

She left school at 15 and trained in secretarial work. In the winter of 1945-46 she was invited by a neighbour, an RAF aircrew officer serving in Germany, and his girlfriend to accompany them on a blind date with the officer's fellow crew member, one John Eric 'Jimmy' Green. When at the end of the evening they parted company Jimmy asked Heather if he could write to her - and so began a mostly-by-letter courtship which culminated in their marriage in August 1948, a month after her 18th birthday. They would be together for 56 years before Jimmy's death in 2004.



Heather was fortunate to experience international travel with Jimmy in an era before modern tourism made such things routine. In the early years of their marriage Heather visited Norway, Cyprus and Iraq - the latter whilst Jimmy was based at RAF Habbaniyah, which 40 years later would be put out of action by the RAF in the first Gulf War.

In 1954 their son Steven was born, followed 6 years later by their daughter Marcia, born whilst Jimmy was serving at RAF Laarbruch. In 1964 Jimmy was posted to the MOD in London and they decided to buy a house in Henley from which Jimmy could commute.

Heather, Jimmy with John Green - no relation!

This purchase was supposed to be only for the time Jimmy spent in London, after which they would move back into married quarters at whatever station Jimmy was posted to next.

Fate overtook this plan when in 1966 Jimmy's wartime past caught up with his health and he was medically downgraded; he decided to leave the RAF early, but then went to work for the MOD Procurement Executive, still in London - and so they never moved again.

In retirement Jimmy became Secretary of the Henley branch of the RBL, a position he held at the time of his death. Heather took little persuading to take over the role of Secretary, in part to help her recover from her grief. She had to learn from scratch how to use a computer, but she was otherwise able to use her secretarial skills learned so many years before.

Heather continued as Secretary for a number of years and remained active in the Branch's fundraising around Remembrance Day. She continued to assist until age and infirmity became too much for her.

Heather passed away peacefully on 25th January 2022.