



THE NEWSLETTER WINTER 2021



BR0753

REMEMBER

Since the Autumn Newsletter, we have reached the business end of the year when we have the opportunity to remember with gratitude and thanksgiving all those, right up to the present day, who have given up their chance to live a full life so that we can continue ours in the knowledge that we are safe and can wear our poppy with pride.



In Flanders fields, the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row
That mark our place, and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below

We are the dead, short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields In Flanders fields
And now we lie In Flanders fields

Take up our quarrel with the foe: To you from failing hands we throw
The torch, be yours to hold it high: If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow in Flanders fields In Flanders fields

THANK YOU!

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Editorial

Dear Members and Friends

One of the most poignant parts of the Remembrance Day Service in Henley for me, was hearing the recording played out across the Town Square of students from Gillotts school reading out the names and ages of Henley servicemen who died in WW1. The recording was made in 2014 as part of the Henley Lest We Forget project. The ages of those lives lost were heart-breakingly young.

It was fitting therefore that the Poppy Appeal launch in this year of the Royal British Legion's Centenary emphasised the Legion's commitment to engage more with our young people as we pass on the baton to them as future custodians of Remembrance. Mayor of Henley, Sarah Miller reiterated this in her speech at the Remembrance Service when she thanked all the young people from local youth organisations in Henley saying, "For you all represent our future. A future of peace, tolerance and inclusion."

Anne Evans, Branch Chairman

Dates for your Diary

20 December - Christmas Lunch Invitation - £22.25

Our Event Organiser Karen Grieve and her elf-helpers are determined to make this a special occasion with all the Christmas cheer you would expect! Please come and join with us to make this a happy and jolly end of a year which for some has been a very taxing one.

The lunch is at the Henley Rugby Club - 12 noon for 12.30 and we are asking you to please **book by Monday 13 December with Karen by email kcgrieve@btinternet.com or phone 07990833241**

The menu is:

Roast Turkey with all the trimmings
or
Brie + Cranberry Wellington
Mince Pie with either Ice-Cream or Custard
Coffee or tea.

Please indicate your choice in each category. When you have confirmed your booking, please pay by cheque/post or preferably by bank transfer, to reach us by **Wednesday 15 December**.

Please make cheques payable to **RBL Henley-on-Thames Branch**, and post to **Anne Evans, 6b Wilson Avenue, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 1ET**

Bank transfer may be made to the following account:

Account name : RBL Henley-on-Thames Branch

Sort code : 30-94-13

Account number: 00027756

Reference: XMAS

Coffee Morning Talks - 10.30am at Christ Church Centre - £5

Please book by the Thursday before to
Karen Grieve by email kcgrieve@btinternet.com or phone 07990833241.

January 17 Valerie Alasia – Henley's Social History & Workhouse

February 21 Rebecca McLoughlin, Head of Supporter & Donor Relations, David Nott Foundation

March 14 – tbc Andy Thomson, HMP Prison Service (Huntercombe),

April 18 – tbc Gorvett & Stone rep, Easter Monday (Easter themed)

May 16 – tbc Major Marion Kingston AGC(ETS), Army Recruitment in 21st Century

Remembrance Sunday - 14 November 2021

On Sunday 14th November a large crowd of all ages joined together with service men and women, youth organisations, councillors, representatives from community organisations, schools and businesses in the town square for the Remembrance service led by Fr Jeremy Tayler of St Mary's Church.

Anne Evans, Chairman of the Henley & Peppard Branch followed the Bidding with the Exhortation, **"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."** The Last Post was sounded by bugler Stuart Henderson and a two-minute silence was observed before the bugler sounded the Reveille and the Kohima Epitaph said **"When you go home, tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow we gave our today."**

Town Clerk, Sheridan Jacklin-Edward and the Mayor's cadet Grace Iveson recited readings from the Bible and Father Jeremy led the blessings and prayers.

The Mayor's speech followed "It is so important at this time of year, every year, that we come together, and we honour the memory of those who've lost their lives in the service of our country. Today we remember the sacrifices made by young men and women, and those who serve to secure and preserve our freedom. We remember all of the fallen in all conflicts, who gave their lives for us,"

She spoke about the significant role of the Royal British Legion who are celebrating their 100th anniversary this year and how they had helped her grandfather, William James Smith, who fought in the second World War with Montgomery in Italy. At the end of the speech, she thanked all the young people from local youth organisations in Henley and finished by saying "for you all represent our future. A future of peace, tolerance and inclusion".



100 YEARS AGO
Henley Standard
November 18, 1921

FOR the third successive year, Armistice Day was observed in Henley in a manner similar to its observance in other parts of the Empire. The heart of the celebration is the two-minute silence when all the complex wheels of national life are brought to a sudden stop and "the silent living greet the living dead". The tolling of the parish church bell at 11am was the reminder the moment had arrived.

The great event of Armistice Day in Henley was the unveiling of the memorial to the fallen members of the Congregational Church, which was attended by members of the British Legion under the command of Captain A R Brakspear. The congregation, which numbered 800, packed the church, so much so that the vestry and entrance lobby were filled.



Bringing Them Home Too (servicemen who gave their lives 1939-1946) is now available to purchase from Bell Bookshop priced £10.00 or directly from Mike Willoughby via <https://www.henley-lestweforget.co.uk/contact-us>



**ARMY
CADETS** >>>

**PRESS
RELEASE**

Date: 16th November 2021 Ref: Oxon/PRO/NCoy/

Oxfordshire Army Cadet Force

The Army Cadet Force is a fantastic opportunity for children to make new friends, gain new experiences and develop young people into strong and charismatic individuals, no matter what they aim to do in later life.

Recently, the cadets from Henley detachment, Oxfordshire Army Cadet Force, have attended and assisted with several events within their community. They participated in the launch of the Poppy Appeal Street Collection and were invited for a tour of the Mayor of Henley's Parlour. They also participated in and assisted the RBL in the Remembrance Sunday Parade.

On the 30th October, LCpl A Jacob, Cpl J Barrow, Cpl G Iveson & CSjt C James helped kick start the Poppy Launch by handing poppies to the head students of Gillotts. This was to symbolise the armed forces of tomorrow and the future supporters of the RBL and the youth of today, to launch the poppies for the RBL's 100th anniversary.



On the 13th November, Henley Detachment posted 37 cadets around town to collect donations for the RBL's Poppy Appeal. Afterwards, the Cadet NCOs were invited by Councillor Sarah Miller, the Mayor of Henley, for a tour around the Henley town hall, assisted by Former Mayor, Councillor Ken Arlett.



On the 14th November, CSM J Smyth marched the RBL around the town square, alongside CSjt C James who carried the RBL Henley-on-Thames Branch Standard, following the RBL were the Sea Cadets then Army Cadets who were proudly led by 2Lt M Fearn and LCpl J Ferguson followed by their many proud cadets and adult instructors. The Army Cadet Force were lucky to also have Capt T Fearn as Henley Parade Marshall.



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. For Henley Detachment enquires - please email the Detachment Commander, 2Lt Mel Haynes on:

3360hayne@armymail.mod.uk

Poppy Appeal

Speech by Cpl Grace Iveson
Of Henley Detachment, Nivelle Company, Oxfordshire
Given at 11:00 on Saturday 30 Oct in Market Place
at the Launch of the 2021 Henley-on-Thames Community Poppy Appeal

I am Cpl Grace Iveson, of the Henley Army Cadets and I am proud to be here to launch our 2021 Henley-on-Thames Community Poppy Appeal Collectors going out into this community.



The British Legion was founded one hundred years ago this year, becoming the Royal British Legion four years later. Its aim was, and still is, to support the welfare of current and former members of the British Armed Forces and their families in need.

The Royal British Legion has two main public faces, the Poppy Appeal and the Remembrance Services. Here in Henley, on Remembrance Sunday on November 14th, we will commemorate the British and Commonwealth service men and woman who took part in past conflicts.

Today, though, it is all about the Poppy Appeal. It is not about pomp and ceremony; it is about marking our Poppy Collectors setting out into the community with a simple message – there are many past and present service people who need our help in numerous ways, from ongoing medical or other treatments to help in adjusting to civilian life, sometimes they just need a good listener.

COVID has greatly hindered our collections over the last eighteen months, so our Poppy Collectors – all of us – have much to make up.

All too often we tend to associate the Poppy Appeal with the two World Wars. Just History. To mark the beginning of its new Century, the Royal British Legion is stressing that although their values have not changed, the Poppy Appeal is now largely about more recent conflicts, about current serving members of the armed forces and their families, and about their future wellbeing. Things like post-traumatic stress disorder, learning to live with severe disabilities and obtaining the right pension advice are, sadly, ongoing concerns.

As Henley Army Cadets, my fellow cadets, LCpl Amelia Jacob, Cpl Jasmine Barrow, Sjt Charlie James and I represent the Armed Forces of tomorrow. And they will present Remembrance Poppies to Roman Meredith, Benjamin Price and Abi Botterill, the Head Students of Gillotts School who represent the new generation of supporters of the Royal British Legion's charitable aims.

This is a symbolic gesture to mark the start of the 2021 Poppy Appeal in our Henley community. The Poppy is a symbol of Remembrance and hope for a peaceful future. A good reminder that the majority of our Armed Forces' involvements these days are in peace-keeping and humanitarian efforts. And – every part of the Poppies are recyclable. So, as they say, let's "paint the town red" with Poppies. I thank you all, and especially our volunteer Poppy Appeal Collectors.



Remembrance Sunday Branch Lunch at The Red Lion, Henley Relais

Branch Members and guests gathered for a very delicious and enjoyable lunch after the Remembrance Service in the Town Square. For many, it was the first opportunity to visit a much-loved landmark since the sale and subsequent refurbishment of The Red Lion Hotel now known as The Relais Henley.

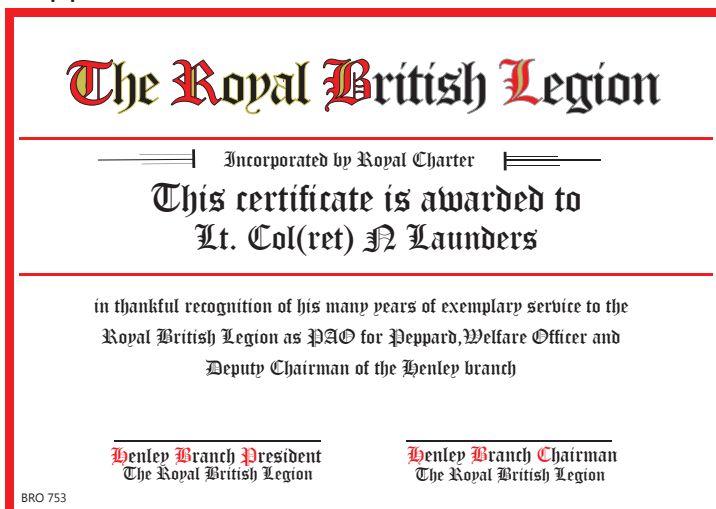
Karen Grieve, the Branch's Event Organiser is to be congratulated for consulting closely with the hotel management who provided us with an excellent lunch and very attentive service.



Anne Evans took the opportunity to say good-bye to Nicholas Launders, who up until recently held the post of Vice-Chairman of the Henley & Peppard Branch.

We were relieved to know it's not absolutely farewell, as he assured us all that he will remain a member of the Branch despite moving away from this area.

Anne presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation which read:



This certificate is awarded to Lt. Col (ret) N Launders

In thankful recognition of his many years of exemplary service to the Royal British Legion as PAO for Peppard, Welfare Officer and Deputy Chairman of the Henley Branch.

The Empire Needs Men

Britain went to war in 1914 with a small, professional army primarily designed to police its overseas empire. The entire force consisted of just over 250,000 Regulars. Together with 250,000 Territorials and 200,000 Reservists, this made a total of 700,000 trained soldiers. Compared to the mass conscript armies of Germany, France and Russia, this was tiny. The Secretary of State for War, Field Marshal Lord Kitchener, realised the conflict would be long and on an unprecedented scale, so Britain would have to create a new mass army.

Thousands of eager volunteers soon flocked to the Colours on the outbreak of war, but these men were completely untrained. They spent their first months in the Army learning the basics of soldiering. Despite the influx of volunteers, the British still needed more men. Conscriptation was introduced in 1916 and this eventually expanded the Army to a force of over 4 million men by the end of the war in 1918.

However, even an Army this large was not sufficient to meet all of Britain's commitments. Throughout the conflict it was bolstered by forces from across the British Empire, the nations of which pledged full support for Britain following its declaration of war against Germany in August 1914.

Indian cavalry await the order to advance on the Somme, 14 July 1916



In October 1914 an Indian Corps, including cavalry units, arrived in France. While the infantry were withdrawn to Mesopotamia in December 1915, most of the cavalry remained on the Western Front until 1918.

This photograph depicts the 20th Deccan Horse, part of the 2nd Indian Cavalry Division, in Carnoy Valley shortly before their unsuccessful attack at High Wood on 14 July. Together with the 7th (The Princess Royal's) Dragoon Guards, they suffered 102 casualties and lost 130 horses.

War Memorial Tripoli

A memorial to the resistance fighters who were tortured and killed by the Nazis. They were mainly from ELAS a highly effective organisation of mainly communists who were backed by the British because of their operational success. Ironically after the war and during the Greek civil war 1947-49 they became the enemy when the British fought with Royalist side to prevent Greece becoming a communist State!



To mark Black History Month, we are shining a light on the immense contribution made by black men and women over centuries in fighting for, rebuilding, healing, protecting and securing Britain.

From the first World War to recent conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, black men and women have served, and continue to serve, with courage, honour and compassion

Walter Tull



Walter Tull was one of English football's first black players and during WW1 he became the British Army's first ever black officer to command white troops.

Beginning his career at Tottenham Hotspur, he went on to play 111 games for Northampton Town before the outbreak of the First World War.

Tull enlisted with Middlesex Regiment, part of a 'Footballers' Battalion' and fought extensively in the war.

At one stage he was sent home suffering from "shell shock", but returned to battle in 1917 having been commissioned as an officer.

Tull was mentioned in dispatches for his 'gallantry and coolness' at the battle of Piave in Italy in January 1918.

Two months later he was killed in No Man's Land at the age of 29 during the second battle of the Somme.

When the Second World War broke out, Lillian joined the Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes (NAAFI) at Catterick Camp in Yorkshire.

The NAAFI was created to run the recreational establishments of the British Armed Forces and to sell goods to the service personnel and their families. However, when it was discovered that her father was of Caribbean heritage, she was asked to leave.

Lillian returned to domestic service until she discovered the RAF was accepting black recruits, and in March 1941 she became one of the first Black British women to serve in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF).

Lillian became a Leading Aircraftwoman and gained the rank of Acting Corporal.

After meeting her husband and becoming pregnant she left the WAAF in 1944, later graduating from London University and becoming a teacher.

Lilian Bader

