



THE  
**NEWSLETTER**  
SUMMER 2024



BR0753

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Henley commemorates and remembers  
with thankful hearts the extraordinary events of 6 June  
80 years ago



Armed Forces Day

## Meetings are on the 3rd Tuesday each month

- **Venue** - Henley Rugby Club, Menza Restaurant
- **Lunch** - will consist of a delicious main course with an alternative vegetarian dish, sumptuous pudding, and coffee/tea.
- **Timings** - Talk at 11.30 (please be seated by 11.20) and lunch 12.30.

We very much look forward to seeing you and don't forget that you are welcome to gather at the bar for a drink from 10.45 a.m. before moving to the adjoining meeting room for the talk and lunch.

**NB Booking & Payment must be made by the Thursday before the Tuesday lunch.**

Book with Karen in the first instance by email: [kcgrieve@btinternet.com](mailto:kcgrieve@btinternet.com) or phone her on 07990 833241  
Then pay £18 for the lunch preferably by Bank Transfer to:

RBL Henley	or by	Cheque made out to:
A/c 00027756		Henley-on-Thames Branch
Sort Code - 30-94-13		c/o Kathy Bardwell-Springett
Ref - Lunch		Branch Treasurer - 5 The Maltings, Hart Street,
		Henley-on-Thames, RG9 2FE

**NB re car parking** - If you would like to park at the Rugby Club we will collect 50p from you on your arrival and pay it into the club for you. All you need to do is to put a note in your car window saying **RBL LUNCH**

## Upcoming Events 2024

**Tuesday 20 August 2024** No meeting this month, but look forward to seeing you next month.

**Tuesday 17 September 2024** Rick Craft, Pilot will talk about his experience of landing a 747 aircraft with only two engines after a catastrophic bird strike.

**Tuesday 15 October 2024** Lunch and AGM - Richard Pinches - Will give a talk on how the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Regiment secured the breakout from the Normandy Beaches on D-Day.

**Sunday 10 November 2024** Remembrance Sunday Lunch will be at the Masonic Centre

**Monday - 16 December 2024** Christmas Lunch - Henley Rugby Club

## Future Events 2025

**Tuesday 21 January 2025** Councillor Rory Hunt, Henley Town Mayor, on the role of Town Mayor.

**Tuesday 18 February 2025** Janine Fitzgerald will talk about her charitable work in Zimbabwe.

**Tuesday 18 March 2025** Ross Dilnot, Chaplain to Thames Valley Air Ambulance, will talk about his experience as a patient of the TVAA and the work he now does as their Chaplain, together with Angus Ross, ex-RAF Pilot now volunteering with the TVAA, talking about the work of this vital emergency service.

**Tuesday 15 April 2025** Richard Pinches will give a talk entitled "Henley Abridged" on the history of Henley's river crossings over the years.

## Henley Remembers - D-Day 80 years ago



**Councillor Kelly Hinton,  
David Eggleton - Gainsborough Residents Association  
Henley Mayor, Councillor Rory Hunt  
Caroline Newton - Conservative Candidate for Henley**

The 80th anniversary of D-Day was marked in Henley by the lighting of the beacon at Makins Recreation Ground and with parties at Bluebells Day Centre and Chilterns Court Care Home.

The beacon lighting was organised by the Gainsborough Residents Association who offered refreshments and the Henley Branch of the Royal British Legion with a display of an old army Jeep and a stall selling special D-Day anniversary pin badges.

Chair of Gainsborough Residents Association, David Eggleton said, "It is a great honour to be asked to light the beacon today. I've heard so many stories today when Richard Pinches and I were in Market Place with the Royal British Legion stall which has been heart-moving. They gave their today for our tomorrow. So it's very emotional for me, because we wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for their sacrifices."

A minute's silence followed.

"One of the most poignant days of WW2. A day that without which we wouldn't be here today", as Councillor Eggleton rightly said. There will be people from Henley and some of your families who died on that day. We owe them a debt that will never be repaid.

South Oxfordshire District Councillor, Kellie Hinton said, "I would like to thank Dave and the Gainsborough Residents Association and Richard from British Legion for putting on this beacon lighting event to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day.

This is obviously part of national beacon lighting. There are hundreds of towns taking part and several in our County and our District. I'm really really proud to attend one in Henley to mark this event and to remember to keep the word alive and to spread the information and the history. In COVID in recent years we all got a slight taste of what it is like to lose our freedom. It was nothing compared to the sacrifices that were made by the people that came before us."

## Chilterns Court Care Home



The residents of Chilterns Court Care Home enjoyed an afternoon tea and a jolly good sing of the old favourite war time songs.

The party was in memory of former resident Dickie Charlton and Royal British Legion, who was in 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry in WW2 and was taken a prisoner of war after the Battle of Cassell in May 1940.

## Bluebells Day Centre



The Bluebells Day Care Centre, held twice weekly at Christ Church on the Reading Road, enjoyed a fabulous party on Monday 3 June, to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the D Day Landings. Bluebells members, friends and family, and volunteers were all invited to the centre to enjoy the afternoon together, and were treated to sandwiches, homemade scones and cake.

## A Very Local Hero

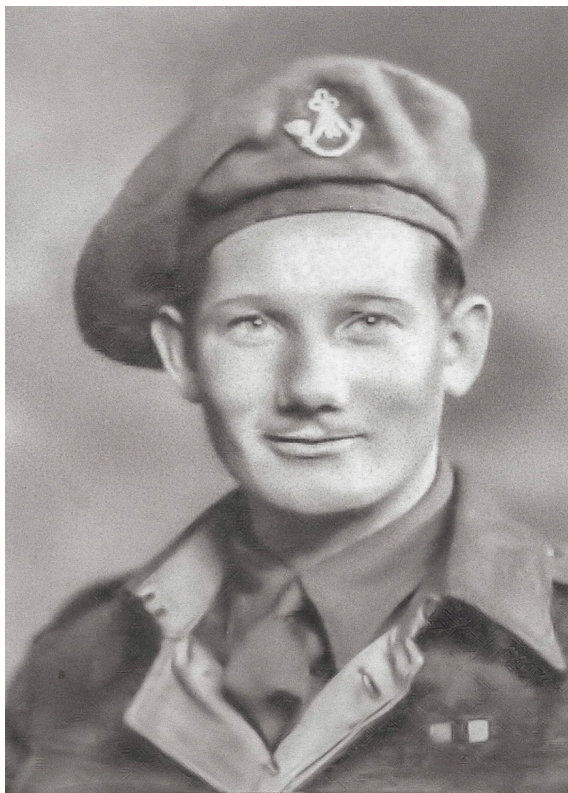
**Dick Charlton. 2.06.1920 -28.05.2024**  
**Batman /Private 5484702 4<sup>th</sup> Bn Ox and Bucks.**

On the morning of the 28<sup>th</sup> May Dickie Charlton died peacefully in his sleep at Chilterns Court Care Centre, just 5 days shy of his 104 birthday.

His wife Doris passed away in 2019. He is survived by two daughters; Shirley and Linda, two Grandchildren; Annabelle and Alexander, and two great-grandchildren; Emily and Maisie.

Richard Dennis Charlton was born 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1920, to parents William Charlton and Mary Charlton (Nee Turner) in Woods Cottage, Hennerton, Wargrave. His father was head gardener at Hennerton House. The family eventually moved to Ledard Cottage on Peppard Lane where his father was head gardener to the Mann Family.

Dickie went to Infants school on Greys Hill, then to National School at the top of Gravel Hill. He was also in the choir at Holy Trinity church.



He was second youngest of Eleven children, all 5 of the boys fought for their country. Bill (Home Guard) Fred (Buffs: Royal East Kent) - Charlie (20 years Ox and Bucks 4<sup>th</sup> Bn) - Jack (Army Cook RASC) - Jim (RASC) and 5 girls, Nellie, Eve (Married Bert Lovegrove), Maggie (Married Bill Dixon, Chindits) Joan and Jean.

As a young boy at Regatta time, Dickie sold booklets showing the racing crews colours from Henley Bridge, which he got from Higgs the printers. He once waved at King George V as he went under Henley Bridge. This was the first of 5 monarchs in Dickie's lifetime.

Brother Jack had already joined the territorial army and Dickie joined on his 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday in 1938, one year before the war. He joined up because it was looking like a war was coming and he wanted to be part of it and to be with his brother. He trained at Bisley Camp near Guildford on the Boys anti- tank rifle and the .303 Lee Enfield SMLE rifle.

As a territorial, Dickie was still able to work as a gardener in Shiplake. He was a keen footballer for Henley Town Football Club and he got spotted by a well known talent scout called Billy Lee for Reading Football club and was asked to go for trials in Reading. Very excited by this opportunity he went to tell his mother Mary who showed him a letter from the MOD- his calling papers had come through and that was the end of his football career and he joined the 4<sup>th</sup> Bn Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.



The war started on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1939 and Dickie and his brother were sent to Newbury Racing track and stables for more training. It was here Dickie remembers seeing King George the Sixth give his speech to the troops. Dickie said the King had a lot of makeup on to make himself look better; he must have been quite close to Dickie! Later he was stationed nearby at Highclere Castle where Downton Abbey is filmed.

Germany started their offensive attack West and The British Expeditionary Force (BEF) including Dickie and two of his brothers landed at Le Havre to repel the advancing German army through Belgium and France.

The Ox and Bucks ended up at St Germain in a training area, building defences and digging tank traps. Here Dickie later became a batman to an officer at an officer training centre for three weeks.

The Battalion then moved through Brussels to the Ardennes. Dickie often recalled seeing the Waterloo battlefield at a distance.

The advancing Germans were very well equipped and the BEF could not hold their rapid Blitzkrieg advance (meaning Lightning war), fuelled by amphetamines to boost courage and stamina. The British were only fuelled on tea and stood no chance! The battalion retreated yet further to make a stand at Tournay, where German Stuka JU 87s bombed them. Dickie always remembered the terrible sound of them diving with added sirens just to cause panic. The battalion moved further back through Lille to Cassell.

An order came through to hold the Ox and Bucks line while other BEF went back to the beaches to be rescued by Operation Dynamo and the 'Little Ships'. Brother Jim got off safely at Dunkirk but Dickie was ordered to go back to round up stragglers in Casell, got caught in the action and was forced to dig in.

The order came to break out on the night of 10th May. By 10.30 pm, they managed to get through the German line for a mile, but once illuminated by bright Very Lights in the sky the soldiers were forced to hide in ditches. Some managed to cross a road that was covered by German machine gun fire. A number of comrades died, including Ken Arlett's uncles Reg and Jim Arlett, both Henley men known to Dickie.

Trying to move out, Dickie's Sgt Major Bailey stood up first and was mortally wounded. He told Dickie and his comrades to 'Give up lads'. Unable to compete with the German fire power they surrendered.



**Fred - Charlie - Dick**

They were taken to Poland in cattle trucks and ended up at Stalag VIII B, Lamsdorf (now Lambinowice). His brother Charlie was also there but in an Officer's camp. Somehow, Charlie and Dickie managed to do a swap so they could be together. Dickie settled into prison life, playing sports and receiving letters and Red Cross parcels. However on work detail to a nearby petro chemical factory he did feel incredibly sorry for concentration camp prisoners he occasionally saw working there, clearly undernourished and in very poor condition.

Come the end of the war when the Russians were advancing west toward Poland, over 80,000 POWs were forced to march 1,000 km westward across Poland, Czechoslovakia and Germany in extreme winter conditions, over about four months between January and April 1945. Dickie and fellow prisoners endured great hardships in the cold, often scrounging for food themselves, digging up turnips and potato crops in fields, sleeping in barns or wherever they could find shelter.

He did say that some German soldiers were now being more considerate, realising that any further brutality was futile at this stage.



Crossing the River Oder they met refugees who were everywhere fleeing the Russians. Marching through the foothills of the Carpathians, and then to Czechoslovakia and the Sudetenland where Dickie saw the bombing of Dresden.

They walked all the way to Munich, wearing the same clothes and boots. Dickie's balaclava had his beard grow right through the wool.

One morning, the Germans had disappeared and they heard fighting not too far away. They were then freed by General George Patton's US Third Army with General Patton himself explaining that he regretted not being able to stop but he had to move on.

Now in safe hands they were taken to an aerodrome by the Blue Danube, and flown from there to Brussels, St Anne's Barracks, where they were given tea and sandwiches, but told not to gorge as their stomachs would not handle too much.

All their clothing was removed (including the balaclava cut from Dickie's entwined beard) and piled onto a great smelly heap and burned. They stayed in Brussels for three weeks, before being flown home in the bomb bay of a Lancaster bomber, which Dickie said was extremely noisy with its 4 merlin engines. He would often say 'You know what it is like in a Lancaster?' as though it was a common thing! He landed back in Britain in May 1945 and some of the soldiers kissed the ground when they landed.



Incredibly, although VE Day had just finished, the returning soldiers were re-equipped and trained to go the Pacific to fight the Japanese. The atomic bombs soon came to prevent this.

Dickie returned home to Ledard Cottage to work with his Dad and eventually cared for both parents. During this period he married the Nanny at the main house, Doris Farmer, in 1961. Shirley and Linda were both born whilst at Ledard Cottage. Dickie's mother died in 1959 and after the death of his father in the 1970s, they all moved to Luker Avenue where he continued as a self employed gardener until he retired.

A well known and much loved local character who was one of a kind and was one of the few left from a pivotal moment in our country's history.

RIP Dickie  
Lest We Forget.

*Richard Pinches*

## Poppy Appeal Collection - Henley Choral Society Concert on 6 April 2024

The Henley Choral Society issued an invitation to our Henley & Peppard Branch of Royal British Legion (RBL) to attend and benefit from a retiring collection at the end of a very special concert. The programme of music by British composers Elgar, Vaughan Williams and Finzi was a deliberate choice to commemorate D-Day - 6 June 1944.

The Allied invasion of Normandy in Operation Overlord during the Second World War was the largest amphibious invasion in the history of warfare.

The statistics of D-Day are staggering. The Allies used over 5,000 ships and landing craft to land more than 150,000 troops on five beaches in Normandy. The landings marked the start of a long and costly campaign in north-west Europe, which ultimately convinced the German high command that defeat was inevitable.

John Green, President of the local Henley & Peppard Branch of the Royal British Legion (RBL) and Anne Evans, Branch Chairman took a very generous retiring collection of £576.10 for the Poppy Appeal.

*Anne Evans*



### 'A Hairy Tommy'

Recently the MOD decided that in future soldiers could have beards in line with the RAF and Royal Navy. This decision caused surprise and consternation among many ex-soldiers including me. Why? Well, the tradition of clean-shaven infantry goes back a long way. Even before the flint-lock musket the main weapon was a firelock musket which required a lit taper to light the gunpowder charge often setting fire to the soldier's beard. Thereafter beards were banned.

There was one exception to this rule. In the infantry the Pioneer Sergeant could, if desired, sport a beard because his weapon was an axe not a firearm. However this option was rarely taken. When I served with the Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby regiment. 45th and 95th of foot) in Libya our Commanding Officer decided our Pioneer Sergeant should grow a beard. At first all went well but after a few weeks the Sergeant's wife decided she did not like the look of her bewhiskered husband! She complained to the C.O. Off came the beard!

*John Green*

### Anne Evans Steps down from the role of Chairman of the Henley and Peppard Branch of the Royal British Legion



Anne Evans has made the hard decision for personal reasons to step down as Chairman of the Henley & Peppard Branch.

Anne has been in that role for 3 years and in that time successfully steered the branch through the COVID years. She oversaw the development of our significant speaker programme and was responsible for organising the venues for our monthly meetings.

Anne joined the committee as Treasurer when the monthly meetings were held at Leander Club under Malcolm Page's tenure, and in time transitioned us to the Christ Church Centre where we stayed until the COVID years prevented our face-to-face meetings.

Continuing our committee meetings via Zoom however interrupted our bookings with the Christ Church Centre and when their excellent Chef Doug Richards retired we saw the need to relocate our luncheon talks to the Henley Rugby Club Cafe.

In her 13 years on the Committee she has carried out the roles of Treasurer, Secretary and Events Organiser, and designed our award-winning quarterly Newsletter. John Green, Branch President said "Anne led the Branch through difficult times and thanks to her unceasing efforts she leaves it in a strong position. She will be much missed and a hard act to follow. We wish her well and look forward to seeing Anne in the future at Branch meetings. Our thanks go to Anne for all her hard work and to husband Dan for his support as our Website Technical back up!"

## A Positive Legacy from The Battle of El Alamein

Today the village of Enham-Alamein in Hampshire covers the site of a once-large house and parkland known as Enham House or Place. A classical 18th-century house then a Victorian mansion, it was renamed 'the factory' when it was purchased as a rehabilitation home for disabled World War I soldiers. Very little now remains of the house or gardens of this once-large estate but many ask why the village is called Enham Alamein?

This goes back to Egypt in 1942, following the defeat of Axis forces at the Battle of El Alamein. The Egyptian people wanted to show their appreciation and gratitude for the gallantry of the Forces involved. In 1944, a committee of Egyptians was formed, and an appeal launched to raise funds with the main purpose of setting up an organisation in England for the benefit of disabled ex-servicemen.



Iron gates in Enham Alamein gifted by Egyptian Government.  
Originally hung at the Alamein Club in Cairo

After several proposals and rejections from other projects and charities, Enham village's plans to expand the village to take in many additional war-disabled servicemen and their families was accepted. The committee felt that Enham had "wider, larger and better scope than other applications, since it would cater for both physical and tubercular war disabled ex-serviceman and their families".

Enham Village received the incredible donation of £225,000 from the Egyptian Alamein Committee – worth around £6.3 million today. The decision to change the village name from Enham to that of Enham Alamein was made in gratitude for such a wonderful and life-changing gift.

Today it is a purpose-built village of over 90 residents living in specially-adapted houses and flats and a day centre for disabled people. It is open to people from all walks of life and is known as the Enham Trust, a charity that helps over 2000 disabled people every year. If you wish to learn more about the Enham Trust or visit Enham Alamein and the Enham Heritage Trail go to [www.enhamtrust.org.uk](http://www.enhamtrust.org.uk)

### Enham Trust



Enham Place was a private estate which together with houses and other buildings totalled some 1027 acres. As a result of a visit from John Hodge, Minister for Pensions, the Village Centres Council selected Enham Place as the site for the first Village Centre following the Great War 'for the medical treatment and training of ex-servicemen suffering from the effects of amputations, neurasthenia and shell shock'. Existing buildings were enough to accommodate 150 men, with the first 50 injured soldiers arriving in the summer of 1919.

Over the course of 100 years, as Hampshire's leading disability charity, they have provided pioneering services and championed the rights of disabled people, supporting over 250,000 individuals throughout the UK to live the lives they choose, as independently as possible.

**Karen Grieve**



## Recent Events

### Tuesday 19 March - John Bodman & Rosemary Jones



At the March meeting, members and guests of the Henley RBL were treated to an illustrated talk entitled "Travels in India" by John Bodman, assisted by Secretary of the RBL Shiplake Branch, Rosemary Jones. Not only illustrated on screen, but in person too as they delighted us all by stripping off their long winter coats to reveal fabulous Indian costumes including turban and decorated shoes.



Clearly enchanted by the country and its people, John gave us his and Rosemary's fascinating insights into this astonishing land of such contrasts. While he spoke of the exquisite Golden Temple at Amritsar and British shame over the 1919 massacre, Rosemary added information about current life in India from a woman's perspective. We also learnt about the pleasure of travelling on the Shimla Railway through lush green landscape, the warm hospitality of the people and also of the significance of the different religions practised in India.

### Tuesday 16 April - Richard Pinches on allied special forces in North Africa

In April 2024 local history enthusiast and Royal British Legion member Richard Pinches came to the Henley rugby club to give a talk on Allied special forces in North Africa between 1940 and 1943. He came dressed in the Khaki clothes, sheepskin and Arab headwear worn by these soldiers. Richard's interest in this campaign principally started when his father told him the stories as a child when he was there as part of the 8th Army as one of the desert rats. Richard also has an award-winning desert display that he takes to history shows and enjoys talking to the public and groups on the campaign in North Africa in general but more recently his research has focused on the Long Range Desert Group or the LRDG as they were known. They were the original special forces in North Africa and were started by Ralph Bagnold who was a WWI veteran and desert explorer between the wars. His desert travels went far into uncharted desert deep into Egypt, Libya and Sudan travelling thousands of miles. His desert knowledge was unique as were his invaluable skills learned to successfully travel hundreds of miles across huge dune fields and rocky terrain.



The LRDG began raiding deep behind enemy lines in July 1940 a year before the more famous SAS started and it was the LRDG skills in navigation and stealth that were invaluable in helping the SAS get to their airfield targets to destroy enemy aircraft. The talk went through the history of Ralph, his friends and explorers as well as the later instigation of the SAS, but Richard also did some myth busting as to the origins of SAS founder David Stirling who evidently embellished his own accomplishments after the war. Paddy Mayne was actually the accomplished leader who took over after David Stirling's capture in Tunisia.

Paddy was attributed as being a violent psychopath, but these are mainly stories fabricated by David Stirling to discredit him after Paddy's death as the two men did not like each other. The talk also encompassed many different aspects including unique rations and clothing used. The talk was met with great enthusiasm by all the attendees.

## 21<sup>st</sup> May - Alex Bradbury - Lowland Rescue Oxfordshire

The Royal British Legion Branch (RBL) was given an excellent talk by Alex Bradbury of the Lowland Rescue Oxfordshire. This is a charity operating with a team of professional volunteers on call 24/7 to search for high risk vulnerable missing people. They support the emergency services such as the Police and also Fire & Rescue and Oxfordshire County Council in times of natural disasters.

Alex explained that the charity currently has 11 dogs and five in training and she and her colleagues, Team Leader Iain Lewis and Dog Handler Mel Lewis brought with them three energetic, very engaging and friendly Collies (Sirius, Dream and Drift) to the delight of the RBL members. How many scent sensors, we were asked, do humans have? Suggestions ranged wildly and the number turns out to be between 9-10 million. Dogs, on the other hand, can not only breathe through one nostril at a time, a neat trick, but can be trained to put their 200,000,000 scent sensors to expert use in helping to bring missing people, all being well, to safety. Some of the volunteers' dogs, mainly Collies and Spaniels, are more inclined to air-scenting, others to ground-scenting and some even succeed at underwater work.

The charity owns an underwater camera as well as sonar equipment, two vans in their Incident Control Unit and drones operated by five CAA registered pilots.



However, the teams, dogs, drones and specialist training of volunteers themselves is all self-funded, even down to their uniform clothing, with no governmental support. Annual costs of running their service – and in 2023 there were 67 call-outs- runs to approximately £55,000. Training to become a volunteer takes 9 months, there is no age limit but being able to drive is a must together with a certain level of fitness such as being able to walk five miles in two hours.

Do check out [www.lowlandrescueoxfordshireorg.uk](http://www.lowlandrescueoxfordshireorg.uk) for more information.

*Branch Chairman Anne Evans with Alex Bradbury, team leader Iain Lewis and dog handler Mel Lewis*

## 18 June - Keith Macinnes - Diplomatic Service

“Question: What is the difference between a camel and a diplomat? Answer: A camel can work for two weeks without drinking; a diplomat can drink for two weeks without working.” This was the joke with which retired diplomat Keith MacInnes introduced his talk to us on 18<sup>th</sup> June. Listening to him as his stories unfolded, surely none of us believed it! Keith’s distinguished career began after his two years’ National Service in the Royal Artillery.

He explained that the British Diplomatic service deals with commercial and political issues promoting British interests and helping British citizens abroad and works behind the scenes to make the world a more peaceful place. Generally he spent one third of his time in London and two thirds abroad with his ability to speak French, Spanish and Czech. His meetings with the United Nations in Geneva worked to co-ordinate the international relief efforts in times of famine and disaster and he also attended many meetings on the issue of who should be allowed to own the seabed.

Another opportunity to amuse his audience was remembering his need, on occasion, to inform a minister that the Ambassador was unavailable as he was “on a standing committee sitting on the seabed”. Keith spent three and a half years in Argentina where he illustrated for us with humorous stories the nation’s love of polo above so much else and said that prior to General Galtieri’s presidency we enjoyed excellent relations with the armed forces. In Prague, however, it was the Russian’s bugging devices and propaganda against which he had to pit his wits. Speaking to almost capacity audience of RBL members and guests in Menza cafe, Keith entertained us wonderfully with his self-deprecating tales and fascinating insights into the world of international diplomacy.

## Sir Clive Johnstone (rtd) KBE, CB.

The Royal British Legion is deeply saddened to announce the death of our National President, Sir Clive Johnstone (rtd) KBE, CB.

Clive Johnstone was born on 6 September 1963 in Kampala, Uganda. He was educated at Shrewsbury School, an all-boys public school. He studied anthropology at Durham University, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree.



An extraordinary military leader and person of great integrity and intellect, Sir Clive was extremely honoured to be National President for the Royal British Legion. Only a day before his passing, Sir Clive shared his passion for the charity in an address to RBL Members at the Annual Conference, describing the Legion as 'the best and most amazing charity'.

Sir Clive Johnstone assumed his role as the National President of the Royal British Legion in May 2023, taking over from Lieutenant General James Bashall CB, CBE. He came from a family who served in the Royal Navy and British Army over many generations and served in the Royal Navy himself from 1985 to 2019.

Across his career, Sir Clive was deployed to most points on the compass and had served on ships ranging from minesweepers to aircraft carriers. Onshore, he operated in staff roles focused on procurement, people, policy, and operations. Sir Clive was knighted in the 2019 New Year's Honours.

In his short time as RBL National President, Sir Clive made a huge impact, and his loss will be felt across the charity and the Armed Forces community.

## Henley's Trad Boat Festival On board Dunkirk "Little Ship" LADY LOU

*By John Green*



I was invited aboard by Skipper Ian Gilbert who remembered that this time last year his vessel hosted me, James Nelson (Dunkirk Veterans Standard Bearer) and Dick Charlton at the Penton Hook Yacht Club. As it turns out, that was Dick Charlton's last outing before his death, just short of his 104<sup>th</sup> birthday.



Ian asked if I would stay on board for the official sail past representing the RBL and in memory of Dick Charlton. What an honour and what a conclusion of a memorable day.

John Green, Royal British Legion (RBL) Henley Branch President, during the 4 Daagse Walk in Holland, took time to salute and lay a cross at this memorial.

**"To the crew of Lancaster bomber LM32 shot down near BEUNINGEN (Holland) on mission to MULHEIM (Germany) on the night of 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1943.**

**Only one of the 8 member crew survived"**



## Holger Danske - Danish Resistance Sir Winston Churchill's Grave

On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May John Green carried our Branch Standard at the annual wreath laying ceremony at the grave of Sir Winston Churchill at Bladon (near Woodstock) organised by the Holger Danske.

The Holger Danske was a Danish resistance group during WWII, and consisted of 350 Volunteers. The group carried out sabotage operations including blowing up railway lines strategically important to the Nazis. It was also responsible for the execution of around 200 informers.

The group was named after the legendary hero 'Ogier the Dane' a paladin of Charlemagne!

This ceremony is held at a very special date and time, as on that date Winston Churchill broadcast to the Danish nation, announcing that the Axis Forces in Denmark had surrendered and gave thanks to all those in the Danish Resistance Movement who, through their courage, helped to bring about the liberation of their country. This was followed within a few days with the announcement of the end of the war in Europe.

For many years their members have visited Bladon to commemorate Sir Winston's inspirational leadership of the free world, and to remember the courage of their fallen comrades.

Brigadier Jan K Toft Danish military attache to UK was present at the ceremony.



**John Green**

**President of the Henley & Peppard Branch  
& Branch Standard Bearer**



**Brigadier Jan K Toft Danish military attache to UK**

