

THE NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2017



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"Perfect occasion for a perfect gentleman."

Brian Hughes on receiving his BEM Medal

"I was very proud and honoured to receive this award – the action really speaks for itself.

I have really enjoyed all the chats I've had on the doorsteps over the years when I've been collecting for the Poppy Appeal and hope that my health allows me to help to collect again this year."

"Well done young man you're a true soldier and we salute you."

Brian Hughes - poppy appeal collector par excellence

Henley's well known and loved Poppy Appeal Collector and standard bearer Brian Hughes was presented with his British Empire Medal, which he was awarded in the Queen's New Year's Honours List for voluntary service to armed services personnel and their families, by the Vice Lord-Lieutenant John Harwood DL on Sunday at Henley Town Hall.

Brian was welcomed with an Honour Guard on the Town Hall steps made up of standard bearers from Oxfordshire members of the Henley youth services groups – the Air Training Corps, Sea Cadets and Army Cadet Force – plus a formation of motorcyclists from the Riders Branch of the Royal British Legion.



Unfortunately Brian's wife Ursula wasn't well enough to be there but his daughter Deborah Detisi and her husband Nick were delighted to be there to see Brian receive his award. Brian has two daughters (Deborah and Gillian), 3 grandchildren and a great granddaughter, Isla, who is six months old. Deborah said, "It's been such a lovely day. We're incredibly proud and so overwhelmed with the turnout. Dad will be on cloud nine after this."



Vice Lord-Lieutenant John Harwood DL
Brian Hughes and his daughter Deborah Detisi

Brian said, "It is a job to put into words about how I felt on Sunday as it was an overwhelming occasion for me.

It was lovely to see such a really good crowd in the Town Hall and I hope everybody enjoyed themselves.

It was a brilliant turn out and it meant a lot to me and I hope it meant a lot to the town too."

Brian Hughes - poppy appeal collector par excellence

RBL Henley and Peppard Branch Chairman John Green said, "Brian is absolutely one of the stalwarts of the 'society here, well known and loved by everyone. We hold him in great esteem. As the saying goes, 'behind every good man there is a good woman'. It was never more true than in Brian's case.

There is no question on those cold days and nights that he was standing in the Market Square or collecting in the street Ursula looked after him. She made sure he had his vest on for a start and she kept bringing him flasks of coffee. She really looked after him. Although Ursula is not able to be here today physically she's here in spirit.

Well done young man you're a true soldier and we salute you."



Afterwards guests made a toast to Brian and John led the assembled group in a rousing rendition of 'For He's a Jolly Good Fellow'.

Shirley Lees, past Henley Poppy Appeal Organiser afterwards said, "It's been lovely to celebrate this award with Brian who has been so central to the Henley Poppy Appeal. Really proud of him.

Perfect occasion for a perfect gentleman."

May we congratulate Mr Brian Hughes on his British Empire Medal, it has been a long time coming.

His steadfastness and dedication to the service of the charities is unequalled. To see that gentleman out in all weathers and for so many years unperturbed, defies belief.

I have done British Legion fundraising myself, and to work alongside Brian is inspirational. Hats off to Brian, enjoy your fame and may we see you for many more years to come, standing outside Starbucks and proudly marching with the standard of the Royal British Legion.

If you see Brian, bid him well, a true gentleman and a loyal patron to the cause.

Many thanks

*David and Joshua Thatcher
Gainsborough Crescent*



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 Colin Davies
Email c.w.davies70@btinternet - phone 01189 722527

- **On April 24, David Lees**, a member of this branch, gave a well informed and interesting talk on 'The Fall of Singapore' and by all accounts stimulated a lively discussion around the table afterward! Thank you David and we hope we will hear from you again soon.
- **On 15 May, Milton Gordon** spoke on Military Service as a force for social engineering and about his personal experience on coming to the UK and joining the RAF. He put forward his view that military service was a force for social engineering and that it levelled the playing fields and opened up incredible opportunities in terms of training for the future. Milton, thank you also for the lively and interesting discussion which followed us to the dining table! Please come again.

19 June - David MacLeod 'The Toastmaster' history, traditions & amusing encounters!

17 July - Tony Boffin - 'William Morris (Lord Nuffield)- his cars and philanthropy'

21 August - Alex Manning 'Gallipoli - Could it have worked?'

In keeping with WW1's centenary commemorations, Alex Manning will give an illustrated talk in which he will describe and examine the 1915 operation against the Turks that was meant to promise everything but delivered nothing".

8 September - Helen Barnett - 'Henley Town Manager' A Varied Role'

16 October - John Green 'Further letters from the Front'

12 November – Remembrance Sunday Lunch - 1pm

8 December - Christmas lunch

Introducing our new Membership Secretary - Mollie Jeffrey



May I introduce myself if we haven't met yet? I've lived in Harpsden since 2011, joined the Henley branch in 2016 and took over the role of Membership Secretary from Stan early in 2017.

I don't have a military background but Stan assured me this wasn't vital for the role. However, he already knew that my father had been in the RAF during WW11 and that I'd taken a keen interest in his stories of training as a navigator in Canada and of his experiences of long flights with Ferry Command in Catalina flying boats.

Long ago two of my boyfriends were in the forces. One, a navy pilot, was killed at Goose Green when his Harrier Jump Jet was shot down during the Falklands war. More recently I shared the anxiety of a dear friend as she lived out the days when her beloved son was on duty in Helmand, and joined the celebrations on his safe return.

In the last few years I've been helping to collect for the poppy appeal (but will never aspire to match even a fraction of Brian Hughes's astonishing achievement in this field!). I hope this qualifies me sufficiently to take care of the Henley and Peppard RBL membership admin, and will do my best.

I look forward to meeting you all in due course.

Mollie Jeffrey - Mollie@billjeffrey.com Mobile: 07768 851615

Branch Secretary - Urgent Appeal

....nearly a year after Stan resigned as Branch Secretary he has soldiered on well beyond the call of duty. So far we have not been able to find a replacement. The committee meeting in June was Stan's last as secretary. I appeal to all committee and branch members to redouble efforts to identify a replacement, without which the future of the branch could be in doubt.....

We also appeal to the wider community. If you know of anyone who would consider taking on the job of Branch Secretary, with lots of support from the committee, please ask them to contact John Green on 01491 638720 for further information. and they will receive a very warm welcome!

Henley Branch Community Support

There are people living in the avenues, streets and roads near us who need our help. How can we help?

Please Contact Nick Launders <mailto:nicklaunders@gmail.com> (ctrl and click to follow link if viewed online) or phone 01491 628 243) for more information on the following:



Become a Telephone Buddy

Your friendship could be their lifeline.



Bereavement Support

Speaking to someone who has been through the same experience can be a great help.



Home and Hospital Visiting

As a Home & Hospital Visitor, you can give individuals an opportunity to talk to someone, experience companionship and be part of the community.

There are many different ways to support the Legion this year

From donating while you shop or booking your favourite restaurant here are just a few ways to donate....

Give as you Live have been supporting the Legion since 2012. Donations are made directly to us every time a supporter shops online through Give as you Live.

Give as you Live brings together thousands of retailers that have signed up to donate a percentage of every online purchase you make to The Royal British Legion. Just by shopping online with stores including John Lewis, Play.com and Expedia, you can raise money for us without it adding to the cost of your shopping.

To sign up for your own account and start supporting the Legion through your every day shopping please visit www.giveasyoulive.com

ChariTable Bookings you can use this to book your favourite restaurant, £1 will be donated per diner for every successful restaurant reservation booked, at no extra cost to you.

Additionally, Give as you Live brings together thousands of retailers that have signed up to donate a percentage of every online purchase you make to the Legion. This way you can raise money for us without it adding to the cost of your shopping.

Lastly, why not pick up an M&S Sparks card and Spark Something Good next time you shop in an M&S store or online? If you choose the Legion as your charity of choice when registering, every time you scan your Sparks card, M&S will donate 1p to the Legion. So far, Sparks members have raised over £185,000 to the Legion.

ChariTable Bookings <https://www.charitablebookings.org>

Ann Turner 1935 - 2017

For many years Ann was an invaluable member of the Henley Branch of the Legion, being particularly active in the Welfare field and was Chairman of the Branch Welfare Committee for many years. Apart from the case work, she was especially busy at Christmas time, when she generously supplied and delivered potted plants to elderly members who lived alone.

She was also incredibly active when we had well supported trips on Hobbs' boat The Waterman, when she organised the on-board picnic lunch, with sandwiches cut by Mrs Chalk. She added pork pies and fruit cake, which she generously donated and delivered to the boat, ably assisted by Anne Duffy.

Both Ann and her husband Jim were punctilious in their attendance at Branch Committee Meetings. She will be sadly missed but well remembered.



Ann was born Ann Christine Stevenson on 30 September 1935, in Cromer, Norfolk. She was an only child and joined the WRNS in 1954, training as a Dental Nurse. She later served on HMS Dauntless, HMS Victory, HMS Fulmar and lastly HMS Gamecock.

On completion of her service she worked as a dental nurse in London for a short while, before joining the British Council in Spring Gardens and then in Reading, specialising in welfare and housing, including looking after Commonwealth students.

She married Jim in the mid '70s and they moved to Henley in 1986. They made full use of the riverside plot Heron's Cabin on the Wargrave Road, which Jim's mother had bought in the immediate post war years.

They kept a boat there and made cruises up river as far as Letchlade in the summer months. Ann's mother lived in Wargrave, where Ann cared for her until her death, aged 92 years.

Jim was an accountant by profession and later became active in politics. He was a Parliamentary candidate at one stage, then served on the Henley Town Councils, becoming Mayor in 1999. Ann was indefatigable in her roll as Mayoress, giving Jim all kinds of support.

Ann continued to live in Ancastle Green after Jim's death and, having bought a smaller boat, made good use of it for many years.

She became unwell in early 2017 and sadly died soon after being admitted to Acacia Lodge Care Home on 4 April 2017. She was cremated privately on Wednesday 26 April 2017. A Service of Remembrance was held afterwards at St Mary's Church in Henley.

She had many family links with the Services, including a grandfather who was an army Chaplain in WWI, and her step-father, who rose to the rank of Lt Colonel.

Women at War 100



The Royal British Legion will mark the centenary of women's Service in the UK Armed Forces.

<http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/community/calendar/remembrance-services-and-events/women-at-war-100/>

News

Nettlebed and District Branch Royal British Legion

Nettlebed Royal British Legion have organised a Guided Tour of The Poppy Factory in Richmond, Surrey on Thursday 13th July. The cost is £15.00. We will leave Nettlebed Bus Shelter at 11.00 am, returning at approximately 6.00 pm.

If you would like to reserve your place, please contact Colin Malcolmson on 01491 641 260 or e-mail malco.northend@gmail.com.

Alternatively send your details and your cheque made payable to Nettlebed RBL to "Little Green", The Green, Nettlebed, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon, RG9 5AX

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum - (Park Street, Woodstock, OX20 1SN)

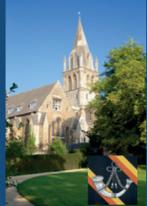
- Events information - www.sofa.org.uk or phone
- General enquiries 01993 810 211 & Event Tickets



**The St Nazaire Raid/
Operation Chariot**
Nick Beattie
Wednesday 12 July 2017
7.00pm-8.30pm
Tickets £10.00

Click here for more information

Lecture
12 July

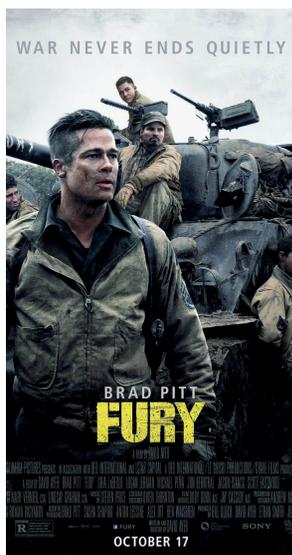


Oxford Open Doors
A guided tour of the Regimental Chapel of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.

**Christchurch Cathedral,
St Aldates, Oxford.**
9th September 2017 at 10.30am

For bookings see
www.oxfordopendoors.org.uk

Guided Tour 9 Sep



Fury (2014) Cert: 15 134 mins

July 5th 2017. Start time: 7.00pm. £3.50

Join us for our own version of The Tank Museum's Tankfest but on a smaller digital scale!

Filmed partly in Oxfordshire, the film is set in April 1945, as the Allies are making their final push in the European theatre. A battle-hardened Army sergeant named Don "Wardaddy" Collier (Brad Pitt), leading a Sherman tank and a five-man crew, undertakes a deadly mission behind enemy lines. Hopelessly outnumbered, outgunned and saddled with an inexperienced soldier (Logan Lerman) in their midst, Wardaddy and his men face overwhelming odds as they move to strike at the heart of Nazi Germany.

Doors open 6.30pm with refreshments available.

This and That!

Royal British Legion Day at Newmarket

This year the day has a VE Street Party theme. Racegoers will enjoy music from a vintage singing trio as well as the iconic march of the British Legion Band up the racecourse before the first race. Great discounts are available for Legion members. Quote reference RBL17 when you book online or over the phone. This offer is valid until 25 July 2017.

Insult To Injury Campaign

Veterans injured in Service before 5 April 2005 receive a War Disablement Pension in compensation. Yet, unlike civilians, if these veterans have or develop social care needs, they find that most of their compensation is taken to pay for their care.

Military compensation is rightly exempt from other financial assessments for statutory benefits, including Universal Credit and Council Tax Support. In England and Wales, compensation awarded to veterans injured after 6 April 2005 is also exempt from financial assessments for social care support. What's more, civilians who have been injured in the work place, and who receive personal injury compensation, are able to keep all of their award if they need help with their care.

We believe that all veterans, regardless of when they were injured or where they now live, should be able to retain the compensation that is rightfully theirs.

We are delighted that from April 2017, injured veterans in England, Scotland and Wales will no longer have to surrender most of their military compensation to pay for their social care.

The Mayor's Cadet Badge - Cadet Harry Ellis



Photo - Henley Herald

The Mayor, Councillor Kellie Hinton presented Air Training Corps (ATC) Cadet Harry Ellis with his Mayor's cadet badge and certificate on Monday evening. Harry is 14, lives in Sonning Common and is a pupil at Chiltern Edge School.

Harry said, "I am very thankful and excited to be picked as the Mayor's cadet, it's an honour! I'm looking forward to doing activities in the

community whilst accompanying the Mayor and representing the 447 Squadron."

ATC Commanding Officer, Flt Lt Tim Keating said, "Harry was chosen because he is always well presented, volunteers for absolutely EVERYTHING and he is an extremely personable and polite young man. He also enjoys the total and unequivocal support of his parents Brian and Lisa. A rare and precious thing. I think he will be an exceptional Mayor's Cadet."

The Mayor said, "I have been involved with ATC for over 5 years as a member of the civilian committee and I am immensely proud to have a Mayor's Cadet from Squadron 447. I am looking forward to a great year and hope Cadet Ellis will enjoy his time attending events with me and getting to know the community."

If you are interested or would like to know more about the Air Training Corps, please call 07817 774682 or email oc.447@aircadets.org. You can also visit www.aircadets.tv for more information on Air Cadet Squadrons in your area.