



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Royal British Legion Dickleburgh and District Branch

NEWSLETTER

November 2021

Remembrance Issue

The contrast between this year's Remembrance Week and last year's was stark – in 2020, at the beginning of Lockdown 2, we had a Zoom service led by our Padre from our home, with some discreet wreath-laying in the afternoon. This year, things were nearly back to normal, as the photographs show, though neither the Gislingham Silver Band nor the Sea Scouts were able to attend. However, cornet players David and Harriet from the Band gave a magnificent rendition of the Last Post in unison, Alicia, one of the scout leaders, laid a wreath on behalf of the Dickleburgh Sea Scouts, and Piper Philip Astor from Starston (and grandson of Earl Haig!) and David Hines in a vintage American military vehicle led the parade in a moving and appropriate fashion. The Poppy Cascade from 2018 was refurbished and provided a poignant setting for the war memorial. My thanks to Rachel from Rsf_lens_photos, Angela and Nicky, for the photographs, and also to Norman and the late Tom Lockwood's daughter, for contributions to this issue.

A Message from our Chairman

Hello All,

I am delighted to inform you that William Hawkins has accepted our invitation to become our new President, following the resignation of Alasdair Wilson when he moved from the area. William transferred to our branch when the Long Stratton branch closed in 2014. He served for some 24 years in the Royal Anglian Regiment, retiring with the rank of Major. During his retirement, he has been very involved with the armed forces charity, SSAFA. William kindly stood in as President at our Remembrance service and his appointment was ratified at our November branch meeting.

This has been a very busy time for our branch – we still have no Poppy Appeal Organiser, so branch members have been distributing and collecting the Poppy Appeal boxes and counting the money, now almost completed. We attended the service at Pulham St Mary and laid a wreath at the Tivetshall St Mary service, both on Armistice Day, as well as our own parade and service on Remembrance Sunday, followed by an afternoon service at Rushall church. We were all extremely tired at the end of the day. A big thanks to all involved in the Poppy Appeal and all those who gave so generously, and to all who made our Remembrance service and parade a success, refurbishing and hanging the Poppy Cascade, setting up the hall, serving soup and welcoming our American guests who much appreciated the invitation. They also appreciated the American vintage military vehicle which led our parade, many photos were taken by them with their children inside.

We look forward to seeing our Bun, Cuppa and Chat folk on 9 December for our festive lunch which will be held in the Village Centre, not the Church Rooms this time.

Best wishes, John

Tom Lockwood

Harry Thomas Lockwood was born in Shimpling on 2 April 1915, the older of the two sons of Harry and Mary Lockwood, née Mullenger. His father joined the Royal Navy before 1911 and was lost at sea on 6 October 1917 when HMS *Begonia* apparently collided with a German submarine off Casablanca and went down with all hands. Tom's mother pleaded with him not to join the Royal Navy on the outbreak of war in 1939, and in deference to his mother's wishes, Tom instead joined the army. He served in North Africa, and Italy before returning home in preparation for the D-Day landings. Tom survived the invasion, moving across Europe and into Germany, before returning home and being demobbed in February 1946. Tom died in November 2008, aged 93, and is buried in Dickleburgh churchyard.

My thanks to Brian Morris and Dorothy Swanton for passing copies of Tom's wartime memories and other writings to me, and to Margaret, Tom's daughter, for permission to reproduce them in the Newsletter.



Tom Lockwood (centre column, far right) with Aubrey Chilvers and (I think) Raymond Saunders, also both of Dickleburgh. Date and venue unknown (Does anyone else know?).

Remembrance 2021



Tivetshall St Mary

The branch was represented at two services on Armistice Day this year – the traditional open-air service at the war memorial outside the ruined church of St Mary, Tivetshall, and a parade and service at Pulham St Mary.

Although there was a service at Tivetshall last year, none of the schoolchildren were able to attend, so it was splendid to see them return this year. The service, which was taken by the Revd Sam Thorp from the Diss Benefice, was very well attended. Gordon Larkins laid a wreath on behalf of the branch, and said the Exhortation and Kohima.

The parade and service at Pulham St Mary, organised by the Parish Council liaising with the Church and our RBL branch, was a first for the village. A large contingent of children from Pulham School attended, with several reading poems and others drawing pictures. The parade was led by local Piper, Bob Rason, with John carrying our Branch Standard.



Pulham St Mary Parade

The Pulham St Mary Memorial Book, compiled by Rosemary Steer, was dedicated by the Rector, the Revd Sarah Walsh, who took the service. The Memorial Book contains details of all those whose names appear on the war memorial, together with a few others, such as the four men who died while serving at the Pulham Air Station during the First World War, three of whom are buried in the churchyard. Relatives of two sets of brothers commemorated on the war memorial, Arthur, Charles and Herbert Goldspink, and Ray and Ernie Pigg, laid wreaths and crosses at the memorial as part of the moving Act of Remembrance. Our chaplain, Revd Norman attended as a veteran, having served in the RAMC, and said the Exhortation. Jack Bloomfield laid the wreath on behalf of the branch



The newly dedicated Book of Remembrance



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Kathleen and Sally laying a wreath at Pulham St Mary to commemorate Ernie and Ray Pigg

Thank you to the team who refurbished the Dickleburgh Poppy Cascade, created in 2018 by many local people to commemorate the centenary of the Armistice, and to Ian and Simon who put it in place. Thank you too to Rachel from Rsf_lens_photos for the splendid pictures of the Cascade.

Bonnie, one of our local youngsters, paid her own moving tribute to those who died during the two wars, laying her beautiful painting of a War Horse amongst the wreaths and poppy crosses at the War Memorial.

Our parade was led by Piper Philip Astor, and David Hines and his family crew in their vintage American military vehicle. John carried the Union Flag, with Gavin carrying the Branch Standard, followed by members of the RBL branch, local service veterans and local villagers. We were joined by contingents from RAF Mildenhall and the Long Stratton Army Cadets, as well as representatives from the Parish Council, the Police, the Gislingham Silver Band and the Sea Scouts.



Bonnie's War Horse painting



Members' News

Jan has recovered well and is sounding her normal chirpy self, and, after a setback, Ken is expected home soon. Martin enjoyed (?) the hospitality of the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital for a few days but is now home and much improved. Our thoughts are with Janet and Sue after their recent diagnoses, and we hope all treatment goes smoothly and effectively. Richard has just moved into residential care but is hoping to keep in touch with everyone through Bun, Cuppa and Chat. If you, or any others from of our RBL family, are unwell or need help, please ring Revd Norman (01379 854245) who will be pleased to help.

Norman's Chuckle Corner

- ✚ Larry LaPrise, who wrote the Hokey Cokey, died in 2003. It made headlines because the undertakers had a difficult time getting him into the coffin. When they put his left arm in, that is when the trouble began! Whoa, Hokey Cokey Cokey.
- ✚ A man went to a fancy-dress party with just a girl on his back. The hostess opened the door, and seeing he had a girl on his back, asked what he had come as. "A snail", he said. "How can you be a snail you have just got a girl on your back?" Thats not a girl, that's Michelle."
- ✚ Doctor, Doctor, I keep thinking I'm a bell
If the feeling persists, give me a ring.
- ✚ Doctor, Doctor, I get so nervous and frightened during driving tests. Don't worry, you'll pass eventually. But I'm the examiner.
- ✚ Doctor, Doctor, people keep ignoring me. Next!
- ✚ Doctor, Doctor, my son swallowed a razor blade.
Don't panic I'm coming straight away. Have you done anything yet? Yes, I've shaved with the electric razor.

Branch Dinner 2022

After a year's break, we have arranged a branch dinner on 19 February 2022 at the Half Moon, Rushall. Tickets will be £28.95 for 3 courses, with a two-course option available too. More details in the next newsletter, including the menu choices, but places will be limited, so please put your names down provisionally as soon as possible by contacting Rosemary Steer, details below.

Dates for Your Diary

Thurs 9 December, Bun, Cuppa and Chat Christmas Lunch, 12.30pm, Village Centre

Wed 26 January, Branch Meeting, followed by talk by Jim Kerr

Fri 28 January, Bun, Cuppa and Chat, 2.30-4pm

Sat 19 February, Branch Dinner, Half Moon, Rushall

Calling All Knitters, Crocheters and Crafters

Nicky has grand plans to expand the Poppy Cascade next year (perhaps along the whole of the parade route?) so needs ...poppies! If anyone wants to get creative to help us out, just let me or Nicky know. I have a pattern if needed. As well as red poppies, we are looking to include purple poppies to commemorate the many animals who died in wars.

Every Poppy Counts! Rosemary

Contributions or comments, please, to the Editor, Rosemary Steer, tel.: 01379 854245; email: rosemary@steerfamily.plus.com

Remembrance Sunday at the Cenotaph in London 8 November 1998

I was very privileged to attend this parade and service. The day started dull and wet, but this did not dampen the spirits of the thousands of veterans who attended this Remembrance Service.

I arrived at Horse Guards Parade, our starting point, about 9.25am; it was pouring with rain and not many people were about. I was to join F column under the Royal British Legion marker, but I was told the marker had not been collected so it was given to me to start our Group. People were now arriving in great numbers, finding their allotted positions. At 10.20am, by which time it had stopped raining, we were taken into Whitehall, column by column, filling the street completely. I was about 100 yards from the Cenotaph.

We could see everything on the huge screens that were at the side of the road; the service was relayed so everyone was able to take part. As Big Ben struck 11am, the 2-minute Silence began by the firing of a gun on Horse Guards Parade. Everywhere was in complete silence and with all those thousands of people around there was a strange feeling in the air; the gun boomed out again and everything came to life once more.

The service was conducted by the Bishop of London with the Royal Family in attendance. The massed bands of the Guards and the pipes and drums of the Gurkhas and the Royal Marines were wonderful.



The 1998 March-Past

moving day for me personally, one that I will long remember.

Tom Lockwood

We then marched in columns of three past the Cenotaph where I was proud to carry a poppy wreath on behalf of my branch at Dickleburgh, to be laid with hundreds of others. It was a great and

If you have received this Newsletter, but are not involved with the Royal British Legion, don't worry, we just wanted to spread a little fun and humour around! Please contact me, though, if you would like your name removed from the mailing list.