



Royal British Legion Haughley Branch – June 2015

Did I say a Peaceful 2015? Had the builders in of late? Our roof has had to be stripped off and re-felted. The flat roof has had to be replaced. The front door had to be replaced and the porch sorting out, now the flippin' loo is on the blink. All this after the heating boiler needed a new pump. I am sure it would have been easier to build a new house, however, onwards and upwards.

Whilst checking on our oak down at Gallowsfield I see that some kind Samaritan has replaced it with a bigger one. If this was you, then thank you for your kindness, but there was nothing wrong with the other one. As I have said, oaks take a long time to establish and grow, look around you.

On to the Memorial. Seems another Samaritan has had a go at cleaning it. I beg you do not touch without first speaking to me. This is important.

Right then poorly people, too many to mention I fear which proves as we get older the importance of getting younger folk on board. Just as our forebears, we are not here forever. I feel that if London would allow the younger folk to have their head we would advance more. Just look at our website. Young Ash tells me we have 1500+ followers on Facebook and 1000+ following Williams on his travels. That in itself tells me a lot.

Speaking of getting older, it is with sadness that I have to tell you that two of our number had had the call from upstairs. Gerry Clarke, who many of you would know kept the Newton Shoulder of Mutton, and Gladys Morrison, who at 99½ didn't quite make the Queen's telegram. They and their families remain in our prayers.

I was a tad wound up a couple of weeks ago when Kate Williams, our Regional Manager, went on radio after the Colchester walk-in centre opened and proudly announced to the world that, prior to 2003 and Afghanistan, the focus of our work was mainly sacks of coal mobility aid and telephones. However, I curtail my thoughts. The County Chairman assures me he will be speaking to her about it.

So what's good? Well, we had a great evening with the Scouts trialling the board games they had come up with. And the downside? Well, for those on a diet anyway, no less than 3 birthdays. Cakes galore.

A super afternoon was enjoyed at a street party to celebrate VE day at the Wetherden Maypole. Yes, I know that the Maypole has not had the best of reputations, but I assure you that young Levi and Donna have made a major effort to give the area somewhere to be proud of. They deserve our support. There's that word again: young. Speaking of support, our cause came away some £350 better off. Not bad for an afternoon's fun.

No less than forty of us had a tour of the museum and restored aircraft at Wattisham and, yep, tea, cake and sarnies. A great few hours; thanks to Pearl and Alan for their hard work.

Young William is getting around; at the moment he is in Japan. What a life, better than that of the man whose name he carries I imagine. Speak of the aforesaid young man, if you are in Bury, treat yourself to a visit to Moyse's Hall, find the Suffolk Regiment part of the museum and you will learn all about William Hayward.

What's happening? Well forms are signed and the wheels are in motion for affiliations with the pre-school and Haughley Junior Football Club and Crawfords School are to take the idea to their Governors' meeting.

- Saturday 20th June: The Village Fair – we will be there
- Saturday 27th June: Veterans Day lunch
- Saturday 15th July: Country rally at Woodbridge
- Saturday 15th August: Branch BBQ and quiz
- October is the AGM and the branch will be 70 years old. Must be a reason for a bun fight. Please don't glance over these dates and ignore them, they are there for you to enjoy and a lot of work has gone in to them.

So, jumping ahead, there has been interest in a trip to Belgium and France, maybe in May 2016. Now I know that this seems a long way off, but I can assure you that this takes an awful lot of research and organising and it is not worth the stress and heartache for half a bus. There is a minimum we can run with if you are to reap the benefit of it. Cheap it is not, but if you want the best then it has to be paid for. So I would then beg you if you would be up for it to contact the Hon. Secretary so that we can appraise whether it is worth doing.

O.K. you have the dates, the website RBL/Branches/Haughley – all it needs now is you! Why not add your story to the website.