



Harleston Branch Monthly News sheet

December 2024

Committee:

Chairman:	John Graham
Vice Chairman:	Sean Fairfield
Secretary:	Rosie Riches
Treasurer:	Steve Cox
Standard Bearer:	Chris Lown
Alternate Standard Bearer:	Steve Berger
Poppy Appeal Organiser:	Mandy Carter
Stores:	Tim Baldry
Entertainment	Steve Barrett



Harleston Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Parade this year commenced with all branch members gathering at the market place for a glass of port (provided by the management of JD Young's Hotel). This allowed the Veterans to raise a toast to the fallen "Absent friends".



Photo - Mya Pask



Shortly after the toast the parade lined up and under the direction of the Parade Marshal Captain Sam Carter



(ACF), stepped off. The new speaker system worked well and the microphone was tested out on Armistice day and at the other smaller services.

The Masonic Rooms held a formal Remembrance day lunch, that was open to all RBL members.



Bottles of port were provided and the Loyal toasts were given by Jon Duckworth. The Swan Hotel held another lunch for the Veterans who regularly attend their Veterans' Brunches. Again port was provided.

A fully inclusive day that was supported by all the local population. The Harleston ACF and the Veterans that marched with all the other local groups showed why Harleston is such a proud, honourable town. Members of the RBL appreciated the support of the local hostelryes and the port they provided!

New Members welcome

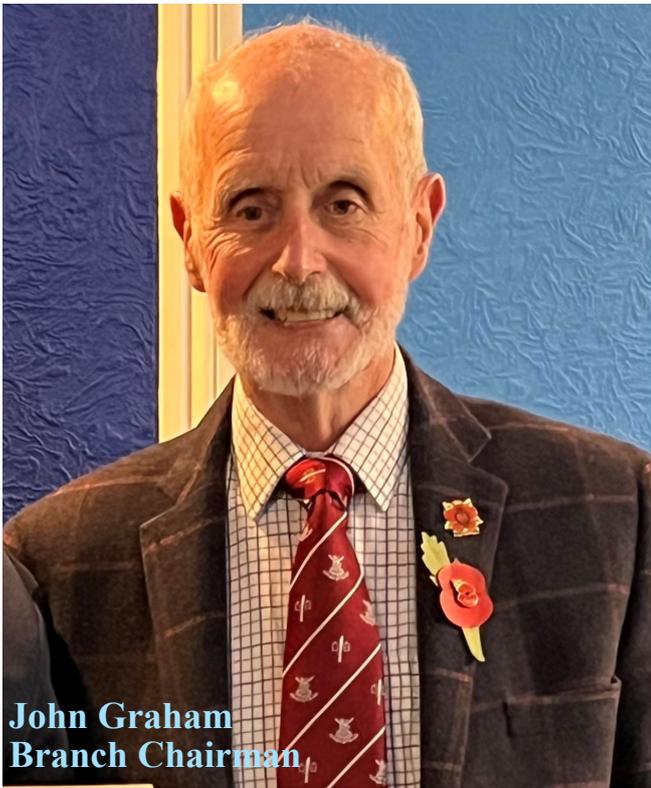
Whilst ex service personnel do like to associate with each other at the local branch, it is by no means exclusive to this group. Harleston welcomes all those who would enjoy good company and friendly banter. Why not come along to the Masonic Rooms on the second Friday of each month at 7:30pm. Further information from Harleston.Secretary@RBL.Community



Polo shirt £15
Cap £10

The primary aim of the monthly News sheet is to keep the branch members informed of RBL news and social events throughout the year. All inputs to:

Harleston.Secretary@RBL.Community



**John Graham
Branch Chairman**

Chairman profile:

John Graham was voted in as the branch Chairman at the 2024 AGM.

He grew up in Renfrewshire, Scotland, joined the Army at 16 years old, as a Junior Leader with the Royal Highland Fusiliers. Later transferred to The Royal Military Police until retirement in 1981.

Leaving the Forces, joined the British Transport Police, serving in Birmingham and Derby. Transferred to the CID, based in London until retirement in 1998.

In 2000 he moved from Essex to Pulham Market, where he became a council-

lor. Moving to Harleston 16 years later.

John is an Expedition Instructor and Assessor in the Norfolk and Suffolk Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, a volunteer with Harleston Waveney Valley Food Bank and a member of London Road Church.

In March 2024 he became a councillor with the Harleston Town Council. He is married to Annie and have a daughter Shona, Granddaughters Molly and Hattie. He welcomes the challenge of his new role as Branch Chairman.

Poppy Sales 2024

RBL Poppy Appeal Organiser, Mandy Carter's work started almost as soon as the 2023 collection and counting was complete. This is one of the most important roles of the branch and takes a level of dedication and organisation that cannot be under stated. This year was an outstanding success with a record number of sales of poppy wreaths (46). These hung proudly in Brownes the butcher's and this year the



window display was so full more had to be hung inside the shop. A total of 63 pots and boxes went out to Harleston, Needham, Pulham St. Mary, Pulham Market, Wortwell, Denton and Alburgh. Grand Total is £8790.26 (Over £400 above last years amount).



Hit the ground running

And why not, indeed says Steve Barrett, our newest member of the Harleston and District RBL. Steve decided to take on the 121 miles challenge running rather than walking.

Having left the army in 2001 Steve thought it would be a good idea join the

RBL and get stuck straight into the fund raising, all at the same time.

As an ex Household Cavalryman, Steve has been involved in many fund raising events from various half marathons to the London Marathon, to raise £0,000s for worthy causes such as Cancer Research, Children in Need, Help for Heroes and now the Royal British Legion.

Steve commented "it's a real honour to be part of the RBL and

raise money for an organisation with a long history of supporting veterans and their families . "



Remembrance at associated sites: Wortwell, Green Lane & Church Lane

Once the main parade at the Harleston Memorial was completed and the church service done, it was time to honour the fallen at the other memorials associated to Harleston. At 3pm on Sunday, the second service at the nearby village of Wortwell was



The branch President laid a wreath at the Green Lane (American) memorial.



carried out. Two further services were carried out after an Armistice service on Monday 11th November. The branch chairman John Graham, laid a wreath at both Wortwell and Church lane.

Certificates of appreciation to former Chairman and Branch Secretary

The November branch meeting was a time to celebrate the many years of service to the Harleston branch of the RBL, for two stalwart members of the branch committee team. Jim Keywood (former Branch Chairman) and Terry Pegg who joined the branch in 2011. During his time Terry has been Vice Chairman, Secretary,



Community Support and Community Representative. These are the official roles he has taken on. However he's been more active as a keen history buff and has been the lead researcher of the WW1 tablecloth, and compiled a detailed biography of all the fallen on the war memorial. He took time to research downed aircraft

and their crews and has been pivotal in keeping the memorials to those fallen men in good order ensuring they are not neglected or forgotten. both remain fully supportive members of the branch and we celebrate their service.



Christmas gathering

The Christmas gathering on 6th December, will be a time to relax and celebrate the start of the Christmas festivities. There will be at least 24 raffle prizes, (the star prize is worth £75). We also have a prize for the best Christmas jumper. So come along bring a dish /



something for the buffet. "Fingers crossed" that we don't all bring the mince pies. The committee have some activities that we hope you'll enjoy, or you can just come along and enjoy great company of Harleston RBL!

Christmas Tree

Jon Duckworth has created a RBL Christmas tree for the Alburgh Christmas tree festival. Trees can be viewed and voted for on 14/15 Dec in Alburgh church. Lets give him our support



FUTURE EVENTS

The list of events will grow with inputs from all Branch members. Please pass on to the secretary any events that you would like to see listed .



Burns Night

18/01/2025

18:30-19:00

Branch members have been invited as honoured guests of the Waveney Valley Lodge, for Burns Night 2025. This event to celebrate the Scottish Bard, is a well known evening of drink, poetry and Scottish cuisine. The venue is the Masonic rooms. Names to: timbaldry2@gmail.com, by 11th January.



Veteran's Breakfast club

The Veteran's Breakfast / Brunch club "usually" meets on every second Saturday each month. (After the RBL Friday meeting). The Swan hotel hosts these meetings under the guidance of the Landlord Mr Robin Twigge. All Veterans, Widows and dependants are very welcome. Next meeting 7th December 2024.

In memorandum: Harleston memorial names

Corporal Edward Bly Dalliston, 52nd Motorised Transport Company, Army Service Corps, Died 1st December 1915, aged 43

Sergeant William Clacy Feaviour, 2nd Battalion Honourable Artillery Company, Died 6th December 1916, aged 36

Sapper Oliver James Payne, 98th Light Railway Train Crew Company, Royal Engineers, Died 31st December 1917, aged 19.

January 2025

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 RBL gathering	11 Veterans' Brunch	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 Burns Night Masons	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		