



Muster

Newsletter of Haughley Royal British Legion

60 Seconds with 'Roy Boy' - The outgoing chairman and the chap who lost his Wellington boot in the snow!

>> So, tell us about your service history?

As a bored teenager living close to the docks I took it upon myself to join the merchant navy. This with my fathers agreement I joined a ship bound for Australia. Ten young boys in a cabin that today most would say was only fit for two, no en suite then. In those far off days of the £10 poms our country was pretty much on it feet again after the end of WW2. On our way we called at various European country's gathering more people to help create the Aus we know know today. We witnessed poverty and suffering that was to leave an imprint on my young mind that was never going to leave me. However down the line our ship our ship went into dry dock for a major overhaul, and I never went back. So time marched on and my ambition of becoming a fireman seemed further away. To join the fire service you had to be 21. And then a glimmer of hope! An advert for the RAF. To join you had to take a test to see if you were best suited. Some years later I learnt that you could of been Einsteinian, but you were guided where they needed people, and they needed fireman, great where do I sign! During my square bashing I had reason to threaten our DI with placing my bayonet where the sun font shine. I also changed my mind about being a fireman and went on to be a dog handler instead. Good move? Who knows, I may of had a career in the fire service. I was to find myself recalled for the Aden crisis and spent the hellish winter of 62-63 in the wilds of Lincolnshire before being sent to the middle east for two years where I served in the company of 5323 A/D prince to rebels together and various army regiments. When my time was up someone said to me 'see you in about a year', you were born to serve your country. And yes he was almost right.... Then I met the girl, and the rest as they say was history!

>> What encouraged you to join the legion and re-instate the Haughley branch?

During my service my mates at home told me of this British Legion club that would allow me in because of my service. I remember saying that's for old men reliving the past and all this time later opinions never change, hey? However by the nineties i found myself landlord of the pub where the Bacton branch met and began to understand that It was not just an old boys club, so I decided to support them by joining. On retirement we moved to Haughley and found that the branch here was a sub branch of Bacton albeit no one attended meetings. Time maybe to revive Haughley from it's slumbers. So for a year or two we went to meetings in Bacton by mini bus until some bright spark had the idea we should become our own branch. So here we are a few years down the line stronger than ever and envy of the county.

>> What do you plan to do with your 'spare time'?

What spare time? If I lived to 100 with the strength of when I was 20 I will never fit it in. Now let this be a lesson.



Roy Buttle indulging in one of his hobbies

>> What do you consider as your greatest achievement as chairman and why?

Our greatest achievement must be our work with our village school 'Crawfords'. Our affiliation with our scout group, our junior football teams and even pre school. It is important that they understand the sacrifice that has been made for their freedom. With our help I hope that they will learn from our mistakes and the 'great' into Britain. We are the past but with our help they can make it a better future.

>> What Would you say to the new chairman?

Three essentials. A good secretary, listen to the opinion of others but remember the buck stops at your door.

>> **The branch had it's AGM** on the 13th October with some members taking office with immediate effect. These are:

Branch Chairman: Bernie John
Vice Chairman: Tim Hart
Poppy appeal co ordinator: Tim Hart
Schools Liaison and flagman: Roy Buttle

>>**Armistice Day**

There will be a service for Crawfords School and the village pre school at St Mary's church Haughley at 11am. During the schools service there will be poppy laying to remember the men folk from our village. Tea and coffee will be available afterwards.

>> **Do Not Be Alarmed** <<

At 11am on the 11th November 1918 Peace was declared at the end of the war said to end all wars.

At home Maroons were fired and church bells rang out in celebration.

>> **Remembrance Sunday**

Here are the following details:
Muster at the village post office at 10.30
March off at 10.40 with whetherden and Haughley group Scout group.
The service starts at 10.50

>> **Recently the school** cook from Crawford's left for new horizons after 10years, so as a token of our appreciation from the branch we presented her with a metal poppy to thank her for cooking extra for when we attended the school for functions. Thank you Denise.

Up and coming dates:

>> **We** shall be having a stall at this year's Christmas fair at Old Newton on the **26th November** so pop long to get festive.

>> **11th December** is the branches Christmas party at the Cedars. Please arrive for 4.30 ready for 5pm. So brush them Christmas jumpers down and be festive!

