



# Muster

Newsletter of Haughley Royal British Legion

## 60 Seconds with Bernie John the new chairman and his love of 'tarts !'

>> So, tell us a little about yourself, have you ever served?

No, I have never served and whilst in my youth I was glad conscription ended when it did ( December 1960 I think) there have been occasions since when I wished I had. That famous quote 'There comes a time in everyman's life when he wished he had been a soldier 'comes to mind. Oh well back to Call of Duty. My occupation from the time I left school in 1961 to the time I retired at the end of 2003 has been spent principally in finance, with a short venture into the world of computers in the mid 80s. I started my working life with a Shipping & Forwarding Company (where incidentally I met my now wife) based in the City of London near Leadenhall Market, through an Export Finance house and ultimately with a major bank in Canary Wharf. Terrific views from the 38th floor unless there was a low cloud base and then it was like looking out from the inside of a dirty milk bottle.

>> When did you join the legion and why?

I joined the legion in July 2014 not, to be honest, from any high ideals but it did seem to be appropriate at the time. My son who has served joined Haughley RBL at an earlier date and regularly encouraged me to join. The clincher came, having attended the Homage Tour to Belgium in May 2014 when I was beginning to feel a real obligation. Margaret's persuasive tongue did the rest.

>> We all have them, so what is your most annoying habit?

My most annoying habit? Probably best to ask the wife on this one. She says 'Talking to much and worst still interrupting her '. There are probably others but best we don't go there.

>> What is your vision for the branch going forward?

My vision for the branch in its most simplistic form is to continue to do all those things we have always done. They have been successful; if its not broken don't fix it. Over and above that I would like to recruit more people into the fold, particularly the younger generation. Additionally we need to incorporate into our monthly meetings a social element and whilst precise details need to be worked out there is , I know, a desire among the membership for this. There always has to be a FUN element.



Photo: Bernie at this years remembrance Sunday

>> What are your hobbies and why?

I have a number of hobbies. Reading, mostly non fiction and military although not exclusively. Gardening in a very amateur way, but if I have to pick a favourite it would be making models (Airfix kits). I made lots of models in my youth, then again with my kids and then yet again with my granddaughters. I'm still a sucker for it even now, although the eyes aren't so good or the hands so steady. Who is to blame for this. Biggles or more specifically W E Johns. Sopwith Camels, Fokker Triplanes I'm in heaven.

>> We've already mentioned tarts, would you care to explain further?

My weaknesses I will confess a love of Bakewell Tarts and Wine Gums. I mention this in case someone wants to treat me!







### News In Brief

#### >> Remembrance Sunday

Every year the residents of Haughley and surrounding areas come out in force to remember the fallen; this year was no exception. The branch gathered at the village post office with members of the village, Haughley and Wetherden Scouts and explorers with representatives of Haughley Youth Football club and pre school. Roy led the smart walk from the post office, past the war memorial and into the church where we were met by Rev. David Swales. The two minute silence was signalled by the last post and reveille by Carl who played the Bugle. Rev. David Swales gave a short meaningful sermon; funny enough on Remembrance which involved the younger members of the congregation.. we applaud the scout who got all the answers correct. During the service branch president Adrian Morris called out each fallen soldiers name from the village where the youngsters from the village laid a poppy to remember them. Following the service everybody gathered around the war memorial for the laying of wreaths and prays. As usual members went to the cedars for lunch. Thank you to everybody who attended.

- § The 2015/2016 poppy appeal raised an incredible **£7,417.51** thank you to everybody who helped. The 2016/2017 appeal is well underway!
- § It is with sadness that we record the passing of members Ronnie Nunn and George Osborne, our thoughts and prayers are with the families.
- § There is lots 'of planning taking place for 2017 so watch this space!



#### >> Need help?

Call our Contact Centre helpline on 0808 802 8080 from 8am to 8pm, 7 days a week (calls are free from UK landlines and main mobile networks) for all enquiries. Or simply contact us at branch level.

#### >> Up and coming dates:

Next branch meeting 12<sup>th</sup> Jan 2017 with a talk from Kevin Havelock on first aid defibulator

>> Bernie's Christmas message  
Apart from the usual Season Greetings I would like to convey to the branch members my sincere thanks for electing me and my assurance that I will always do my very best for RBL Haughley.

**Have a very merry Christmas and a peaceful new year!**

