

December 2022

Hot off the press!! The total raised at this year's Poppy Appeal for the Harleston & District Branch was an amazing £7863.65. The competition to see which static stand collected the most money was easily won by **Chris Lown & Tim Shields** at their stand outside the Co-op. Although they had a distinct advantage with the help of Carla's Sausage Rolls to keep them going all day.

Christmas message from the Branch Chairman:

I would like to thank everyone for all their efforts this year and I wish you and all your families a very happy Christmas and a peaceful new year.

Best wishes Jimmy Keywood



This magnificent WW1 Tommy Christmas Tree was designed by Vice Chairman Jon Duckworth  
It will be on display at the Christmas Tree Festival on Sat & Sun 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> Dec at  
All Saints Church, Alburgh IP20 0DB

## Vice -Chairman's reflection of 2022

As we have come to expect Terry has captured the essence of the year and you can see what a busy and varied year it has been. We have remembered, celebrated, mourned and played a leading and supporting role in many other community ventures.

We have a great deal to be thankful for and the list is topped by our energetic and dedicated people, who seem determined to buck trends and go above and beyond. The impressive and most unexpected Poppy Appeal total didn't come about by happenstance, but it was a thoroughly orchestrated and well executed campaign, that is a credit to our Poppy Appeal Organiser **Mandy Carter**, our Secretary **Terry Pegg, Claire Prest**, Harleston Troop of **The Army Cadet Force**, the branch members who helped on the static stands and the close cooperation of the Town council, shopkeepers and generosity of our community.

We are also going against the tide of what most other RBL branches and organisations are experiencing with a significant uplift in our membership. Assisted greatly a 'press gang' approach but it is vital for us to fulfil our aims, that we stay relevant and vibrant. The introduction of social activity is gaining momentum and the Community Café in St John's has become a popular venue for tea and banter. **Sam Carter** led and marshalled our Remembrance Parade and pulled off an excellent Remembrance Sunday lunch and although plagued by circumstances beyond his control is commended for pushing on regardless.

Looking forward to next year seems daunting and exciting in equal measure. It is the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armistice of the Korean War and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the invasion of Iraq (Op Telic). We have set a high bar in terms of raising our profile and supporting the Poppy Appeal but we have **Carla's** sausage rolls to sustain us and **Sean Fairfield** is determined to bring off the 'Waterloo Dinner'. We have a Coronation and possibly a town carnival to support and we have the opportunity to build a closer relationship with our most impressive ACF detachment and help them discharge their community mandate.

**Clare** and I visited the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) on Armistice Day (you may have seen us on Sky News!!), it is a remarkable and poignant place that deserves to be on our calendar to visit. Not strictly RBL business but I would like to see more interaction with the Harleston Shed and Armed Forces Covenant, I am sure there is funding and benefits to be taken advantage of for the organisations in Harleston and District. There may be mileage in forming a breakfast or supper club at one of the eateries in town but any suggestions for providing social and well-being interaction for our community would be most welcome.

Clare & I wish you good health and everything you hope for the festive season and 2023, it has been a pleasure. Onwards and upwards.

Jon Duckworth  
Certa Cito

A photographic look back at just some of the events we were involved in during 2022:

### March 2022

On the 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022 a service was held for the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of an RAF Wellington Bomber that crashed at Briar Farm, Harleston on 9<sup>th</sup> March 1942. All 6 of the aircrew were killed.



### June 2022

HM Queen Elizabeth II – Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Our Branch Vice Chairman’s Union Flag Jacket made the front page of the Diss Express:  
Modelled by the Branch Secretary Terry:



### Falklands 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022

An ‘Act of Remembrance’ commemorating the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ending of the Falklands conflict was held at The War Memorial on Broad Street commencing at 3.00pm on Tues 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022. The service was held at 3.00pm to coincide with the Act of Remembrance taking place at the 1982 Cemetery in Port Stanley (11.00 Falklands local time).



## Armed Forces Day – Sat 25<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Lots of shops and organisations got involved with the ‘Salute our Forces’ campaign:



Some of the Branch Members also took advantage of the Forces Discount kindly given by the organisers of The Harleston Beer Festival (Harleston Round Table). Hopefully same again next year.

## Death of HM Queen Elizabeth II

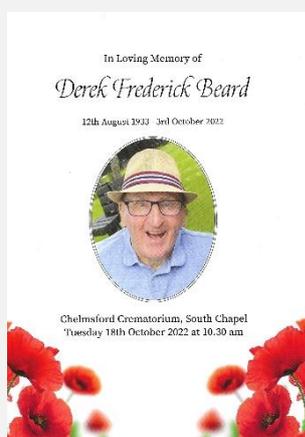
The Royal British Legion marked the death of our Sovereign and Patron, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II who died at Balmoral on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

We have been hugely privileged to have Queen Elizabeth serve as Patron of the Royal British Legion since her ascension to the throne on 6th February 1952. We are immensely thankful for her lifetime of faithful service and we joined the entire Armed Forces community and Country in mourning her loss.



## Funeral of Derek 'Del Boy' Beard

It was with great sadness that we heard of the passing of a very popular former member of the Branch. Derek passed away on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022. **Terry Pegg & Claire Prest** travelled down to Essex to attend his funeral.



## October 2022

Our Branch Vice Chairman **Jon Duckworth** and Standard Bearer **Chris Lown** attended the Norfolk County RBL Rededication Service at St John the Baptist Cathedral in Norwich on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2022.



## Remembrance 2022



Terry, Sean & Jon at the Market Place



Amazing display of wreaths (Photo credit Pauline Shadbolt)

**Armistice Day also known as Remembrance Day 11<sup>th</sup> Nov 2022: (Photos credit Pauline Shadbolt)**



The town centre workmen paid their respects



Our spiritual leaders Revd Nigel Tuffnell and Revd Gerald Epps



Silence at 11.00 am on 11<sup>th</sup> Nov



The Last Post



Great to see Royal Marine Rob Andrews

**Harleston Remembers: (Photos credit Sarah-Marie Betts)**



Ready to March on the Football Pitch



Even Tim Shields was in step



Credit to all the cadets, they were brilliant



That's not an officer out of step is it?



Thank you Harleston Town Football Club for your support to The Royal British Legion and the Armed Forces Community



Well done also to our very own 'Norfolk Boy Walking' Chris Lown for his magnificent fundraising achievements in 2022