



Little Gaddesden Branch Royal British Legion Newsletter



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Issue 28

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Chairman's Report :

It was with a deal of wailing and gnashing of teeth that Annette and I made the decision to move out of the Village.
We had planned to leave 1 Home Farm Cottages first and then only after we had overtaken Ken Dickson in the "Old Age Stakes". But, unlike our politicians, we changed to "Plan B" when things went wrong and failing eyesight curtailed my independent movement. The silver lining is of course that I leave the Branch thriving and in the best of hands and that I no longer have to worry about having to drive home after a party and I do hope that you will invite us to join you on such occasions in future.
If ever any of you venture east to Suffolk do call in on us in Woodbridge, the pubs are all within easy walking distance!

Summer Issue



We all were absolutely delighted when **Gil Stone** drew the Grand Raffle Prize & promised to drink the fizz straight off with friends!



Our Chairman **Tommy and Annette** listening in to the Annual Dinner speeches

The Annual Dinner at Ashridge Golf Club

"Wasn't it great"! We have come to expect delicious food and great service from our "very own" Golf Club, but it is the company that makes an occasion memorable and didn't we all enjoy every moment!

Once again a thousand thanks are due to the Club for looking after us so well and to Mitch for organising it all.



Ashridge Golf Club : Left, **Janet Davis, Rita Humphrey & Dorothy Grande** enjoy pre-dinner drinks overlooking the course. Centre, **Wendy Mitchell and Maurice Godden**.

Right, **Bill Paterson, John Mitchell with back to the camera & Tommy Tucker** keep the bar in profits!

Social Evenings at The Bridge

They get better every month!

Those who haven't popped in just don't know what they're missing. Once again we filled the Ashridge Room at our meetings in March and April. The fewer who turned up on Dank Bank Holiday Monday in May were treated to a feast of "bangers and mash" rather than our usual monster platters of "sarnies and side dishes".



Hubert & Pauline Case, Wilfred Birdseye, Annette Tucker & Ken Dickson & friends swap stories & share food and a drink.

Car Parking Marshalls : RBL Volunteers Needed!
We are seeking RBL volunteers to help direct traffic during the Village Queen's Jubilee Celebration on Tuesday 5th June from around 11am.
If you can spare even half an hour, please call Paul or Shaun and as a bribe a free hog roast meal awaits at the Bowls & Croquet Club! Thanks!
Paul Woods 01442 843430 & Shaun McCarthy 01442 842565

Diary Dates

Sun 3rd June RBL led March from Village Hall to Church for Jubilee Celebration service. 9.00AM

Mon 4th June (Bank Holiday) **Social Evening** at the Bridgewater Arms, 6.30PM

Tue 5th June 10.30am onwards. RBL Traffic Support to Village Fete & Village Jubilee Celebrations.

Mon 2nd July Social evening at the Bridgewater Arms. 6.30PM.

Sun 22nd July From Noon. **Ashridge Lunch and Open Day.**

Mon 6th Aug. Social evening at the Bridgewater Arms, 6.30 PM

Service Tales from Little Gaddesden Vols. 1 & 2

As Tommy has starting turfing out his garage he has come across some more copies of 'Tales of Service Life'!

At a fiver each they are excellent reading & the profits go straight to the Branch. If you'd like a copy for yourself or as a gift, let Marika know 842717.

Jubilee Celebration Service

Sunday 3 June March to the church for the Jubilee celebration service.

The **Little Gaddesden Legion Branch Standard** will lead a march of members, cubs and scouts departing from the Village Hall to the Church at 9.00AM. Please join in to show your support if you possibly can.



Our very own civilian aviator **Stuart Green** and his family have been involved in an extraordinary 2 year odyssey since seeking the Branch's help in tracing his father Alan Green's war records and medals. The RAF were delighted to present Stuart with his father's medals (which he had never claimed) while he handed over a copy of Alan's extraordinarily detailed logbook. Having visited last year the site of the "Great Escape" camp Stalag Luft where Alan spent almost 3 years as a POW, Stuart discovered by chance the existence of a memorial next to the field in Wognum, Holland where his father's Stirling bomber crashed on 21st June 1942, sadly killing 3 of the aircrew. Together with his twin sons, Stuart visited the memorial in November to be greeted by a "Civic Reception" involving the Mayor and several witnesses to the crash, including 87 year old Tiny de Boer. In one particularly emotional moment, Stuart was given the buckles of his father's parachute which had been kept all these years by

the family who had helped Alan for 3 days prior to his capture by the SS. On the 4th May, Stuart returned to the memorial with his wife Sally and daughter Isabel, where they were guests of honour at a special ceremony to mark Dutch Remembrance. **The Bomber Command Memorial in London's Green Park to honour the 55,573 men of Bomber Command who lost their lives in World War II, is due to be completed in time for a Dedication and Unveiling on Thursday 28th June.**