

OBITUARY



HENRY GREET 1928 - 2007

The branch Chairman until the 2006 AGM, Henry Greet, had been a member of The Royal British Legion for 59 years. He was born in Thornham in 1928, and after leaving school/ joined the Air Training Corps, and soon experienced his first flight. The following year he was called up for National Service, and apart from his years in the Royal Air Force, he lived in the village for his whole life. He was demobbed in 1948, and this was when he first joined The Royal British Legion.

Henry ran a smallholding after demobilisation, but didn't stay out of uniform for long, because in 1950 he joined the spare-time Royal Observer Corps. In due course he was promoted to Chief Observer, responsible for the post and crew at Hunstanton and later Brancaster posts, and was instrumental in arranging for a tree to be planted in Brancaster churchyard to commemorate the post site. He remained in the ROC for 42 years, being awarded the ROC Medal and two clasps.

Also in 1950, he started the Aero Club, to which most of the village boys belonged. This continued until 1974, and Henry's enthusiasm and knowledge helped many not only to become interested in aircraft and flying, but to visit places of interest like London Airport.

Henry became the village postman, and later newsagent as well, and was often seen delivering pensions to his elderly customers' homes. From 1971 to 1976/ he was sub-postmaster in the village. In 1952, Henry and Joy were married, and brought up their three sons in Thornham. Last year, Henry and Joy became great-grandparents.

In 1954 Henry started organising the Royal Air Force Wings Appeal locally, and in later years, following his mother's example, he also took over as Poppy Appeal Organiser for the Royal British Legion branch. In 1958 he joined the RAF Association. In 1991, after the stand down of the Royal Observer Corps, Henry sought another challenge/ and began an association with the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

In 1938, Henry joined Thornham church choir, and continued to sing in the choir until just a few months before his death. In 1970, he was asked to become the temporary vergger, and he continued this duty for 37 years, again until ill health recently forced him to give it up. Henry was admitted in 1980 to the Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary at South Creake, and organised an annual service in Thornham for the Guild. He was also an active supporter of the mission Aviation Fellowship. Henry was a true Christian, and he was never happier than when he could be of service to his church.

Henry's knowledge and enthusiasm were such that when any question was asked, the reply was usually "Ask Henry", and the large number of people in church for his funeral service was testament to the esteem and respect felt for him in the local community. His home is crammed with certificates of appreciation, medals and awards, and a particularly proud day was the presentation to him of Maundy money by HM The Queen, at Norwich Cathedral in 1996.