



# **Horncastle & District Royal British Legion Newsletter - August 2024**

**Branch Number: BR 0162**

## **Branch Officers**

President: John Strange

Chairman: Stewart Garner-Jones

Vice Chairman: Richard Baldock

Secretary: Charlotte Beath

Treasurer: Richard Baldock

Membership: Richard Baldock

Community Support Officer: Richard Baldock

**Royal British Legion Helpline - 0808 802 8080**

## **Chairman's Report**

Since the last newsletter, it has already been an eventful year with coffee mornings, Branch breakfasts and an unofficial social club has started after each Branch meeting.

In June, along with the Town Council, we remembered D-Day with D-Day 80 marking the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary. On the morning of 6<sup>th</sup> June, we held a wreath laying service with 2 minutes silence remembering D-Day. I had the privilege to read out the homage while standing opposite a 102 year old D-Day Veteran, an experience I found very moving.

On the evening of 6<sup>th</sup> June, we held a D-Day 80 church service starting with a Highland Piper leading the procession of standard bearers and 80 lanterns carried by members of; Army Cadets, Air Cadets, Scouts, Guides, Banovallum School students, Queen Elizabeth Grammar School students and residents of Clarence House.

After the service, a beacon was lit in the grounds of the Community Centre with an address read out by Branch President John Strange and a BBQ provided by Horncastle Lions.

On the evening of 7<sup>th</sup> June, there was "D-Day 80 Remembered"; a brass band concert featuring Banovallum Brass and vocalist Claudia Bush.

## **Chairman's Report (cont'd)**

On 28th July we remembered 71 years since the Korean War ended with the annual Korean Veterans' Service at Hamerton Gardens followed by a buffet at Stanhope Hall.

All these events went without a hitch and we are thankful for the great turnout and support from the town.

This year's AGM will be on Monday 14th October at 7.30pm at the Bull Hotel. The Chair, Secretary and Committee positions are up for election. Anyone wishing to take on one of these roles should be nominated and seconded by a Branch member on the appropriate form, which will be sent out to all members on 23rd September and will also be available at the branch meeting on 9th September. Additionally, further information is given below.

THERE ARE vacancies on the committee. Hopefully members can think about joining the committee to take a more active role in the running of the branch.

As always, recruitment is important and we are slowly gaining members and long may this continue. If you are already a member but don't attend meetings, please try to come along as you have the chance to make a difference.

We look forward to this year's Poppy Appeal as a time for Remembrance and to raise valuable funds to those who need it most.

*Your team member and friend*

*Stewart Garner- Jones*

*Branch Chairman*

*"Service Not Self"*

## **Branch AGM**

The Branch AGM takes place on Monday 14th October at 7.30pm in the Bull Hotel. As stated in the Chairman's Report, there are places on the Committee to be filled. If you wish to nominate someone for a role, this must be submitted on the appropriate form and returned to the Secretary by 7th October.

Some people will receive the form inside this Newsletter. If you have not received a copy of the form, this will be emailed to you by the Secretary on 23rd September. If you have not received a form either with this Newsletter or via email, please contact the Secretary as follows:

Email: [horncastledistrict.secretary@rbl.community](mailto:horncastledistrict.secretary@rbl.community)



## Poppy Appeal Report

This will be the last Poppy Appeal report before the start of the 2024/2025 Appeal at the end of October. It will also be my last Appeal as your Poppy Appeal Organiser. Following the submission of the accounts by 1<sup>st</sup> December, the new Poppy Appeal Organiser, Graham Kirkman, will take over. Graham will make an excellent Poppy Appeal Organiser and I will always be available to support him when needed.

Volunteers will always be needed to stand on the stall. The dates of the market stall this year will be:

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October  
Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October  
Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November

Help will also be needed with the distribution of boxes, and the collection of boxes after the appeal. The more volunteers we have, the easier it is for the rest of the Branch members.



*Julian  
Millington*



# D Day 80

## Thursday 6th June 2024



Above: The parade follows the piper to the entrance to the church.

Below: The D Day 80 concert held on Friday 7th June.



## **Auschwitz by Julian Millington**

I have recently taken a trip to Krakow, which included a visit to Auschwitz Concentration Camp. Below are my thoughts on the trip

Having read a few books on Auschwitz, detailing the horrors that went on there during World War 2, the journey to the camp from Krakow was a mixture of emotions. I have wanted to visit for many years, but was unsure whether a place that holds such horrors should be a tourist attraction. On the other hand, by guiding people round, keeping the stories of it alive will surely prevent anything like it happening again.

When we arrived, it was nothing like I expected it to be. I thought it would be in the middle of nowhere, not on the edge of town. I didn't anticipate the huge car park and modern entrance buildings. There was no sight of the camp itself until we had negotiated the entrance building and a walk along a concrete path with high sides. Then, there it was, our first sight of the camp. Block on block of two storied buildings that 80 years ago the Nazis used to eradicate 1.3 million people in 4 years, 1 million of them being Jews. Our guide had taken tours around the site for over 13 years. She was excellent and provided so much information. We were taken in many different rooms, which showed the conditions the prisoners lived in, their bare dormitories, old corridors, toilet blocks and the parade square, where roll calls could sometimes last for hours in freezing conditions. Nearby was a set of gallows where prisoners were made to watch others be hanged, no doubt, sometimes, family and friends.

The whole area is surrounded by double lines of wire, leaving everyone inside in no doubt they were a prisoner. One block contained rows of pictures of prisoners profiles in black and white, hundreds and hundreds of them. All with shaved heads. It was difficult to distinguish between males and females and between the young and old. The only similarity between them was they all had the same look of resignation on the faces. There was no sign of hope in their eyes. The guide told us that 3 weeks after the photos were taken, everyone displayed in the room was dead.

Other buildings contained property from those taken to the gas chambers; thousands and thousands of pairs of glasses, shoes, suitcases, pots and pans, children's toys and one area which contained hundreds of artificial limbs. Most chilling was our walk through one of the remaining gas chambers. Entering through one door and leaving through another, alive, was not something that occurred in the time of the Nazis. Out of respect for those who were murdered in the chamber, we were all asked to maintain a respectful silence as we passed through it. Everyone did.

Finally we were shown the gallows where Rudolf Hoss the Camp Commandant, was executed in 1947. We then left Auschwitz and were taken a short distance to Birkenau, sometimes known as Auschwitz 2.

This has a different feel to it. Where Auschwitz feels close and confined, Birkenau is spacious and open, though still surrounded by wire, and clearly a prison. The huts are wooden single storey. The camp has views of fields and it has a tranquil feel to it. Nearby villages are visible. It is hard to accept that at one time up to 20,000 people a day were killed and burned here. There is the railway track that enters the camp through a bricked archway. The track runs out after 1 km, signifying an ominous final stop for so many people.

This time, we were shown a gas chamber destroyed by the Nazis as the Allies approached to liberate the camp. The rubble was left to indicate the horrors that occurred at the camp. Adjacent to it is a memorial, constructed to remember those who suffered. The tour ends back at the archway through which the death train passed. My final thought as we turned to walk away from the railway line was that we can walk away, whilst thousands and thousands of people didn't have that choice. They had a one way journey.

I do not believe anyone will say they enjoyed the visit, but it is something to experience. I would recommend it to anyone. Reading books is a way to learn, but visiting is the only way to experience Auschwitz and Birkenau.

Would I go again - probably not. Do I need to - probably not. Will I ever forget this experience - undoubtedly not.

*Julian Millington*

## **Christmas Dinner**

The RBL Christmas meal for this year will be held at Horncastle Bowls Club at 6.30pm on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December. It is open to all RBL members and partners. Additionally, for the support they have given us, particularly at the D-Day 80 event, we agreed at the last committee meeting to ask the Horncastle Fire and Rescue Team to join us.

The menu is as follows:

Starter – Vegetable Soup or Melon

Main Course – Turkey or Pork

Dessert – Christmas Pudding or Lemon Cheesecake



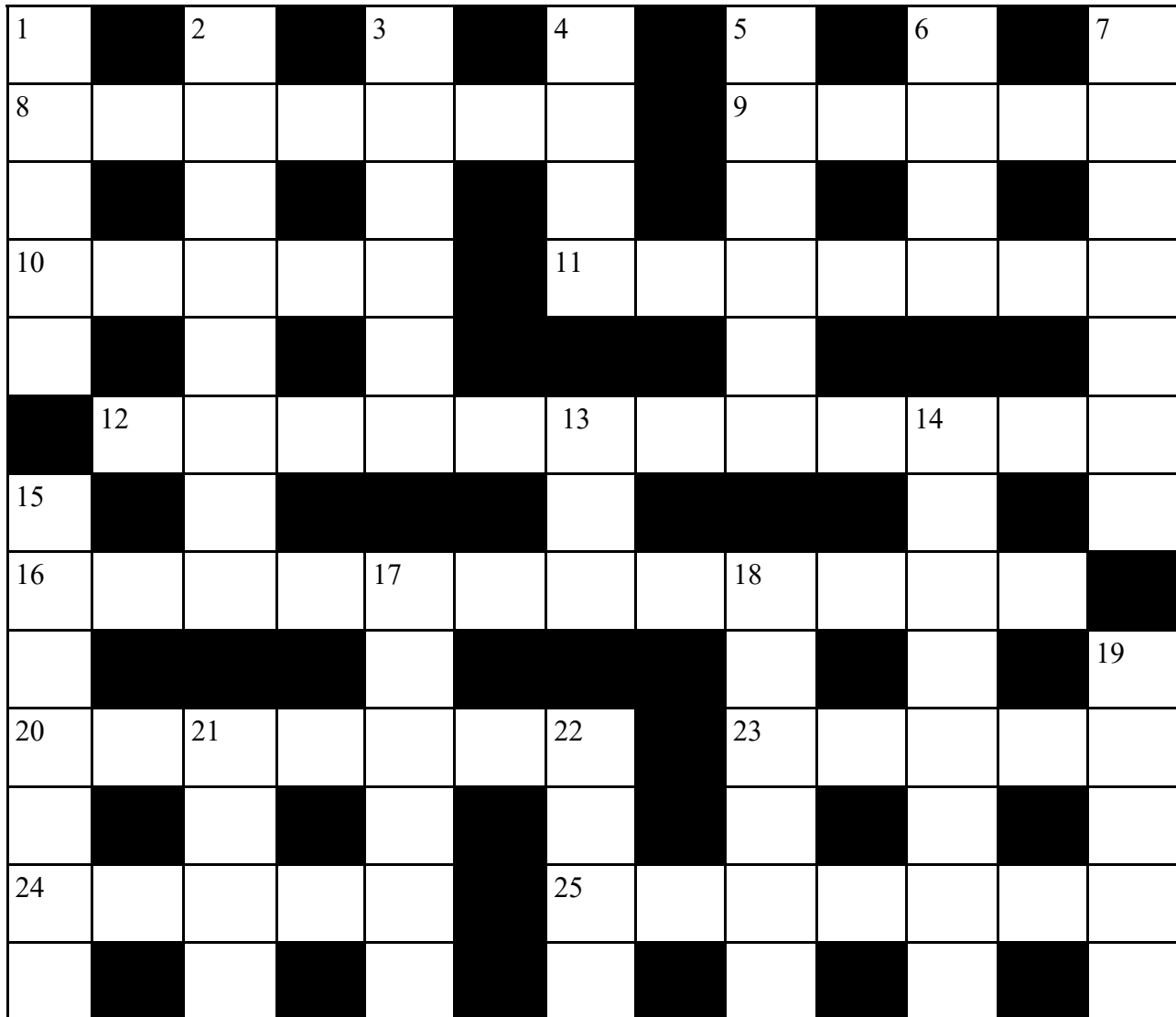
The meal will need to be pre-ordered and paid in full by Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November, by contacting me by email ([julianmillington@gmail.com](mailto:julianmillington@gmail.com)) or at any Branch meeting. The cost is £17.50 per person.

Dietary requirements can be catered for if I am made aware at the time of booking.



*Julian Millington*

## The Crossword



### Across

8. Artist's paint-mixing board (7).
9. Topmost (5)
10. ----- Lewis, The X Factor winner in 2006 (5)
11. Very best, most favourable (7).
12. 1998 film starring Gwyneth Paltrow and John Hannah (7,5)
16. Artificial fair hair (6,6)
20. Finished, over (2,2,3)
23. Marx brother whose real name was Adolph (5)
24. Tend the sick (5)
25. Twaddle (7)

### Down

1. Fruit of the original sin (5)
2. Illuminated at night (8)
3. Single thread (6)
4. Officially ban (4)
5. Expressed displeasure (6)
6. Junk electronic mail (4)
7. Solemn vow (7)
13. Point of a pen (3)
14. Choosing from a menu (8)
15. Gets, acquires (7)
17. Looked lustfully (6)
18. Delayed, postponed (2,4)
19. Japan's capital (5)
21. Open, spacious (4)
22. Financial obligation (4)

Answers are on the back page





## Diary Dates

Wednesday 4th September - Branch Breakfast 10.30 (see article below)

Monday 9th September - Branch Meeting 7.30

Monday 16th September - Committee Meeting 7.30

Monday 14th October - Branch AGM 7.30

Monday 4th November - Branch Meeting 7.30

Last Wednesday every month; Coffee Morning. Venues alternate between The Big Chair and The Bridge Café. Please check on venue with a committee member.

## Branch Breakfast

The Branch has started to hold a monthly breakfast at the Bridge Café (Bridge Street). This is a very informal get together to just meet and catch up with one another. We are very grateful to RBL member Barrie Jenkinson for hosting these events. As you can see above in the Diary Dates, the next one is on the 4th September at 10.30. Please contact via the email address below (or contact a committee member) if you are interested in attending and finding out when future breakfasts will take place. We do ask that people book for these in order that Barrie can allow for catering requirements.

[horncastlerblbreakfast@gmail.com](mailto:horncastlerblbreakfast@gmail.com)



## Crossword Answers

### Across.

8. Palette. 9. Upper. 10. Leona. 11. Optimum 12. Sliding Doors 16. Bottle Blonde 20. At an end. 23. Harpo. 24. Nurse. 25. Baloney

### Down

1. Apple. 2. Floodlit. 3. Strand. 4. Veto. 5. Tuted. 6. Spam. 7. Promise. 13. Nib. 14. Ordering. 15. Obtains. 17. Leered 18. On hold 19. Tokyo 21. Airy 22. Debt