



August 2022

It's been an exciting month (well, possibly not for everyone, depending on your interests!) – the Tory leadership campaign, meaning we will have a new prime minister in the autumn; stunning performances by the Lionesses in the Euros; and, of course, the extreme heat with record-breaking temperatures. Unless you are a member of the Conservative party, you cannot influence any of this, so if none of it interests you, then I suggest you avoid the newspapers, turn off the TV and your phone and sit in the shade to read our Newsletter!

Since writing his piece for the newsletter, John, our chairman has been unwell, so we all wish him a quick return to good health. My thanks to Christine, Colin and Norman for contributions to this issue and to Terri for the lovely photo of Joe.

A Message from our Chairman

Pearl and I hope you are keeping well and did not suffer in the extreme heat last week.

Rosemary, Norman, and I (with standard), together with Angela, a family friend from Dickleburgh, attended the funeral of Joe Fox on Friday 8 July at Gorleston Crematorium. Joe along with his wife, Terri, were members of our Bun, Cuppa and Chat group before moving to a care home at Burgh Castle to be nearer their family a few years ago. Our thanks to Burgh House for providing a room and a buffet after the service, so we could chat and share memories of Joe with his family and friends. While there, I was asked if I could find a standard for the funeral of a time-served soldier from the Royal Anglian Regiment (The Vikings) at the crematorium on 19 July, so I contacted the Norwich Association standard bearer, whom I know, who readily agreed to attend, and the Great Yarmouth Association standard bearer may also attend.

Colin, the Loddon Chairman, has asked if I would carry their standard at the funeral of one of their veterans on 29 July at Loddon church, as Colin is recovering from an ankle operation and Jimmy is on duty with the funeral directors. I have agreed, subject to the usual permission from the branch.

I would like to say a very big thank to Nikki and the staff of De Lucy House Diss for hosting our next Bun, Cuppa and Chat in their garden on 28 July, hope to see you all there, lift arrangements nearer the time.

John

Joseph Roy Fox - 15 July 1931-19 June 2022

We were pleased to give Joe a proper veteran's farewell at his funeral in early July, which was beautifully taken by Steven Haughton, the celebrant. John carried the Standard and Norman, in RBL uniform, said a soldier's farewell prayer to Joe, sending him on his journey with our thanks for his life and service.

Joe was 90 years old and served in Korea as a signalman during his national service. Our thoughts are with Terri and all Joe and Terri's family and friends.



RBL Dickleburgh Branch Family News

It is with sadness that I have just heard that Mick King passed away a few days ago. Mick was a member of the branch until about five years ago, when he moved to Yorkshire to be near his family. We send our sympathy to his daughter, Wendy.

A warm welcome to several new members of our Bun, Cuppa and Chat group: John & Cora, Ron, Chris, Harry, Tom & Mary, Hockey, and Eleanor. 2022 seems a bumper year for big birthdays and anniversaries, so congratulations to Wendy who turned 70 earlier this year, Ged and Brian who will be 80 in August, Ron and Jim who have celebrated their 90th birthdays, Sylvia who is now 91, and Harry who will be 101 shortly. Must be something we put in the tea at Bun, Cuppa & Chat!

Congratulations to Henry and Peggy, who will shortly have clocked up 62 years of marriage. Norman and I have been married 25 years this July, which looks rather feeble in comparison!

Dickleburgh and Long Stratton Poppy Appeal, 2022

It's been a challenging few years for the Poppy Appeal in the two areas covered by our branch, with several changes of Poppy Appeal Organisers (PAOs), Covid restrictions, and ongoing PAO vacancies in both Long Stratton and Dickleburgh. Although we have continued to raise money for the Poppy Appeal over the past few years thanks to the generosity of local people and businesses, regrettably we have not been able to organise house-to-house collections since 2018 and have had a limited presence in our local schools. We have also not been able to work so closely with parish councils and the churches as was done in previous years.



Our branch committee has been working with the RBL community fundraiser for Norfolk, Lyn Hatch, to re-establish the Dickleburgh and Long Stratton Poppy Appeal on a firmer, more long-term footing. As no-one has come forward to fill the voluntary role of PAO in either Long Stratton or Dickleburgh, John Roberts and I have been signed up as joint Poppy Appeal Organisers for the two areas, so we can order all the materials we need online and link in properly with Lyn and the national Poppy Appeal. The committee has agreed to support us, so we hope that this year we will again reach further into the community and raise even more funds for the Poppy Appeal.

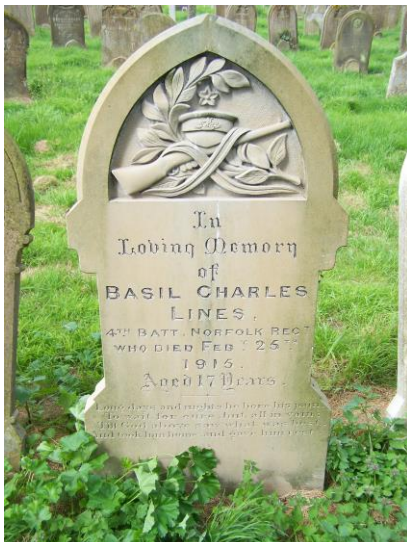
The villages covered by the two Poppy Appeal areas are: **Dickleburgh**, Burston, Brockdish, Gissing, Rushall, Scole, Shimpling, Thelveton, Thorpe Abbots and the Tivetshalls; **Long Stratton**, Forncett, Hardwick, Great Moulton, Saxlingham, Swainsthorpe, Tasburgh, Tharston, Tibenham and Wacton.

Many of our previous Poppy Appeal collectors have now moved or passed away, but if there are any previous collectors or new ones who would like to collect in their local village, please contact John Roberts (01508 531492) or myself. If your local village is not listed, please contact us and we will find out which area it comes under. Similarly, if anyone would like to take on the PAO role in either place, or get more involved with the Poppy Appeal, such as collecting in the Co-op at Long Stratton or counting the money, please just get in touch. This year's Poppy Appeal runs from 29 October to 12 November, with Remembrance Sunday falling on 13 November.

And finally, a big thank you to all the previous PAOs, especially to Richard Hill, who was the Dickleburgh PAO for 13 years, and kept meticulous records, which are proving very useful! **Rosemary**

The Dickleburgh Fallen by Rosemary Steer

This month, we look at three men (though one was still a boy) who died in the UK, through illness or accident; all are buried in Dickleburgh Churchyard. Basil Lines died in Peterborough Sanatorium on 25 February 1915, after a long illness, judging by the inscription on his gravestone. He was just 17, so he presumably joined the Norfolk Regiment shortly after the outbreak of war, although he was under-age so would not have been sent overseas until he was nineteen. His brother Herbert also served, but survived the War. Brothers Jack and Hayden Cattermole died in accidents – Hayden, of the Royal Norfolks, died in a road accident in 1942, but given that he was a lance-corporal, it seems likely that he had already been in the army for some time. Jack, who was a private in the North Staffordshire Regiment, was killed in an accident the following year while serving in the Shetland Isles. Both brothers were married with at least five children between them.



The Sturman Family – Five Generations of Royal British Legion Support

By Colin and Christine Hartley

The Loddon Branch has reached a milestone of family membership. We now have a fifth generation of the Sturman family joining the Royal British Legion, although the first two generations would have been British Legion members, as it only became the Royal British Legion on its fiftieth anniversary in 1971.

The history started with Russell William Sturman (William Russell Sturman on his army records), who was born on 6 September 1892 in Brooke. Enlisting in the Royal Field Artillery, he was one of four brothers who served in the First World War. He served overseas from September 1915 and was awarded the 15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. Russell worked for Mr Lutyens at Booton Manor near Reepham and helped with British Legion events at The Ollands in Reepham. Russell's wife, Gladys, joined the Women's Section, and carried their standard for many years, including at the Norfolk Festival of Remembrance in 1955.

Campaign :-		1914-15		(A) Where decoration was earned.	
				(B) Present situation.	
Name	Corps	Rank	Reg. No.	Roll on which included (if any)	
(A) STURMAN	R.F.A.	Over	30516	VICTORY	RFB/1515 10059
(B) William R	"	"	"	15 STAR	RFB/1515 2843
Action taken					
THEATRE OF WAR (1) France					
QUALIFIED DATE 25.9.15					

(6 34 46) W281-HP5590 500,000 4/19 HWV(P240) K608 [OVER]

Russell Sturman's medal index card, 1st World War



Gladys Sturman, far right

The next generation was Gladys and Russell's only son, Arthur Sturman, who joined the Loddon Branch shortly after moving to the village after the 2nd World War. He served with the 8th Army and 7th Armoured Brigade, fighting throughout their campaigns in North Africa, Italy and into Yugoslavia, Arthur carried out various roles in the Branch: Standard Bearer, (including parading at the Royal Albert Hall in 1983) Events Secretary and Vice President. His wife Brenda was also a Women's Section member in Loddon and helped with many events.

Next came daughter Christine, who joined the RBL along with brother Jimmy and husband Colin. They all joined the Loddon Branch: Christine is now Branch Secretary, Jimmy carries the Branch Standard (following in his father's footsteps by carrying the Loddon Standard at the Festival of Remembrance in 2017) and Colin is Branch Chairman. Jimmy's daughter Becky joined two years ago, and granddaughter Rhianna became an RBL member last year.

In total, nine members of the Sturman family, over five generations, have served in the Royal British Legion, something the family is very proud of.



Arthur Sturman on parade with the Loddon Branch Standard (2nd right)



Right – Jimmy Sturman on parade with the Loddon Standard (far right)

Left – Jimmy Sturman with his daughter, Becky, and granddaughter, Rhianna



Norman's Chuckle Corner

- ✚ Tim goes into a pet shop and asks for a big bag of bird seed. "How many birds have you got?" asks the shopkeeper. "None", replies Tim, "I was hoping to grow some."
- ✚ A husband is late coming home from work and is not answering his phone. His wife rings her mother, incredibly upset, "I'm afraid he's having an affair," she sobs to her mother. "Why do you always think the worst?" her mother replies, "He could have been in a car accident or something."
- ✚ A man is pulled over by the police. He stops his car and winds his window down. "How long have you been riding around without a tail light, sir?" says the police officer. The man jumps out of his car to have a look. "Oh no, wait till my family finds out." "Where is your family?", the officer asks. "They're in the trailer that was hitched to my car!"
- ✚ A father scolds his son for skipping school and going to the beach with his friends "That's a lie" said the boy, "and I have the cinema ticket stubs to prove it."
- ✚ A construction worker accidentally cuts off one of his ears with an electric saw. He calls down from the scaffolding to a man walking past on the street below. "Hi, mate, can you see my ear down there?" The man looks up then bends down and picks up an ear. He shows it to the man and asks, "Is this it?" "No," replies the worker, "Mine had a pencil behind it."
- ✚ "What does that tell you?" asks Holmes. Watson ponders for a minute sitting up alert, looking up at the night sky. "Astronomically," he begins, "it tells me that there are millions of galaxies, and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, I observe that Saturn is in Leo. Horologically, I deduce that the time is approximately a quarter past three. Theologically, I can see that God is all powerful and that we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, I suspect that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What does it tell **you**, Holmes?" Holmes is silent for a minute, then says, "It tells me that someone has stolen our tent."

Contributions or comments, please, to the Editor, Rosemary Steer, tel.: 01379 854245; email: rosemary@steerfamily.plus.com

John Roberts: 01508 531492

Dates for your diary

Branch meetings and our Bun, Cuppa and Chat event take place in the Village Centre, Harvey Lane, Dickleburgh, unless otherwise notified.

Branch meetings – The meeting on Wednesday 27 July was cancelled, because several officers were unable to attend. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 24 August, at 7.30pm

Bun, Cuppa and Chat - Thursday 28 July, 2.30-4pm, at **De Lucy House, Victoria Rd, Diss, by kind invitation.** The August get-together will be held at the Village Centre as usual, on Thursday, 25 August, 2.30-4pm

Simonds Coach Trips - to the National Arboretum - 25 September 2022, £36; **Bletchley Park**, 16 October, £49, Contact Simonds to book: 01379 647300 or <https://www.simonds.co.uk/day-excursions>

We have kindly been given a donation of £36 to cover the cost of a ticket to the National Arboretum on 25 September for someone who might otherwise find it difficult to go on the trip. If you, or anyone you know, would like to take up this offer, please contact Rosemary Steer, details below.

Dickleburgh Branch – Standard Bearer Required

Mindful of the need for 'succession planning', we are looking to increase our pool of standard bearers for the branch. John Roberts, who is also our chairman, has carried our standard for about seven years, but is looking to cut back on his duties, and will have to hang up his gauntlets completely in a few years' time. Gavin Macfarlane, John's deputy, is self-employed so is only available at weekends usually. The only qualifications are that you need to be fit and enthusiastic, and over the age of 12. Training will be given, and there will be opportunities to attend commemorative services, conferences, Remembrance parades, veterans' funerals, the Norfolk Show and standard bearers' (and young standard bearers') competitions, even perhaps the chance to carry the standard abroad. But we know that everyone leads busy lives, with school, college, work and family life taking priority, so we would simply ask that you be available when you can. Please contact John Roberts (details below) if you are interested.



Standard bearer at the dedication of Dickleburgh's new standard,

If you have received this Newsletter, but are not involved with the Royal British Legion, don't worry, we just wanted to spread a little fun and humour around! Please contact me, though, if you would like your name removed from the mailing list.