



Forth Quarter 2025 (October – December)

Committee:

Chairman:	John Graham
Vice Chairman:	Sean Fairfield
Secretary:	Stuart Wiles
Treasurer:	Steve Cox
Standard Bearer:	Chris Lown
Alternate Standard Bearer:	Steve Berger
Poppy Appeal Organiser:	Mandy Carter
Stores:	Tim Baldry
Entertainment	Steve Barrett



Polo shirt £15
Cap £10

The primary aim of the News Sheet is to keep the branch members informed of RBL news and social events throughout the year. All inputs to:

Harleston.Secretary@RBL.Community



Harleston Branch Quartely News sheet

Harleston Remembrance Sunday

The Poppy Appeal was very well supported by the RBL and the ACF, braving the cold to sell the poppy products in the weeks prior to Remembrance Sunday. All wreaths were once again collected and displayed at D.A.

Brownes, butchers, before they were paraded and placed at the Memorial.

Once again JD Young's Hotel provided port to Harleston veterans prior to them Marching to the memorial. This



year Pat Weafer (RA) and Alan Young MM (RE) paraded on their scooters. Pat is a well known RA Veteran to the Harleston ACF who are also Royal Artillery. Parade Marshal Major Sam Carter (ACF), conducted the marching part of the parade and the branch chairman John Graham and the



branch chaplain John Taylor carried out the Act



of Remembrance at the Harleston Memorial. The church service

was carried out at the London Road Methodist Church. This change of venue was due to the fire at St. John's

Church only a few weeks before Remembrance weekend. Further services were also supported by the Branch Chairman and Chaplain at the Wortwell Memorial and at St. Peter & St. Paul's church, Brockdish. The Harleston Freemason Lodges provided a luncheon with a raffle and a glass of port to RBL members and their guests. (Which was well received)!



Armistice Day on 11th was once again well supported by both Harleston Town council and members of the RBL. 3 services were attended on this day with the main service being at the Memorial at 11am. Veterans gathered in the Cap public



house to toast the fallen, after the parade.

New Members welcome

Whilst ex service personnel do like to associate with each other at the local branch, it is by no means exclusive to this group. Harleston welcomes all those who would enjoy good company and friendly banter. Why not come along to the Masonic Rooms on the second Friday of each month at 7:30pm. Further information from Harleston.Secretary@RBL.Community

Poppy Appeal Organiser profile:



Mandy Carter

Mandy has been a Poppy Appeal Organiser since 2015 and an RBL member for the same period. Mandy didn't realise that the RBL was open to members with a non military background but son Samuel was in the Army Cadets and had heard that the branch would have to close if no Secretary or PAO could be found. Hence he became Secretary and Mandy became the Poppy Appeal Organiser.

Since retiring from work in 2023 she's been able to spend much more time on her art. She's had a joint exhibition with husband Russell's photographs. Her other hobbies include: a weekly walk with other ladies, singing in a group and playing racket ball.



She recently had a very interesting visit to the Poppy Factory in Richmond. The wreaths are still made there by war veterans but the paper poppies are now produced by machines.



Tragedy in Harleston St John's Church fire and loss of the branch standard 1st October 2025

On the afternoon of the 1st October 2025 smoke was seen coming out of St. John's Church, Harleston. The fire started from a plug socket in the kitchen area and raged for the next few hours. The



fire service was quick to respond and contained the fire although the soft furnishings and the Standards of the RBL

and the RAF fell victims to the fire. This gave the branch an immediate concern, as a new standard would need to be sourced for the Remembrance day parades. Action to replace the standard started the next



morning. The branch was able to organise a replacement which arrived in time to be dedicated the week before Remembrance weekend. The old Standards were recovered and will be presented back to St. Johns church later in the year.



Commissioning of the Branch Chaplain & Dedication ceremony of the Branch Standard

The New Branch standard was received by the branch chairman on the 30th of October. This allowed the planned date of the 1st November to go ahead as the date of the dedication service. The service was conducted by



the County Chaplain, "The Reverend Canon" Sally Theakston. Prior to the dedication service Our newly appointed chaplain John Taylor was commissioned as the Branch Chaplain. The standard was brought into London Road church and escorted by Martin Salmon and Terry Pegg.



Regional standard bearers and the Harleston cadet force provided the ceremonial aspect to the proceedings. It was an exceptional achievement to have both ceremonies before the Remembrance weekend



Canadian & US Memorial Services



On the morning of Tuesday 11th of November 2025, Acts of Remembrance were carried out at both the outlying memorials that the branch looks after. The first one was for 2nd Lt Joseph Leo Phillips (Canadian Airforce) located on Church Lane. This was followed by the second service for the 22

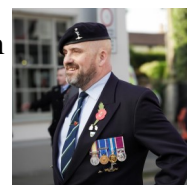


USAF who sadly lost their lives above Jays' Green. The memorial is located on Green Lane. The Branch President, Chairman, Vice Chairman & Chaplain were present along with Terry Pegg. The Town Armistice service commenced after these 2 services were completed.



Vice Chairman retires.

Sean Fairfield decided to retire from the position as Vice Chairman of the Harleston branch after the Christmas meeting. He has been a key figure within the branch often arranging things that usually goes under the radar. He is credited with starting up the monthly Veteran's breakfasts and arranging port for those breakfasts and for the Remembrance day parade. He remains committed to the branch and carries on with fund raising and assisting with the social side of the branch. Sean wishes anyone who fills his boots all the very best for the future.



Harleston Town FC

A fantastic partnership has been established with the Harleston Town Football Club and the RBL. Terry Pegg has worked tirelessly to establish this relationship with the club. Once again the Branch and the ACF

marched onto the pitch and a wreath was laid by the mascot Harry Cave and Paul Doggett of the Branch. HTFC generously donated £500 for the replacement of the branch standard and also donated the gate takings on the 8th November to the 2025 poppy appeal. Terry Pegg had the honour to present Adam Mullin (Chairman HTFC) with a certificate of appreciation for the support he has shown to the RBL.



Rosie Riches retired from her position as the Branch Secretary at the AGM. Stuart Wiles stepped up to replace her. Stuart brings his Royal Navy skillset and enthusiasm to the position and is welcomed by the branch. Rosie is recognised for all her hard work during her tenure and remains an active member of the branch.

Veteran's Breakfast club



The Veteran's Breakfast / Brunch club "usually" meets on every second Saturday each month. (After the RBL Friday meeting). The Swan hotel hosts these meetings under the guidance of the Landlord Mr Robin Twigge. All Veterans, Widows and dependants are very welcome. This meeting gives a chance for those veterans who cannot make it to the RBL evening meetings a chance to enjoy the company of like minded friends. This regular meet up has become a favourite post RBL evening breakfast for our weary warriors and veterans.

FUTURE EVENTS

The list of events will grow with inputs from all Branch members. Please pass on to the secretary any events that you would like to see listed.

Branch Christmas meeting 5th December

A fantastic evening of fun was had by all branch members. The food was provided by all those in attendance, a full buffet with plenty of delightful dishes. Mandy Carter was honoured for her effort to the Poppy appeal.



There were plenty of nice prizes provided by the committee. Everyone in attendance received a gift. The



“Christmas Pudding” which contained £250 was won by Paul Doggett and he performed a headstand in his joy of winning. That rush of blood to his head gave him the

bright idea of giving back £100 to the social fund (which was grate-



fully received). Andy Pearson “the Tankie” won the best Christmas jumper with his reindeer with RTR badges as baubles.



Harleston memorial names: We Will Remember them!

2 Oct 1916	GC Cooper	France
2 Oct 1917	RJ Mitchell	France
3 Oct 1918	C Short	Salonika, GR
4 Oct 1917	HC Markwell	Flanders, BEL
9 Oct 1918	C Cook	Salonika, GR
9 Oct 1917	LA Rayner	Flanders, BEL
10 Oct 1917	RJ Turner	Flanders, BEL
12 Oct 1916	A Brown	France
14 Oct 1917	SF Borrett	France
18 Oct 1916	L Bond	France
20 Oct 1940	FW Johnson	At sea
22 Oct 1914	WJ Hines	Flanders, BEL
25 Oct 1915	FA Bussey	Flanders, BEL

27 Oct 1917	P Smith	France
5 Nov 1941	AF Daniels	Malta
7 Nov 1918	TE Sayer	Germany
12 Nov 1940	PG Brett	At sea
12 Nov 1915	DG Warnes	Malta
13 Nov 1940	PF Hardy	Grimsby
13 Nov 1916	JW Stone	France
14 Nov 1942	GW Snelling	Egypt
16 Nov 1916	FC Osborne	France
1 Dec 1915	EB Dalliston	At Home
6 Dec 1916	WC Feaviour	France
31 Dec 1917	OJ Payne	At sea

Calendar dates 2026

Date	Event type	Location	Involvement	Remarks
09.01.2026	Branch Meeting	Masonic Rooms	RBL Members	7pm for 7:30pm
10.01.2026	Veterans Brunch	Swan Hotel	All Veterans and dependants	11am until 1pm
17.01.2026	Burns Night	Masonic Rooms	RBL Members, Freemasons & Guests	7pm for 7:30pm
13.02.2026	Branch Social evening	Masonic Rooms	RBL Members	7pm for 7:30pm
14.02.2026	Veterans Brunch	Swan Hotel	All Veterans and dependants	11am until 1pm
13.03.2026	Branch Meeting	Masonic Rooms	RBL Members	7pm for 7:30pm
14.03.2026	Veterans Brunch	Swan Hotel	All Veterans and dependants	11am until 1pm