

# Bun, Cuppa and Chat

## Veterans' Group



# NEWSLETTER

October 2024



Today (24 October) is the formal start of this year's Poppy Appeal, so my thanks to all the shops, pubs, cafés, schools (all eleven of them!) and businesses that have taken poppies and tins in the Long Stratton and Dickleburgh areas (my patch as Poppy Appeal Organiser) which extends from Stoke Holy Cross in the north to Brome in Suffolk in the south, with lots of villages in between. Thank you too to our Bun, Cuppa and Chat volunteers and the Long Stratton army cadets who will be rattling the tins at the Long Stratton Co-op on four days over Remembrancetide – Mon 28 October, Saturday 2 November, Tuesday 5 November and Saturday 9 November. If you



collect the annual poppy pins or other merchandise, these will be available at the Co-op on the above days, the Mariners Galley café, and the Queen's Head and the petrol station in Long Stratton. Thank you also to Norman, PA and chauffeur to the PAO and Chuckle Corner supremo! The dogs are keen supporters too and wear their poppies with pride!

### Bun, Cuppa and Chat News

Pat F, Kathleen, Julia D. & Liz have all been in hospital recently so we wish them all a quick return to good health and that they will soon be back enjoying their usual activities. Ray, Joan, Robin & Shirley, David & Daphne, Bob & Moyra, Tom & Mary, Peter & Pauline are finding it more difficult to get out and about now, so we hope they will keep safe and warm over the winter, and enjoy reading the Newsletter, or at least Norman's Chuckle Corner!

Our remaining events this year will be:

- **Thursday 31 October and Thursday 28 November**  
Our regular Bun, Cuppa and Chat afternoon get-togethers, 2.30-4pm
- **Sunday 10 November, Remembrance Service, Rushall Church** – refreshments at the Mariners Galley from 2pm, followed by service in the church (opposite) at 3pm. *Please book with Rosemary if you intend to join us for refreshments beforehand.*
- **Thursday 12 December, Christmas Lunch**, 12 noon for 12.30, Mariners Galley, Rushall – menu opposite. Open to all members of Bun, Cuppa and Chat and our volunteers, plus family carers – numbers are limited though, *so please book early with Rosemary, giving your menu choices.*

We are pleased to subsidise the cost of the lunch from Bun, Cuppa and Chat funds again (£10 pp), so the cost will be £15 for two courses and £20 for three.

### Bun, Cuppa and Chat Christmas Lunch

12 December 2024 ~ 12 noon for 12.30pm

Mariners Galley Café, Rushall

Cost: £15 for two courses, £20 for three courses

#### MENU

##### Starters

Ham Hock Terrine

Minestrone Soup

Vegetarian Pate

##### Mains

Traditional Roast Turkey

Pan Fried Sea Bream

Vegetable Moussaka

##### Desserts

Traditional Christmas Pudding

Warm Chocolate Brownie

Trifle

## Operation Market Garden – The Betrayal

I am currently reading an extraordinary book by Robert Verkaik, whose research indicates that Operation Market Garden (Arnhem) was betrayed by not one but two traitors, Christiaan Lindemans, a Dutch resistance leader and playboy, nicknamed King Kong, and Anthony Blunt, an intellectual and polymath, a Russian spy since the early 1930s, wartime officer in MI5, Surveyor of the King's (later the Queen's) Pictures and the Fourth Man of the notorious Cambridge Five. I had always assumed the Cambridge Soviet spies related solely to the Cold War – the others, Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean defected in 1951, Kim Philby followed them in 1963, and John Cairncross was unmasked in 1990 - assuming that had no impact in the Second World War. My interest was slightly piqued after 1979 though when Blunt was outed as a traitor, realising then that my mother must have known him as they worked in MI5 at the same time during the Second World War.

The five spies worked at the heart of the British establishment during the War, in the Foreign Office, MI5, MI6 and Bletchley Park, with access to the most secret



Sir Anthony Blunt



Daily Mirror, 16 November 1979

information. Blunt was one of the most trusted officers in MI5, appointed as the link between MI5 and MI6, and subsequently entrusted with monitoring the diplomatic bags (illegal, but it was wartime) that came through London from neutral embassies. After he was exposed as a Soviet spy, he was generally thought of as the most harmless of the Cambridge traitors, as it was believed he only passed secrets to the Russians during the War when they were our allies. Verkaik's research suggests that on the contrary, Blunt's treachery not only helped Russia with its post-war ambitions but also directly assisted the Nazis, resulting in the loss of thousands of allied and civilian lives, the prolongation of the War by six months, and ultimately to the Cold War. Verkaik stated in an article in *The Sunday Times* in April 2024, 'I would come to realise that the establishment version of Blunt as a high-minded, unworldly figure somehow removed from the grubby realities of his treachery was not just a myth but that he was truly monstrous, far more so than any of the other Cambridge spies'.

The focus of Verkaik's research was the activities and identity of Agent Josephine, a spy who had been monitored by Bletchley Park since mid-1943. MI5 was confident that all Nazi spies in this country had been rounded up and imprisoned, executed or 'turned', yet Agent Josephine, who the British discovered was being handled by the German spymaster, Karl Heinz Kraemer from the German embassy in neutral Sweden, was sending out high quality intelligence to the Germans. British Intelligence though had no idea who Josephine was, so Anthony Blunt was tasked by MI5 to investigate. Blunt followed up various leads, but did not pursue evidence that MI6 had gleaned from documents in Kraemer's safe (involving his housekeeper and an impression of the safe key – very James Bond!) which suggested a Russian connection. Blunt eventually identified 'Josephine' as a male Swedish diplomat and Josephine's supply of information dried up.

Then Josephine reappeared shortly before D-Day in a bizarre and alarming way, passing on the same **disinformation** about the location of the D-Day landings to the Germans as was provided by Agent Garbo, who was a double agent controlled by MI5. Josephine continued to operate after D-Day, passing accurate information about allied plans to the Germans, notably a report sent the day before the Arnhem assault (although through an error it was not received in Berlin until after the first airborne troops had taken off) providing detailed plans of Operation Market Garden, more accurate than that provided by Christiaan Lindemans, the Dutch traitor. It is believed that this intelligence, even on the brink of the operation, enabled the Germans rapidly to deploy troops in the area, including two SS Panzer units, to defend against the paratroopers at Arnhem and to harry and slow the British tank advance from Eindhoven, resulting in the failure of the operation and huge loss of life.

Just weeks after the ending of the war in Europe, Kraemer was captured by the British and brought to England for interrogation, led by.... Anthony Blunt. Although MI6 suggesting questioning him about Russian connections, it seems Blunt ignored them and after raising a few possible leads, the interrogation ended and within a few months, Kraemer was allowed back into Germany.



Karl Heinz Kramer

Verkaik's conclusion was that Anthony Blunt was himself Agent Josephine, and that the British Intelligence services had in effect, tasked him to investigate himself, twice! This argument certainly makes sense given both the disinformation Josephine provided the Germans about the location of the D-Day landings, and the accuracy of the information given about Operation Market Garden. But why would Blunt, as a Soviet spy, want to pass information to the Germans, especially late in the War when the Allies, including Russia, were on their way to victory in Europe? Verkaik argues that it was because Blunt had Soviet interests at heart, not the overall cause of the Allies, that he passed the information on. Stalin had been demanding that the Allies open a second front to relieve pressure on the Eastern Front for years, so Russia wanted the D-Day landings to succeed. Operation Market Garden, however, would have opened up the route to Berlin for the British and the Americans, which did not suit Stalin at all. Its failure allowed the Russian to get there first, resulting in the division of Germany into East and West and the domination of Eastern Europe by communist Russia for decades. As we know, Russia's ambitions have endured, and Putin is actively pursuing them. I found Verkaik's arguments very convincing, but if you want to read them yourself: *The Traitor of Arnhem*, by Robert Verkaik, Headline Publishing Group, 2024 and also by Verkaik, an article on-line for *The Sunday Times*, 27 April 2024.

### **Operation Market Garden – The Heroism**

To bring home the enormity of the betrayal of Arnhem by Lindemans and 'Josephine', whether or not the latter was Anthony Blunt, here are the stories of two men who served, and died, at Arnhem.

#### **Flight Lieutenant David Lord VC DFC**

David Lord joined the RAF in 1936 and after pilot training, was assigned to fly transport aircraft. In 1944, he was posted to 271 Squadron based in England. Flying supply drops during Operation Market Garden, Lord's Dakota was hit and crashed, killing all the crew except the navigator, Henry King who bailed out, and eventually became a prisoner of war. When debriefed on his return to the UK, King told of the heroism of Flight Lieutenant Lord on that fateful flight, which led to the posthumous award of the Victoria Cross to Lord. The citation read:



*On September 19<sup>th</sup>, 1944, Flt. Lieut. Lord was pilot and captain of an aircraft detailed to drop supplies to our troops, who were closely surrounded at Arnhem. For accuracy this had to be done at 900 feet. While approaching the target at 1,500 feet the aircraft was severely damaged and set on fire. Flt. Lieut. Lord would have been justified in withdrawing or even abandoning his aircraft but, knowing that supplies were desperately needed, he continued on his course. Twice going down to 900 feet under very intense fire, he successfully dropped his containers. His task completed he ordered his crew to abandon the aircraft making no attempt himself to leave. A few seconds later the aircraft fell in flames, only one of the crew survived, By continuing his mission in a damaged and burning plane, twice descending to 900 feet to ensure accuracy, and finally by remaining at the controls to give his crew a chance of escape, Flt. Lieut. Lord displayed supreme valour and self-sacrifice.*

#### **Lieutenant John Grayburn VC**



Jack Grayburn of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Parachute Regiment, was part of the first wave of paratroopers to land at Arnhem on 17 September with orders to seize and hold the bridge over the Rhine at Arnhem. Lt. Grayburn led his men with great bravery and determination, capturing the southern end of Arnhem Bridge. He was wounded in the shoulder almost immediately but continued until casualties became so heavy they were ordered to withdraw. Later, he successfully organised the occupation of a house vital to the defence of the bridge which was held for a day and a half of heavy attacks, until it was set on fire and had to be evacuated. Continuing to fight to defend the bridge, Lt. Grayburn was wounded again, this time in the back, but

refused to be evacuated for medical treatment. The troops were forced to retreat on 20 September by attacks from enemy tanks against which they had no defence; Lt Grayburn stood up in full view of the enemy to direct the withdrawal of his men and was killed by machine gun fire from a tank. His citation for the VC states:

*For nearly four days, despite pain and weakness from his wounds, shortage of food and lack of sleep, Lt Grayburn displayed supreme and unflinching gallantry and determination. Without his inspiring leadership the Arnhem bridge could not have been held for so long.*

Lt Grayburn was buried near to the bridge where he fell. His remains were discovered in 1948 and reinterred in the Arnhem Oosterbeek War Cemetery. He was just 26 years old when he died.

### Norman's Chuckle Corner

- Last week my wife cut out her dress pattern on the living room floor. She ended up with two dresses, one silk and one Axminster.
- My mother is 85 years old and she still doesn't need glasses. She drinks straight from the bottle.
- He's so old he can remember when Heinz had only one variety.
- A policeman says to the young man 'I am going to have to lock you up for the night. The young man asks, 'What is the charge?' The policeman says, 'There is no charge Sir, it's all part of the service'
- A wealthy man was very enthusiastic about his lovely young bride. He sometimes wondered though whether she just married him for his money, so he asked, "If I lost all my money, would you still love me?" She retorted, "Yes of course I would still love you. But I would miss you."
- A doctor told the patient 'You have acute appendicitis.' The patient stood up and said, "I came here to be examined not to be admired".
- Train passenger, "A single to Manchester, please." Booking clerk, "That will be £9.50. Change at Crewe." Train passenger, "I'll have my change here, if you don't mind."
- I had a terrible time at school when I was 11 years old. First, I got Tonsillitis followed by Pneumonia. Then came Appendicitis after which I got Poliomyelitis. After that, I got Catarrh and finally ended up with bronchitis. I was then given analgesics and inoculations. I honestly can't remember having a worse spelling test.
- How do you confuse a Scottish doctor? Just tell him you have knee problems. (*You need to say this in a Scottish accent!*)

### Musings from the Mutts and the Moggie

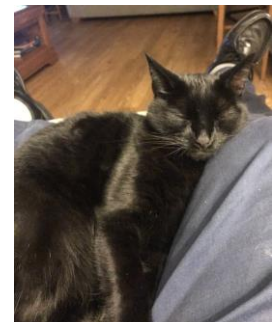
It's great being a threesome again – lots of opportunities for mischief and mayhem! This month we have been creating confusion and winding



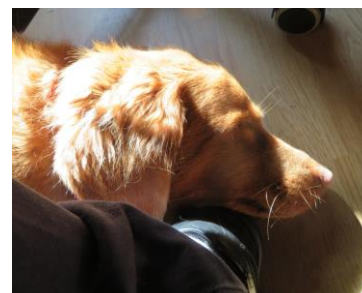
the Staff up – they keep muttering comments in our direction such as 'entitled', 'trying it on' 'taking advantage', and so forth. We have destroyed the Missus's headphones, persuaded the Staff to allow Nacho to sleep with them at night (that did not last!), double breakfast for the dogs one morning and taken over every comfy surface, even when already occupied!



The Missus was sitting in the chair on her own before Nacho appeared!



Norman's foot and legs make a good pillow for Sugie (above) and Nacho (left)



*Sahara Sugie and Nacho*

The Bun, Cuppa and Chat Group is part of the Benefice of Dickleburgh and the Pulhams,  
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