



Paris Branch

Newsletter

N° 40 – October 2025



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Chairman's introduction to the October 2025 Newsletter.

Welcome one and all to this month's newsletter. I, with a few of our members, attended the Battle of Britain ceremony at the Arc de Triumph on the 24th September. Janet and I afterwards attended the cocktail at the Ambassador's residence. A large number of military personnel were in present.



On the 27th September I along with Helen, Robin as standard bearer, and a few others were very pleased to attend the SOE ceremony at the memorial du Mont -Valérien. Thank you, Bill Beauclerk, for the invitation. As always, a moving ceremony.

Both Janet and myself have been kept busy preparing for this year's Poppy Appeal, and we are happy to report that nearly all the Poppies have now been distributed.

We have a lunch this month on the 16th. However, I have to say that after the summer break I had hoped to see more members signing up for it. At the moment of writing we have only nine reservations.

To ensure the continuation of the monthly lunches more support is essential. It would be a great pity if we had to cancel this tradition so much appreciated by those who do come regularly.

We would indeed like to have more events at the clubhouse: Les Clack is giving a poetry reading on Thursday 6 Nov at 19h00 which I am sure will be well attended – his readings are always popular. Any suggestions for other events will fall upon grateful ears.

I am however pleased to say that we do have a large number of members who will be attending the Coffee morning at the Ambassador's residence on the 22nd of this month.

More on coming events below.

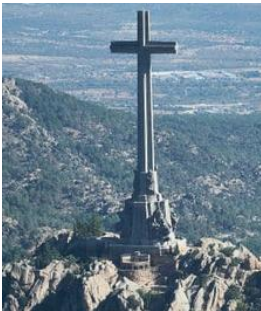
Attendance at events: I would like to impress on you the importance of attending the various events, at the Arc and elsewhere, to which we are invited. It is important that our presence be felt on these occasions.

On the subject of the clubhouse, it would be appreciated if you could increase awareness of its availability, amongst your acquaintance, for all kinds of events. It is now very well equipped with a TV and access to the internet, an overhead projector plus a large screen and, of course, bar and dining facilities. Not many organisations are fortunate enough to dispose of such a luxury, and it would be tragic to lose it.

Nonetheless the hard facts of the matter are that the running costs are ever rising. It must be used more frequently if it is to cover its own costs.

OCTOBER QUIZ

1. In October 1926 A.A. Milne wrote and published which book?
2. In October 1915 the man often regarded as the greatest cricketer of all time died.
What was his name?



3. In 1936 200 men marched from their hometown to Westminster to highlight the poverty caused by the closure of their shipyard. What is the march known as?
4. The world's tallest cross, in Spain, was constructed to commemorate who?
5. In 1941 Mount Rushmore National Memorial was completed after how many years: a) 14, b) 18, c) 22
6. 1956 saw the death of the founder of the modern frozen food industry, what was his name?
7. 1940 saw the U.S. Premiere of which Charlie Chaplin film?
8. In 1991 the creator of Star Trek died, what was his name?
9. The United Nations was formed in 1945, what organization did it replace?
10. In 1965 which iconic building, the then tallest in London, was officially opened, a title it kept until 1985?

Janet Warby

EVENTS

Rosemary Rudland sends this account
It starts with the original French version but a DeepL translation follows.

La 1ère Armée canadienne au coeur de Flandre.

Le 21 septembre 2025, au Mémorial du Mont des Cats (59), s'est déroulée une cérémonie marquée par trois temps forts: la pose d'une plaque en bronze offerte par le Royal 22e Régiment; l'inauguration du panneau interactif « Voie du Souvenir de la 1ère Armée



Canadienne », en hommage à libération du village le 6 septembre 1944; la plantation d'un érable offert par le Rapid Reaction Corps-France. Trois gestes rappelant l'héritage militaire, l'amitié franco-canadienne, le courage et le sacrifice des combattants des conflits mondiaux. Un an après les travaux de restauration du Mémorial, à proximité de l'Abbaye Sainte-Marie, c'est dans ce haut lieu de patrimoine et de mémoire, en présence du Lieutenant-colonel Tousignant, représentant officiel du Royal 22e Régiment; de la Capitaine de corvette Delphine Bonnardot, officière de la marine royale canadienne; de l'Association Godewaersvelde Histoire & Patrimoine; et de nombreux élus, que les mots « Je me souviens » ont résonné avec émotion et une force renouvelée.

The 1st Canadian Army in the heart of Flanders.

On 21 September 2025, a ceremony was held at the Mont des Cats Memorial (59), marked by three highlights: the unveiling of a bronze plaque donated by the Royal 22nd Regiment; the inauguration of the interactive panel 'Voie du Souvenir de la 1ère Armée Canadienne' (Path of Remembrance of the First Canadian Army), in tribute to the liberation of the village on 6 September 1944; the planting of a maple tree donated by the Rapid Reaction Corps-France. Three gestures recalling the military heritage, Franco-Canadian friendship, and the courage and sacrifice of those who fought in the world wars. One year after the restoration of the Memorial, near Sainte-Marie Abbey, it was in

this important place of heritage and remembrance, in the presence of Lieutenant-Colonel Tousignant, official representative of the Royal 22nd Regiment; Lieutenant Commander Delphine Bonnardot, officer of the Royal Canadian Navy; the Godewaersvelde History & Heritage Association; and numerous elected officials, that the words 'I remember' resonated with emotion and renewed strength.



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participated, the children being ferried to the to the memorial by jeep to lay wreaths and to receive Certificates of Appreciation provided by RBL Paris.

Alain Bodel reminds me of a commemoration which took place at Beauvais on 9 August organised by LSF Beauvais. Five SAS families



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UPCOMING EVENTS



It's a bit late to sign up for tomorrow's lunch but there might still be a place if you hurry:

Thursday 16 October

1215 for 1230

**Only €18 - Pay on the day
(in cash please)**

Contact Richard at 06 45 10 47 70 or
richard.neave05@gmail.com

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22 October POPPY APPEAL COFFEE MORNING 2025

This has always been one of our most popular annual events and you are invited to bring along family and friends. Details below:



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION, PARIS BRANCH
invites you to attend the Coffee Morning which we organize every year by kind permission of HM Ambassador in aid of the Poppy Appeal for the EARL HAIG BENEVOLENT WELFARE FUND

THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE
39 rue du Faubourg St. Honoré, Paris 8eme
Wednesday 22nd October, 2025. 10h30 - 12h00
Reserve with Janet Warby at :
janetwarby@yahoo.com or by telephone 01 39 28 90 28

Your name(s) will be put on the Security List. This is a Charity event, please give generously. All donations welcome.
I.D. Cards or Passports required. Numbers are limited. Date limit for applications 15/10/2025

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Thursday 6 November 19h00

War Poetry

Les Clack, doubtless accompanied by some of his troupe which many of us know from his productions, notably at the Théâtre de Nesle, will give a reading at the clubhouse. Drinks available, snacks provided. Free but contributions welcomed.

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11 November, Tuesday - Commemoration at St Louis des Invalides.
14.40 for 15h00. Places in church limited

Reserve through Janet Warby
janetwarby@yahoo.com
or 01 39 28 90 28 or 06 69 28 45 89



If you are to be accompanied by family or friends give all names. This is so we can put you down on a Security list

This year the Service of Remembrance will be held at the Cathedrale St. Louis des Invalides on 11th November at 15h00. We had hoped to return to Notre Dame, but this has not proved possible.

Please do your best to attend this impressive Ceremony commemorating all those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in both World Wars and subsequent conflicts around the world.

We will have our Piper, Bugler, Two Chelsea Pensioners and a group from HMS Hermes coming over this year. Happily, we will also have our Poppy Ladies back offering poppies donations.

See you there.

Janet Warby

Look right, look left, look right again and then cross.

Remember being taught this mantra at school? Having it repeated at home? I certainly do – it was considered a key to road safety – back in the day...

That's what I was taught at school and, indeed, what I taught my children to do (inverting left and right because we were in France) when they were small. It still worked, more or less, some 40 years ago.

Having just got home from a local shopping trip and having nearly been wiped out by a bike on the pavement, not for the first time, I am beginning to wonder what the modern advice given to children is. Some reflection on this and taking the boulevard Davout as a typical example in Paris, a little reflection drives me to the conclusion that crossing the road involves:



- 1 - Check, left & right that there isn't a bicycle or scooter on your strip of pedestrian pavement.
- 2 - Look both ways when crossing the cycle lane – even if it's supposed to be one-way.
- 3 - Look left when you reach the traffic lane.
- 4 - Look both ways to ensure that a tram is not quietly creeping up on you.
Then cross the tramway.
- 5 - Look right before crossing the second half of the roadway.
- 6 - Look left and right before attacking the cycle lane.
- 7 - Safe at last – but check anyway for errant bikes and scooters eye on the remaining sliver of street supposedly devoted to pedestrians because this too is constantly invaded by rogue cyclists.

Well, I suppose in Paris this sort of thing has always been a hazard. I remember my great aunt Katie who had been a children's nurse all her life for a series of aristocratic families. It was a long time ago and she was very old and a little repetitive. There was a sort of routine to my visits. Usually when I went to see her, she would firstly confuse me with my father. Then, having established my identity she would ask "And what are you doing now?" I would reply that I was living in Paris. This always elicited the same response "Ah. I was in Paris once...". It seems she looked after the child of somebody at



the embassy for a while when she had been quite young. Among her recollections of Paris there was always one aspect of the city which she remembered – the traffic: "Terrible", she said, "Crossing the road was dreadful. There was only one way to do it: push the pram into the roadway and all the horses stopped."

M.Y.

An Illuminating Eye Op

It's about 3 years since I talked about a cataract operation in these columns. It was, as I said, so successful that my parting words to the ophthalmologist who had done the operation were "Remarkable work, doctor. Do you think you could do my ears?" Well, recently the acuity of my right eye started to go off. I started having trouble focusing and, when tired, it developed a twitch.

Another visit to the ophthalmologist was obviously in order and, after having me peer through the usual collection of lenses he announced that there was some sort of film had started to form on the inside of the implanted lens of that eye. It could be removed with a laser treatment he said.

It didn't particularly worry me – after all if they could fiddle about my eye with a knife without anything other than temporary inconvenience, surely a laser would just be a bright flash of light.

Well, it was, as far as that goes. The ophthalmologist stuck me in front of one of those racks designed to keep your head in a fixed position – much as they do for any eye examination these days. "You'll see a few flashes," he said. I did, but there was a quality to the flashes which I had not expected. With every one, there must have been about half a dozen in all, I was treated to an amazing light show to rival anything put on at the Eiffel Tower on 14 July. Radiating from a central point were circles and clouds of dots of more colours than I had thought existed, glorious explosions of brilliance which were astoundingly impressive. I passed through my mind that Jean-Michel Jarre would be able to put this to music perfectly!

Well, as this kind of operation, like so many others, is becoming so frequent as to be banal it seems worthwhile to promise those who read this and who have a similar treatment coming up that, rather than being a trial you may well, actually, have something to look forward to.

I wonder if this odd vision is always the case or if it was some sort of aberrant perception of my eye. Have any of you had the same experience – or the same operation without it? If you have, do let me know.

A Word in your Ear:



Muscle

One would expect a word like this to be related to strength, force, brawn or vigour.

Surprisingly it doesn't. It comes from "*mus, muris*", the Latin for "*mouse*" or more precisely from *musculus* a "*little mouse*"

It is strictly a visual reference based on the appearance of a muscle under the skin. Particularly biceps. Biceps, the idea went, looked like little mice running under the skin.

The Last Laugh



58 - The Doctor and his Posh Patient

PP - Hubert, Hubert, it's an emergency!

Dr - But, my dear Aurelia, what is it? Why are you shouting like that?

PP - Ah Hubert, I've been stung by a wasp!

Dr - Now calm down. First of all, tell me where you were stung.

PP - Oh, no, Hubert, please don't ask me that. I really don't want to tell you. It's so embarrassing!

Dr - But my dear Aurelia, I am a doctor, bound by professional secrecy. And besides, my dear, we are friends. You know me. You know I never talk to people about my patients. Now tell me where that nasty wasp stung you.

PP - But if I say, I'll be the laughingstock of Kensington. I'll tell you anything but that.

Dr - Look Aurelia. If you won't tell me where you were stung how on earth do you expect me to treat you?

PP - Oh Hubert, Will you promise not to tell anyone? Not even your wife? I really don't want my friends to know!

Dr - I promise. I swear it! Go ahead, tell me. Where were you stung?

PP - It was in the fruit and vegetable section of LIDL.

M. Y. (58)

October Quiz: Answers:

1. Winnie-the-Pooh 2. WG Grace 3. The Jarrow March (Crusade) 4. General Francisco Franco 5. 14	6. Clarence Birdseye 7. The Great Dictator 8. Gene Roddenberry 9. The League of Nations 10. The Post Office Tower (now BT Tower)
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Comments & contributions to mfyates@gmail.com
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