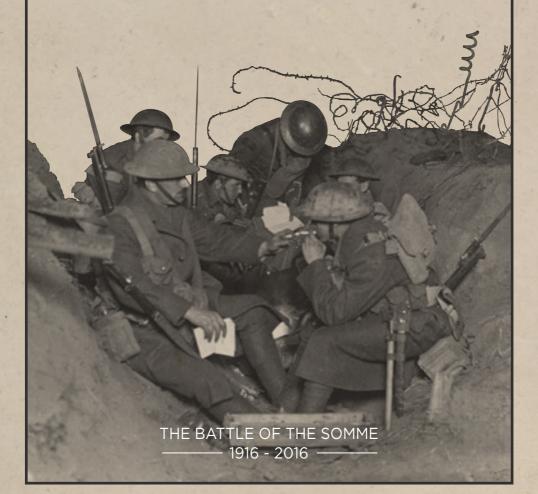


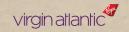
BALL PROGRAMME

2016









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THIS EVENING'S **PROGRAMME**

19:00 - DOORS OPEN

SPARKLING RECEPTION / PHOTOGRAPHS

19:45 - CALL TO DINNER

SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT

DESC MADRIGAL CHOIR feat. DESC Chamber Choir, DESC Staff Choir & Trumpet: Ophelie Dumont-Smith

NATIONAL ANTHEMS

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

GRACE

DINNER

TOASTS

PRIZE DRAWS

DANCING WITH MARKY MARK

01:30

BUFFET SUPPER (IN FOYER)

02:00

CARRIAGES

WELCOME

FROM CO-CHAIRS OF THE POPPY BALL COMMITTEE SEAN HECKFORD | SIMON TUKE | DAVID WALLACE

Once again we would like to extend a very warm welcome to Honoured **Guests, Veterans and Supporters** of this year's Dubai Poppy Ball. We hope you have an enjoyable evening of remembrance, good food and fun diversions.

Many of you will know that this year is the 100th anniversary of the Somme, the bloodiest and most costly battle in terms of lives of the First World War. Much was made in the media regarding the start of the Somme on the 1st July 1916; the battle lasted 141 days finishing on the 18th November, exactly 100 years ago today.

You will see in the program the theme of the Somme running throughout, with snippets of letters written from the front (and family connections to some of tonight's guests). It is this memory and that of many other fallen that keeps the motivation to stage a Poppy Ball year on year to enable us to remember together.

This year sees the Poppy Ball hosted by the British Business Group Dubai and Northern Emirates (BBG) for the first time. The Poppy Ball Committee are grateful to the BBG Chairman, Mr. David Burns MBE, and Board Members for facilitating this, without whom, there would have been no Poppy Ball in Dubai. Our thanks also go out the support team of the BBG who have worked tirelessly to help with the bookings.

We are aware of only two WW2 Veterans living in Dubai today, Mr. Norman Turnbull, who is present tonight and Mr. George Chapman who unfortunately is unable to attend but send his best wishes. For the third year running we have been joined by Mr. Albert Figg who at a young 96 years of age has flown in from the U.K. to join us for the event, Albert took part in the D-Day Landings and has recently written a book detailing his life story, there are copies available tonight.

Poppy Ball - Thank you

We are also truly honoured to have the support of many people that believe in what we are trying to achieve. Special thanks must go to Her Majesties' Consul General,

Mr. Paul Fox who joins us for the evening.

We would like to thank the Grand Hyatt Dubai, without whose help, guidance and professionalism the hard and valuable work undertaken by our volunteer committee would not be reflected so radiantly. We are indebted to each member of our committee for their dedication. support and tireless assistance in bringing the Poppy Ball together and the 'behind the-scenes' support for tonight's event and other events throughout the year.

It is a privilege to as Co-chairs to work along a committee of dedicated individuals: Linda Rudkin, Joanne Heckford, Matt Hebditch. Paul Whitaker and Lee Weatherall.

Special mention must go to Chris Radcliffe for his continuous organisation of the monthly gatherings known as 'Pop Down the Legion' and for organising the very first get-together for the Army v Navy rugby match. This saw over 120 ex-Army, Royal Navy and Royal

Marines (and one Royal Air Force Airman) gather to watch the annual rugby match hosted by McGettigans in JLT.

Dubai English Speaking College has yet again provided an immense amount of support to ensure that this evening runs smoothly, details of individuals are provided later in the program, however, none of this would happen without the support of the Head teacher Mr Chris Vizard.

Thanks must also go to the partners of the committee who have had their family time disrupted by meetings, phone calls and whose support has been invaluable.

A final thank you must go to you yes YOU! Our guests...without your continued support and interest there would be no Poppy Ball.

To get involved please drop us a line at rbldubai@gmail.com so that we can invite you to our private Facebook and LinkedIn Groups. Your details are never shared outside of the groups.



PAUL FOX HM CONSUL GENERAL. DUBAI

Paul Fox took up his appointment as Her Majesty's Consul General to Dubai and the Northern Emirates in August 2015 after working as Deputy Head of Mission in Abu Dhabi for nearly three years.

Paul joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in 1987 after completing his post-graduate studies at Oxford University. He has been posted to India, Azerbaijan, Thailand and Poland. During Paul's assignments in London, he was pressspokesperson for two Foreign Secretaries and worked on the Balkans, Iraq and Afghanistan.



Paul is married to Vicki and has three daughters (Olivia, Eleanor and Amelia).

Paul has a keen interest in football and enjoys most forms of sport. He also continues his interests in history, and as a trained historian seeks to understand better the background and culture of the countries in which he lives

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A POPPY HISTORY

The first donations for artificial poppies were given in Britain on 11th November 1921, inspired by John McCrae's 1915 poem 'In Flanders' Fields'.

Some of the bloodiest fighting of World War 1 took place in the Flanders and Picardy regions of Northern France In the aftermath of the war's total devastation the only thing which would grow on the land was the poppy. McCrae, a doctor serving there with the Canadian Armed Forces. wrote about what he saw.

Moina Michael, an American War Secretary with the YMCA,

was moved by McCrae's work to write: "And now the torch and Poppy red, wear in honour of our dead."

She bought red poppies and sold them to her friends to raise money for Servicemen in need. Her French colleague, Madame Guerin, proposed the making of artificial poppies and their sale to help ex-Servicemen and their dependants.

In Britain, Major George Howson, a young infantry officer, formed the Disabled Society, to help disabled ex-Servicemen and women from World War I. Howson suggested to the Legion that members of the Disabled Society could make poppies and the Poppy Factory was subsequently founded in 1922.

The original poppy was designed so that workers with a disability could easily assemble it and that principle remains today.

IN FLANDERS FIELDS

In Flanders fields the poppies blow Between the crosses, row on row, That mark our place; and in the sky The larks, still bravely singing, fly Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow, Loved and were loved, and now we lie, In Flanders fields

Take up our quarrel with the foe: To you from failing hands we throw The torch; be yours to hold it high. If ye break faith with us who die We shall not sleep, though poppies grow In Flanders fields.



Dear Guests,

It gives me great pleasure to be invited to The Poppy Ball 2016 by Sean Heckford and even more pleasure that I am fit enough to come. This will be my fourth time to the ball and it is a cause very close to my heart.

I am 96 years of age and although my movement is somewhat slow, I am glad to say my mind is extremely active.

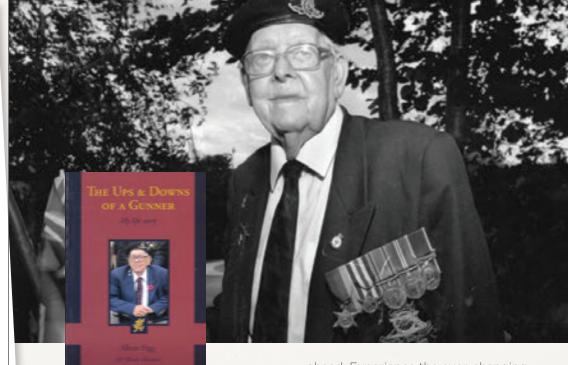
After ten years I have finally managed to complete my life story, having been detoured by various fund raising that I decided to undertake for several memorials on Hill 112 in Normandy and Longleat in the UK. Just to also mentioned we are in final discussions with Sir Bill Cash MP and Martin Jones BBC Cameraman to find further funding to complete the HILL 112 Documentary.

As you can appreciate this has taken considerable amount of my time and therefore I am even more delighted that I have, wit tent and may encourage you to read further.

Wishing you all a wonderful evening and please feel free to come and chat, I will be delighted but beware you may have to buy a book.

With Sincere Regards

Albert Figg



OUT NOW THE UPS & DOWNS OF A

THE UPS & DOWNS OF A GUNNER: MY LIFE STORY

In February 1939, with the prospect of war looming, 18-year-old Albert Figg joined the Royal Artillery TA. He was told that as a field gunner, three miles behind the front line, he stood a slightly better chance of coming out of the war alive.

Fortunately, this was the case.
Albert, now 96, presents this book; a personal account of his fascinating life before, during and after the war.
Learn how this young, inexperienced boy made sergeant less than two years after joining the army, and how his determination and humour saw him through the trying times that lay

ahead. Experience the ever-changing social landscape of post-war Britain and the efforts of a good man to provide for a growing family.

Perhaps most incredibly, read how Albert shows no sign of slowing down in his later years. He continues to champion the memory of the fallen, including masterminding the efforts, against the odds, to site several monuments at Hill 112.

An ordinary man with an extraordinary tale to tell, Albert Figg has provided us with a gripping, funny, saddening and insightful tale of a life lived to the full, reminding us that some of the biggest events in history are all too recent, and should never be forgotten.

albertfigg.co.uk

THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME

141 DAYS OF HORROR

O1 JULY 1916THE FIRST AND BLOODIEST DAY

The Allies bombarded German trenches for seven days and then sent 100,000 men over the top to attack the German lines

The day was a disaster for the British. The Germans weathered the artillery fire in deep trenches and came up fighting. As the British soldiers advanced. they were mown down by machine gun and rifle fire. In total, 19,240 British soldiers lost their lives. It was the bloodiest day in the history of the British army. However, the French had more success and inflicted big In spite of heavy British losses, Douglas Haig, the British general, agreed to continue the attack.

02 JULY 1916THE BRITISH PUSH FORWARD

After the first day, where they captured three square miles of territory, the British attempted to press their advance.

Over a two week period. the British made a series of small attacks on the German line, in preparation for another large-scale assault. On 4 July, British soldiers engaged in bloody take Mametz wood and nearby forests. Progress was slow and the British suffered another 25,000 casualties (dead and wounded). The Germans were under increasing pressure and were forced reinforce their lines.

14 JULY 1916 NIGHT ASSAULT ON BAZENTIN RIDGE

Under the cover of darkness, British soldiers gathered in no-man's land, getting ready for a massive dawn assault in the northern part of the Somme.

At 3.20am the British guns pounded the enemy lines with five times the intensity of the first day of the Somme. As the sun rose, attacked. The Germans were taken by surprise. The British achieved an early victory advancing 6,000 yards into enemy territory and occupying Longueval village. Two regiments of the 2nd Indian Cavalry Division were sent into action. However they failed to take High Wood, which remained in German hands.

A BATTLE OF ATTRITION

The Battle of the Somme, fought in northern France, was one of the bloodiest of World War One. For five months the British and French armies fought the Germans in a brutal battle of attrition on a 15-mile front.

The aims of the battle were to relieve the French Army fighting at Verdun and to weaken the German Army. However, the Allies were unable to break through German lines. In total, there were over one million dead and wounded on all sides.

15 JULY 1916 SOUTH AFRICANS TAKE "DEVIL'S WOOD"

Delville wood would come to be known as "Devil's wood" by the soldiers who fought there.

Situated at the southern

end of the British line. the dense woodland was a key Allied military objective. On 15 July, 3,000 soldiers of the 1st South African brigade occupied the wood. The Germans unleashed fierce machine gun and artillery fire and launched a brutal of counter-attacks. Terrible weather turned the wood into a muddy grave. Undaunted, the South Africans held on. When they were relieved five days later, 143 men were left standing.

23 JULY 1916THE ANZACS CAPTURE POZIÈRES

In July, the British were reinforced by the First Anzac Corps, with three Australian divisions composed largely of inexperienced volunteers.

After a short intense artillery bombardment, they stormed the village high on the crest of Thiepval Ridge. The an intense barrage and counter-attacked on the the British and Australian forces tried and failed to take the nearby Mouquet Farm. The battle claimed over 12.000 Australian at Gallipoli. It has gone down in popular history as further testament to the indomitable Anzac spirit.

29 AUGUST 1916GERMAN GENERAL RESIGNS

By August, the Germans had suffered nearly 250,000 casualties. Morale was low and many German leaders believed the battle was lost.

The Germans were losing ground at the Somme and at Verdun the French were attacking in earnest. The Allied naval blockades of the North Sea and the Adriatic Sea, caused food shortages in Germany. Bread, meat, sugar, eggs and milk were rationed. Germany's general. Falkenhayn, resigned and was replaced by General Hindenburg and his chief of staff Ludendorff. They employed new tactics -German soldiers were to to inflict the maximum on the Allies.











15 SEPTEMBER 1916 TANKS ATTACK!

At the Battle of Flers Courcelette the British deployed a new piece of technology - the tank.

By early September, the French had made significant gains and this put General Haig under pressure to launch a major attack. On 15 September the British artillery unleashed 828,000 shells and 12 divisions of men advanced, aided by their secret weapon, 48 Mark I tanks. Yet many broke down - only 21 made it to the front line. The British advanced about 1.5 miles. finally taking High Wood. However, the exhausted progress any further -29.000 casualties.

17 SEPTEMBER 1916 THE GERMANS FIGHT BACK ON LAND AND IN THE AIR

From the beginning of the battle, the Allies had dominated the skies. However, in September the Germans deployed new planes and new tactics.

The Fokker DII, the Halberstadt and the Albatros DI and DII counterparts. The British could no longer compete with the Germans in the air and this hampered observation and artillery air superiority, the Germans launched a massive infantry attack, sending over the top. However. their advance was thwarted by French artillery and machine guns, which stopped

25 - 28 SEPTEMBER 1916 ALLIED VICTORY IN SIGHT?

In late September, the British made two substantial gains - Morval and Thiepval Ridge.

At Morval, the British mastered an important tactic - the "creeping barrage", in which artillery was fired just in front of its advancing infantry to ease their progress. On 27 September, the British 18th Division captured a key German defensive position - Thiepval fortress village. However, the next day, German trenches and their artillery let loose a powerful bombardment. The British troops had to dig-in at the nearby network of German trenches -

01 OCTOBER 1916BRITISH HALTED BY ATROCIOUS WEATHER

In early October, the weather began to deteriorate and British soldiers were bogged down in yet another muddy battlefield.

At the Battle of Le Transloy Ridge on 1 October, the British struggled in a futile, uphill battle of attrition. Though exhausted, the men fought on for three weeks, trying and failing to capture the German trenches. The British soldiers came under heavy artillery fire and German planes bombed their trenches. The worsening weather hindered the rendering their artillery ineffective. The British suffered 57,000 casualties and gained little ground.

13 NOVEMBER 1916 THE LAST BATTLE ON THE SOMME

In mid-November, the British carried out their final battle on the Somme on the River Ancre.

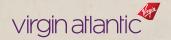
The "creeping barrage" was deployed again with great success and the British troops stormed the German defences. The 51st Highland Division took Beaumont Hamel and the 63rd (Royal Naval) capturing 7,000 German prisoners. Further south, the French gave up trying to capture St.Pierre Vast Wood as winter weather set in and a battle against the elements replaced that against the enemy.

19 NOVEMBER 1916 OFFENSIVES CEASE AND TROOPS DIG IN

With winter closing in, the fight was now suspended. Haig deemed the soldiers had done enough and resolved to resume the offensive in February.

In 141 days the British had advanced just seven miles and failed to break the German defence. Some historians believe that with a few more weeks of favourable weather the Allies could have broken through German lines. Others argue the Allies never stood a chance. In any case, the British army inflicted heavy losses on the German Army. In March 1917, the Germans made a strategic retreat to the Hindenburg line rather than face the resumption of the Battle of the Somme.

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THURSDAY SEAFOOD & ART NIGHT FOR 2
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PERSONAL CONNECTIONS #1

Gunner Bernard Dargan, 49117, 41 Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery

My grandad enlisted on 28th October 1914. After training and a posting protecting the Tynemouth River estuary he went to France on 16th January 1916 where he joined 41 Siege Battery.

41 Siege Battery RGA was, during Bernard's time, equipped with four 6-inch howitzers. Each required a team of ten men; each weighed 4.4 tons; and each fired a 100-pound high explosive shell to a maximum distance of 9500 yards.

In June 1916, just before the start of the Somme offensive 41 Siege Battery moved to the town of Albert This was a small town behind the British front line of the Somme sector, and the battery was part of a major build-up of artillery resources ready for an offensive. It was in action more or less continuously during the Battle of the Somme. The battery experienced a terrible day on 14th July, when a single German shell killed 13 officers and men and wounded seven others.

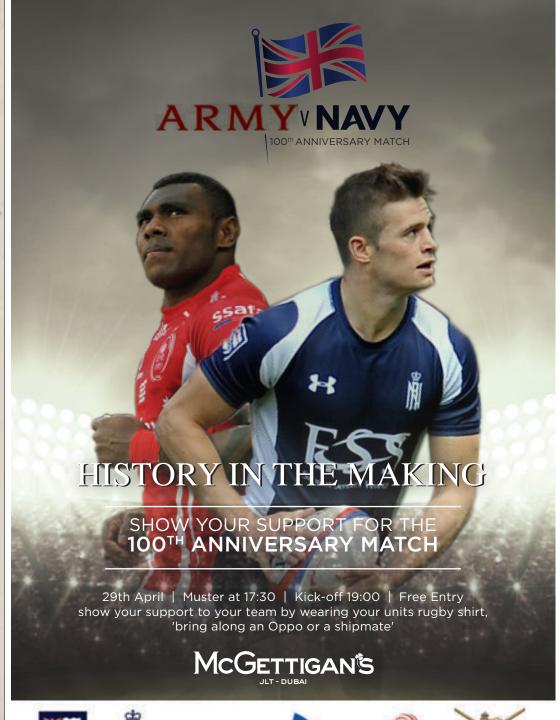
Bernard Dargan survived the Somme offensive. According to the units War Diary many of his comrades didn't. His unit then moved to several

locations over the next few months including Ypes and St Aubin north of Arras to take part in the battle of Arras.

Bernard was wounded in action on 23th April 1917. He is named in the war diary, along with four others who were wounded and one man who was killed. The battery was taking part in the Battle of Arras, which had begun on 9th April 1917. The diary records show that at 5pm on 20 April, orders were received to move into a new position. The battery came under heavy shell fire for the next two days, to such an extent that permission was sought to relocate. On 22th April it moved 500 nearer to Thélus, It was during this move he was wounded

Bernard was hit in the face by shrapnel and was repatriated to England on the 28th April 1917.
Bernard was in Roehampton military hospital convalescing and on home leave until his discharge from the army on 19th September 1918.
He returned to his civilian job as a painter and decorator, raised seven children.

Simon Tuke Co-Chair









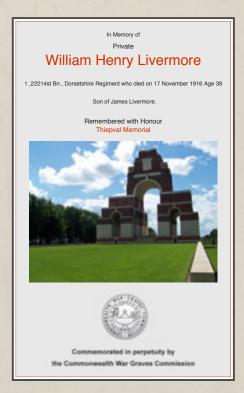






PERSONAL CONNECTIONS #2

Submitted by Sean Heckford, Co-Chair



Private William Henry Livermore, 22214, 1st Bn., Dorsetshire Regiment

My Great Grandmothers Brother killed on the Somme William Livermoore.

John Poulton, Special Reservist, Army Reserve

John Poulton my Great Grandfather who survived the Somme (twice) and who I knew well as a young boy.

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PERSONAL CONNECTIONS #3

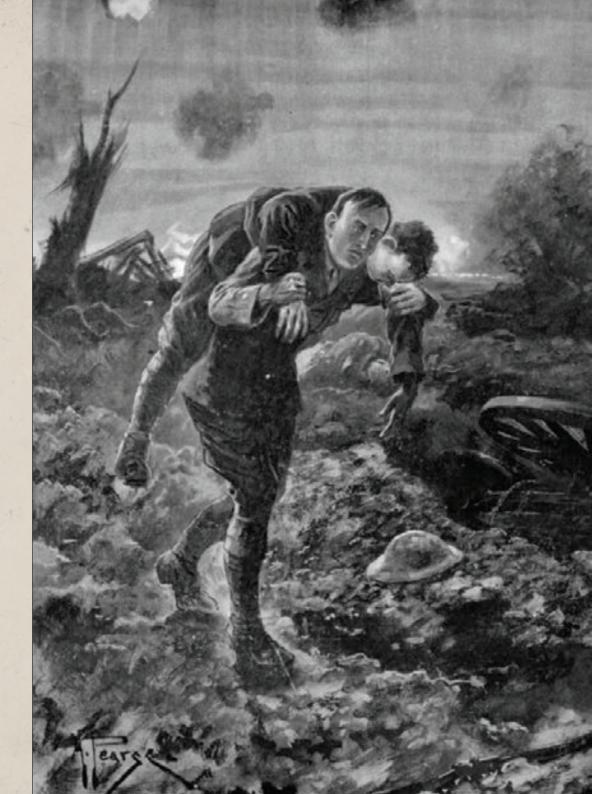
Lieutenant Geoffrey Shillington-Cather VC, 9th Battalion, Royal Irish Fusiliers

Awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions on 1 July 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme.

His was one of four VCs of the Somme - for repeatedly going into 'No Man's Land' and rescuing a number of Royal Irish Fusiliers men who lay helplessly wounded. Of the 600 men from the Royal Irish Fusiliers Battalion to go into the attack, only 80 made it back to their own lines. In the aftermath of the first few hours of the battle. many hundreds of the dead, dying and wounded lay in no man's land while the battle continued to rage around them. After several successful rescues Lt. Shillington-Cather was shot dead during what turned out to be his final rescue attempt. He was 26.

Submitted by Jonathan Shillington







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POP DOWN THE LEGION, THERE'S A GOOD CHAP.

'Pop Down the Legion' on the first Tuesday of every month.



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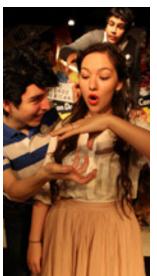


Performing Arts

Dare Excel Share Create

at Dubai English Speaking College





Music is an integral part of the Performing Arts Faculty at Dubai English Speaking College (DESC). We offer students numerous opportunities to become involved in the Arts and view it as an integral aspect of the holistic education of each child.

Music, Drama and Dance are very much at the heart of DESC life, with all students from Year 7 to Year 9 studying Music and Drama as discreet subjects. In addition, we offer Music, Drama and Dance to those students wishing to study them at GCSE level and beyond. This year, we have introduced Music Technology as a new subject at A level.

Here at DESC we provide first class facilities including Drama Studios, a Dance Studio, a Mac Suite, a Recording Studio and in-house Instrumental Tuition, leading to Grade examinations.

Each year, our Performing Arts faculty work collaboratively on a large scale production, each one receiving wide ranging acclaim within the College community and beyond. Recent productions have included Les Miserables, Grease and this year The Sound of Music.

Today's performers were the DESC Chamber Choir and the DESC Staff Choir. Our soloist was Ophelie Dumont-Smith (Trumpet).

To find out more about what DESC can offer your child, please contact us.







Dubai English Speaking College, PO Box 125814, Academic City, Dubai. United Arab Emirates. tel: +971 4 360 4866 email: info@descdubai.com website: www.descdubai.com

THANKS **OUR SINCERE THANKS...**

We are deeply indebted to the following companies, organisations and individuals whose belief in our aims has been reinforced by their generosity in providing event support, fund raising assistance and prizes for our raffle and auctions.

Without their support, our annual fund raising event for the Poppy Appeal, on whose support more valiant but less fortunate people than ourselves depend so much, would have been in vain.

Any omissions due to print deadlines is regretted:









