

HiARA's November Chairman's report.

The four days at the D-Day beaches were hectic but very interesting. The journey didn't start well, as a train had broken down in the channel tunnel which resulted in a seven-hour delay. Eventually, we arrived at the hotel at midnight. Veteran Royal Engineer, George Batts, MBE (97) accompanied us on the journey and he was very pleased to see the completed British Normandy Memorial site at Ver Sur Mer completed following a long campaign. I laid the club's wreath there, I also laid a cross on the memorial to Major John Howard who led the assault on the Pegasus Bridge. The visit was organised by the history group of St John's School Gravesend and my thanks go to them for a memorable weekend.

Guy Bartlett's talk on the siege at the Iranian Embassy was as good as ever, he is a very popular speaker and uses his holiday days to give talks and he is currently fully booked for 2022, he said visiting HiARA is always a pleasure as he receives such a warm welcome and reception.

The race night, Christmas lunch and Christmas tea party are nearly upon us drawing a close to 2021. Our Christmas singer has had to pull out due to problems following Covid and fortunately, Sonja, was able to book a singing duo which come very highly recommended. There is still time to book for the tea party.

We hope you have all enjoyed the reopening of the club and we can't help but notice that our membership has declined during the pandemic for various reasons, so, if you know any family, friends, neighbours or people new to the village, tell them about HiARA and ask them to pop along, no entrance fees at present. |lan our Treasurer has confirmed the membership fee will be increased to £15.00p per member from April 2022/23. Activity afternoons and guests remain unchanged.

Liz Jeffery.