

## **Remembrance Service at St.Mary's Church Shotley and the H.M.S. Ganges Waterside Committal of Ashes to the Sea.**

This remembrance Sunday was a Bright day in which the Lords of the Skies and Seas kept the heavier weather at bay. Before the service a local Sea Cadet (representing the Royal Netherlands Consul) laid some flowers on each of the Dutch Naval graves on behalf of their families

The service at St. Mary's, lead by Revd. Tim Crosby, was a moving one in which Wreaths of Remembrance were laid. Totalling eight in all, they were from the RBL, RAF, RAF Regt, The Royal Netherlands Armed Forces, The Parish Council, The Fire Service Association, The Local Scout Group and a poignant final one in honour of those whom have fallen more recently in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Shotley Cub Pack gave a moving rendition of Flanders Fields during which they held a Torch of Remembrance and dropped Poppy Petals on the wreaths laid earlier in the service. I believe we can say that there will be a future generation who will not forget the fallen.

The Service Concluded in the usual manner at one of the outside Cemeteries (this year it was the Submariner Memorial).

A short while later the former HMS Ganges 'Boys' held a short service at the 'Ganges Mast', they then proceeded to the Marina Tower where Two Ex –Ganges men and a Sea Cadet (a local lad, William Ives) took the ashes of the deceased 'Ganges Boys' (who had passed on) out into the Rivers Orwell and Stour Estuaries for committal to the sea. It was a moving moment for the relatives of the deceased. Two wreaths (One was from the RBL) were laid on the sea in memory of those whom perished in service of their country. I for one as did others had a touch of grit in my eye on the day. If anyone has any photographs of the Waterside event please would you contact the RBL on the number in the Magazine Directory

Both Services were moving in different and at the time the same way. Maybe only an old or ex – serviceperson / Serviceperson can really understand what these ceremonies mean but they do mean a lot to us and our families.

Long May they continue.

'Rock Ape'

## **The School Service of Remembrance**

The School Service of Remembrance was lead by Wendy Sadler at St.Mary's Church Shotley on the 11<sup>th</sup> November.

Apart from the School Children it was attended by the Royal British Legion and various parents and Grand Parents. There were poems and anthems from the T.V. X Factor and a charming song of Remembrance by the Children.

They all proceeded outside for 11:00hrs and when the Notes of the Last post were heard the RBL Standard Bearer dipped the Standard for the children to see. The children kept a brilliant Two minute silence (probably the quietest they will be this year) and after reveille, the children laid home made poppies on the Naval Cemetery Graves.

A short yet moving Service done by the Children of Shotley Community Primary School, well done indeed!

'Rock Ape'

## **RBL Meeting 26.11.08**

The last meeting of the year took place at Shotley Village Hall on the 26<sup>th</sup> November. It was as usual straight to the point and The Welfare Officer for the County announced he was stepping down after 10 years of Welfare work however there will still be a Local Welfare officer in the form of Sarah Ives whom can be contacted on the usual tel. no. The Treasurer explained the New RBL banking system to the members, the RBL will be able to utilise funds that have been dormant in big branches before the Government makes use of them. The meeting closed and munchies were had afterwards. We are still looking for new members and extra welfare helpers please contact us on the telephone No.'s given in the Shotley Directory or in the Shotley Magazine/Newsletter. You need not have been in the Armed Forces to join us, just hold the same view of our aims as we do.

Brian Ives  
Chairman  
Shotley Erwarton and District Branch  
The Royal British Legion