



Paris Branch

Newsletter

N° 49 – July 2026



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Chairman's introduction, July 2026.

Welcome everyone to this month's newsletter.

I hope you are all enjoying the extremely hot temperatures.

In June we had a very good lunch at the clubhouse which Julie Knapp provided. Thank you again Julie.

We also had our film night in which we had a showing of the film "The longest Day." Nick our American member attended, and he brought along David who is also a member of the American Legion in Paris. David was impressed with our branch, the clubhouse and our facilities and is now a member of our branch. It's possible that the American Legion Paris branch may in future be using our premises for meetings.



I was invited to attend the American Legion's celebration for their 250th year of Independence at Pershing Hall. I was joined by Robin Sweeney, Didier Dumont, Nick and David. We received a very warm welcome and had a very enjoyable evening. (Here's one photo. A couple more below).

Our member Rosemary Rutland has represented the Paris Branch at various ceremonies for the Canadians. Well done, Rosemary. More on this too below.

Janet and I went to Les Invalides to meet up with Oliver Stead to discuss the 11th November service of remembrance and everything seems to be all systems go. We have received approval to have the service, and we will be allowed to have our Poppy sellers there again this year.

The Pedal to Paris which as I previously mentioned is the 30th year, and I am pleased to hear that our ambassador will be cycling in the last part of the race. Good luck Tom.

There will not be a lunch this month.

Just to remind every one again: on the 4th August we have a ceremony at the Arc de Triumph. This year we have the Ambassador from Pakistan attending. More details below. I trust we will see all of our committee members there. Please let Janet know if you will be attending. There will be refreshments back at the clubhouse after the ceremony.

Have a great summer.

Richard.,

July Quiz – Quotations. Who said or wrote...



- 01 - "If I should die, think only this of me: / That there's some corner of a foreign field / That is for ever England."
Wilfred Owen, Siegfried Sassoon, Rupert Brook
- 02 - "Ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country."
Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy, Winston Churchill
- 03 - "The lamps are going out all over Europe; we shall not see them lit again in our lifetime."
Winston Churchill, Georges Clemenceau, Sir Edward Grey,
- 04 - "We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds..."
Wilfred Owen, Winston Churchill, Field Marshal Montgomery,
- 05 - Yesterday, December 7, 1941 — a date which will live in infamy..."
Herbert Hoover, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman
- 06 - "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself."
Franklin D. Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, Georges Clemenceau
- 07 - "Ich bin ein Berliner"
Willy Brandt, Helmut Kohl, John F. Kennedy
- 08 - "The first casualty when war comes is truth."
Hiram Johnson, Winston Churchill, Charles de Gaulle
- 09 - "An eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind."
Mahatma Gandhi, Socrates, Bertrand Russell
- 10 - "War is much too serious a matter to be entrusted to the military."
Georges Clemenceau, John Kennedy, F D Roosevelt
- 11 - "A soldier will fight long and hard for a bit of coloured ribbon."
Napoleon Bonaparte, Kaiser Wilhelm II, Joseph Stalin
- 12 - "Cry 'Havoc!' and let slip the dogs of war."
Ben Jonson, William Shakespeare, Christopher Marlowe
- 13 - "All warfare is based on deception."
Niccolò Machiavelli, Carl von Clausewitz, Sun Tzu
- 14 - "Give me liberty, or give me death!"
Siegfried Sassoon, Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson
- 15 - "France has lost a battle, but France has not lost the war."
Philippe Pétain, Pierre Laval, Charles de Gaulle,

Events

The Royal British Legion Paris Branch was present at the ceremonies in Calvados on 28 June.

Rosemary Rudland reports:



I was Honoured to attend a wreath-laying ceremony marking the 82nd anniversary of the liberation of Cheux and Saint-Manvieu (west of Caen), on behalf of the RBL Paris branch. The event was held in the presence of local officials and standard-bearers from several veterans' and remembrance associations. Both communes were liberated on 26 and 27 June 1944, by British and Scottish regiments. The St. Manvieu British War Cemetery in Cheux contains 1,623 British, 3 Canadian, and 1 Australian burials from World War II, with 49 left unidentified. It also includes 556

German graves. These casualties stand as a poignant reminder of the intense combats that took place during Operation Epsom, the Battle of Tilly-sur-Seulles, the Battle of the Odon, and the capture of Carpiquet.

As he mentioned in his introduction Richard attended the celebrations of the American Legion in Paris on the event of the USA's 250th anniversary. Here are a couple more photos:





On July 12, 2026, a deeply moving ceremony paid tribute to 6 Allied airmen who fell nearby on July 25, 1944, organised by Mme Loïse Vermeulen, mayor, the commemoration was held at the Piencourt parish cemetery (Eure). Attended by local residents and regional political figures—including several local mayors, an Eure Senator, a Member of Parliament, and a Departmental Councillor—the event featured the unveiling and blessing of "Aero," a sculpture by artist Yvan Barbieri. (see photo). Crafted around an authentic duralumin Hamilton Standard propeller fragment from the World War II era, the artwork lends profound historical significance to the tribute. Children placed symbolic candles and the Royal British Legion-Paris branch, was represented by Rosemary Rudland.

Events Coming Up

One of the most important events of the year is 4th August when the British Legion Paris branch lays a wreath at the Arc de Triomphe.

Please try and attend. Go directly to the Arc at 1745 for the ceremony at 18h30. We have the Ambassador of Pakistan laying the wreath. Afterwards reception at Legion. Can members let Janet know if they are coming and if they will be with any family members.

janetwarby@yahoo.com

Hope to see you there.



The "Pedal to Paris" event, organised by RBL HQ, will arrive at the Arc de Triomphe on Sunday 6th September. If you wish to see it come along to the Arc at around 2.45p.m.



Alan Bodel asks me to inform members of an event at Berthecourt (60370) on Sun 9th Aug 2026, at 10.30 am, A ceremony will take place at the memorial which is at the junction of the D137 and the D44 It is a tribute to five SAS murdered there by the Gestapo on 9 August 1944 To involve the younger generation, a feature of this annual ceremony is the laying of wreaths by children. If any of you know of children who would like to take part, please contact Alain at bodel.alain@wanadoo.fr

Please note: There will be no lunch in July or August – Next in September

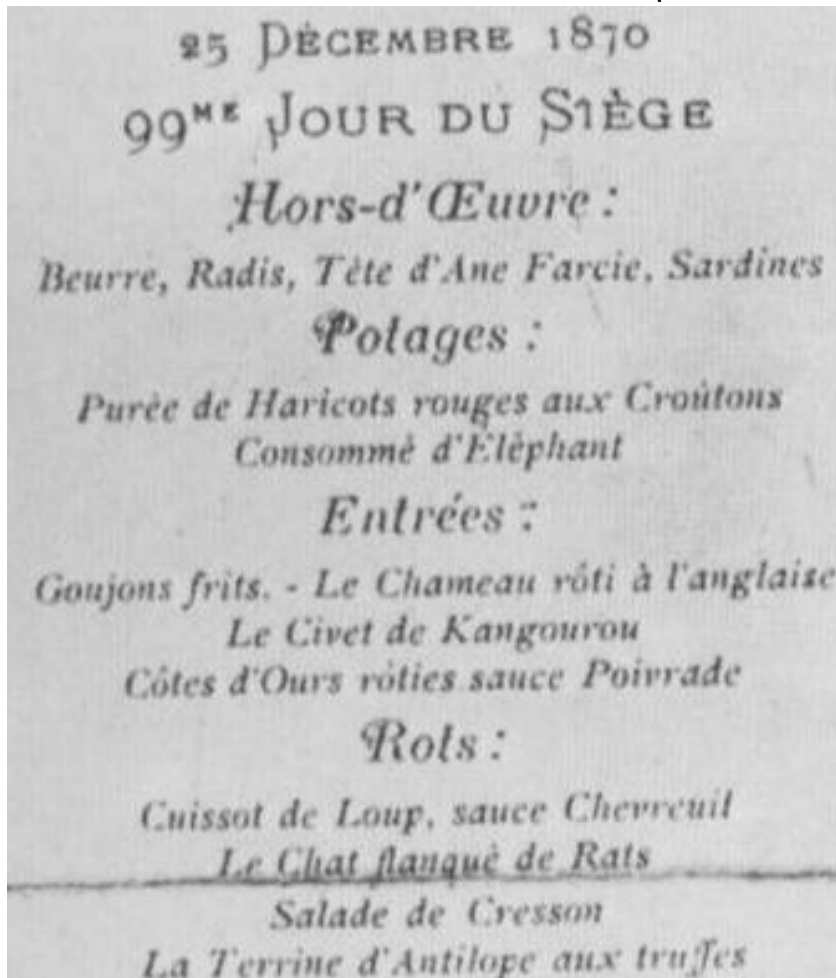
An Apology, the HBCF, and Sir Richard Wallace

A couple of weeks ago, I forwarded an appeal for help from the Hertford British Charitable Fund, an admirable association devoted for the last 200 years to helping British people and those with British connections in financial and other difficulties in France.

An error in my accompanying text has been pointed out to me I mentioned that the Fund was connected with the Hertford British hospital in Paris. This was once the case but not since that hospital merged with another nearby to become “l’Hopital Franco Britannique” This said, my error provides me with an excuse to write something about the HBCF, a remarkable organisation, and especially its creator. Both the Hospital and the Fund were created by one of the most significant British residents ever to live in Paris. I refer, of course, to Sir Richard Wallace, 1818-1890, best known to Parisians through the iconic and ubiquitous Wallace Fountains.

It was Wallace who created the original British Hospital and the Fund to run it. For many years the Fund was involved in the administration of the Hertford British Hospital but, since it was amalgamated with a nearby French hospital to form the Hôpital Franco Britanique in 2008, the HSBC no longer has a role in the hospital's work. (although it does support some of their premises)

Today it continues the original Fund's 200-year-old role of providing welfare grants to British and British connected people in need in France. The HBCF also has a role as "charity of charities", providing grants to those nonprofit organisations that work to enhance the well-being of British people and other individuals with British connections, residing in France. They also endeavour to advance healthcare practices by fostering Franco-British collaboration in the medical and para-medical fields.



The Hertford British Charitable Fund is the association which has grown from Wallace's hospital foundation. Its trustees have continued to further Wallace's original charitable aims ever since. In 2025 it merged with a related charity, the British Charitable Fund, Paris, and now operates under the name Hertford British Charitable Fund.

To return to the subject of the Fund's founder. Sir Richard Wallace was one of the few foreigners to remain in Paris during the troubled times of, and subsequent to, the Franco-Prussian war. He was noted for his generosity to those

rendered homeless and jobless by the conflict and particularly the 1871 "Commune" - 72 days of revolt against the government (in Versailles for the duration) during which the Paris population was forced to eat rats and the inhabitants of the Paris zoo. (See the extract of a Christmas menu)

Wallace is believed to have spent over 2 million francs (a colossal sum at the time) on buying and distributing food.

He organised free soup kitchens in several neighbourhoods where thousands of meals were served every day. He imported food from Great Britain (flour, meat, vegetables) to supply Paris, circumventing the Prussian blockade. He did much to preserve the artworks in the Louvre from damage.

Wallace was, himself, a great collector of fine art. He inherited a large collection and added to it regularly. This collection was ultimately given to the British government and can be seen at the Wallace Collection (Hertford House, Manchester Square, London). It was a year after the Commune, in 1872, that Wallace, having observed the lack of public drinking water in Paris, had those famous Wallace Fountains installed across the city – of which more than a hundred exist today. The four caryatids, the miniature statues supporting the the dome of the fountain, represent four virtues – kindness, simplicity, charity and sobriety.

He inherited the Chateau de la Bagatelle in the Bois de Boulogne and lived there in the last few years of his life. The Parc de la Bagatelle, with its chateau in the Bois de Boulogne can be visited.

The Hertford British Charitable Fund (formerly the Hertford British Hospital Corporation, HBHC) is the charitable foundation that grew out of Wallace's hospital foundation — it is composed of a body of trustees that has carried forward his original charitable endowment ever since. Over time its role shifted: the hospital itself merged in 2008 with a neighbouring French hospital to become the Institut/Hôpital Franco-Britannique. The HBCF continues to make the rue Barbès property available to the Fondation Cognacq-Jay and the hospital but no longer has a role in the provision of care.



Château de Bagatelle

The garden façade

The original HBHC became instead a grant-making charity, supporting the merged hospital's premises and giving welfare grants to British people in need in France. In 2025 it merged with a related charity, the British Charitable Fund, Paris, and now operates under the name Hertford British Charitable Fund.

The appeal originally sent to you and reproduced below is the need to recruit Welfare Team members. The volunteers who make up the Welfare Team were originally all based in the Paris region, where most of the beneficiaries were living. However, the British population in France is now mostly concentrated in Brittany, the Charente, the Dordogne, Lower Normandy, Vienne, Haute Vienne and Paris. We need at least four new team members, preferably living in these regions or prepared to travel on an occasional basis.

The beneficiaries of the Trust are people who have been living legally in France for at least two years and are either British or have close British connections. In 2025 we assisted 150 households, which meant 227 individuals. Help can be short or long term: One household has been with us for over twenty years

Welfare members, who follow the individual cases, need to be compassionate and able to establish good relations with people. Their availability is very variable but often around three days a month.



They are not professionals and the role is an unpaid, voluntary position although authorised travel and other expenses will be reimbursed. Feedback over the years reports we are a good team, and it is extremely rewarding on all fronts. They build up to being the contact for 10 to 15 beneficiaries maintaining regular contact, updating their files and making recommendations.

Any help you can provide will be much appreciated and if a role in the Association would appeal to you don't hesitate to contact Janet Goatly at jsgoatly@hbcf.fr

Below is a copy of the original request:



WE NEED YOU!

Because no-one should have to face administrative or extreme financial hardship alone,
The British Charitable Fund assists British and British-connected residents in France

- Are YOU *caring* and *compassionate* ?
- Do YOU have *time* to help others in difficulty?
- Would YOU like to do something *rewarding*?
- Will YOU help *us* help *those* in need?
- Do YOU live in Lower Normandy, Brittany, Dordogne, Charente, Vienne, Haute Vienne or Paris areas?

If so, *WE* would like to hear from *YOU*

Voluntary basis, English language, French helpful,
IT skills and knowledge of French benefit system appreciated.

Please contact: jsgoatly@hbcf.fr

<https://www.hbcf.fr/>

A Word in your Ear – Noah Webster's dictionary

In 1828, Webster published *An American Dictionary of the English Language*. This was at the root of many changes in spelling between English and American. Some of the changes in American spelling due to Webster are well known. For instance, Words with “our” changed to “or” (Honour and Honor for example)
The other best-known one is changing a terminal “re” to “er” (theatre vs theater etc)
Then there was a terminal “ce” changed to “se” (defence / defense)
Dropping the double l was also one of his changes: “traveller” to “traveler” for instance
Others of interest are “plough” which became “plow”, “cheque” to “check” and “catalogue” to “catalog”

All the above and more became standard American, and indeed, even in Britain we are all more or less familiar with most of them today.

However, also of interest, are some of his failures, words which didn't make it into accepted American spelling. Here are a few. In the interests of space-saving only the American is here but I'm pretty sure you can figure them out:

Tung, wimmen, ake, lland, beleev, dawter, hed, masheen, soop,
laf, fether, bilt, kee, giv.

So at least we were spared these.



The Last Laugh -

82a - An Interview with the Irish Minister for Space.

Journalist - Does Ireland really need to have a space programme?

Minister - Of course. We have to show we are a great country.

Journalist - What can Ireland do that is new? The Americans and the Russians are already sending rockets to Mars.

Minister - The government has been looking at original projects and I think we have a fantastic idea.

Journalist - Do you have something as impressive as the Americans' success?

Minister - Well, the Americans have been to the moon already. We want to go a step further.

Journalist - And what would that be?

Minister - We have decided to put a man on the sun!

Journalist - What?! But you can't do that! The temperature of the sun is phenomenal.

It's impossible!

Minister - That's what you think. But we have the perfect solution to that problem.

Journalist - But your spacecraft will be burned up when it gets close to the sun!

Minister - Ah! But you forget the genius of the Irish. Let me tell you how we are going to do it.

Journalist - Please do! I'd love to hear it!

Minister - It's very simple: We're going to do it at night.

M.Y. (txt 82)

June quiz: Answers:

- 01 - Rupert Brooke, *The Soldier*
- 02 - John F. Kennedy, *Inaugural Address, 1961*
- 03 - Sir Edward Grey, British Foreign Secretary, 1914
- 04 - Winston Churchill, Commons speech, 1940
- 05 - Franklin D. Roosevelt, after Pearl Harbor
- 06 - Franklin D. Roosevelt, his 1933 inaugural address.
- 07 - John F. Kennedy
- 08 - Hiram Johnson, U.S. Senator, in a 1918 speech
- 09 - Mahatma Gandhi
- 10 - Georges Clemenceau
- 11 - Napoleon Bonaparte
- 12 - William Shakespeare, *Julius Caesar*
- 13 - Sun Tzu, *The Art of War*
- 14 - Patrick Henry
- 15 - Charles de Gaulle,



Comments & contributions to mfyates@gmail.com
Back numbers: rblfrance.org/ then "Paris Branch Newsletters"

