

YPRES REUNION AT WIPERS TIMES

James Ruddock Broyd (G46-52) writes : Five of the Tour to Amiens and Ypres in 2014 joined three others to make a party of eight to see a performance of Wipers Times by Ian Hislop at the Oxford Playhouse in September. The party consisted of Bernard Bridges (S45-54) and Elsie, James Ruddock-Broyd (G46-52) and Christine, Clive Smith (S54-58) and Jean and Brian Smith (S53-56) and Valerie.



Jean as a regular at the theatre obtained the tickets and James spotted the play in the programme and got the group together. Jean was one of the poem readers at the graves of OFs when many battlefields were visited on the Amiens-Ypres tour of OFs and friends in 2014. The party reminisced on several of the moving moments on that tour which was also brought to mind by the recent TV screenings of the Cloth Hall and Tyne Cot Cemetery.

Afterwards the party gathered in Browns Restaurant in St Giles for a convivial 3 hour dinner. Many memories were brought up from over the years while Brian and James compared notes on their intelligence work in Royal Signals during National Service.

Is this gathering of FOUR OFs at one theatre performance in a private party a record – for the UK - for the World? Certainly for Oxfordshire I suspect.

Pictured from left to right at the dinner table are Jean Smith, Elsie Bridges, Christine Ruddock-Broyd, Clive Smith (S54-58), Valerie Smith, Bernard Bridges (S45-54), Brian Smith (S53-56) and James Ruddock-Broyd (G46-52)

