

# Defence Surveyors' Association Summer Event



## Afternoon Tea at Phyllis Court, Henley

Date: Tuesday, 9 June 2026

An event for members, wives, partners, friends and the wider community  
of the geographic world

### Outline

The DSA Afternoon Tea event will include two speakers and a splendid tea. Timings are to arrive between 1430 and 1500, with the event ending at 1800. The cost is £30 per person.

### Phyllis Court

[Phyllis Court - Henley on Thames RG9 2NA](#)



### The Tea

#### Savory

1. Welsh Rarebit Tartlets
2. Roast Beef and Horseradish on Brown
3. Egg Mayo and Cress on White
4. Smoked Salmon and Cream Cheese on Brown

#### Sweet

1. Morello Cherry and Chocolate Tartlet
2. Lemon Curd Macaroon
3. Hazelnut Éclair
4. Battenberg
5. Fresh Cream Victoria Sponge
6. Warm plain and fruit scones, cream and preserves

#### Tea

Afternoon Tea Options: Standard, Earl Grey, or Coffee – advance notice please. – via email.

See “Booking”.

## The Programme

Arrive 1430 to 1500, seated	1700 Second presentation
1500 Welcome	1750 Thanks
1510 First presentation	1800 Depart
1600 Tea	

## The Speakers and their Subjects

### Chris Davies

Chris Davies served as a Royal Engineer Officer from 1971 to 1990, completing tours in Northern Ireland, the Falklands, Belize, Germany, and Zimbabwe. He commanded 9 Parachute Squadron during the Falklands Campaign in 1982 and later led 38 Engineer Regiment. After promotion to Colonel, he became the Director of Military Studies at the Royal Military College of Science. Following retirement, he spent nine years in French AOC vineyard introductions and six years in executive training and consultancy. He retired in 2010 and resides in the New Forest.

#### **Operation BITING**

Operation Biting, also known as the Bruneval Raid, was a British Combined Operations raid on a German coastal radar installation at Bruneval in northern France, during the Second World War, on the night of 27–28 February 1942. Arguably, it was also the most successful British parachute operation of the War. The presentation briefly covers the founding of the British Airborne Forces and then describes the operation to capture German Radar equipment from a cliff-top near the village of Bruneval, about 15 miles north of Le Havre in France.

### Marc Heighway

Marc Heighway lives in the New Forest and has a deep love for his home. Most weeks, he can be found giving talks in Hampshire and beyond about the fascinating landscape he is fortunate to call home. Proud to serve as a trustee of several local charitable trusts, he also delivers talks to museums, historical societies, and community groups. Additionally, he supports schools by serving as a guest speaker at assemblies, developing classroom learning materials, and hosting guided walks and trips. His goal is to inspire a younger generation to take an interest in history, believing it should be accessible and engaging for everyone. When not discussing history, he runs a marketing business.

#### **Madeline**

Marc Heighway will tell the extraordinary true story of Noor Inayat Khan – code name “Madeleine”. She was the first female wireless operator sent undercover into occupied France. This talk traces her Sufi upbringing and family background descended from Indian royalty to her training in Beaulieu, before her perilous missions for the SOE, capture, and ultimate sacrifice at Dachau concentration camp, where she was executed.”

## Booking

The event is for members, friends, colleagues, and anyone interested.

To book, please visit the following website:

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/defence-surveyors-association](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/defence-surveyors-association)

When booking, please indicate if you would like coffee or Earl Grey as an alternative to afternoon tea, and whether you would like to form a party or sit with a particular group.



## About Phyllis Court

Phyllis Court is a historic Thames-side house and private members' club in Henley-on-Thames, with origins dating back over 700 years. First recorded in 1301 as the manor house of Henley, it was originally known as **Fillets Court**, a name thought to derive



from Old English words linked to the surrounding riverside meadows.

Over time, the name **Fillets Court** gradually evolved into **Phyllis (or Phillis) Court**, reflecting changes in pronunciation, spelling, and local usage rather than any single formal renaming.

By the early 19th century, the house was already widely known by its present name.

Throughout its history, Phyllis Court has welcomed notable visitors including **Queen Anne, William III**, and later **Edward VII, George V**, and **Queen Elizabeth II**. In 1906, it became the home of the present private members' club, established as a social and sporting centre on the River Thames—a role it continues to fulfil today.

