Minutes of the Branch Annual General Meeting
Held on Thursday 5th December 2013
At
The Chapel, East Street, Bodicote

Members Present: John Giddings, John Mills, Maggie Mills, Barry Hobday, Sue Pye, Mina Pegram, Margaret Bristow, John Wells, Terry Devan, Robin Phipps.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Detail</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Legion Ode</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Apologies</td>
<td>Stuart Dawson, Ray Harden</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 3    | Minutes from the last Meeting | Proposed By: Barry Hobday  
Seconded By: John Giddings  
Unanimously approved |
| 4    | Matters Arising | Item 9  
Welfare Committee Report  
Barry Hobday  
2nd Paragraph should read: 'Also during the year .......... a total of 78 visits.' |
| 5    | President's Address | John Giddings addressed the meeting thanking the members of the committee and the Poppy Appeal Organiser for all of their hard work during the past year. He concluded by saying that he was honoured to be the President of such a fine Branch and hope to continue do so in the future. |
| 6    | Chairman’s Report | The Chairman presented his report attached at Appendix A. |
| 7    | Secretary’s Report | The Secretary presented his report attached at Appendix B. |
| 8    | Treasurer's Report | The Treasurer presented her report attached at Appendix C. |
| 9    | Poppy Appeal | The Poppy Appeal Organizer presented his report attached at Appendix D. |
| 10   | Welfare Committee Report | Barry Hobday.  
Again it has been another reasonably busy year. We distributed 63 food parcels last Christmas with the following breakdown: 43 food parcels and 20 tins of Biscuits at a total |
cost of £307.99
Also during the year I made 53 Birthday visits, 20 Home visits and 3 Hospital visits, making a total of 76 visits. Sadly I have to report that I attended the funerals of 2 of our members.

### 11 Social Committee Report
The Social was held on 17th May 2013 in the village hall. Afternoon tea was served which was prepared by the ladies. A choir from Tudor Hall School entertained us with their singing and guitar playing this was followed by Bill James playing the organ who also led the sing-along. Approximately 60 people attended and a good time was had by all. This function could not be held without all the support of the ladies and I give thanks for all their hard work.

*Maggie Mills*

### 12 Standard Bearer's Report
No report was given

### 13 Band Report
No report was given.

### 14 Election of Officers
All retiring Committee Members stood for re-election and were voted in unanimously. 2 new members, Terry Devan and Robin Phipps Proposed By Mina Pegram and Seconded by Margaret Bristow were elected to serve on the Committee.

Chairman
Secretary

### 15 AOB
Chairman reported that he had received a letter from Headquarters requesting that all Branches make a one off donation to the Poppy Appeal. He will be replying to the letter in due course.

### 16 Kohima Epitaph

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.25pm .

The next Branch Annual General Meeting will be on 4th December 2014 at 1930.

John Wells
Branch Secretary

Signed
Chairman
Date
Appendix A to Bodicote Branch AGM dated 5 December 2013

Chairman's Report 2013

The year started off well when the Branch was awarded the Norris trophy for branch efficiency at the County Conference in January. This is a measure of the hard work of the committee over the year and I thank everybody for their dedication.

We have maintained our membership over the year and it stands at 156 as at 30 September. However Balscote and Shutford are now down to 17 members which concerns me but I have tried to find someone to act as liaison to generate some interest without success. One problem is that the membership is split over about 5 or 6 villages with very few actually living in Shutford or Balscote but I will keep on trying.

On the Social front I tried to organise 2 trips one to Risley Gardens and another to the D Day Museum in Southsea but there was insufficient interest to make an outing viable.

The Senior Members Social in May was a success as usual, Bill James provided the music and we were also entertained by a choir from Tudor Hall School. I would like to thank Maggie and her team of ladies for their hard work and excellent catering for making the social a very enjoyable evening.

Mina organised the very popular trip to the Festival of Remembrance on 9 November for which I thank her.

The Poppy Appeal was down on the previous year but I will be giving a full report later in the meeting.

Remembrancetide was a very busy 2 days the weather was kind if a little cold.

On Remembrance Sunday we held an Act if Remembrance at the Memorial Stone where the Wellington bomber crashed in 1942, The names of those who lost their lives in the war were read out, a spray of poppies was laid at the foot of the stone and Ron Glynn played the Last Post and Reveille and we also observed the 2 minutes silence. Our thanks must go to Ron Glynn, about 12 – 15 people attended.

In the afternoon we held our usual parade and service. We marched from Kings Field led by The Shires RBL Youth Band to the church for the 3.00pm service all the badged organisations attended and were well represented; unfortunately our numbers were quite small.

The new vicar took the service and the church I believe was full, Pam Hobday and her team of ladies decorated the church with displays of poppies which looked very nice and I thank them for their spectacular creations. The afternoon was concluded with tea and biscuits in Church House again served by Pam and her ladies for whom I thank them.

Balscote and Shutford held their service of Remembrance service in the evening in Shutford church, the Branch standard and Balscote and Shutford standard were paraded. The singing was led by a brass ensemble.

On Armistice Day at 11.00 am we held a service of Remembrance at the war memorial about 70 people attended including 54 children and their teachers from the village school, again Ron Glynn played the Last Post and Reveille we also observed the 2 minutes silence.
Welfare is afforded a high priority in the Branch but the recent change in welfare organisation has upset a lot of people and our caseload has reduced by 75% this year and I am convinced that the need for our assistance still exists just as much. There is not much we can do to alter this but we must continue look after those within the Branch area as best we can.

Unfortunately our standard bearer is in hospital at the moment having his shoulder repaired so we must wish him a speedy recovery and hope he will be fully fit to carry our standard very soon.

I would like to thank all the committee for their hard work over the last year and also the ladies who do a lot for the Branch. We need more people on the committee as we have lost quite a few in recent years so if you know of anyone who might be interested and useful please use your influence.

*John Mills*

Branch Chairman
Appendix B to Bodicote Branch AGM dated 5 December 2013

Secretary's Report 2013

Our Membership numbers are keeping up and we are doing better than most Branches. However our members are getting older and we desperately need to find new and younger people to join us. I know that it may be difficult for younger factions of our community to devote time to our cause but unless we can attract these people we run the risk of, may I say it, dying out. So please if you know any of shall we say the more youthful element please do your best to attract them, they do not have to be Service or Ex-Service, just a willingness to help those who may be more disadvantaged that us.

In September I resigned from my work as a Welfare Caseworker because I felt unable to work under the new system for Caseworkers introduced as part of the Legion's 'Pathway for Growth' initiative. To my mind the Legion, under the guise of cost cutting, is heading towards a more centralised system and the Branch's involvement in local welfare is set to be eliminated. This is something I think that we should be wary as it could eventually lead to the demise of the Branch system.

The production of the Branch Newsletter continues, my only wish is that more people would provide me with articles, news, etc. The same is true for the Branch Website, I try to keep it as up to date as I can, but I would like more input from Branch Members. The Minutes of this Branch AGM will be published on the Branch Website and will be found under the 'Branch Information' heading and will be available until the next AGM.

This coming year will be a busy one for the Branch as we prepare for the commemoration of the centenary of the start of WW1. The Committee will be open to ideas on ways to commemorate this momentous but historic event.

I hope that I will be able to continue working for the Branch and will be standing for re-election as your Secretary.

John Wells
Branch Secretary
Appendix C to Bodicote Branch AGM dated 5 December 2013

Treasurers' Report 2013

Account as of 30th September 2012    £3776.05

Account as of 30th June 2013       £3764.60

Our net increase was £211.00

This year has been another year of change within the Legion. Our year was shorter which has proved to be a mystery to me, the reasons behind it I do not fully understand. Again we have had less donations and both Mina and myself have found it hard to collect renewal of membership fees. With our membership decreasing and the cost of living rocketing it is no wonder that people are finding it hard to also pay this annual increase in membership fees.

As a Branch I think we are lucky to have all the regular support of both members of the committee and also our long term members for all their support in whatever we do as a branch. This being said it goes to prove just how much people give of their time and effort for free.

The BFI fund has now reduced the interest rate to 2% until May of the forthcoming year. Nothing seems very stable within the money markets, so all things considered we are not doing too bad. Despite the fact we only accrued the large sum of £161.53 for the past year.

BFI as at 30th September 2012    £7067.29

BFI as at 30th June 2013       £7228.82

I now thank Mina for all her efforts in collecting membership payments and all the other things she does within this Branch. My thanks also to our auditor Micheal Gillespie for his kindness and time spent on our accounts. His fee I believe is an expenditure I think he thoroughly deserves.

It now leaves me to thank the committee for their support once again throughout this past year and I hope that we can all work together again this coming year. Many thanks to you all.

Sue Pye
Branch Treasurer
The total raised for the year ending 30 September 2013 was £12,673.60 this is £1,024.89 less than the previous year. Bodicote down £277.80 and Balscote and Shutford £747.09 down. Disappointing but not unexpected owing to the present financial situation, everyone is feeling the pinch and charities are no exception. On a brighter note as at yesterday we are only £18 short of last year’s of final total and we still have 10 months still to go. Several payments for wreaths are still outstanding and at least 2 church collections are awaited (Bodicote and Shutford).

The collection at Sainsburys represents nearly 50% of our revenue so we must concentrate there and ensure we have enough collectors for the whole 8 days. Collectors for the House to House collections present a difficulty due to the age of some of the collectors and we have no replacements for those unable to collect for whatever reason, sickness etc. Everyone that I have recruited over the last couple of years has just been filling the gaps so a pool of reserves collectors would be ideal.

Home Collection Units are not as popular as when I first introduced them, they used to raise £200 to £300 a year and I mention them in every Poppy Appeal report in the Newsletter.

I would like to thank everyone who helped with the Poppy Appeal this year. All the collectors, Stuart and Anne who looked after Sainsburys, Ray for helping with the counting and banking and of course Maggie who helped with everything.

John Mills
Poppy Appeal Organiser