Headlines …..

I don’t know about you but this past few months seem to have flown by. Can we really already be in Oct with Remembrance Day just round the corner?

A lot has happened since the last update. We have completed the fantastic renovation of the War Memorial, held some very professional candlelit vigils for our war heroes, organized another successful trip away and have established a Skittles team.

The coming months are the busiest for us as we launch our Poppy Appeal in earnest and plan for Remembrance Parade. We look forward to your fantastic support during this busy time.

Remembrance Parade

This years Remembrance Parade and service will take place on Sunday 09 November and it will be great to see as many members as possible there.

This year the Marching contingent will form up on the High Street outside the Fox and Hounds Pub at 1030hrs. They will then march up the High Street to the War Memorial for the traditional service. This will be followed by a church service.

This year the marching contingent will form up behind the war memorial allowing the spectators to see the War Memorial in its full glory and see the faces of those on parade and feel much more part of the event.

All Legion members are invited to join the VIPs for drinks before the parade, gathering in the Fox and Hounds at 1000hrs. You are also encouraged to come and have a drink after the Church Service in the Liberal Club.
Annual General Meeting - Wed 12 Nov

This year’s AGM will be held in the Liberal club from 2000hrs. Everyone is encouraged to come along and celebrate this year’s achievements as well as offering their ideas and suggestions for how the Branch should be run for the coming years to make things even better.

If you have any suggestions or items for the agenda please contact the secretary Paul Jobbins.

We will be voting in a committee for 2015 and are keen to encourage others to take volunteer for a post on the committee to help. All committee members are volunteers who donate some of their spare time to organize events, keep our members informed and provide welfare services for those in need as well as helping raise funds for the great work of the RBL. If you have some spare time and would like to help please let a committee member know. You could nominate yourself or someone you know for a post on the committee.

Skittles

If you can’t beat them then join them!

The Legion has combined with 21 Signals Regiment to enter a team into the Winter Skittles League. The combination of the Army’s fitness and strength coupled with some experience and cunning from the Legion members almost worked. We narrowly lost our first game against an experienced Liberal A team losing 5-4. We did manage to score an individual 13 on one leg courtesy of Steve. After that promising start we have gone on to lose our other three matches but we are gaining experience.

We have fixtures every Monday evening starting at 0830 and are playing our home games in the Liberal Club. We would really welcome anyone to come and have a go or just come along and spectate. Our intention is to try and get as many people as possible to have a go during the season and you definitely do not have to pass any entrance test.

We need to field a team of 6 Skittlers and we have agreed that 21 Signals will provide 3 players and the Legion will provide the other 3. If you are interested in coming along or playing let one of the committee know or Jon Miller the 21 Sigs Rep. Or just come along on a Monday evening—if we aren’t in the Liberal we will be in the Con, the Bells or the Fox and the fixture list is on the wall by the bar.

OTHER NEWS

Stafford Trip

Many thanks to Martyn Peel for organising another successful trip away for members. This year saw members venture to Stafford on 12 July. Plans are afoot or another trip next year to the Gower Peninsula.

Any other suggestions for trips away are always welcome.

Rugby Match - 11 Nov

The Combined Services will play their Remembrance day fixture against the Barbarians at the Bath Recreation Ground on 11 Nov. Kick off is 19.30hrs and Tony Burgess will parading our standard at the event at 1830hrs. Tickets are £10 for adult and £5 for juniors and available from the ticket office 01225 325200.

RBL 2nd Best Charity in Britain

The RBL has been named the 2nd best charity in the annual third sector charity brand index, our best ever result!

This gauges public awareness of charity brands and sets the charity sector standard in brand measurement. It measures things such as their relevance, whether they trusted them and how likely they were to donate to them. Top 5 below (last years placing)

1. Cancer Research UK (3)
2. RBL/Poppy Appeal (5)
3. Macmillan cancer Support (1)
4. BBC Children in Need (11)
5. British Heart Foundation (7)
War Memorial Renovation

The work to restore the village war memorial to its former glory is all but complete. Already the cleaned memorial looks splendid with stone replaced where necessary. However, its renovated look made the surrounding stonework look less than complimentary. Happily Colerne Parish Council have agreed to make funding available for the remaining stonework to be cleaned ready for the 2014 Remembrance Day parade.

The Branch is very grateful for the Parish Council’s assistance in this project and to Corsham Area Board who made a significant grant to this project. When the Board made the grant a condition was made that a full report of the work and profiles of some of the men commemorated should be compiled.

Already the Branch has received comprehensive backgrounds of some of those inscribed but would be happy to receive any other accounts or material. Especially valuable is information from descendants and families of the fallen.

Please get in touch with any member of the committee or email: Williams.leadership@gmail.com

LIGHTS OUT

On Monday 4 August 2014, the Branch conducted a lights out vigil at the war Memorial commemorating the centenary of the start of the First World War. This was a local occasion reflecting the national event held in Westminster Abbey. The short poignant service was well received by villagers and well supported by various partners in its accomplishment. The Branch wishes to thank all who helped to make this such a special occasion; including the Rev Geoff Woods, Colerne Military Wives Choir and Sarah Rigden of Marshfield Brass Band.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

As a consequence of the successful Lights Out event, the Branch committee has decided to commemorate each individual inscribed on the Memorial on the Centenary of each of their demises. On 26 August 2014, the first short act of Remembrance was conducted in memory of Private Francis Rowe 1st Battalion Somerset Light Infantry. This was followed on 9 September with a commemoration of Private Thomas “Ralph” Dixon of the same regiment. From research it appeared they had also been close in life.

The third event will take place on Tuesday 21 October commemorating Lieutenant Richard Walmesley, son of John Walmesley of Lucknam, 2nd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment. On 6 December the life and death of Company Quartermaster Sergeant Charles Ricketts again of 1st Bn SLI will be commemorated.

D-DAY 70 – AWARD OF THE LEGION D’HONNEUR

In conjunction with events to mark the 70th Anniversary of the Normandy landings, the Government of France wishes to award the Legion d’Honneur to all surviving veterans; not only of the landings, but also the wider Battle for Normandy; the Invasion of Provence (Operation Dragoon); the Liberation of Paris and the Liberation of France.

Any veterans, not only troops that landed, but also Royal Navy and Royal Air Force personnel who operated in support of the landings, who have not already received this award from the French Government, or have not been identified to take part in award ceremonies during events in Normandy are invited to submit their details. A copy of the application form and the address for submission may be obtained from Paul Jobbins, Colerne Branch Secretary, Royal British Legion. on 745839.
Dates for your Diary

Sun 09 November - Remembrance Parade
Tue 11 November - Armistice Day
Wed 12 November - Annual General Meeting (Lib Club)
Wed 03 Dec - Social Meeting Lib Club
Wed 17 Dec - Carol Singing
Every Monday - Skittles from 0830

Poppy Appeal 2014

The launch of the 2014 Poppy Appeal nationally will take place on Thursday 23 October 2014. Nicky Jobbins, the Branch’s Poppy Appeal Coordinator is already busy in preparation of the vital fundraising effort. This year the Branch intends to reintroduce a house-to-house collection to raise funds for the Legion’s work. Nicky has already received generous offers of help, but there remains a small number of areas around the village not covered. Any additional volunteers to help with this vital fundraising would be welcome. Please contact Nicky on 745839.

On Your Bike—Again!

For the third year running Andy our Chairman organised a cycle from Colerne to the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire, a distance of over 110 miles.

Once again they were supported brilliantly by a team from 21 Signals Regiment coordinated by SSgt Lee Green.

A team of 8 riders set off in the darkness at 4am from the barracks and headed to the Shoe and Tormarton before venturing up the A46 through Stroud and Cheltenham. The heavens opened and the wind attacked them at about 7:30 and seemed to track them all the way through Evesham and Birmingham. The rain eased as the team drew into the Arboretum and the skies cleared to reveal a brilliant blue sky. After a well needed rub down with a towel and a change into some dry clothing Andy Williams and Mike Batty from Marshfield hopped aboard their bikes and headed south to come home again while the others enjoyed the atmosphere and spectacle of the Arboretum. The return leg was much more enjoyable without the rain allowing some good progress, apart from a minor navigation error through Birmingham, which took them through Solihull! The sun made way for darkness as they approached Stroud at around 7pm so they relied on bike lights to show them the way. Mike’s light died 5 miles from home so he had to stick close to Andy for the final push up Doncombe Hill. They arrived for a well earned drink at the Fox at 2115 where a crowd of family, friends and Legion members welcomed them enthusiastically!

Positions Vacant:

Membership Secretary

We are looking for a Membership Secretary to join the committee. If you are interested in helping us keep accurate records of our members and helping to administer new members then please contact one of the committee members.

Case Workers Needed

The Branch requires more Case Workers. One of the key roles of the Royal British Legion is to provide welfare support for those beneficiaries who for a variety of reasons find themselves needing help and assistance. It is one of the most rewarding opportunities and can take up as much or as little time as you are able to offer. Training is provided and you will have a fantastic support network at your disposal. If you interested in finding out more about the role of a Case Worker then please contact Andy Williams in the first instance on 07411 650337.

Membership Update

You should all have received your new membership cards if you pay by Direct debit. Cash payers will be delivered their card by their Branch Warden who will collect your annual subs at the time of delivery. This year the fee is £15.

Burn’s Supper

Just a short stop press to notify that we will be organising another Burn’s Supper in January so look out for further details.