



# ROYAL BRITISH LEGION BALDOCK BRANCH NEWSLETTER



President	Mr Michael Muir
Chairman	Mr Peter Cherry
Vice-Chairman	Mr Rod Eales
Secretary	Mrs Terry Cox
Treasurer	Mr Richard Simacek
Communications	Mr Al Hayhurst
Poppy Appeal Organisers	Janice & Paul Middleton



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## RBL News February 2016



### SO LONG, FAREWELL, ADIEU!



At the last branch meeting our treasurer Richard Simacek announced that in March he will be moving to Yorkshire with his wife Sharon.

Richard has dragged the branch accounts kicking and screaming into the 21st Century and will be handing it over in a much better state than he received! Sharon is a dedicated Poppy Appeal collector and could often be found in Tesco in her snazzy hat!



Also moving on to pastures new are branch stalwarts Rod Eales and Teresa Cox who are heading off to sunny Eastbourne.

Rod has been Parade Marshal at the annual Remembrance Service in Baldock since the

inception of the Branch, and we are sure it is due to his expertise and dedication that the numbers attending the Parade have grown reaching over 700 in 2015.

Rod has been pleased for the past four years to be invited by the current Headmaster of the

Knights Templar School to talk to the students in November about the ethos of the Royal British Legion, coupled with its historical past and hopes for the future.

Teresa has been involved with maintaining the administration of the Branch keeping records of all Meetings for the past eight years, dealing with correspondence from Head Office and liaising with RBL members and the general public.

We would like to pass on our sincere thanks to Rod, Teresa, Richard and Sharon for all their hard work and dedication and you will all be sadly missed!

Unfortunately this does mean that not only are we losing some very valuable members of the branch, but we need to appoint a replacement vice-chairman, treasurer and secretary as soon as possible.

If you would like to consider yourself for any of the positions please contact Richard or Teresa.

There is a Treasurer Course on Sat 5th and Sunday 6th March 2016 at Aylesbury Area Office - lunch will be provided and travelling expenses paid.

### MANY HAPPY RETURNS!

Congratulations to Dorothy Kaciniel who was 80 years young on 2nd February!

## POPPY APPEAL UPDATE

The 2014 Poppy Appeal (ended Oct 2015) reached £909,470 for Hertfordshire.

The National figure for 2014 reached £45,112,718

## THE WORLD'S BIGGEST PUB QUIZ

Over 1000 pubs took part on Sunday 7th Feb and Paul Riley, landlord of The Cock kindly agreed to donate proceeds to Baldock Branch RBL who were well represented and managed to field two teams; neither won but they didn't come last either! A raffle and the quiz raised £168 for the branch.

There was also Poppy merchandise and collection pots which raised a further £36.82 for the Poppy Appeal. An extremely enjoyable night was had by all!



## POPPY APPEAL FUNDRAISING EVENTS

For any of the below events if you can spare some time to help please contact Janice on 07948377089 - a huge thank you for your continued support!

- **Sunday 8th May** 2.30pm - Concert at the Methodist Church featuring Classique and Chocolate. Ticket to be bought in advance from the Community Centre cost £5. Come and enjoy an afternoon of singing and DELICIOUS chocolates. Raffle to be held on the day.
- **Saturday 14th May** - Baldock Street Festival. Poppy Appeal will be having a stall.
- **Saturday 25th June** - Armed Forces Day. Poppy Appeal will be having a stall.
- **Sunday 10th July** 2.30pm - collectors "Thank You" afternoon to be held at 39 The Leas
- **Saturday 3rd September** 10am-12pm - Coffee morning with entertainment commemorating 'The Battle of the Somme', The Battle of Jutland, and The 25th Anniversary of The First Gulf War. Raffle to be held on the day.

- **Friday 30th September** 7.30pm - An evening for all potential collectors to meet and discuss the forthcoming Poppy appeal. Please come and join Janice & Paul at 39 The Leas for a drink and a nibbles.
- **Saturday 29th October - 13th November** - Poppy Appeal fortnight until ending on Remembrance Sunday. If you can help as a collector contact Janice before September (earlier if possible).
- **Saturday 3rd December** - Baldock Christmas Street Fayre. Poppy Appeal will be having a stall.
- **Friday 9th December** - Poppy Appeal Christmas Party Night with food and entertainment. Venue, Stotfold Conservative Club. More information to follow. This will be a ticket event only.

## COUNTY AGM - 17th January

The PAO's for Baldock, Janice and Paul Middleton attended the County AGM at the Barclay School in Stevenage, Paul in the capacity of County Chairman and Janice as his visitor. It was very well attended with about 70 Legion members from branches all over the county.

The meeting was very informative with guest speakers, Mr. John Graham (Director of Finances) from Haig House, and Mr. Brian Cumming MBE, a Chelsea Pensioner in his 6th year at the Royal Hospital who said "it is an honour to call it home! It's a truly special place where my comrades and I will always be cared for".

Mr Cumming also gave a talk on his service in the Army with The Royal Corps Of Signals, a brief history of his married life and how he was now living as a Chelsea Pensioner. He had a brilliant sense of humour, a very humbling man. After his talk he was given a standing ovation to rapturous applause.

At the end of the AGM, trophies and certificates were given out. Janice was asked by the County Chairman to collect a certificate on behalf of Al Hayhurst, who wasn't able to attend, for competing in the 'Hertfordshire County Standard Bearers Competition 2015.'

## BRANCH MEETINGS

February 15th

March 21st