



# ROYAL BRITISH LEGION BALDOCK BRANCH JUNE/JULY NEWSLETTER



President	Cllr. Michael Muir
Chairman	Mr Peter Cherry
Vice-Chairman	Mr Roger Nichols
Secretary	Mrs Janice Middleton
Treasurer	Mr Richard Simacek (interim)
Welfare Chairman	Mr Paul Middleton (interim)
Communications	Mr Al Hayhurst
Poppy Appeal Organisers	Janice & Paul Middleton

[rblbaldock@yahoo.com](mailto:rblbaldock@yahoo.com)

 [facebook.com/rblbaldock](https://www.facebook.com/rblbaldock)

 [@rblbaldock](https://twitter.com/rblbaldock)

 [rblbaldock@yahoo.com](mailto:rblbaldock@yahoo.com)

As there was no branch meeting in June it was decided to make this newsletter a double edition so we have plenty to catch up on.

## NEW BRANCH WEBSITE

The branch now has a brand new website which can be found here:

<http://branches.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/baldock>

There is also a link from the Facebook page.

## CLASSIQUE & CHOCOLATE CONCERT

As mentioned in the last newsletter a fundraising concert was held on Sunday 8th May at the Methodist Church featuring local singers Classique. I am delighted to announce the total raised was a magnificent £321.

## THE BALDOCK STREET FAIR - 14th MAY



The branch had a stall at the annual street fair in The High Street. Mrs. Linda Harris won the Prize Hamper in the raffle held on the day, and £58 was raised for the Poppy Appeal from the Raffle. A further £70.80 was collected in donations in the bucket and in exchange for poppy merchandise. A big thank you to all those who helped out on the day.

## BRANCH BBQ - 20th JUNE

A BBQ was held at The Orange Tree Pub instead of the usual branch meeting. Thank you to all who attended; a good time was had by all.

Special thanks to Rob and his team at the Orange Tree for the lovely food and all the organisers for a great evening.

## ARMED FORCES DAY - 25th JUNE



Baldock Branch held a display next to the War Memorial in The High Street to celebrate Armed Forces Day 2016 and to raise money for the Poppy Appeal.

Despite a poor weather forecast we were blessed with a dry day and plenty of sunshine!

We were joined by a Green Goddess Fire Engine from the Duxford Aviation Society Military Vehicle Wing. There was also a surprise guest appearance from some of the Royal British Legion Riders Branch who pulled in the crowds. £88 was raised for the Poppy Appeal. Thanks all those who came to see us and everyone that helped to make the day a great success. There was some excellent coverage by The Comet both in the paper and on their website.

### AMICI SUMMER CONCERT - 2nd JULY

Held at St. Andrews Church in Bedford, Amici's musical director Dr. Douglas Coombs MBE, composed an arrangement of music to the 'Wilfred Owens' poem 'Anthem for Doomed Youth'. On entry to the performance a First World War poem was read, the Bedford Branch of the TRBL paraded two standards and The Last Post was played.

The entire choir wore 'Battle of the Somme' lapel pins and they were also on sale at the concert where the first part of the concert was quite sombre, with the anthem, then it was a very joyous occasion singing all different types of music, Gershwin, Jerome Kern, some folk music and arrangement of Welsh, Scottish and English songs. The performance lasted two hours and Janice Middleton was able to raise £100 for the Poppy Appeal.

### THE COCK CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT - 3rd JULY



Paul Riley, Landlord of the Cock pub hosted the second British Legion charity quiz night. A number of teams took part and the shock of the night was "The Legionnaires" coming 1st by one point! Usually the winners and runners-ups are given a bar tab, but both graciously donated the value into the Poppy Pot.

A Raffle was held and an impromptu whip round raided the regulars for any loose change.

The total raised from the evening was £151.26 which is to be split between The Poppy Appeal and The Baldock Branch.

Paul has offered to host another quiz during the Poppy Collecting fortnight in November. Further details will be announced nearer the time.

Many thanks to Paul & staff, the contestants and regulars of The Cock. Again we made it into The Comet for the second week on the trot.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Many happy returns to the following who all had birthdays in June, Julian Chapman, John Eales, Al Hayhurst, Luke Jordan and Jean Watson. Those with birthdays in July are Brian Doyle, H.White, Bill Mintram & Peter Shaw.

### POPPY APPEAL FUNDRAISING EVENTS

- **Saturday 3rd September** 10am-12pm - Coffee morning at the Methodist Church with local singers Classique singing a selection of war songs commemorating The Battle of the Somme, The Battle of Jutland, and The 25th Anniversary of The First Gulf War. A raffle will also 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.

### CENTENARY TANKS & TOMMIES EVENT



On Sunday 11th September we will be running two minibuses from Baldock to Hatfield House to visit The Centenary Tanks and Tommies Event to mark the 100th anniversary of the secret tank trials which took place at Hatfield House during the Great War.

There will be displays and performances throughout the day as well as groups of WWI re-enactors recreating elements of the war, from campsites to trenches. The weekend aims to offer visitors a thoroughly enjoyable yet educational experience.

The cost will be £17.50 for adults which include transport. We are able to cater for a small number of wheelchairs and mobility scooters. Names and money to Janice **ASAP** please.

### NEXT BRANCH MEETING

18th July 7.30pm onwards at the Orange Tree. Guest speaker is Kath Glanville - Homestart UK.