

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION SUFFOLK COUNTY NEWSLETTER



May 2019

News from the County Committee

We now have a full complement of Area Representatives. Jude Price from the Mildenhall branch has joined us and will be looking after North West of the county along with Norman Plumpton. Jude's branches include Newmarket, Exning, Mildenhall, Brandon and Lakenheath. I am sure you will all welcome him and help him to get to know you all.

The "Henley Trio" (that is Sandra Bromley-MSO, Ken Rowbottom-CC, and Sue Verow-CVC), recently held a meeting with Jamie Lowther -Pinkerton Suffolk RBL President, to start the process of developing the Suffolk wide 2021 commemorations /celebrations. We are going to establish a county wide working party, led by a branch chairman. We have already had a few suggestions as what the county can do so watch this space for more information. If you want to get involved please let the MSO know.

As you all know the RBL HQ do not provide Suffolk County RBL with a budget to run the county on, so we have to raise funds ourselves. A big thank you to the branches that have passed "pennies" onto the county and for those who are holding future fundraising functions for the county. So far, this period, Holbrook RBL have donated £200.00 and Framlingham RBL raised £186 at the Framlingham Country Show. Other functions that are planned are an Autumn Quiz Night in Long Melford. Ken Rowbottom, our County Chairman, will be participating in the Orwell Challenge in June, so please fill in a sponsor form and get it back to the MSO. Please let us know if you could hold a fundraising event. Thank you.

Many congratulations to Mark Brennan, Chairman Hadleigh Branch and Brian Ives, Chairman Shotley branch on their nominations and recognition in the recent Suffolk High Sheriffs award for their work within their communities

Succession Planning

Gosh, here we go again I can hear you all say, but we do need to continually think of this to ensure that we have the appropriate officers to run the county and the branches.

One role that was recently commented on by a few branches, is the treasurers' role. Some thoughts that may help you find replacement people who would be happy to volunteer for that role.

- Look outside the branch for local folks who may be interested.
- Look at financial advisors
- Look at folks in the financial/money environment
- Try advertising in your local free paper magazines
- Talk to other branch treasurers they may know someone who could help

Visiting Branch's The "Henley Trio" continue to ask for invitations to attend branch meetings. The main aim is to meet with members and give you the opportunity to meet the trio, ask questions and get help and advice where needed. During 2018 they visited 24 branch's and are now have 11 dates in the diary for 2019.... So please let us now when we can come and visit you. Don't forget to go visit Sandra in Henley... she makes a mean tea/coffee and is a fount of RBL knowledge.

Communication As a county we think that we are getting better at communicating. More branches are sharing information on the county calendar, using Office 365, picking up the telephone and talking to your area reps, county officers and Sandra. If you take photos, write articles about your local areas, please pass them on to Sandra who will put them on the RBL Facebook page.....keep up the good communications!

Suffolk County Conference Saturday 1st February 2020

A date for your diary. The conference committee are busy planning for 2020 conference. So if you have any suggestions please feel free to email Sue Verow Conference Committee Chairman, Bruce Firth-Clark Secretary or Sandra Bromley MSO.

A very big thank you to all the branch's who completed the post conference survey, some extremely helpful comments.... So now to make the next conference another big success

Training

A big thank you to Brian Ives and Denis Bloomfield for all their hard work and commitment to the Suffolk RBL training. The RBL national training programme is currently under review, looking at different styles of training for example skype, on line etc...so watch this space

Dates of future training are;

- 11th May 2019 Branch Management at Stowmarket Community centre
- 15th & 16th June 2019 Branch treasurers at Stowmarket Community centre

Future training with dates to be confirmed;

- Parade Marshall
- Office 365 & Branch Community Support
- Lomas
- Foundation Digitisation Course (Brian Ives has just completed a Commonwealth War Graves (CWGC) course which allows him to help organise the recording of historical data from the Great War up to 1989. If branches are interested in any of the course please contact Brian directly)

Suffolk RBL County Plan 2018-2021

As you will be all aware there is a well documented county plan detailing our targets for Welfare, Fundraising, Remembrance & ceremonial. Membership recruiting events, Youth activities and training. If branches have any comments regarding this please let Sandra Bromley know.

Suffolk Youth

It would appear that our progress for developing the youth aspect of the Suffolk RBL has hit a few stumbling blocks. Sue Verow is going to set up a sub group to have a look at how we may/could further develop this ...if you have any ideas PLEASE contact Sue who will be happy to discuss.

SUFFOLK POPPY APPEAL

Poppy appeal totals are as follows: National £49,260,663.34 Suffolk £ 867,801.52

Framlingham Show collected a total of £224.39

If a Branch Poppy Area Organiser(PAO) is stepping down from the role they need to inform Mandi Cox-Osborne, County Fund Raiser (CFR) and write a letter of resignation to Aylesford Poppy Appeal HQ.

The branch should refer to Mandi the intended replacement as there is a new induction procedure to follow that is organised by the CFR. The MS1 is **not** the formal route to advise the CFR that the PAO has stepped down .

PAO vacancies are Aldeburgh, Botesdale, Bramford, Hopton, Risby. If you know anyone that may well be interested please let Mandy Cox-Osborne know. Email: MCox-Osborne@britishlegion.org.uk

Branch Community Support

We still need more branches to register for this. At the moment we have 30 branches that have NOT registered. We need to show the RBL what we are doing in Suffolk to support our veterans... and we know we all do such a lot. ...so lets share it with our head office via BCS

Do you need help to get this set up, or just to do your recording on Office 365. Please have a chat with Alan Brockbank who will be happy to help.

2019 Anniversary's

A county wide request..... if you are planning any events to commemorate the following anniversaries ...please let Sandra know so that we do not double book.

- Monte Cassino:75th Anniversary-17th May 2019.
- D Day:75th Anniversary- 6th June 2019.
- "Op Banner" Deployment of Troops to Northern Ireland 50th Anniversary-14th August 1969.
- The Berlin Airlift, the 70th Anniversary of this event was celebrated on the 29th June 2018.

Ways to renew your Membership today

For each of the options below the percentage figure shows how much of your membership fee it costs to administer your renewal. For a full list of payment methods please visit the Legion website.

 <p>Direct Debit – Set-up recurring payments by Visiting our Self-Service Portal and follow the instructions on the page, or call the Membership Helpline.</p> <p>1%</p>	 <p>Credit/Debit Card - Visit our Self-Service Portal and follow the instructions on the page, or call the Membership Helpline to make a single or recurring payment.</p> <p>4% (Online) 21% (Phone)</p>
 <p>PayPoint – Take this letter to your nearest outlet, scan the barcode and complete your payment. You can get a receipt as proof of payment. Find your nearest PayPoint store at paypoint.com</p> <p>3%</p>	 <p>Cheque – Please complete a cheque, payable to The Royal British Legion for the total fee and send to the address on this letter. Please include your membership number with the cheque so we can match the payment to your membership.</p> <p>6%</p>
 <p>Cash at Branch - Please visit your branch and provide this letter and your total fee in cash and they will complete your renewal for you. Please bear in mind that this process can take up to 5 weeks and this will delay the arrival of your card.</p> <p>29%</p>	

Using the Membership Self-Service Portal

What is it?	What can I use it for?
<p>The Self Service Portal is a secure area created just for members where you can manage your membership. The Portal is available 24/7 and enables you to update your personal details and contact information.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quickly and easily renew your membership • Update the postal address and email address or phone number linked to your membership. • Amend your contact preferences at any time. • Sign up to our e-Newsletter for access to the latest membership news.
How do I set up a Self-Service Portal Account?	
<p>The process is very easy and it should only take a few minutes. Please note that we need to have an email address and your date of birth on our system to be able to register.</p> <p>If you haven't provided your email address and date of birth in the past, please contact us using the contact details at the top of this letter.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Visit the Self-Service Portal registration page https://selfservice.britishlegion.org.uk/register 2. Enter your Membership Number, email address linked to your membership, date of birth and create a new password. 3. Then click the register button. Your web account has been created and you will be taken to a page where you can enter your details to log on. 4. Please remember that if you type the wrong password three times, your account will be locked and you will need to click the reset button to reset your password.

