



# Royal British Legion Wymondham Branch

## Spring Newsletter 2020

### **BRANCH NEWS**

We are putting together this newsletter because due to the Coronavirus pandemic we are not sure when the next Branch meeting will be held as we need to keep our members, especially the elderly and vulnerable safe.

**Chairman's report** – We had a very interesting talk in February from David Reeve on his time at Sandringham as part of the Royalty Protection service. Thanks to Martin for organising this. At the AGM last November I stated that I would be standing down in 2021. Therefore, I am asking that you think about whether you might like to take on this vital role. We can provide you with information if required.

**Treasurer's report** - 01/01/2020 to 29/02/2020. Opening Balance: £4,226.94

Income: Bingo raffle - £400 (For dinner dance 2021). Morley Xmas tree festival - £38.76.

Total income Received: £438.76.

Expenditure/Outgoings: Wymondham Abbey printing Order of Service Nov 19: £90.  
Expenses paid for Feb Guest Speaker - £50.

Total expenditure: £140. END BALANCE: £4,525.70

**Youth Affiliation** - On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February Wymondham Fire Cadets officially became Affiliated with the presentation of a certificate and badges were presented to the cadets. The cadets then gave a short demonstration of their fire fighting skills. This is the second Youth Affiliation for the Branch, the first being with the local Army Cadet Force two years ago. We hope to be able to work closely with both units to support their activities and in return they will be able to help us with the Poppy Appeal and social events.



**County Conference** - Fred Squires, Peter Howes and Iain Colquhoun attended the County Conference on February 8<sup>th</sup> at County Hall. Fred received on behalf of the Branch the Louis Lee Memorial Trophy in recognition of 5 years continuous progress. The Branch was also awarded the CW Jex Cup for progress and efficiency. Due to a mix up on the day the certificates were not presented but posted out to the receiving Branches. The report by the County President, Major General Sir William Cubitt explains what has been happening during the past year. This was followed by the Director General of TRBL, Charles Byrne, both are interesting reads. The guest speaker for the morning session was Aileen Beck from Girlguiding Norfolk. The afternoon speaker was Naji Malak M.Ac Stand Easy. Stand Easy is a charity serving veterans with PTSD and associated symptoms.

Minutes from conference have been disseminated and if anyone would like a copy of the full account or just the reports from the speakers please contact Ann.



**Poppy Appeal** - The Norfolk Poppy Appeal total currently stands at £815K. Nationally the total is £557K. Wymondham area total to date is £21,624.09.

**County Rededication Service** – We are hosting this event this year and will take place on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 3pm in Wymondham Abbey. The Parade will leave the Market Place at 2.30pm, led by the City of Norwich Pipe Band. Refreshments will be available afterward the service at the Ex-Service's Club. Fred and Maurice are having a 'bucket' collection in Morrisons to help fund this event. This is of course subject to change due to the current covid-19 situation.

**2021** – Next year is our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and we are continuing to plan events to celebrate during the year. We will be various things planned for the regular meetings, a picnic/bbq in the summer and a dinner dance on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November which is the nearest Saturday to the date of the first meeting. Our aim is to have 100 members by then, to date we have 80 so only 20 to go.

**Menin Gate** – The Norwich Pipe Band and the Branch have a trip to Ypres Friday 9<sup>th</sup> – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021. We will be staying at the Novatel which is within walking distance of the Menin Gate. The cost will be between £250/£275 depending on number of people. To book a place a non-refundable deposit of £25.00 is required by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020. Please make cheques payable to RBL Wymondham Branch which can be sent to Ann. If you wish to pay by cash please contact Ann to arrange meeting.

## **COUNTY NEWS**

**From Membership Support Officer (MSO) Gary Cocks** – The Committee are continually looking for new members to support the work of the group and the wider RBL across Norfolk,

we are looking for members that can actively offer support in the following, but not limited to, the following positions:

- Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer;
- 2 (ideally more) County Conference Committee Members;
- Deputy Events Officer;
- Deputy Training Officer;
- Public Relations Officer;
- Branch Support Officers.

If you would like to volunteer to join the County Committee please contact the County Chairman or myself. If you would like to attend a County Committee meeting to see what it entails, please speak with any Committee member.

### **Veterans Drop In Café Norwich**

This is a community gathering of both Serving Personnel and Veterans, held every Tuesday evening at 70-80 Oak Street between 7- 9pm.

### **Membership Meet-Up – Book Your Place**

A reminder that our East Anglia and Essex regional event will take place on Saturday 25th July – Colchester (Colchester FC, JobServe Community Stadium, Colchester, Essex)

#### What will the day look like?

Membership meet-ups are an opportunity to explore the work of the Legion at your own pace, make connections and socialise with staff and members alike. Each event has a series of break-out sessions alongside the main exhibition, where you can learn more about particular topics.

#### Who will be there?

Everyone is invited, so bring along friends, family members, and anyone else you know who is interested in the Legion. Our area teams will be on hand to provide local information whilst other teams, such as fundraising and volunteering, will be able to provide specialist information.

#### Why should I attend?

Our members are a vital part of our national network and are involved in all that we do – from fundraising during the Poppy Appeal to providing local community support. It's your chance to ask the team your questions and explore the topics that matter to you. We share inspiring stories and examples of where branches and members have really made a difference in their communities. We'll also give advice on how you can encourage others to follow in your footsteps. Plus, you'll also get lots of free goodies from the day too!

Registration for this event can be found on our website using the link below:

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/things-to-do/membership/our-members/membership-meet-ups/register-for-a-membership-meet-up>

A copy of the Meet-Up handbook is available from Ann.

### **Branch Events**

So that I can put together a Norfolk RBL Events Calendar, can I please ask all Branches to let me know of any event, no matter the reason or the size, that they are taking part in. It doesn't have to be RBL organised, but any Parish, Town event, garden party or even a pub

BBQ, just anything where there will be an RBL presence. Hopefully I can publicise each week and we can increase participation in supporting each other across the county.

### **UPDATE 17/3/20**

The County Chairman and committee have cancelled their next meeting and will be reviewing the situation on a meeting by meeting basis. We will contact Branch officers by email to pass on information. The Executive Board will be meeting tomorrow to continue discussions and planning around working during the Covid-19 pandemic. We will be confirming priorities for the organisation, looking ahead at longer term planning and reviewing our events, for example, the VE day commemorations. Please contact me or any committee member if you require help or support during these difficult times.

### **NATIONAL NEWS**

#### **From Uma Cleminson, National Chairman.**

I am delighted to share with you our new One Legion strategy and an update on reviewing how we work. We have previously shared information about the strategic review, which is a significant piece of work. We started off with looking at our charitable remit – Remembrance, Campaigning and Welfare. We needed to ask ourselves ‘how can we make the greatest difference to the lives of those most in need?’, we must be confident that our work can meet the changing needs of the Armed Forces community and their families. This led to the decisions to close our Break Centres and Handy Van Service, and to enhance our Remembrance and Campaigning work.

The next step in the review was to produce a long-term strategy for the Legion, to inform all our work and decision making, and find ways to improve how we work.

#### **Our new One Legion strategy**

##### **1. What we want to achieve – our vision**

We needed to find a way to explain our unique role as many people don't really know all that we do – many just see the poppy – with little or no understanding of the breadth of our work. We do so much because over time, we have picked up activities in response to a variety of situations, rather than having a clear direction to provide consistency in our work and service for beneficiaries. We need to be clear about what we want to achieve and must work together towards the same ambition.

We have previously shared with you a working vision, and I can confirm the Board of Trustees have approved this single vision we can all work towards: ‘To bring together our nations, communities and individuals to create better futures for our Armed Forces community and their families.’

##### **2. Why our work matters**

The second part of our strategy is reinforcing why the work we do is so important. We are remaining true to who we are through continuing Remembrance, ensuring the unique contribution of our Armed Forces community is never forgotten, delivering welfare and campaigning to enable those we serve to live fulfilled lives, and working with our people and wider network who want to make a difference and see their positive contribution. Please view the video which highlights this.

You tube - [The Royal British Legion's Vision](#)

### 3. How we'll achieve our ambitions

The third and final element of the strategy, is how we'll achieve our vision, which is through five strategic priorities that will guide our work. We will create better futures for our Armed Forces community and their families by:

1. **Growing and nurturing** public support through awareness, education and participation.
2. **Understanding and adapting** to the needs of the Armed Forces community.
3. **Raising income** to deliver integrated, sustainable and cost-effective services.
4. **Collaborating** with our network of Partners, Members, Volunteers, Staff, Fundraisers and Supporters.

**Living our values** to attract and develop great people.

#### Changing how we work

We've spoken before about the need **to adapt to the evolving needs of our community and as they change**, so must we. What we do today is often what we've done before, and this can lead to us not being as joined up as we could be in how we work. During our strategic review, we identified improvements we need to make to how we work in these areas:

**'Customer'** – we use this as one word to include our beneficiaries, members, volunteers, staff, partners, supporters and fundraisers. We need to ensure all of our customers have a great experience no matter how or where they come to us;

**Insight and Data** – we need to use more insight and data to inform our decisions;

**Strategy** – our next steps will be setting specific objectives for what we want to achieve so that we can deliver the strategy. We will also find ways to measure how well we are delivering our work in creating better futures for our Armed Forces community and their families.

**Products and Services** – we will produce processes for 1) establishing new products and services and 2.) for improving current products and services so we continually adapt to the needs of those we serve;

**Members** – you are a vital part of who we are and what we do. We want to look at how we can improve supporting members in undertaking your important work in helping the people we serve.

**Engagement** – we need to be more consistent and joined up in how we communicate and engage with our many audiences, both in terms of content and channels we use.

Change will not happen overnight, but we will progress steadily to develop our work. We will keep communicating with you about our progress, whether through email, Legion magazine and face-to-face events, such as the Annual Conference and Membership Meet-ups in the summer.

Next year, we celebrate one of the most significant and exciting milestones in the Legion's history – our centenary – and I very much look forward to us working together on delivering our new strategy to ensure the Legion is fit for the next 100 years.

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If you know of any member or their family who are in need of our help in any way please contact anyone of the numbers below. Please remember to keep yourself safe and follow the government guidelines:-

- Wash hands regularly
- Keep your distance
- Cough or sneeze into a tissue or your elbow
- Do not travel unless really necessary

Don't forget to look at our Branch website for up to date information; [www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/wymondham](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/wymondham) or on facebook - Wymondham Royal British Legion.

The dates for meetings for the rest of the year are as follows but are subject to change or cancellation.

<del>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April</del> <b>CANCELLED</b>	Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> May
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> June	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> July
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> September	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> October
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> November – AGM	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> December – Christmas Social

These are all held in the Regal Lounge of the ex-services club starting at 7.30pm. If you would like to attend a meeting and cannot get there, please give one of the committee members a call who could then arrange for transport.

President: Fred Squires 01953 798774	Chairman: John Morter 01953 602581
Vice Chair: Maurice Eke 01603 810820	Welfare/BCS: Sandra McGee 01953 601794
Secretary/PAO/CRO: Ann Rogerson 01953 602817	Events Co-ordinator: Roy McGee 01953 601794

In order to be more environmentally friendly we will be sending this out via email to those we hold an address for. If you have received this by post and have an email address and would be happy to receive emails from the Branch, please email as below.

If you would like to contribute to the next edition or make any comments please Contact the editor, Ann Rogerson. 01953 602817 – 07967 143405  
[wymondham.secretary@rbl.community](mailto:wymondham.secretary@rbl.community) or [alm.rogerson@icloud.com](mailto:alm.rogerson@icloud.com)

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