



Royal British Legion Wymondham Branch

Summer Newsletter 2020 July edition

Exhortation: Please remember two members who have passed away recently, Mr B Denmark from Hethersett and Mr J Buxton from Swardeston. Also all members past and present who are in poor health.

*“They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old, age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them”*

Things are beginning to move forward very slowly and although at the moment we still cannot meet face to face the committee will be looking at the viability of this possibly from September. This of course all depends on Government guidelines and ruling from RBL headquarters. And on how you as the members feel about meeting together again. We will continue with these newsletters and keep in touch with you all – if anyone needs help or support, or just a chat please do let one of the committee members know.

Chairman’s report – Firstly I must thank any member of our Branch who has been working in any of the public services to keep the country running in these very difficult times.

I trust you are all keeping well and are not too frustrated with lockdown. It seems such a long time ago that we all met at our last meeting and it seems that it will be another two months at least before we will be able to hold meetings again. These will only happen if we can be sure that the venue is Covid secure and that all the safety measures are in place, social distance, hand sanitiser etc. As things are changing day to day, who knows what we will be allowed to do. We will be arranging a small VJ Day event at the War Memorial. More details to follow in due course. In the meantime we must all look on the bright side and stay safe.

Finance – Branch accounts remain healthy as there has been little movement. The MSO has been in contact with all Branch treasurers prior to the yearend accounts being handed in as requirements are a bit different this year due to the pandemic. In the last newsletter it was mentioned that the Branch had donated £500 towards an appeal from Halsey House. In total various Branches in the County donated £6,000 which has meant that they could purchase all the items they asked for, which is great news.

Poppy Appeal – I am sad to say that this year there will be no Poppy Appeal as we know it. No house – house, street collections or boxes in shops. It is hoped that all supermarkets will agree to have a ‘business’ box of Poppies on their customer service desk. I will be able to order wreaths for any organisation as normal. Sainsburys has been a partner of the PA for some years now, selling bags and gifts. The powers that be are looking into ways that customers can donate to the Poppy Appeal when shopping. The total for 2019 in Wymondham stands at £22,124.09. Let’s make 2021 even better.

VJ Day – *Update from RBL HO.*

On Friday 8 May this year, the nation commemorated the 75th Anniversary of VE Day under challenging lockdown conditions and I am writing in the first instance to thank all of those that reacted so positively and at in such short notice to ensure that the service and sacrifice of the Second World War generation did not go unmarked within our communities. I also wanted to

update you on preparations for the upcoming 75th Anniversary of VJ Day, as well as provide some sense of where we are in terms of planning for this year's Remembrance Sunday ceremony. On the 15th August 2020, the nation will commemorate VJ 75 and the recent easing of HMG social distancing restrictions means that we are now able to develop plans for a formal event centred around the Act of Remembrance at 11am. This year's commemoration will be broadcast on BBC One from the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire and will incorporate wreath-laying activity at several of the relevant memorials and artefacts linked to the WW2 campaign in South-East Asia.

In consequence, this will allow for a wider attendance than would normally be the case under extant social distancing restrictions although regrettably, it is highly unlikely that we will be able to allow for mass attendance by members of the public.

That evening on BBC One, there will be a second 90 minute broadcast based on a MoD-led commemorative programme from London.

Whilst the war against Japan was truly Tri-Service, it is worthy of note that the Fourteenth Army in particular, was notable for being the most diverse fighting force raised in modern times with less than 20% of those involved in fighting originating in the British Isles.

The coordinated effort of servicemen and women from over 40 countries very much reflected the diversity of the UK's modern-day communities and organisations such as the Armed Forces and the Emergency Services and this theme will be integral to this year's event programme.

The Royal British Legion is therefore asking all organisations and associations, both military and civilian, that share our commitment to remembering the service, suffering and sacrifice of all those involved in that most challenging of environments to either lead or participate in local activity centred on the Two Minute Silence at 11am on Saturday 15th August. The Legion strongly urges all those planning events to adhere to extant HMG and Local Authority guidelines on social distancing and to shape their commemorations in whichever way is most meaningful to their local community.

At this time of year, it would also be usual for the Legion to initiate proceedings in support of The Cenotaph Dispersal, the military veterans' component of the traditional Remembrance Sunday ceremony on Whitehall. This year is the centenary of the unveiling of the iconic Whitehall war memorial, designed and built by Edwin Lutyens, and the Legion is working closely with all of the relevant HMG agencies to ensure that this year's event can go ahead in some form.

Mindful that mass events are not permitted under current restrictions, a range of representative options are under consideration by HMG; the Legion will provide the relevant details as soon as we are able. Similar restrictions will also apply to community based remembrance activity and direction for these will be promulgated by the appropriate civil authorities.

Joy Morter has been entertaining family and friends with her 'lockdown' poetry – this one made me smile.

I am a little mole
I'm happy in my run
I like to let John & Chris have a bit of fun.

I sometime put a hill up by the bird bath
Then I put another one by the orchard path.

John, he sets the traps day by day
And Chris with his fork but I just scuffle away.

I'm happy at Home Farm eating those lovely worms

While they are in lockdown escaping the coronavirus germs.

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:-

- Stay Alert to Stay Safe
- Keep 2 metres apart where possible
- Wear face coverings in shops
- Wash Hands regularly

Don't forget to look at our Branch website for up to date information;

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.

Monday 21st September

Monday 16th November – AGM

Monday 19th October

Monday 21st 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.

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| 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 or alm.rogerson@icloud.com

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