

Summer Newsletter 2021

Welcome – A very warm welcome to our new members, hopefully we will be able to meet in person soon.

It was at 9am on 15th May 1921 that wreaths were laid at the Cenotaph in London to mark the formation of the British Legion. At 9am on 15th May 2021 Branches across the country were asked to lay a wreath at their local War Memorial to mark the 100th anniversary of the RBL. Our President, Fred Squires laid the wreath and said the exhortation. Thankfully the rain stopped just in time.



Chairman's report – Again I have to report that nothing much is happening in the Branch, but plans are being put in place for when we can return to face to face meetings. I hope all of you are keeping fit and well and that you have had your jabs and suffered no reaction. I know one or two members have had Covid and thankfully recovered with no lasting effects. If we all follow the rules for a few weeks more we will be able to get back to normal. I am looking forward to seeing you at our picnic to mark 100 years of the Royal British Legion in Wymondham at Hethel by kind permission of Mrs Howlett and Fred Squires – let's pray for a fine warm day. We held a committee meeting in my garden a few weeks ago on one of the few warm evenings we have had recently (see report further along). As soon as I am able to, I will contact the Abbey to see what the situation is regarding organising the Remembrance Service on Sunday 14th November. I have spoken with the Chairman of the Ex-Service's Club and he will contact us when we can start our meetings again in the Regal Lounge. As you are now all aware I will be standing down as Chairman at the AGM in November. It is time for new leadership especially as we come out of lockdown. May I thank all our members for your support over the last seven years, especially Ann for her guidance.



100th Anniversary Celebrations

RBL Family & Friends Picnic – Sunday 8th August 2021 12noon onwards

What a great way to start our somewhat curtailed anniversary celebrations than with a picnic. We are joining with the 389th Bomb Group at Hethel on their first Open Day of this year. Norfolk Military Vehicle Group members will have vehicles on display. The City of Norwich Pipe Band will entertain during the afternoon. The museum will be open from 10am, along with their tea room for tea & cake, Gilly B's burger van if you don't fancy a picnic, ice cream (tbc). Games to keep the children entertained. Weather permitting a fly past with Poppy Drop will take place during the afternoon. The Branch was registered with the British Legion headquarters on 28th July 1921 – 8th August is as close as we could get to that date.



Dinner Dance – Saturday 27th November 2021 Park Farm, Hethersett – 1900hrs for 1930hrs



The first meeting recorded was on Monday 28th November 1921, so again we have managed to arrange this for a date as near as possible. Three courses - £37.00, two courses - £34.00. Entertainment will be by The Barrie James Sound. Details of menu and other information will be sent out with the next newsletter. But please book the date.

Secretary's Report – As John mentioned, here are the bullet points from the committee meeting.

- Methodist Minister, Steve Cullis has agreed to be Chaplain
- A request to draw down £40,000 from legacy fund for 4 RBL courses; Halsey House; Poppy Appeal; Area Welfare Team; County Welfare. Each to get £10,000.
- Picnic & Dinner (mentioned above). To contact Halsey House to see if they have any residents that will be 100 this year & invite them to attend.
- A request has gone to the Town Council to place an anniversary bench near the War Memorial.
- Poppy Appeal Concert – Roy to enquire of Band. *Post meeting, booked for 29th October*

County News

Coffee and Catchup Meeting

This is an informal coffee and catchup meeting, there is no agenda and everyone is invited to join Gary and hopefully some of our County Committee members for a chat and social get together, albeit on line, please use the link below to join us at **10am** if you are free. These are fortnightly and the next one will be Friday 9th July.

Microsoft Teams meeting **Join on your computer or mobile app**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)



Former County President Honoured

Major General Sir William Cubitt, our former County President was honoured in a small ceremony last Friday, for the tireless six years of dedicated service to the RBL in Norfolk. The small gathering was attended by Sir William, Lt Gen Page (our current County President), Hugh King (County Chairman, Paul 'Smudge' Smith (County Vice-Chairman), John Boisson (former County Chairman), William Kerr (former County Chairman) and County Standard Bearer Peter Howes. Search edp24 for press article.

Branch Volunteers to Join County Conference Committee

The County Conference Committee is the sub-committee of the County Committee that look to the planning and execution of our Annual County Conferences. The annual conference is the launch platform for all the branches in Norfolk to get together and celebrate our achievements and plan for the future. We are looking for branch members to join the County Conference Committee and be part of the team that organises these events, the commitment is not exhaustive or over burdening, just some time and dedication. The Annual Conference is open to and in aid of all members in the County, if you would like to be part of the team, please contact John Linkin the County Conference Committee Chairman at Norfolk.cto@rbl.community to express your interest.

National News

We are excited to announce that the Legion has secured funding from the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust for the **Legion Links Project**. The aim will be to create a national network of social groups offering support to carers in the Armed Forces community, to help them feel less lonely and isolated because of their caring role.

Each group will be coordinated and led by a team of volunteers, consisting of two new roles: **Support Group Facilitators** and **Admin Support**. The Legion Links volunteers will support carers in the Armed Forces community by facilitating face-to-face social groups, with the option of virtual social groups also available.

The project will establish groups in 20 locations across England, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

We would like to encourage our Members to communicate this new project to their wider network – whether that be to potential volunteers, or carers in the Armed Forces community who would benefit from the project. We would also warmly welcome volunteer applications from our Members.

For updates on our project, please visit the [Legion Links page](#). If you have any questions or would like to register your interest in the volunteer roles, please contact the team at: LegionLinks@britishlegion.org.uk

FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE - Royal Albert Hall, London on Saturday 13 November 2021 with performances at 2.00pm and 7.00pm.

On **14 September**, tickets will go on sale for the evening performance. Members will be able to purchase tickets for the afternoon performance on **21 September**, which will be at least one week prior to them becoming available to the public.

Standard Bearers

Branch Standard Bearers, including those from overseas, who wish to participate in the Muster at the Festival, should express their interest to their Membership Support Officer by **23 July**. Membership Support Officers must then submit these details by **30 July**.

Covid-19

Please be advised that we are working towards achieving a fully realised Festival of Remembrance & Cenotaph Dispersal on Remembrance Sunday.

The Legion may need to reduce the number of spaces in the Parade at late notice. Please ensure those applying are aware of this possibility

We are continuing to follow government advice for mass gatherings and the health and safety of our participants remains our priority. Any updates will be communicated via our website and membership communication channels.

Attached as a separate document is the Membership Council Forum Booklet and the latest edition of the Norfolk County Newsletter

If you know of any serving or ex-service personnel, 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.

HANDS - FACE – SPACE

Below are the times of opening for the Contact Centre.

Contact Centre: 8am–8pm, 7 days a week on: **UK:** 0808 802 8080 (free from UK landlines and main mobile networks) **Emergency Out of Hours Support:** Duty Manager 0333 011 4099 - **for crisis calls only please**

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.

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

If you have received this newsletter 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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*“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”