



# Royal British Legion Wymondham Branch 1921 - 2021



## Easter Newsletter 2021

**Exhortation:** Remembering Mr John Chambers.

*"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"*

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

**Chairman's report** – By the time you read this report Easter will be with us and we have been in lockdown for over a year now. I sincerely hope you have been able to survive without too much boredom and discomfort. I know a few of you have had Covid-19 and thankfully have recovered. I hope and pray that we will be able to meet again soon and be able to organise a few functions in this our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

I must thank everybody who has been working behind the scenes keeping the Branch running. It is heartening to know that we have a very dedicated and willing committee to run our Branch and a faithful membership.

As you are aware I have said in the past that I intend to stand down as Chairman at the next AGM. I hope there is a member who is waiting in the wings to take up the reins and move the Branch forward into the next 100 years. It is not too stressful a job and you will find all the committee and members, as I have found always willing to advise and help. I have found it an honour and a privilege to have been Chairman three times since I joined the Branch on demob. Please keep safe and well. JM.

**Standard Bearer Report** - Between July and December 2020 Les, Brian and myself attended eight funerals, either carrying the Branch Standard or the County Standard as requested by the County Parade Marshall.

In October I along with the County Chairman visited an RBL member who was celebrating her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

25<sup>th</sup> October was the annual service for El Alamein at Honingham Church. Iain Colquhoun was the Parade Marshall. Les & I carried Standards.

8<sup>th</sup> November – Remembrance Sunday. Iain took the Branch Standard to the War Memorial at 11am.

11<sup>th</sup> November – Armistice Day. I carried the Branch Standard, Iain as Parade Marshall attended along with the Branch Chairman, committee and members. There was a good turn out of the public. Since December under lockdown restrictions we have not been able to attend any events. Stay safe, Peter.

**Secretary's Report** – Seven years ago we were on the point of closing the Branch as numbers had dropped drastically and no one was willing to take on the Chairmanship. An extraordinary meeting was called and John Morter stood up and said he would take the role of chairman on for one year to get the Branch up and running again!!!! Seven years later, I hope we will not be in the same position and that there is one of you willing to pick up the mantle from John.

One of our members, Gordon Spalding has been working hard over the past 18/20 months reading through the many minute books and other documentation to compile a history of the Branch into one place. This is a very interesting read and I would recommend to anyone that is interested in

the history of the Branch and the future of it should read this. I have a copy here, please let me know if you would like to borrow it. Thank you Gordon for giving your time to this project. It is hoped that as the lockdown restrictions are easing that we will be able to hold sub-committee meeting to carry on with the plans for our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We'll keep you posted. *Ann*

### **County News – Norfolk 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 16<sup>th</sup> April.

Microsoft Teams meeting

**Join on your computer or mobile app**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

### **RAF Air Defence Radar Museum – New Exhibition**

RAF Air Defence Radar Museum, Neatishead, Norfolk  
A New Exhibition – RAF Women through the Wars

The Museum has, in planning stage, a new exhibition which reaches out to all female personnel who served in the RAF, either at Neatishead itself, or Coltishall, or from anywhere in the UK/UK Overseas bases from the Cold War period through to serving currently.

The aim is to record these memories for generations to come before they are lost to time, so the display will consist of still photographs and digital recordings.

If you have served in the RAF during this period and would be keen to share your memories with us, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Lynn Kerlake, Manager, ADRM, email: [manager@radarmuseum.co.uk](mailto:manager@radarmuseum.co.uk); leave a message on 01692 631485. The museum plans to open Spring 2021. Email for updates.

Many thanks for any assistance

Regards, Lynn Kerlake

### **RBL Membership Centenary Awards**

In commemoration of the Centenary year of the Royal British Legion, the Membership Centenary Award initiative is a way by which individuals are able to give recognition to RBL members in their community that have made an outstanding contribution to the Legions aims.

In the interest of impartiality, all nominations for the membership Centenary Awards were submitted to the Cambridgeshire County Committee for review and selection of the winners.

The Membership Centenary Award for:

Excellence

Winner: Austin Rust (Costessey & District Branch)

Passion

Winner: Albert Bowers (Costessey & District Branch)

Service

Winner: Carole Matthews (Aylsham & District Branch)

**Happy  
Easter**

## National News - Membership Training is Changing

Membership training is changing, so that we can offer Members greater flexibility to learn at home or even on-the-go using their mobile phone or tablet – and it will start with Branch Treasurers in April 2021. Over the coming weeks we will be keeping you updated with information and insights about the new training systems and counting down to the launch, so watch this space!

Did you know... To better meet the needs of our Members, Branches and Counties, the way we deliver Membership Training is evolving. This will include a new centralised Learning Management System (LMS) where Members can take part in online training webinars, view video training content and register for face-to-face courses.

What you need to do... County officials should ensure all Branch and County post-holders update the Membership Database (via their Membership Support Officer) with their current email addresses and contact information as soon as possible, so that they can be the first to receive their login credentials when the system goes live from April 2021.

Heather Cowan  
Membership Training Administrator

## We Are The Legion Book – Now Available for Pre-Order

The official Royal British Legion centenary publication written by Julie Summers is now available [online](#) for pre-order.

*We Are The Legion*, richly illustrated with more than 350 images, is the first book to look at our whole one hundred years, telling the extraordinary story of support to servicemen and women in the UK and around the world - from finding jobs and housing to healing the injuries and trauma of conflict.

It also tells the story of the Legion's transformation into a modern media-savvy charity leading the country in Remembrance but also lobbying government on pensions and researching state-of-the-art rehabilitation while working alongside other leading charities on welfare provision.

*We Are the Legion* covers every aspect of the Legion's work: the history of the poppy, the Legion's international links, and its latest work on rehabilitation and support. But the book also pulls together lesser-known aspects of the Legion's history, whether of the villages set aside for rehabilitation or the misguided trip to Germany in the 1930s as an attempt to foster friendship between nations.

Handsomely presented in a bound landscape quarto edition of 256 pages, it will make an heirloom addition to bookshelves or coffee tables. Pre-orders will be shipped on the publication date of 06 May, in time for the Legion's 100th anniversary.

**Annual Conference 2021** – This will be held virtually on Saturday 15th May to celebrate the Royal British Legion's 100th birthday while also ensuring the safety of our members.

The deadline for registrations is this Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April, so if you are wanting to join in as a 'visitor' please let me know asap.

The Final Agenda will be circulated to all registered attendees in the run up to our virtual event in May.



**And finally** - A few jokes from Peter,  
 I had happy childhood, my dad would put me inside a tyre and roll me down a hill. They were goodyears.  
 They said a mask and gloves were enough to go to the grocery store, they lied everybody else had clothes on.  
 My trust issues started when my mum said, "come here I'm not gonna hit you" I was weaving dangerously in the middle of the road this morning. I really should find a safer place to finish this wicker basket. *Thanks Peter!!!*

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:-

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

**HANDS - FACE - SPACE**

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.

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)

1 Deopham Road, Morley Saint Botolph, Wymondham, Norfolk, NR18 9AA

