

Minutes from: Newent and District Branch of The Royal British Legion

Meeting held 24 August 2023 in the Memorial Hall

<u>Attendees</u>	<u>Post</u>
Richard Balding Helen Axon Pat Phillips Graham Barton Rick Axon Tom Heseltine David Pollock Adrian Dover	Chairman Treasurer Deputy Padre Parade Marshal Entertainments & Bar Member Raffle Coordinator
<u>Item</u>	<u>Action</u>
<u>1. Act of Remembrance</u> <p>The Chairman Opened the Meeting at 1900 hrs and welcomed everyone to the Memorial Hall. He asked if we could spare a moment of thought for those who could not be with us tonight and those that were feeling under the weather including Jon Miles and ex-member Saun Gaunt, both of which are suffering long term illnesses. He read the names of those from the Parish of Newent who had lost their lives during WWI and WWII during the months of August & September and concluded with the Act of Remembrance.</p>	
<u>2. Apologies</u> <p>Apologies had been received from Mary Curtis, Simon Mason, Keith Urch, Susan Urch, Julia Gooch, Viv & Jon Miles, Pat & John Price, Elaine Balding, Sue Colborne, Susanne & Colin Britt.</p>	
<u>3. Chairman's Report</u> <u>Introduction</u> <p>A short report this month and is mainly for information:</p> <u>3.a. Service of Dedication of Headstone to Pte Percy Griffin Williams at Oxenhall PC on Tuesday 22nd August</u> <p>As most of you will know, the Branch membership were invited to the dedication of the Headstone to Pte Percy Griffin Williams which took place at St Ann's Church, Oxenhall on Tuesday 22 August 2023. This was very much a joint collaboration between St Ann's Church, The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC), the Local Poppy Appeal Organiser (PAO) and our very own 'Historians' Keith & Sue. We were blessed with good weather so the Dedication and Service took place outside in front of the newly erected CWGC Headstone, the service was enjoyed by many of Pte Williams current family, representatives of the CWGC, representatives from the former Regiment of the Welsh Horse and Bugler, Standards from the Branch, Welsh Horse (in Period Attire), WRENS & RAFA and several current and Ex members of our Branch. My thanks go to all those who made it possible for this event to go ahead including but not limited to: CWGC, St Ann's, Keith & Sue, Colin T and also David P for stepping in and taking photos on the day.</p> <u>3.b. Remembrance Day Town Council Meeting – 10 August 2023</u>	

On 10 July 2023, the Branch Parade Marshal, Padre and Chairman were invited and attended a meeting called by Newent Town Council (NTC) to discuss this year's Remembrance Day Parade and Service on Sunday 12 November 2023. The Branch advised NTC on Parade format, protocols, official invitations, timings and Service arrangements and have supplied several documents to aid their preparations. The parade and service will follow the usual format and a follow-up meeting has been arranged for the 12 October 2023 to finalise the arrangements. I will let everyone know the details after this meeting.

3.c. Health and Wellbeing Event – 3 November 2023

I receive the following email from Beverley Paxton, NHS Health & Wellbeing Coach;

“Following on from the success of last year’s Health & Wellbeing Event which we held for our Newent & Staunton patients in and around the local area. We have decided to hold another which we hope will benefit the local community,

The event is aimed at bringing as many local support networks together & invite the local community to come along to gain the support & advice many of them may require

We would like to invite you to attend to advise & support the local community. The event itself will be on Friday 3rd November at Newent Community Centre (Glebe Chapel), Ross Road, Newent 10.am – 2.00pm. The venue will be open from 9.30am for set up.”

I am currently available to attend but would welcome some company on the day, please let me know.

3.d. Pure Music Quiz Night – 27 August 2023

Don't forget that on Sunday 27 August 2023 there will be a Charity Music Quiz held in Cobblers with all profits going to the Poppy Appeal, it starts at 6pm and I intend to enter a team on behalf of the Branch, if anyone would like to join me, please let me know if you can assist me.

3.e. Veterans Coffee Mornings

As mentioned in last month's meeting, in partnership with Manna Creative the Branch will be supporting a Veterans Coffee Morning which will take place every 4th Tuesday in the month starting on 26 September 2023 at 10am, with the launch on 12 September 2023 starting at 7pm. I hope to see as many there as possible and if anyone would like to get involved with this scheme please let me know.

3.f. Branch Membership 2023

Membership continues to be stable at the present time with a new member joining the branch by the name of Pauline, whom we welcome to the fold, but with such a low number of members if anyone has any ideas on how to attract or recruit new members I would love the opportunity to discuss any proposals.

3.g. Finally

Don't forget that as normal if anyone needs help in any way at all please do not hesitate to get in contact, and if we can help, we will.

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record with a proposal from GB, seconded by PP and agreed unanimously.

No matters arising, however, after some discussion it was agreed to re-issue the July minutes due to some Grammatical and Typo errors.

5. Reports by Officers

5.a. Deputy Chairman/Membership/Youth Liaison/Branch Community Support (BCS)

Apologies that your representative is unable to attend this evening. However, here we are in August with few changes since my last report.

As a close-knit Branch, we continue to provide various levels of support to each other which in itself is credit to the welfare of our much-valued members and their families.

5.b. Deputy Chairman/Membership/Youth Liaison/Branch Community Support (BCS)

We remember those veterans, friends and Branch colleagues suffering ill health that are unable to be present this evening: please remember that we are here to assist and support you; you only need to contact one of your Committee Members.

5.c. Membership, Branch Community Support Representative and Youth Liaison Officer

Your BCS representatives have been requested to update sections of their BCS & DBS training and a new call has been published from TRBL seeking BCS Representatives, there are on-line courses available: see your Branch Chairman or BCS representative for further details.

5.d. Welfare and Membership

5.d.1. Welfare

The Branch continues to aid and support its members and veterans, initially by signposting them to the National RBL Helpline and by interaction with local community and national organisations.

Members are reminded that The National RBL Helpline telephone number is: 0808 802 8080

The Veteran's Gateway:

https://support.veteransgateway.org.uk/app/answers/detail/a_id/127/~the-royal-british-legion



support.veteransgateway.org.uk

Please be assured that we will always continue to utilise our local knowledge and contacts to support our members and veterans.

5.d.2. Branch Membership

In accordance with TRBL records, current Branch Membership stands at 35 members, we welcome our new member, Pauline Warren to The Branch and look forward to seeing her at forthcoming meetings.

5.e. Branch Statistics

The Branch has continued to provide support to Members and veterans this period.

In the event that members identify a comrade in need, they are encouraged to contact a Committee Member or BCS Representative at the earliest convenience. All communications are confidential.

Branch Statistics for this period are therefore as follows:

Total Number of Welfare visits	4
How many beneficiaries visited	2
How many visitors (Branch Community Supporters)	4
Total Welfare Expenditure	NIL (see Note 1)
Telephone Buddies:	
Total Number of Calls made by Branch Executive	2
Telephone – How many beneficiaries called	2
Telephone – How many telephone buddies:	4

5.f. Community, Youth and Veteran Liaison Activities

5.f.1. The Buchanan Trust

A reminder - The Charity's Veterans Support Manager, Samantha Brittain will be visiting the Branch, providing us with an overview of The Trust's activities in the Autumn: more information will be published in due course.

<https://www.buchanan-trust.org.uk>

5.f.2. Other Matters

Activities continue on works to upgrade Newent's War Memorial and incorporate those names originally omitted. The tender document has been finalised and is being issued.

Members are reminded that HMG and Service grants continue to remain available for those suffering hardship.

Liaison continues with Newent's Town Council, its schools, youth and community organisations, the aim of which is to promote TRBL and its specific activities in and around Newent.

The process for TRBL Branch Affiliation remains ongoing by TRBL HQ: further update expected shortly.

5.g. TRBL HQ, County Liaison and Branch Communications (OS365)

For further matters relating to other specific HQ/County/Branch communications and local activities, please see your Chairman's and other Representative Reports.

5.h. Forthcoming Dates for TRBL Diary

- Newent's Civic and TRBL Community Service of Remembrance - Sunday, 12th November
- Next year TRBL Conference will be held at the ICC in Newport, Wales during the 10th/12th May - more information as time progresses.

<p>In the meantime, for those of you taking a holiday, travel safely and we will look forward to seeing you all again in September.</p> <p><u>5.i. Treasurers Report</u></p> <p>The current account balance at 21st August is £954 91. Most of the transactions this month are related to the Military Wives Concert. In addition we have £6 from RBL which is probably branch subs., and £50 under RBL expenses.</p> <p>We need to agree the accounts this month, have them signed off by Chairman and Secretary and on to the MEO. Decision: The Accounts were agreed by all present. The Chairman & Treasurer Signed the forms for distribution to the MEO.</p> <p><u>5.j. Entertainments and Bar Member</u></p> <p>Events proposed for the rest of this year are:</p> <p>October Cheese and Wine after AGM. (Memorial Hall)</p> <p>November Branch Meeting and Social in Cobblers.</p> <p>December Branch Christmas Meal. (Alma Inn)</p> <p>The Entertainments member also has several Branch mugs available to sell at £5 each and that if anyone wanted a Branch T-Shirt with the new RBL branding on please let him know, Rick needs a minimum order of 8, please email with sizes. Entertainments Member email for contact: rick@axon.org.uk</p> <p><u>5.k. Parade Marshal</u></p> <p>The Parade Marshal outlined the NTC meeting held on 10 August and highlighted that NTC were applying for temporary road closures for this year.</p> <p>He then went on to give an outline of events for the Remembrance Tide weekend, which are:</p> <p>10 Nov 2023 - Probable Newent Community School Service 11 Nov 2023 - A short service to be held at St Mary's Church 12 Nov 2023 - The Annual Parade and Service</p> <p>He then stated that the Dedication service held at St Ann's Church on 22 August was well represented and to thank St Ann's on the excellent catering.</p> <p>There were no other officer reports.</p>	<p>Chairman Treasurer</p>
<p><u>6. Any Other Business</u></p> <p>6.a. Deputy Padre.</p> <p>The Deputy Padre echoed what was said from the other officers' reports from the Oxenhall Service and Dedication, she then handed around the order of service for members to see.</p> <p>6.b. Parade Marshal – Aden Vets</p> <p>The Parade Marshall reminded everyone about the Aden Veterans Christmas lunch will take place on 6 December 2023 at Robinswood Hotel at a cost of £18.95pp, (Menu attached to Minutes) which demonstrates excellent value. Anyone wishing to take advantage of this event should have their names to the Parade Marshall by the next meeting, so far 5 names have been received from the Branch.</p>	

<p>6.c. Parade Marshall – Publicity Posters</p> <p>The Parade Marshall mentioned that he had received the newly created branch publicity poster from the Chairman and will be placing it on the notice board at the Highnam Post Office which is free for Charities, he also thought it would be a good idea to print off several more and place them in the Newent local shops. Decision: it was agreed by all present this was a good idea and the Chairman volunteered to print off some more and walk them around the town.</p> <p>6.d. Lea Branch re-launch</p> <p>DP & TH informed those present that Lea Branch of the RBL were attempting to reform, however at the present time too few people turned up to the advertised meeting, but another meeting is scheduled for September so hopefully this one will be successful.</p> <p>6.e. Newent & District Branch AGM.</p> <p>The Chairman reminded all those present that October is fast approaching and that he will be sending out letters to the current committee to ask for their continued support for next year, however he also wanted to stress that new faces are always welcome on the committee whether in an officer post i.e. Chairman or as part of the committee. Anyone interested in taking on a role should speak to the Chairman or any of the other committee members.</p>	<p>Chairman</p>
<p><u>7. Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>7.a. The next Meeting will 28 September 2023 at 1900 hrs in the Memorial Hall. The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 2000 hrs.</p>	<p>All</p>

Agenda

Newent & District Branch of the Royal British Legion

28 September 2023

1. Act of Remembrance.
2. Apologies for Absence.
3. Chairman's Report.
4. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising.
5. Reports by Officers.
6. Any Other Business.
7. Date of Next Meeting.