



Chairman's Branch Newsletter May 2014

To all members of the Branch

Obituary

It is with sadness that I report the death of Alan Wright. Alan was the husband of June Wright who for many years was our Poppy Appeal Organiser. It was an honour for me to be asked by the family to deliver a eulogy to him at the Cheltenham Crematorium and also at his Memorial Service. My thanks go to our Standard Bearer Maurice Fletcher who carried the Standard at the funeral Service.

New Members

We have had four new members: John Murphy who is the Chairman of our Headquarters The Conservative WM Club, John Watson now living in Winchcombe having transferred from a London Branch, Russell Parker (Coldstream Guards) and now Station Commander, Winchcombe Fire Service and Captain Charles Malet, (Coldstream Guards). Charles attended our Remembrance Service and Parade wearing his Afghanistan Medal, which was a memorable occasion for our branch.

Welfare

The branch is fortunate to have 2 D-Day veterans. One of them Donald Scott has now had to enter for full time nursing care. The good news is the other veteran Bill Parker, along with his family are attending the 70th anniversary of D-Day landings in France on the 6th June.

One of our members Reg Woodward had a stroke. He spent many weeks in hospital and is now back home. Major Tom Hancock our Welfare Officer visited him whilst he was in Hospital. My thanks go to Brian Atkins and branch member John Slatter for taking such good care of him.

Remembrance Service & Parade & 11.11.11.

The Remembrance Service and Parade went well. There was an excellent turnout and the weather was good. My thanks go to John Murphy, Club Chairman for ensuring the club was ready and Richard Lane for organising and supervising the food. Sixty-Five people were in attendance including our French branch members from Cherbourg.

Once again Pates Grammar School CCF turned out three detachments of Cadets. My thanks go to Lt/Col Nigel Woodall, their Commanding Officer.

Duncan Westerman once again kindly laid two RBL wreaths at the French Ceremony in Cherbourg. We had a good turnout of members and others at the Town Hall for 11.11.11.

Social

We had an excellent attendance for our Branch Christmas Lunch at the Corner Cupboard Inn. The food and the service were excellent. A bottle of whisky was presented to Maurice Fletcher our Standard Bearer and also to Roger Shakespeare for his generous support for the Branch.

Lent Lunch

Rosemary Hancock once again organised another successful Lent Lunch, which a record £532 was raised for the Poppy Appeal, My thanks go to Rosemary and her helpers, as well as Vice Chairman John Markwick and his wife Sheila for organising the raffle.

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Quiz

Jane Wain and husband Richard organised a quiz at the Abbey Fields Community Centre. The questions were excellent and all who attended enjoyed the evening. Many thanks to our Hon Secretary Reg Collings for helping me run the bar as well as all the excellent work he does for the branch. More money was raised for our Poppy Appeal.

Poppy Appeal

Mandy Clements-Hunt our Poppy Appeal Organiser is still working hard raising a record sum for the branch, which so far amounts to over £9,000- a wonderful achievement. She is also now a regular presenter on Radio Winchcombe at the weekend.

Shot At Dawn Presentation 13th June 2014

As many of you know, I am a member of the WFA (Western Front Association), which makes a study of World War 1. As part of the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the commencement of WW 1 I recently gave two presentations concerning those that were "Shot at Dawn" during the Great War. These presentations were held Birmingham and raised over £1000 for our poppy appeal. I have been asked by the committee to hold another presentation at the Abbey Fields Community Centre on Friday 13th June at 7.30pm. Admission on the door will be £2.50. Once again all monies raised will go to the branch poppy appeal. There will be a licenced bar so please tell your friends and come along.

Church Service Friday 4th July 2014

The Royal British Legion in conjunction with St Peters Church is holding a Church Service to commemorate the outbreak of World War 1. This will be on Friday 4th July 2014 12.30 pm at St Peters. The Rector of St Peters Rev John Partington and our Chaplain The Rt Rev Bishop Peter Firth will be officiating with contributions from branch members and invited guests.

Winchcombe like many other Towns and villages throughout the country were very much affected by the Great War, so much so that our headquarters at the Conservative WM Club was turned into a hospital for the wounded. Two of the senior classes from Winchcombe School will be in attendance at the service along with representatives of The Town Council, The Police, Fire Service and Scouts. The County President will be attending along with the County Standards. Lady Ashcombe and her son Henry will be representing Sudeley Castle as well as members of the general public. Any proceeds will be divided between St Peters Church and our Poppy Appeal.

Rosemary Hancock along with the Women's Institute will be supplying a buffet at the Conservative WM Club after the service for all members and guests. Please give this important event your utmost support to honour and to pay tribute to the men from Winchcombe and the surrounding area that gave their lives during World War 1.

Other dates for your diary

The Poppy appeal Concert will be held at Winchcombe School. Saturday 25th October 2014
The Remembrance Service and Parade will take place Sunday 9th November. There will be the usual complimentary buffet for all members and invited guests after the service at our headquarters.

11.11.11 will be at the Town Hall on Tuesday 11th November. The RBL has requested that we all carry lighted candles (which will be supplied) and blow them out at 11am to mark this very special year.

Branch Outing and Christmas Lunch (dates to be announced)

Best wishes,
John

John M Welch
Chairman & Parade Marshal
Winchcombe Branch, The Royal British Legion