



Royal British Legion

Dereham & District Branch

1922 -2023

Branch Meetings are held on 1st Wednesday of the month in Toftwood Social Club, The Old School, Shipdham Road, Toftwood, NR19 1AH, doors open at 7.00pm and the meeting commences at 7.30pm. All are welcome – bring along a friend

THE CURRENT BRANCH COMMITTEE

President

Dennis O'Callaghan 01485 600742
07762116940 dennis583@btinternet.com

Chairman:

Hugh King 07867522769
h.king595@hotmail.co.uk

Vice Chairman/Treasurer

Lynn Whitwell
dereham.vicechairman@rbl.community

Secretary:

Maggie Hill
Dereham.secretary@rbl.community

Membership Secretary

Martin Hajee
martinhajee@btinternet.com

Branch Community Support:

John Harris
Jaharris2021@hotmail.com
07982917821
Peter Loades

Events Organiser

Margaret O'Callaghan
dennis583@btinternet.com

Standard Bearer

Les Dunger

Poppy Appeal Organiser

Peter Whitwell 01953 850499

Member

Tom MacDonald

RECENT CHANGES TO THE COMMITTEE

Welcome to Maggie Hill as Secretary. Thank you to Tom MacDonald for his input as Secretary. Tom has relinquished his position because of work commitments but remains on the committee.

Welcome to John Harris as Branch Community Support Representative. He will be supported by Peter Loades. It is good to have a dedicated team looking after the welfare of our beneficiaries.

Welcome to Martin Hajee as Membership Secretary. Thank you to Neil Hannant the previous Membership Secretary

Welcome to Margaret O'Callaghan our Events Organiser

Our aim is to be a vibrant branch supporting our membership in social and welfare matters

Over the next few months the Committee will be concentrating on Recruitment and Retention. We will be holding events to increase the awareness of the RBL and to recruit new members. If you are able to support any such events please contact Martin (Membership Secretary).

It is also important that we retain the membership we have, currently standing at 126. If you have any ideas on how we can improve the experience of being a member of the Dereham & District Branch please get in touch with any one of the committee members – we need your input.

Programme of Events

3rd May – Branch Meeting –
1st Quarterly Draw 100 Club
Buffet and Competition to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III

6th May – Dereham Celebrates the Coronation of King Charles III on Fleece Meadow when the Branch will have a stand with games

13th May – Dereham Day when we will have a stand raising awareness of the Royal British Legion Dereham & District Branch

10th June – A game of Bat & Trap at the Windmill, Dereham. 12.30 for 1.00pm start
Teams of 5 to be notified to Peter Whitwell 01953 850499. There will be a prize for the winning team

This is an old pub game suitable for all ages as no running involved! Spectators are welcome. The Partea Hut will be open to purchase refreshments.

2nd August – Branch Meeting
2nd Quarterly Draw 100 Club

1st November – AGM
Branch Meeting
3rd Quarterly Draw 100 Club

6th December – Branch Meeting
Speaker David Reeves "Protecting our Royals" followed by Christmas Buffet

22nd April The Tombola stall and Bran Tub held at the Craft Fair at the Windmill in Dereham on 22nd April raised £251.20 for Branch Funds. The weather was good and participants were attracted by the huge array of splendid prizes. Thank you to Events organiser, Margaret O'Callaghan, all her helpers and all those who donated prizes. The day was a great success and the children loved the bran tub.

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**CONGRATULATIONS TO TWO OF OUR MEMBERS WHO CELEBRATE
THEIR 100TH BIRTHDAY THIS YEAR**

Eric Swann
and
Olive Rawlings

THE ANNUAL DINNER AT THE GEORGE HOTEL JANUARY 2023

38 members and friends enjoyed good food and lively conversation at the Annual Dinner in The George Hotel, Dereham on 28th January. The lunch was made special when awards in recognition of work for the Poppy Appeal were received by John English for 30 years support and Audrey Foster 20 years support. The awards were presented by Hugh King, Chairman of the Branch and Mayor of Dereham. Congratulations to both recipients.



Photos Nick Smith

More awards in recognition of support for the Poppy Appeal were presented at the March Branch meeting by Lyn Hatch, County Community Fundraiser to Brenda Burr, 20 years support, Maurice Tombling, 25 years, Marion Tombling, 25 years and Peter Whitwell 25 years.



Photos Les Dunger

THE 2022 POPPY APPEAL RAISED £29,455 IN THE DEREHAM & DISTRICT AREA

THESE CAN BE DIFFICULT TIMES.. If you need help of any kind, or you know of a member, or a dependant, who could benefit from assistance, the Branch is here to help. It may be that we can assist directly, or support in accessing help from the various charities set up to help veterans and their families.

Whatever help you need, whether contact to combat loneliness, help with mobility or anything else that is making life difficult for you, your first point of contact is John Harris, Branch Community Support Representative.

No longer with us
It is with sadness that we announce the death of
Marjorie King
Geoff Curtis
William (Bill) Barker

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED ARRANGING A LASTING POWER OF ATTORNEY (LPA)?

- Why should you

At present you may be feeling fit and healthy and do not consider the need for an LPA. However, consider the day when you may lose Mental Capacity i.e. suffer from dementia, Alzheimer's or any other debilitating disease that restricts your ability to control your own affairs. Who will make decisions for you if you lose that capacity? Bear in mind an LPA can only be arranged if you have mental capacity.

Under an LPA you appoint attorneys, most likely members of the family, and then they can make decisions on your behalf. It is important to note that when you complete the applications for an LPA you have the opportunity to express your own wishes in respect of how you would wish your attorneys to handle your affairs.

There are 2 types of LPA

LPA Financial Decisions

Under an LPA for Financial Decisions your attorneys can make decisions such as:

- Arranging repairs to your home
- Paying your mortgage and bills
- Accessing bank and investment details
- Selling your home

LPA Health and Welfare

If you create this LPA your attorneys can make decisions such as:

- Your medical treatment
- Where you live
- Care and support you receive
- Life saving treatment

While you don't need a solicitor you may decide that a solicitor is the appropriate person to complete your application especially if you have complex affairs.

Alternatively, you could go to the Office of Public Guardian (OPG) website: www.gov.uk/lasting-power-of-attorney or call 0300 456 0300. If you are happy to, you can complete the forms yourself. The OPG provides you with guidance on their website. The fee is £82 for each LPA giving a total of £164.

Once you have completed the application form it will need to be signed by a certificate provider i.e. someone who has known you for at least 2 years (not a family member) or your GP, solicitor or social worker. The application will also require the signatures of the attorney(s) who should always act in your best interests. Once the form is fully completed it will need to be registered with the Office of Public Guardian by post. Your LPA cannot be used until registration is completed, which can take several weeks.

In the event of your death the LPA ceases on the date of death therefore it is most important that your Will is up to date as this replaces the LPA.

If you require any further advice, you could call Age UK Norfolk on 01603 787111 or visit their website: www.ageuknorfolk.org.uk