



# Royal British Legion Wymondham Branch

## Spring Newsletter 2020 May edition

### BRANCH NEWS

Well as we still cannot hold Branch meetings we thought it would be good to put another newsletter together to keep you informed and connected. We would normally start the meeting with the Exhortation remembering any members or friends who have passed away.

Myra Shepherd passed away after a fall at home, at 94 Myra was our oldest member. I know some of you visited Sydney 'Stevie' Stephens in Saxlingham Hall nursing home and may have seen in the EDP or on Look East that he has passed away at the age of 98.

*"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"*

**Chairman's report** – It is eight weeks now since our lockdown started, hopefully you are all coping with this unusual situation, and keeping fit and well. As nothing has been happening since our last meeting, which seems so long ago now, that I have nothing much to report. But I would like to take this opportunity to thank every member of this branch, firstly for joining the RBL and secondly for joining Wymondham branch, and for giving me all your support over the past seven years whilst I have been Chairman. Sadly we have had to cancel the County Rededication Service which should have been held in the Abbey on 12<sup>th</sup> July. I had a telephone call from Father Stephen Sealey to inform me that he is retiring in July. I would like to thank him for his help and support with the Remembrance Sunday services and for agreeing to become our Branch Chaplain. When things return to normal we will need to look for a replacement. Hopefully we will be getting back to normal by the end of the summer giving us a chance to organise our events for Remembrance in November. In the meantime keep up all the good work you are doing helping those in need and each other and stay safe, and a special thank you to all our members who work for the NHS and all emergency services. *'We will meet again'*.

**Finance** – At the end of April a request was received via the County Chairman for financial assistance for Halsey House to purchase some extra items for their residents to use during the lockdown. The Branch committee members agreed to donate £500.00 to help them purchase garden tools, plants, bingo, Ipad and much more.

**Poppy Appeal** – At the moment everything is very much up in the air as we do not know how we will be allowed to operate. The Poppy Appeal head office and warehouse are returning to work from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May but will have lots to catch up on and also working safely. I will keep you updated as and when I have more news.

**VE Day** – Was very different to what had been planned, but it was nice see people making the best of it and the weather was kind. Here are just a few pictures. John & Joy got all their vehicles on display. Martin & Carol flying the flag. Fred as smart as ever.



### COUNTY NEWS

Dear members,

I would like to take this opportunity to enquire if any member in Norfolk is in need of help during this awful time, or would like the opportunity to have a chat to myself or Norfolk's Branch Community Support Officer (The Rev Canon Sally Theakston), I am aware that on occasion it helps to have a chat to someone outside of your own Branch .

Both I and the County Committee hope that you are all keeping well and staying and safe, also following the governments advice which I am sure we can reduce the impact of in the next few months, getting us all back to some sort of normality.

I hope you have had the chance to look at Gary's weekly news report and his Norfolk News Letter, and found both of them informative, please if you would like to add anything in them please do so, I am sure Gary would be most grateful for any articles that would be good for Norfolk RBL.

On a more sombre note can I please ask you all, if any member of your Branch has been, or is in hospital, or has passed away because of the coronavirus please contact our MSO or myself as soon as possible.

Keep safe and keep up the good work that you are all doing in the name of the Legion and your Branches in Norfolk.

*Hugh King – County Chairman*

## Life Under Lockdown

I don't know about you, but I can't believe it's been over 8 weeks now, we fuelled both cars up this morning, well I say fuelled, more just topped up, only to realise that we haven't bought any fuel since mid-March.

I do think that this lockdown is turning us all into dogs though. We wonder around the house looking for food, get told "NO" if we go near strangers, and get excited at the mention of a car ride.

In my many trawls of the internet I have found two images that to me sum up this period in our lives, I hope that you like them:



As always, please do take care, keep safe and well, and remember I am only at the end of the phone or keyboard if you need me. *Kind regards, Gary Cocks Membership Support Officer Norfolk*

## NATIONAL NEWS

Good morning,

Friday 8th May was very different to what had been planned for our veterans, but I know many of them did appreciate what the Legion along with the BBC produced. So, a big thank you to all who participated in any way. VE vets you are not forgotten.

My own VE day was a mixture of pride and sadness. Pride because of the way the Legion adapted to the changes that had to take place because of the virus and sadness because I had been looking forward to thanking our veterans personally for all they had done to make us free men and women today. Next weekend would have been our annual conference in Southport. The conference brings together members to debate, take decisions and to have fun. I will certainly miss seeing so many of you but will raise a glass to you all on Saturday evening.

This week I have spoken to members in Kenya, São Paulo and many European countries via zoom. As you know this was an achievement for me with my lack of technical skills!

Finally, I would just like to wish you all well. Please take care and keep in touch with each other.

*Thinking of you all. Una Cleminson - National Chairman*

## Message from the Membership Council

Dear Members,

I hope you and your families and friends are well and safe. From reading the latest membership newsletter I know that many of you have been volunteering to support members and beneficiaries who need help in these difficult times – it's been amazing to read all the wonderful stories about branch activities in the local community.

Behind the scenes the Membership team have been working hard on key membership projects even though the offices remain closed. I'm very happy to inform you that we are now ready to implement the single membership fee rule, meaning that members who belong to more than one branch do not need to pay any additional membership fees.

In order to regulate governance rights of members who want to belong to more than one branch, Board of Trustees and the Membership Council have agreed to introduce the following rules:

1. The maximum amount of branches a member can belong to at the same time is four.
2. An individual, who is a member of multiple branches, is not allowed to be nominated as a Conference delegate by more than one branch.

We have also launched a new facility where members who have cancelled or not renewed their membership in the past do not need to submit a new application – our Membership Helpline agents are now able to instantly reinstate their previous membership. Additionally, members who are no longer eligible can easily cancel their Gift Aid online via the self-service portal.

These are great improvements to our services, but this particular project isn't over yet. We are continuing to develop new systems and improve existing processes to ensure our data is correct and up to date with the aim to ensure that members receive the best service.

Thank you for your continued support and stay safe.

*Jason Coward – Trustee and Chairman of the Membership Council*

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Now for a bit of fun, from Chris;

Heard about the bloke who asked his wife to pass her the lip balm but he gave her some superglue instead...She's still not talking to him.

I have some racing geese for sale. Let me know if you want a quick gander,

I said to the doctor: "People keep taking the mick out of me because I think I'm a cricket ball." The doctor said: "How's that?" I said: "Don't you start."

What's a marsupial's favourite cocktail? A pina koala.

My mate works in Tesco in the fabric softener aisle but he's just been moved to wines and spirits. He's now way out of his Comfort zone.

What kind of magazines do cows read? Cattlelogs

Our local vicar was unwell so his wife followed Donald Trump's suggestion and injected him with Domestos. She's just been charged with bleach of the priest.

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If you know of any 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
- Wash Hands regularly

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.

The dates for meetings for the rest of the year are as follows but are subject to change or cancellation.

Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> June	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> July
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> September	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> October
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> November – AGM	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> December – Christmas Social

These are all held in the Regal Lounge of the ex-services club starting at 7.30pm. If you would like to attend a meeting and cannot get there, please give one of the committee members a call who could then arrange for transport.

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)

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