Barton Royal British Legion Branch Celebrates 80 Years



The British Legion was formed nationally in 1921 and around that time the war memorial was erected in the centre of the village to remember those who had died in the First World War.



At the end of the Second World War, the demobilisation of the armed forces returned many servicemen and women back to their homes, and branches of The British Legion began to spring up in nearly every town and village throughout Great Britain. The Barton under Needwood Branch started life at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 15th October 1946 when a public meeting was called in the Central Hall, Crowberry Lane and attended by fifty-five ex-service men and women. The first Committee meeting was held at the Bell Inn on 24th October the same year where the annual subscription was set at six shillings, arrangements for a dance put in place and the search for a Club Room commenced. There were about fifty members in 1946, which rose to over one hundred in the following years but is now less than 30 with less than 10 active members. There was both Men's and Women's sections, but the Women's standard was laid up in the church in the early 2000s.









Until 2017 the sole responsibility for the organising of the Remembrance Sunday Parade, Act of Remembrance and Service was with the Branch. Since then, it has been a joint venture witht the Parish Council. This was due to insurance liability, which the R.B.L. nationally could not undertake. The parade brings together all the groups and societies in the village and is still a main focus of our year. We also hold a short service and the two minutes silence at the War Memorial on Armistice Day when pupils from the three schools' lay wreaths and read poetry.





The branch is still active today ensuring that the baton of remembrance is passed on. We work closely with all the schools and have worked with the Junior School on various projects from supporting a special trip to Cannock Chase, details of which they shared with members on their return as well as the decoration of benches now situated in the village. We also organised the VE Day 80 celebrations and VJ Day 80.



