

The Veteran's Hub

This year in 2025 nearly one hundred years after the building was opened, a Veteran's Hub has been created. The recently renovated room now named "The Mil & V" The room was originally the Ladies room, then a Children's room / TV room and more recently a store room that had become dilapidated and in poor state of repair.



This photograph above gives some idea of the extent of repairs that were required.

Volunteers from the Veteran's group helped with a number of connected projects to enable the works to be completed within budget. Donations and reduced quotations from companies have also been most generous.

In order to change the use of the room there needed to be new storage provision. The branch items were to be re-located to a shed above the car park. In the summer of 2024, Veterans constructed a concrete slab for a secure shed to be installed. The concrete mixer and vibrating whacker plate including delivery was kindly donated free of charge by Rawstone Hire of Godstone.



Once the room contents had been re-located, renovation works could begin with earnest.

Smaller plastering work was on the multiple wall cracks and fissures after preparation was kindly carried out by Ian, a Legion Club member.

Veteran volunteers helped to strip back the damage to the ceiling area and opened up the old lathe and plaster work for downlighting with dimmer switching to be installed. Jake Gowan and Max from JCG Electrical undertook the first and 2nd fix works, kindly donating the complete costs. Jake has memories of being dropped off in the room as a young boy by his father when it was a TV room.



Colin from CW Plastering, re-plastered the ceiling and upper wall area kindly reducing his costs. The veteran's group volunteered their time and undertook all the decorating. Carpeting with free fitting and underlay was carried out by The Oxted Carpet Shop and Brinton's Carpets. Furnishings were purchased from Job's of Oxted with a good discount.

The wall mounted TV was a donation from one of the Veteran's. The Bakerlite bell push replacement was kindly donated by Broughtons of Leicester Ltd Lighting and Ironmongery.



The Bell push is a replacement of the original button that the Ladies would press to be served drinks from the bar. It is purely intended as a historical talking point reminiscent of the original design and architecture sited on the stained oak dado rail. The back plate for the button is the original.



The DVD player was donated by another veteran, the bookcase by a branch committee member and books by other veterans.



Blinds from John Lewis were purchased and self installed. The hub is now up and running providing a nice modern calm space that can be used for meetings, presentations, or just a relaxing space primarily for veterans.