



Royal British Legion

Dereham & District Branch

1922 - 2022

<http://branches.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/dereham-and-district>

Branch Meetings are held on 1st Wednesday of the month in Toftwood Social Club, doors open at 7.00pm and the meeting commences at 7.30pm.

THE BRANCH COMMITTEE

President

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Chairman:

Peter Loades 07742015359
Vice Chairman & Newsletter Editor
Lynn Whitwell

Secretary :

David Whitehead 07934430143
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Treasurer: Nick Smith
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Membership Secretary

Neil Hannant

Neil.hannant1944@yahoo.com

Entertainments Officer

Marion Tombling 01362 861130

Standard Bearer

Les Dunger

Branch Community Support

Hugh King 07867522769

h.king595@hotmail.co.uk

Poppy Appeal Organiser

Peter Whitwell 01953 850499

Member

Maurice Tombling

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 26th June 2022 – Armed Forces & Dunkirk Memorial Service, Honingham Church, 10.30

Tuesday 28th June 2022 – Queen's Dragoon Guards Freedom of Dereham Parade

Sunday 3rd July 2022 – Dereham Branch Jubilee Celebration – High Tea on the Mid Norfolk Railway Train – See Page 5 for details and application form

Sunday 3rd July 2022 – Desert Rats Memorial Service, Ickburgh

Thursday 15th September 2022 – Battle of Britain Day

Sunday 23rd October 2022 – Dereham Branch fundraising Bingo at Toftwood Social Club

Membership Secretary

Marjorie King resigned as Membership Secretary in February due to ill health, we wish her well and thank her for the work she did on behalf of the Branch

Neil Hannant volunteered to take on the role and was appointed at the Branch Meeting on 6th April 2022. We welcome Neil to the committee.

Branch Community Support

Hugh King has taken on the position of Branch Community Support. See page 2

Your Branch Community Support Representative is Hugh King

Providing a most important first tier of support services offered by the Royal British Legion, the role of Branch Community Support is that of the post previously known as the Welfare Officer. The work still majors on improving the welfare of RBL members whether members of the Dereham & District Branch or not, including home or hospital visits, telephone contact, bereavement support or referral to the relevant body for access to additional help.

The difference between the current role and the old role is that the BCS logs all activity undertaken by the Branch and submits reports* to the Committee, the Branch and the BCS National Representative. These reports include welfare, but in addition note attendance at funerals by the Standard Bearer, Branch activity including recruitment, promoting the Legion, improving our status within the community, attendance at Ceremonial parades, events and social activity such as speakers at Branch meetings, Bingo nights, bowls nights and celebratory events.

Supporting beneficiaries and their families has long been a core activity for the Branch and remains very important. In recent years research has shown that loneliness and social isolation can have a significant impact upon an individual's health and wellbeing. The information reported to both the Committee and the Branch facilitates decision making on future activities to ensure this help continues and it also enables National to improve help and referral processes for members to access the most appropriate service.
*Note: No confidential information is included in the reports

If you, or you know of a Member that needs help, do not hesitate to contact Hugh, on 07867522769 or h.king595@hotmail.co.uk he is there to help

At the Branch Meeting on 2nd March 2022 Air Commodore Kevin Pellatt, the Armed Forces Commissioner for Norfolk Military Covenant, the President of Norfolk SSAFA and the Vice Chairman of Norfolk Police and Crime Panel was welcomed to the meeting by Hugh King. He informed members of the policies and aims of the Norfolk Military Covenant explaining what had been achieved since inception. He was thanked by Pete Loades, Chairman, for a most informative talk.

On 23rd April the Branch attended the Craft Fair at the Dereham Windmill, space courtesy of the craft fair organiser Kathy Lloyd. The Branch had two tables selling craft items raising £152.50 for Branch funds.

The 100 club raises money for the Branch, for £5 investment you have the opportunity to win cash prizes. The draw paid out £400 to participants with £100 raised for the Kohima Social Fund

Congratulations to the Winners in March

Brenda Burr	£80
Zoey Dack	£50
Marion Tombling	£40
Mark Bishop	£20

If you wish to join the Autumn 2022 draw please contact Marion Tombling, Entertainments Officer

Snapshot of Life in India in November 1945

Les Dunger, Branch Standard Bearer, has kindly shared a letter from his father Dick to his mother Ethel. It gives a snapshot view of life in India in November 1945. A transcript is shown for ease of reading.

14839771 Pte. Dunger
A.Coy.12th Sherwood Foresters
C/O A.B.P.O. Lohardaga (Ranchi)
India Command



4-11-45

Dear Ethel,

Just a few lines in answer to your letter which I received yesterday. Well I hope by the time you get this letter that you are better. Tomorrow we have got to march back to the last place I was at, it is thirty-two miles and we have got to go across country over the hills and they are hills not like those you see in England and its all jungle. We have got mules to go with us to carry water. Yesterday I went to Brigade sports just outside Ranchi and I went to the pictures at night and saw Hollywood Canteen it was very good. When we were coming back we saw a leopard it went straight across the road in front of us. The other day they ask for volunteers for boot repairing so I put down for it, we have to go on a months course to learn and we should go to Poona that's one of the best places in India, that will be a better job than doing guards and square bashing. It is very hot during the day and it is just the opposite at night we wear a wool vest a shirt and a pullover and three blankets, we have been told that they are going to issue us with sheets the army must be coming up.

Well I shall have to close now as it is getting dark, hope to hear from you again soon.

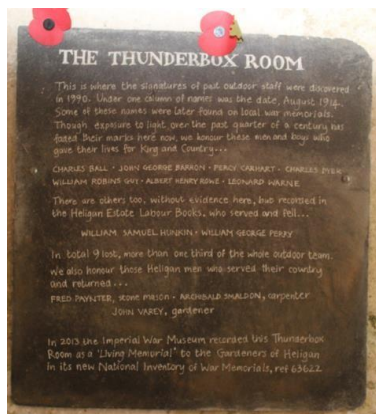
Love Dick xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Is this one of the most unusual WW1 Memorials?

At the end of the nineteenth century Heligan's thousand acres in Cornwall were at their peak, but when the current squire John Tremayne died childless the grounds started to fall into disrepair and only a few years later were terribly neglected. The outbreak of WW1 contributed to the estate's demise as its workforce went off to fight, many sadly never to return. The estate was never sold or developed, then in the 1970s the House was sold and split into apartments, but by this time the gardens had become "lost". It was not until the hurricane in the 1990s that a tiny room buried under fallen masonry in the corner of one of the walled gardens was discovered – the gardeners' thunderbox (toilet). Inscribed into the limestone walls barely visible were the words "Don't come here to sleep or slumber" with the names of those who worked there signed under the date August 1914. It would seem they had signed their names just before going off to war. The discovery of this small room and the names of the men who had used it was inspiration for the renovation of "The lost gardens of Heligan"

In 2013 the Imperial War Museum recognised the Thunderbox Room as a living memorial to the gardeners of Heligan House and on 9th November 2014 the memorial plaque was unveiled in the presence of relatives of those who lost their lives and staff from Heligan.

I don't think the irony of where the Thunderbox Room Memorial is situated would have been lost on those men's sense of humour.



THE THUNDERBOX ROOM

This is where the signatures of past outdoor staff were discovered in 1990. Under one column of names was the date, August 1914. Some of those named were later found on local war memorials. Though exposure to light over the past quarter of a century has faded their marks here now, we honour these men and boys who gave their lives for King and Country...

*CHARLES BALL - JOHN GEORGE BARRON - PERCY CARHART - CHARLES DYE
WILLIAM ROBINS GUY - ALBERT HENRY ROWE - LEONARD WARNE*

*There are others too, without evidence here, but recorded in the Heligan Estate Labour Books who served and fell
WILLIAM SAMUEL HUNKIN - WILLIAM GEORGE PERRY*

In total 9 lost, more than one third of the whole outdoor team. We also honour those Heligan men who served their country and returned...

*FRED PAYNTER, stone mason - ARCHIBALD SMALDON, carpenter -
JOHN VAREY, gardener*

In 2013 the Imperial War Museum recorded this Thunderbox Room as a 'Living Memorial' to the gardeners of Heligan in its new National Inventory of War Memorials ref 63622

No longer with us
It is with sadness that we announce the deaths of

Freda Abel
Jenny Tubridy

Change of address

Don't forget to let the Editor know of any changes to your email or postal address.

As postage costs continue to rise please let the Editor know if you no longer wish to receive the newsletter or if you currently receive your newsletter by post, but would be happy to receive it by email. lynn.whitwell@btinternet.com

**RBL HM JUBILEE CELEBRATION - Sunday 3rd July 2022 HIGH TEA ON MID-NORFOLK
RAILWAY TRAIN APPLICATION**

Details of the event are as follows:

- **Aim – To celebrate Her Majesty’s Jubilee on a Mid-Norfolk train, departing from, and returning to, Dereham, enjoying a high tea on route.**
- **Organiser – Marion Tombling, Dereham RBL supported by her fellow Committee Members.**
- **Eligibility – Members of the RBL, RAFA and Dereham Branch of The Royal Anglian Regiment Association and their Spouses/Partners/Carers**
- **Outline plan – To meet at the station buffet at 3.15pm for a drink before boarding. The train will depart at 3.45pm. Due to major engineering works at Wymondham the train will travel South to Thuxton, then North through Dereham to Hoe, then South terminating at Dereham around 5.30pm.**
- **Dress – Smart, colourful casual. In recognition of the celebration the wearing of chains, medals and Association badges is encouraged.**
- **Entertainment – There will be some form of entertainment on the train.**
- **Dogs – Guide/Assistance dogs only please.**
- **Cost - £26 each payable with application. Cheques are to be in favour of the KOHIMA SOCIAL CLUB.**
- **Applications - Please complete the form below and ensure it reaches Marion Tombling NO LATER THAN 14th June 2022 either at the RBL meeting on 1st June or by post to her at 46 High House Road, Beetley, Dereham NR20 4BY. Because the event must be paid for in advance there will be no refunds in respect of cancellations.**
- **Any questions can be directed to the RBL Secretary, Dave Whitehead on 07934 430145.**

RBL HM JUBILEE EVENT – APPLICATION (REQUIRED NLT 14th JUNE)

Full name(s):	
Address:	
Telephone number:	