

## Minutes from: Newent & District Branch of The Royal British Legion

Held 26th September 2024 at Newent Memorial Hall

<u>Attendees</u>	<u>Post</u>
Richie Balding	Chairman
Keith Urch	Deputy Chairman, BCS Rep, Youth Liaison and Membership
David Sass	Secretary
Graham Barton	Parade Marshal
Simon Mason	Padre
Pat Phillips	Deputy Padre
Helen Axon	Treasurer
Rick Axon	Bar, Entertainment Member
Dave Pollock	Raffle Coordinator
Susan Urch	
John Price	
Gordon Thorogood	
Jim Gardiner	
Jan Sologub	

### 1. Act of Remembrance.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 1900 hours and asked everyone to think of the people who couldn't be with us due to ill health. He then read out the names of the members of the Parish who lost their lives in WW1 and WW2 during the month of October. He concluded with the Act of Remembrance.

### 2. Apologies for Absence.

Pat Price, Tom Heseltine, Jim Payne, Adrian Dover, Elaine Balding, John Miles, Viv Miles, Colin Britt, Susanne Britt, Steve Doyle, Terry Bourne, Brian Billingham, Ashley Martin and Shaun Westmoreland

### 3. Chairman's Report

Good evening, a quick welcome to Karl Gilmore from the Buchannan Trust who will be giving a presentation later in the evening, but to start with:

#### **3.1 Remembrancetide Weekend 8 – 11 November 2024**

After successful discussions with Newent Community School, Newent Town Council (NTC) and St Mary's Church, a full weekend of Remembrance activities will be taking place over the weekend of 8 – 11 November 2024:

8 Nov 2024 - Newent Community School

10 Nov 2024 - Parade & Service

11 Nov 2024 - St Mary's Church

A full itinerary will be presented by the Branch Parade Marshal in his report.

Posters and Invitations and details of the service and parade are attached to the email distributing these minutes

#### **3.2 NTC - Remembrance Day meeting – 5 September 2024**

Several members of the Branch Committee attended the meeting called by NTC to discuss this year's Remembrance Day Service and Parade. As mentioned in the previous item this went well, thanks go to NTC admin for such a well run meeting.

#### **3.3 Newent Fun Day – 14 September 2024**

My thanks for everyone who helped out at Newent Fun Day on 14 September 2024, especially to AD & EB for helping set up, GB & KU for their company during the day and to St Mary's for hosting us.

#### **3.4 Opening Event – Newent Pavilion – 3 October 2024**

I have received an invitation to attend the Newent Pavilion "Grand Opening" on 3 October 2024. It will be an ideal opportunity to meet other local organisations and businesses in an informal setting ensuring that the Branch is once again represented within the community.

### **3.5 Branch Management Course – 28 September 2024**

I will be attending an updated Branch Management Course (BMC) on 28 September 2024 in Upton St Leonard's. Although I have already completed several BMCs it has been recommended that all Officers/Committee members attend this new version to keep up with the ongoing changes in policy and procedures. I will report back at our meeting in November.

### **3.6 Veteran's Coffee Morning – 22 October 2024**

Next month's Veterans Coffee Morning will take place at Manna Coffee House on 22 October 2024 starting at 10am, everyone is welcome to attend.

### **Finally**

Don't forget that as normal if anyone needs help in any way at all please do not hesitate to get in contact, and if we can help, we will.

## **4. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising.**

### **4.1. Matters arising.**

#### **Item 4.1. & 6.1. Newent Veteran 100th Birthday celebration.**

This matter is ongoing. The Secretary has asked the Veteran's daughter if she can find some photographs showing the Veteran in uniform, nothing has arrived to date. Secretary to chase again.

The Secretary will provisionally book Newent Church for the Veteran's birthday (January 5<sup>th</sup> 2025) as a possible venue for a celebration event by RBL Newent Branch

#### **Item 6.4. John Edward Whitehorn Trophy**

After some discussion at the last meeting it was decided that the application form should be sent out now for the new School term and ask for replies by 28 November 2024. The trophy can be presented shortly after this.

**Action:** The Chairman has sent out the form.

### **4.2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by GB and Seconded by JG that they were a true and accurate record. **Decision: Approved unanimously.**

## **5. Reports by Officers**

### **5.1. Branch Community Support (BCS) Report for September 2024**

#### **5.1.1. Welcome**

This month sees us welcome more Members following the closure of the Minsterworth Branch of TRBL. We look forward to welcoming them and possibly seeing them at our coffee mornings and other planned social events in and around Newent. We will also have a presentation by The Buchanan Trust.

#### **5.1.2. Branch Remembrance**

As always, we remember those veterans, friends and Branch colleagues that are unable to be present this evening. Members, both new and existing, are reminded we are here to assist and support veterans and their families; you only need to contact one of your Committee.

#### **5.1.3. Branch Welfare, Membership, Statistics, Community Support and Youth Liaison.**

There continue to be further changes within the structure of TRBL HQ and the way in which it delivers its services. More information will be available as these arise: watch out for email communications.

#### **5.1.4. Branch Welfare**

The Branch continues to aid and support its Members, veterans and supporters.

Veterans and Branch Members may continue to contact the RBL Helpline services via the national network on 0800 802 8080 and The Veteran's Gateway: <https://support.veteransgateway.org.uk>

Your BCS Representatives will continue to utilise their local and regional experience to assist wherever possible.

#### **5.1.5. Armed Forces Support Network - The Veterans Covenant**

The FoD Armed Forces Support Network continues to develop its offering to the wider veteran community in the Forest of Dean. More information is available to Members upon request. Please remember to record your service status (serving or veteran) on your next visit to your respective health provider.

### **5.1.6. Branch Membership**

Branch Membership currently stands at 51 members.

### **5.1.7. Branch Statistics**

As per last month, this period has been less busy albeit we have been supportive of two of our local veterans and another within our surrounding area. The Branch continues to provide support to its current Members, new veterans moving into our community and a small number via the Telephone Buddy Network.

In the event that Members identify a comrade in need, they are encouraged to contact a Committee Member or BCS Representative at the earliest convenience: all communications are confidential.

#### **Branch Statistics for this period are therefore as follows:**

Total Number of Welfare visits	3
How many beneficiaries visited	3
How many visitors (Branch Community Supporters)	2
Total Welfare Expenditure	NIL
Telephone Buddies:	
Total Number of Calls made by Branch Executive	8
Telephone – How many beneficiaries called	2
Telephone – How many telephone buddies:	2

## **5.2. Branch Community Support and Youth Liaison Activities**

### **5.2.1. Community and Youth Liaison**

Your Branch Representatives continue to liaise with the many varied groups and youth organisations within our community.

### **5.2.2. Newent War Memorial**

The requests for public funding having been published on behalf of The Newent War Memorial Committee are slowly proving to be successful, some £1500 having been received to date towards our final target. All donations continue to be welcome to cover the initial cost of structural review and cleaning (circa £2k) in line with the planned commencement date of 7th October 2024. Once completed, the missing names will be added to the Memorial. The total cost of the project is circa £10k to include a provision for ongoing maintenance.

### **5.2.3. Forthcoming Dates for TRBL Branch Diary**

#### **5.2.3.1. Remembrance Day Events**

- a. Contact has been renewed with Newent Community School and arrangements being put into place for the School Service on the Friday preceding Remembrance Sunday.
- b. Further to a recent meeting with Newent Town Council, arrangements are being finalised for Remembrance Sunday: for further information please see The Chairman's Report.

#### **5.2.3.2. Military Wives Concert**

A repeat of last year's successful event is planned to be held on 24th November in Newent's Memorial Hall: more details to follow. For further information please see the reports issued by our Chairman Richard and Rick, our Branch Entertainments Officer.

## **5.3. Parade Marshal Report.**

The main focus for the near future is around our Remembrance events.

### **5.3.1. Friday 8 November – Newent Community School (NCS).**

On Friday 8 November the Branch has once again been invited to attend the Service at Newent Community School. Meet in Reception at 1040, move to the all-weather pitch at 1050. There will be light refreshments afterwards. NCS needs names in advance, the Chairman volunteered to take names of interested parties and send up to the School.

### **5.3.2. Sunday 10 November – Parade & Service.**

Sunday 10 November there will be the usual Parade and Remembrance Service organised by Newent Town Council.

Timings as follows:

- 0920 Muster by the Lake car park
- 0935 Step off and march to Saint Mary's Church
- 0945 Arrive at Saint Mary's; Standards to provide Guard of Honour in the porch
- 1000 Service in Church, followed by reading of names, two-minute silence and laying of wreaths
- 1115 Parade dismissed

### **5.3.3. Monday 11 November – Short Remembrance Service.**

On Monday 11 November there will be a short Remembrance Service at the War Memorial. Assemble at 1050.

### **5.3.4. VE & VJ 80.**

Looking much further ahead – we need to start thinking about how we will mark VE-80 on 8 May and VJ-80 15 August next year.

### **5.4. Treasurer's Report Sept 2024**

There have been no transactions this month. The current account stands at £1004.41. The end of year financial report needs to be signed off (by Chairman and Secretary) and sent by the Treasurer to the MEO before the end of this month. My apologies for leaving this so late.

### **5.5. Entertainments and Bar Member - Dates for your diary**

**October 24** 7pm Cheese and Wine (AGM)

**November 24** Innsworth Military Wives Concert (Newent Memorial Hall)

**November 28** Social Evening Cobblers Wine Bar

**December 19** Christmas Meal Alma in Linton

### **5.6. Padres Report.**

#### **5.6.1. Remembrance Service order and arrangements.**

The Branch Padre stated that the service will begin at 1000 inside St Mary's Church and go outside at the end to rededicate the War Memorial. He suggested that Standards could be paraded along the path to the Memorial and he hoped the work on the War Memorial would be completed by then.

### **6. Any Other Business**

#### **6.1. Official Meeting Ended at 19:48 followed by a presentation by The Buchannan Trust given by Karl Gilmore**

Karl gave an informative presentation highlighting the history behind the Buchannan Trust and going on to inform those present of the myriad of work they currently do around Veteran support and welfare. So that more of our Members could better understand the work of the Buchannan Trust, Karl agreed to send his presentation in electronic format to be distributed to our Members.

### **7. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be the AGM on 24 October 2024 starting promptly at 7pm in the Memorial Hall.

***Please note we are looking for nominations to fill the posts of Treasurer & Bar Member as these Officers will be stepping down.***

**Newent & District Branch – The Royal British Legion  
Annual General Meeting – 24 October 2024  
Agenda**

1. Act of Remembrance.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Chairman's opening remarks.
4. Adoption of Minutes of previous AGM.
5. Matters arising from previous minutes.
6. Chairman's report.
7. Individual Officers' reports.
  - a. Deputy Chair, Welfare, Community Liaison
  - b. Padre
  - c. Parade Marshal
  - d. Entertainment & Bar Member
  - e. Raffle Coordinator
  - f. Secretary
8. Presentation and adoption of accounts.
9. Election of Officers and Committee Members.
10. Nominations to National Office.
11. Motions and Charter Motions for the Annual Meeting of the County Conference.
1. Appointment of Delegates to the Annual Meeting of the County Conference and Annual Conference.
12. Special Items:
  - a. Remembrance Parade & Services
    - i. 8 Nov 2024 – School Service (Padre)
    - ii. 10 Nov 2024 – Parade & Service (Parade Marshal & Padre)