**2015 – So far**

Unfortunately we have already had to say goodbye to some special people this year. Thank you to those members that have represented us at the funerals. A Guard of Honour is the least we can do for our Veterans and Legion Stalwarts.

Our new Standard Bearer – Mike Clark has already done an excellent job in representing the Branch locally and at an event at the National Memorial Arboretum. Well done Mike!

Our Gallipoli Presentation by David Smith was a great success and we raised £169 for The Poppy Appeal. Thank you to Sue Adams and helpers for providing us with a lovely afternoon tea and to those that helped set up the room.

Special thanks go to David Smith for his very informative talk.

Although we did not have a VE Day event, the High Bailiff and Court Leet very kindly offered to put a Poppy Appeal collection box with the new 2015 pins out at their event at the Jubilee Centre and £8 was raised.

On the 3rd June 2015 the Alcester Branch will be 94 years old. Perhaps a big party for next year??

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**MONTHLY MUSTERS**

Our Legion Musters are becoming a great monthly get together and they are providing a very useful way to pass on information to those not on email. It was good to see Rev and Mrs Guthrie at our last Muster.

For just £1.50 Tea, Coffee and Biscuits are provided. The dates for the next few musters are shown below.

In general people meet between 11am and 12 midday but we have the room booked till 1pm in case anyone wants to stop for further drinks and a chat.

- Thursday 18th June
- Thursday 16th July
- Thursday 20th August
- Thursday 17th September

If you would like to bring a non-legion friend, please do so. The more the merrier.

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**ARMED FORCES DAY AND GARDEN PARTY**

**Saturday 27th June 2015**

We have decided this year to combine the raising of the official AFD flag with our annual Garden Party. This will mean that the flag raising will be moved to the afternoon. The brief details of the day are shown below.

1.30pm Meet on the St Nicholas Church Green.
2.00pm Raising of the AFD Flag Ceremony
2.45pm Opening of the Garden Party

We will be holding the party in the grounds of The Old Rectory opposite the Church, like last year.

We thank Professor and Mrs Gittus for the use of their lovely garden.

Entrance will be just £3 and this will include a drink and a cake.

There will be a number of stalls, including a Tombola which we will need prizes for.

We would especially like to invite current members of the Armed forces, Veterans, Ex-Service and Cadets to join us.

**ALL WELCOME**
VICTORY IN JAPAN – 70TH ANNIVERSARY
SATURDAY 15TH AUGUST 2015

COFFEE MORNING – MALT MILL LANE CENTRE. 10AM – 1PM.
To mark the 70th Anniversary of the Victory in Japan and ultimately the end of World War Two we are holding a coffee morning at Malt Mill Lane Community Centre. There will be a raffle and items for sale – cakes etc. If you can help or have items we can sell, please let us know. There will be a small entrance fee which will cover refreshments.

VJ CHURCH SERVICE – ST NICHOLAS CHURCH. SUNDAY 16TH AUGUST 2015.
At present we are hoping that we can join the regular Service on the morning of the 16th August in order to commemorate VJ Day. Reverend Guthrie and The Church Wardens are considering our request.

ALCESTER POPPY APPEAL LAUNCH 2015
Saturday 24th October 2015 – Malt Mill Lane Community Centre
To kick off the 2015 / 2016 Poppy Appeal we will be holding a coffee morning and get together at the Malt Mill Lane Centre. Refreshments, raffle and stalls will be available. Some sort of entertainment would also be good so more planning will be required.
If you have any suggestions or would like to help, please let me know.
The Target for this Appeal will be £15,000.

Thank you to everyone that helped last year with The Appeal. We have now reached our target of £14,000.
It will soon be time to put this year’s plan together for house to house, street and shop collections. If you want to continue to help or want to volunteer, please let me know.
Our collections in Waitrose this year will be increased, so the more the merrier.

REMEMBRANCTIDE 2015
November is probably our busiest time of the year when we concentrate on Remembrance and the Poppy Appeal. We hope that plans will remain the same as in other years, and the Concert and Parades will go ahead as usual.

FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE CONCERT – SATURDAY 7TH NOVEMBER. 7.30PM. GREIG HALL.
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY PARADE AND CHURCH SERVICE – SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER. 10.30AM
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY LUNCH – SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER. 1PM TOWN HALL
ARMISTICE DAY PARADE – WEDNESDAY 11TH NOVEMBER. 10.30AM

We hope that as many Legion members, current members of HM Forces, Veterans and Cadets join us in leading the Parades. ALL the town organisations are invited to join the Parade and the Church Service.
This year the Remembrance Sunday Lunch is being organised by David Hancox. Places go quickly so those interested will need to book with David when the plans are released. I’m sure if you wanted to reserve a seat now, names can be pencilled in.

2015 POPPY PINS
The new 1915 – 2015 Poppy Pins have arrived and are available from myself. They will also be sent out in the Poppy Appeal boxes in November. (Suggested donation is £2)

MEMBERSHIP – some changes
The way in which new members and current cash payers pay is changing. Those who pay by direct debit will not be effected. More details will be released.

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