

*Shepton Mallet Branch, RBL,
Newsletter January/February 2018*

January started brilliantly for us.



The Old Down Inn @ Emborough collecting £458 for the Poppy Appeal.

County Conference

As a branch we were praised, for **increasing in our Poppy Appeal total by 55% in the year 2016-17**. £46.6 million was raised nationwide.



Andy was “pleased as punch” to receive the **Mitford-Slade Cup**, 3rd year, for Branch Recruitment. Kate may well have a mission on her hands getting it back this time. We also received a “**Highly Commended**” Certificate for branch efficiency.

The *focus* of the Conference, concerned informing the public of the work of the RBL. Too many of our ex-service personnel are not receiving the help they need. The RBL have been lobbying Parliament and there will now be included, a question on the new National Census, which should identify the true number of ex service personnel.

The *secondary focus*, will please so many of our members. Bringing the administration, on-line payments and website into the 21st Century. They have appointed Emma Cannings, ex Royal Artillery, and Customer Services at John Lewis etc. She gave a very informative and positive talk about her new role.

We were positively encouraged to take forward the messages of Remembrance and Education.

Which is where I believe they had acquired our idea!!!

Awareness Week

During the Poppy Appeal 2017, we had an idea which grew.

Wk beg 26th Feb, Tesco's, has granted permission for Us to host an Awareness Week.

The aims of which are;

- 1) To promote greater Awareness of Remembrance for WW1 and Commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Armistice.
- 2) In commemoration and celebration of the 100th Anniversary, we are asking the citizens of Shepton to sponsor a large events poppy for £5. All proceeds go to the Poppy Appeal.
- 3) To promote awareness of the work of the RBL and the range of services available to ex Armed Forces personnel and their families.

During the Poppy Appeal we started collecting names and dates served, of men and women of Shepton who had been in the forces, inclusive of 1914 to the present day. This is something we wish to continue during the Awareness Week.

During the week at Tesco;

Tim will start proceedings on the Monday in WW1 uniform and Andy Neal is organising a presentation. We confirmed that Admiral Nurses Saul and Emma will be joining us, Julie Welch Advice & Information Officer and County Chairman, Robert McDonald, will be coming on Thursday, to see what we are up to.

It will be a wonderful fun week, the local press is being very supportive, look out for articles in the Journal etc and photographers may turn up at odd times during the week.

We are looking to our members to help make the week in Tesco, and the other events being held this year, a great success.

As we have proved so often before, it is the people who provide the excellent company, which makes these things so enjoyable.

Anyone who is happy to join us in Tesco please contact me via *Facebook* or email crewejan2@aol.com or phone 01749 880731, it will be lovely to have your company.

Regretfully, I must inform you of the death of Roy Duffield.

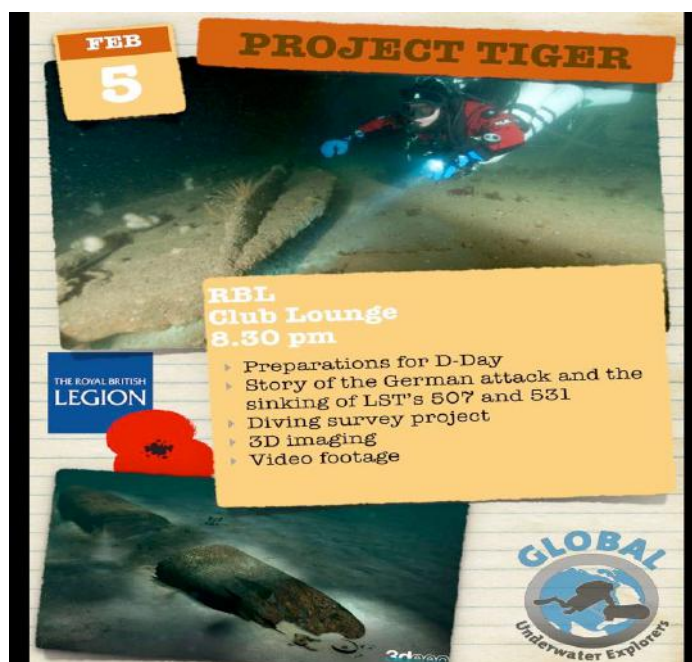
He died peacefully on 18th January in the RUH after a short illness at the age of 75. Roy's funeral will be at 12.30 p.m. on Thursday 15th February in the Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Shepton Mallet. Our Branch Standard Bearer, Alun Stewart, will attend

the *funeral.*
Roy was Secretary of the Shepton Mallet Branch twice and took major roles in both the Collett Park Festival and the Poppy Appeal.

Without Roy and his wife, June, it is likely that the branch would have folded some years ago.

We have forwarded our condolences to his family. In recognition of Roy's involvement with the branch over the years, it would be excellent if we could have a good turnout of members at his funeral to say goodbye to him.

At our Monthly Meeting 5th Feb, at 7.30pm we are looking forward to a presentation about Project Tiger. All welcome. The presentation starts at 8.30pm.



There was an RBL Branch Management Training Course in Frome on 24th January run by the Area Training Officer Sarah Fossy.

Phil White attended and some of us are looking forward to hearing, what we are meant to be doing..... ;O)



We have a request to help at this year's Festival of Dogs on 13th May. Help for Heroes and Assistance Dogs, run a very successful Festival and an RBL presence would seem to fit nicely with this year's theme. We hope that enough of us will be able to support this.

Please email on our RBL Shepton email address jdcrl20@gmail.com if you can join us or write to **RBL Shepton Mallet c/o 46, Church Lane, Doultong. BA4 4QE.**

Dates for your Diary

- 1. *Wk beg 26th February – Awareness week in Tesco.***
- 2. *1st April, 100 yr Anniversary of RAF. There is a flag raising event at Glastonbury Abbey that Day at 12 midday.***
- 3. *Festival of Dogs 13th May @ Collett Park.***
- 4. *19th/20th May Annual Conference in Belfast.***
- 5. *Sunday 3rd June, 2018. Abseiling at Canonteign Falls, Devon. 16yrs and above. Book your place on the Royal British Legion Website.***
- 6. *9th June, Collett Park Day***
- 7. *7th July WW1 Event @ Dunkirk House.***
- 8. *TBC - 14th July celebration of Shepton Mallet Branch RBL 90th anniversary.***
- 9. *4th - 9th August – G90 celebrations***
- 10. *Monday 3rd September AGM***
- 11. *Saturday 20th October Poppy Appeal officially starts.***
- 12. *3rd November- Standard Bearers Workshop TBC***
- 13. *10th November - Town Event to celebrate 100yr Anniversary of Armistice. Tree planting and unveiling of the bench. Details to be confirmed.***
- 14. *11th November, Armistice Day. 100yr Anniversary.***