



BANWELL NEWSLETTER JULY 2019

Special points of INTEREST



Trafalgar Night Dinner
Warwick Castle trip
AGM Notice



Welcome to the first of our quarterly newsletters. The aim of which is to provide you with information, photographs and articles of interest. It is an experiment for one year after which we shall ask for feedback from you our members as to whether you like the newsletter or not.

First, however, I must take this opportunity to say a big THANK YOU to all our members and to so many people for their support and contributions during the past year. It is impossible to pick out any one person or event as there have been so many: from the dedicated supporters of the Poppy Appeal to the Remembrance Day activities and Banwell Action Group to the Sea and Army Cadets, to our President and Committee members and everyone in Banwell who have supported us without whom we could not function and organise events.

Our membership has remained fairly static at around 48-50 but we have lost friends along the way - Alan Elmore and Walter Wood. We have received donations and taken part in local and National events including two members who took our standards to GP90.

It has been a busy year including commemorating 100 years since the end of WW1, a visit to Bletchley Park, a wine tasting event, a cream tea event, a stand at the Banwell picnic and numerous behind the scenes work.

This year we have tried to put some structure into branch meetings including speakers and raising the profile of the RBL. More is needed along these lines but we are making progress and are committed to working with the other Banwell groups. The committee now meets on a regular basis which makes planning easier when it comes to future events and activities.

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From the Editor.

This is my first attempt at doing anything like this and, while I have enjoyed putting this edition together, it has been a steep learning curve. I would like to thank all those who have helped to compile this edition and anything I have left out I did so to keep this first one relatively short and relevant.

I look forward to developing my editorial skills with each newsletter and I'd be very grateful for your feedback as well as any help that might be available.

Once I have mastered this I shall be tackling the Banwell RBL website to update and keep it updated but again I have a steep learning curve.

From Sarah Hayes our Treasurer

I have lived in Banwell all of my life except while at college and I'm the 7th generation of a Banwell born & bred family. I am AAT qualified (Association of Accounting Technicians) and have worked in the accounts sector since 2000.

Tom, Chairman of Banwell RBL had done a lot of visiting my granddad Bob Harris, a Banwell RBL member, following a stroke and I wanted to give something back so he asked me if I would like to be treasurer as Nancy was stepping down.

I took over from Nancy as Banwell RBL treasurer in November 2017 - not a quiet month to begin with - Remembrance Parade, Etc and manual ledgers.

Since becoming treasurer I have taken the accounts into the 21st century – we now have an accurate 'end of month' reports and continue to have a steady and healthy bank account. I am currently applying for the online banking process.

I have attended branch & committee meetings, been proud to walk in the remembrance parades, have attended collections in Morrisons and in Winthill, as well as participating in the village picnic promoting of RBL & what we stand for.

I completed the RBL treasurer training course and my first audit in July 2018 which was signed off by Taunton within no major concerns.

Branch Community Support News from Dennis Cruze

The Branch Community Support is working very well in the village and I am grateful for the help of our Chairman, Tom Couch, in helping to carry out this work in our community. Below is a table that gives our report for January to March this year. Should there be any members that would like to assist Tom and I please contact me on 823340 or denniscruze@btinternet.com. We would be very grateful for your help.

Branch Community Support Statistic for Banwell Branch

Quarters 1 - 1 January to 31 March 2019

Total No of visits	How many clients Visited	Total Expenditure	How many Telephone Buddies Called	Bereavement Support Assistance Given	Local Touchpoints	Awareness Events Held
6	2	£27.50	12	0	0	2

The Legion’s Independent Living Service

The Legion has the above service for its beneficiaries and it is worth all members keeping a note of this just in case you may need it.

What is the Independent Living Service? The Legion’s Independent Living Service comprises two Services; the Independent Living Advice Service, and the Legion Handy Vans Service. The overall aim of the Service is to enable beneficiaries to live safely and well in their homes.

What does each Service offer? The Independent Living Advice Service offers specialist advice and advocacy on a wide range of issues to those who have a disability or vulnerability or who are facing issues maintaining their independence in the home. The remit includes challenging Local Authority decisions on care packages including Disabled Facilities Grants, social isolation issues and loneliness, and aids and adaptations.

The aim of the Handy Vans Service is to provide a well - respected and trusted low - level home maintenance and home improvement service. Working to a high standard, the Service is designed to enable beneficiaries to live independently in their own homes by providing minor home repairs and adjustments, while enjoying a safe and secure environment. The remit includes carrying out fire safety checks and installing smoke alarms, installing grab rails and access ramps, and putting up shelves.

Who can the Service help? The Independent Living Advice Service can support all Legion beneficiaries.

The Handy Van Service can assist Legion beneficiaries who meet the following eligibility criteria:-

Over 70 years old	or	On a means tested benefit	or	Are considered Vulnerable by the following definition; <i>“is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness; and who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation”.</i>
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How do people access the Service? Both Services can be accessed by contacting the Legion on **0808 802 8080**.

The Handy Van Service can be accessed directly through the Independent Living Co-ordinator, Hannah Leppard, by emailing HomeSupportSouth@britishlegion.org.uk.

Somerset Legion House

Somerset Legion House is the holiday break centre in Weston super Mare. It is available to all eligible beneficiaries and is situated on Beech Road. It is a first class hotel which offers a one week break at no cost (donations are invited). The week includes a range of activities and trips out and about. To book your stay all you have to do is contact the Legions Contact Centre on 0800-802-8080.

Poppy Appeal 2018

2018 was a very successful year and for that we have Margaret and Mike to thank. However a huge thank you needs to go to all those RBL supporters and the many non-members who have helped sell poppies over the many years: door to door, local shopkeepers and publicans and at our table in Morrisons.

We would also like to thank members of the WI for knitting poppies and holding a Craft class in the Primary School where the children of class 2 made 67 poppies. All these poppies were used to make a display over the font in the Parish church.



We raised over £13,000 – the most ever.

THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH

Not only did Banwell do well but the Somerset Appeal for 2018/2019 stands at £983,683 with a massive National Total at £50,304,000

This year we welcome Mr and Mrs Hemmings who have volunteered to take on the mantel of organising the poppy appeal for Banwell. I am sure everyone will support them in the same way as they did Margaret and Mike. Again our

thanks to Margaret and Mike Harris seen here with Tom Couch on their presentation.



Veterans Cards

Service Leavers are now being issued with a new Armed Forces Veteran ID card, helping them to get access to specialist support and services.

This card provides proof that someone has served in HM Armed Forces in line with the Government definition of a Veteran, which is one day's service.

Up until now there has been no way for existing Veterans to easily prove the fact that they have served, and the administrative burden on providers when verifying that a person is a Veteran can be considerable, both in time and cost. This card will allow organisations to confidentially verify that someone has served in the Armed Forces as well as allowing them to verify their military service to the NHS, their local authority, and charities, helping them to access support and services where needed.

Delivery will be rolled out in two tranches

Phase 1: Any personnel who have left the military since December 2018 will automatically be given one of the new ID cards that will allow them to maintain a tangible link to their career in the forces.

Phase 2: Applications from the wider Veteran Community will be encouraged once the process has been agreed. Information on how to apply will be made available closer to the time, before the end of 2019.

There is no need to register an interest in the cards at this stage. More information on how existing veterans can apply for a card will be announced by the MOD later in the year. Keep an eye on www.gov.uk/veterans-uk for more details.

There are also many sources of discounts for veterans and some of these will be in the next newsletter.

AGM

This is to notify all members that our AGM will be held at 1930 on 17 October in the Village Hall. Sam Underwood from the Cadets will be our speaker after the AGM business is completed. It is hoped that as many members as possible attend. Refreshments will be served.

Events/Dates for the Diary

19 September	Branch meeting	1930	Village Hall
17 October	AGM	1930	Village Hall
23 October	Coach trip to Warwick Castle		
		0815	from Banwell
10 November	Remembrance Day		
21 November	Branch Meeting	1930	Village Hall
14 December	Quiz, mulled Wine and refreshments		
		1800 to 2200	tbc

Details of the above can be obtained from Tom Couch, 823842, or Gill Fawcitt (Gill.Fawcitt@yahoo.co.uk)

The next Newsletter will be in October 2019 with a deadline for articles being 13 September 2019.