



“THE JENDIT”

ALL the clips!

THE CREWKERNE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



SPRING/SUMMER 2019 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the Spring/Summer edition of the Jendit, and as you will see it's now mid-summer and we have already been very busy and it doesn't look like easing up any time soon. As we go to press the great news is that Branch membership now stands at 90, so we have had another good recruitment season.

The Passing of Christopher Morris

It is with great sadness that we must announce the passing of one of our members, Christopher Morris. Christopher, a retired Major in the Royal Artillery, and his wife Judith moved to Crewkerne several years ago after living in France for many years. When they moved into Crewkerne, Christopher's health was deteriorating but they settled and soon decided that they would like to join the Branch. Despite Christopher's poor health, they both attended a number of our Branch social events and Remembrance Day events. Sadly just around Christmas, Christopher's health took a turn for the worse and he did not fully recover. On the 31st May he passed away at home, but only a few weeks earlier he had celebrated his 85th Birthday with his family beside him. Christopher's military career was really quite interesting. Whilst at Sandhurst, he was selected to be part of the Guard of Honour at Westminster Abbey for Queen Elizabeth's Coronation and he was proud to go on as Her Faithful Servant for more than thirty years where he trained as an Army Commando and also received his parachute wings. Christopher's army service saw him in many places including Cyprus, Singapore, Malta, Germany, Northern Ireland and even the Isle of Man. Christopher was the epitome of a British Army





Officer and he will be missed by all who knew him. Our thoughts go out to Judith and all the family at this sad time.

Antiques Bazaar Donation

On the 7th of April members of the Committee were invited to the Antiques Bazaar at Kit Hill to receive a generous donation for the Poppy Appeal. The princely sum of £75 was raised during November by Keith Chinn and the sum was matched by the proprietor of the Antiques Bazaar Mr Anthony Bucke, making the grand total of £150 for the Crewkerne Poppy Appeal. The cheque was presented to the Crewkerne PAO Bob King. On behalf of the Poppy Appeal we would like to say a huge thank you to Keith and Anthony for their generosity.



Poppy Appeal Update

At the time of going to press the PAO, Bob King, reported the latest figures from Crewkerne, Somerset County and National Poppy appeals.

Crewkerne Branch Total to date: £14,592.04

Somerset County Total to date: £982,735.81

National Total to date: £50,031,805.41

Easter Coffee Morning and Crafts

On the 10th April the Branch held a coffee morning and crafts for younger ones as it was school half term. We had an excellent attendance and many asked if we could do it again later in the year as it was very popular with the children. Our thanks must go to Sandie, Tony, Geoff, Peggy, Alice and Sarah for helping to organise this event and we look forward to the next one - August 14th.



Children and Branch members taking part in the Crafts morning

Legion Riders AGM

On the 13th April the Legion Riders held their AGM at the George Reynolds Centre, it was an honour for the Branch to host their AGM and they all complimented us on our fantastic facilities at the GRC, we hope to see them back with us soon.

Presentation to the Town Council

On the 15th April the Chairman and Secretary were invited to the town hall to do a ten-minute presentation on the recent history of the Branch and also to inform them of our intentions for the coming months and years. The presentation was well received and it was an opportunity for us to spread the word on the work we do in the local community.



Development of Severalls Memorial Garden & Crewkerne in Bloom

Anyone who has been to Severalls Green in the last few weeks will have noticed that the Memorial gardens have been developed a little further this year. John Davies and Tony Smith have between them, extended the flower beds, tidied the edges of the block pathing and planted out a good number of bedding plants that were donated by various members of the Branch. In addition to this, Peter Heather one of our newer

members, has made some fantastic flower boxes for the railings, they were made to look like ammo boxes but with special Remembrance inscriptions on them. All of this has been done in support of Crewkerne in Bloom 2019 and we hope you all find it favourable.



The new flower boxes made by Peter Heather

Bletchley Park Trip

On Saturday the 11th May, 26 members of the Branch set off on a trip to Bletchley Park in Buckinghamshire. It was an early start at 0630 and we arrived in good time for a full day at the home of the WW2 Code Breakers. It was a lovely day and a good chance for us to get to know some of our newer members. We had a picnic on the lawn and had plenty of time to visit the many exhibits. We were also lucky enough to have Clive Sanders with us, who actually worked at the park whilst in the Army in the 1960s, so he was able to give us some "Dits" on his time at Bletchley.



Members of the Branch outside Bletchley Manor

National Conference

On the week-end of the 18-19 May four members of the Branch attended the National Conference in Bournemouth. It was a packed agenda with many speakers including Bournemouth MP Rt. Hon. Tobias Elwood. It was also a great opportunity for us to see how the Conference works and to get a better understanding of the Legion way of doing things. On the Sunday there were lots of awards to be given out and this was followed by the traditional parade through the centre of Bournemouth, down to the war memorial and back. It must be said the weekend was very interesting and surprisingly enjoyable.



D-Day Memorial Fete

On Sunday the 9th June we held our D-Day Memorial service and commemorative fete. It was the first time we had organised an event of this size on our own and it was quite a daunting task for all involved.

Especially for Alice our Secretary, who worked tirelessly behind the scenes organising all the official paperwork with SSDC, and at the same time communicating with all the various organisations who attended. Leading up to the event, members of the Committee spent a whole afternoon raking and mowing the Green and picking litter. As mentioned

earlier, the flower boxes were fixed in place and bunting was hung all around the railings. Early on the day of the event, a number of us arrived to start setting up, and then we were joined by the Cubs and Scouts to set up tables and chairs. By 1000 all was set in place so it was a quick dash to get changed ready for the service. At 1100

Branch bugler Mark Barrett sounded the Last Post and we observed a two minute silence, which was followed by reveille and the laying of the wreath by Branch President Terry Austin. Mayor Kathy Head lit the candle of Remembrance and read a short citation about D-Day. Following this Rev. Jim Pearce read a short sermon and a prayer that was used by Eisenhower on D-Day itself. On completion of the service Pete Brown sounded his WW2 air raid siren (What some people have in their garage!) and the Mayor announced the fete open. We started with the Somerset Ukulele Band and Singers, followed by Jan McNeill who entertained us all with songs of the 1940s, during any intervals Clive Sanders read original BBC news manuscripts from D-Day giving an air of authenticity to the day. The whole event was an enormous

success and we as a committee have learnt a lot from it, so moving on we would like to make the Severalls Fete an annual summer event and we hope to see you all there again next year.



The Tommy all dressed for the occasion



Severalls D-Day Fete in full swing

The committee would like to thank:- Jan McNeill for her wonderful singing, The Somerset Ukulele band and singers, Crewkerne Scouts, "Take a Peak Boutique" for the face painting, The Legion Riders, Crewkerne Army Cadets, Nigel at the Severalls Mini Market, Viv's Vision Cakes, The Legion Bakers for the lovely cakes and savouries and all the members of Severalls and the wider community for supporting this event and making it such a memorable day.

County Chairman's Seminar

On Saturday the 15th of June the Branch had the honour of hosting the County Chairman's Seminar, it was attended by approximately 30 Chairman from around the County and several presentations were made by Dennis Cruze, Phil Davies and of course County Chairman Bob McDonald. A light lunch was served and all in all it was a good chance for Branch Chairmen to share ideas and to get to know one



another. Many who attended complimented us on our premises at the GRC and we would like to thank Sarah and Sue for providing the lovely lunch.

Misterton Village Fete

On Saturday 22nd June we attended the Village Fete at Misterton. This was the first one we have attended for several years now as they used to clash with Weymouth Parade. Although it was not the biggest fundraiser of the year we did recruit some new members.



Our stall at Misterton

Weymouth Veteran's Day Parade

The following day saw a group of us heading on down to Weymouth for the Annual Veteran's Day Parade. The weather was good and after the Parade we all headed off to the Pavilion for lunch and entertainment this was followed by a quick game of bingo organised by Alice our Secretary. We then dispersed for a couple of hours to stroll around the sights of 'Sunny Weymouth' before the coach departed in the late afternoon. A good time had by all we think.



Branch members ready for the off at Weymouth

The Military Vehicle Show at Haselbury Mill

On Sunday 30th June we were invited to have a stall at the Military Vehicle Show at Haselbury Mill. This was the fourth year running we attended this event and it always proves to be a good fundraiser for us. We were joined by Kylie from "Take a peak Boutique" who did the children's face painting and generously donated all her takings for the day to the Branch so many thanks to Kylie. Thanks must also go to Roy Galina for inviting us along.



The stall at Haselbury Mill

St Bartholomew's School Fete

Finally, on Saturday 6th of July, we were invited to attend St. Bart's First School for their summer fete. This is another annual fete that we have been attending for some years now and we very much appreciate being allowed to attend such events, as it is always a good opportunity to raise the Branch's profile with the local community and also a chance to sell some cakes and crafts.



The team at St. Bart's School

Forth coming events

- On the 14th August the Branch will be holding a coffee morning which will include children's craft making activities, so bring the children and come down for a relaxing morning of chat and fun for the kids.



- The Branch will be holding a social evening for families to include supper and skittles on the 31st August.
- On the 28th September we will be hosting “An evening with Jan”. Jan is a local singer who carved an international career performing on the cruise ships. She will be performing many of her favourite songs and also talking about her fascinating time on the cabaret circuit. Tickets are £5 and meals in a basket will be available from £3. Tickets can be purchased from the Secretary at the e-mail address below.

AGM 2019

Well it is that time of year again where we are required to announce the date of this year's AGM and the Committee have agreed for the 12th Oct 2019 for this event. It will commence at 1100 hrs in the GRC and all members are encouraged to attend. If you would like to join the Committee please put your nomination to the Secretary no later than the 6th October. We have three executive vacancies and they are Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary, due to these people having completed three years in post. If you would like to put yourself forward for any post, please put your application to the Secretary no later than the 6th October. Also if you have an issue you would like to be included on the agenda for AGM, again please send it to the Secretary no later than 6th October.

- PresidentTerry Austin
- ChairmanAntony Samuel
- Vice ChairmanDennis Holland
- Secretary.....Alice Samuel
- TreasurerVivien Green
- Committee.....Sue Phinn
- Committee.....Brian Forster
- Committee.....Peter Brown
- Committee.....Rita Brown
- Committee.....Tony Smith
- Committee.....Sandie Smith
- Committee.....Robert King
- Committee.....John Davies
- Committee.....John Smith
- Committee.....Arthur Hamlin
- Poppy Appeal Officer...Robert King
- Standard Bearer.....Andrew Watts
- Membership Sec.....Alice Samuel
- BCS RepSandie Smith
- BCS Sec.....Alice Samuel
- BCS Treasurer..... Vivien Green

