

BRANCH PROFILE from "690 News" issue 1-06

Branch number 690 (which has given rise to the temporary title of this newsletter) includes the villages of Brancaster, Brancaster Staithe, Choseley, Docking, Fring, Great Bircham, North and South Creake, Sedgeford, Stanhoe, Thornham and Titchwell.

The branch has grown in geographical area over many years, and it has been suggested that some members in villages other than Sedgeford might feel that the branch name is unrepresentative of the area covered.

It may be that a more suitable name than "Sedgeford & District" may be found, and so a ***bottle of wine is on offer as a prize*** for the best new branch name suggested. Please send your ideas to the Secretary. One idea already put forward by a committee member is The Northern and Coastal Villages Branch of North West Norfolk. We do realise that this is rather a mouthful!

A bottle of sherry is also offered for the person proposing the best name for future issues of the branch newsletter, so thinking caps on, please.

If you know of anyone who may like to join The Royal British Legion, whether or not they have any connection with the armed forces, please encourage them to contact us, or come along to a lunch time meeting.

A common misconception is that the Legion is an organisation for men. This is certainly not the case, and women are equally welcome as members, so ladies, if you would like to attend one of the forthcoming pub lunch meetings, rest assured that your female Treasurer will be there!

The members of the committee will, during the next few months, be "getting out amongst you", and also encouraging more local people to join the branch.

We may also hear of long standing stalwarts of our branch who have already been working towards the aims of increasing membership, assisting those in need, and raising money for the Poppy Appeal. If you are out there and were not mentioned in the 'thank you' on page 1, please accept our apologies.

The branch is in very good financial health, and unlike most branches and indeed most charities, members will not be expected to make great fundraising efforts for branch funds.

We hope that in due course we will be able to attract more members to join the branch and also the committee, as a correctly constituted branch within the rules of the Legion should have four branch Officers (Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer), and seven to twelve other committee members.

There is scope there for ambitious members!

Assuming that we are successful in increasing the number of members, we hope in future to have a representative on the committee from each village. With the much publicised reduction in the number of rural Post Offices, and the increasing number of holiday homes in this area, village life could become a lonely existence for some of our members or their dependents, and village representatives could help to alleviate this.

Committee members representing villages will be able to establish and maintain local communication, and most importantly, ensure that we have a local point of contact to identify any potential welfare claims, and facilitate the progress of a claim to the local Welfare Officer.

If you would be prepared to consider taking on the very rewarding duty of branch Welfare Officer (for which appropriate training would be provided by the Legion), please let any committee member know.