



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Harwell Branch

BRI805

**Monthly Branch Committee Meeting
Held on 12th March 2026
In the Committee Room at the Village Hall High Street Harwell
At 18.15 Hours.**

ATTENDANCE:

T. Pearson – Chair
P. Sedwards - Vice Chair / Ceremonial Officer
T. Hart - Standard Bearer / Safeguarding Officer
S. Haycox - Treasurer

COMMITTEE: None

MEMBERS: None.

1. WELCOME

T Pearson opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

2. EXHORTATION AND KOHIMA EPITAPH

T Pearson gave the Exhortation and silent tribute; he ended with the Kohima Epitaph.

3. APOLOGIES: P Cox, H Benton, R. White.

P Cox emailed N Macnamee, but as yet no response has been received.

4. MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 2026 COMMITTEE MEETING

The Minutes were circulated prior to the meeting. There were no corrections.

The corrected minutes were approved as a true record and signed by T Pearson.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE FEBRUARY 2026 MINUTES

5.1 National Conference

T Pearson has registered as delegate for the Branch and P Cox has agreed the registration electronically as required.

She has paid for the accommodation and has been reimbursed by the Branch. She will sort out the train travel closer to the date. There may be a discount available.

There is a grant available for travel costs for Branches with less than 300 members. The grant provides funds depending on how many miles you travel. T Pearson has applied.

These expenses have left the Branch short of funds so we will need to apply for funds from the Legacy Trust - see Treasurer's report item 10.2.

5.2 New Youth Policy

T Hart has been reading the new policy and will organise what parts we have to follow which includes Extended DBS Checks.

T Pearson made the following proposal:

PROPSAL: That T. Hart act as the Safeguarding Officer for the Branch.

PROPOSED: T Pearson Agreed by All Present. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. HARWELL FEAST

Harwell Feast Stand

P Cox asked if we would have a stand at the Feast though we are not having a float this year. We still have some free items to give out called "Gizzits" in stock including leaflets, pens, keyrings etc but can order more.

Tim Hart to Action

7. D DAY 2026

7.1 Arrangements

All documentation has been received from P. Cox and T. Pearson and P. Sedwards met at the Harwellian along with T.Hart to go through.

Due to the amount of work that P. Sedwards is facing at present T. Pearson is going to action all the invitations etc on Paul's behalf.

8. SECRETARY'S REPORT

March Agenda and Correspondence report, and February Minutes
Written and circulated.

The Branch Community Support newsletter that I wanted to circulate is no longer on the MAP.

Membership

44 as of Sunday 7th March (latest report) Still includes the late Roy Slatter though.

Renewals

November Renewals: One did not renew and lapsed end of February.

No December or January renewals.

February renewals: One due – yet to renew.

March: Two due, both renewed.

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8.1 Welfare

No enquiries received since the February meeting.

8.2 Membership

44 as of Sunday 7th March (latest report) Still includes the late Roy Slatter though.

Renewals

November Renewals: One did not renew and lapsed end of February.

No December or January renewals.

February renewals: One due – yet to renew.

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8.3 Correspondence

P Cox reported that correspondence received since the January 2026 meeting includes the following items:

Correspondence from Legion County Office and National Headquarters:

Membership Newsletter March 2026

Articles include:

- Commemoration at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) of the 35th Anniversary of the end of the Gulf War in February.
- Commemoration of the Iraq War in May at the NMA.
- Poppy Rides in Kent and Shropshire.
- Voting for National Elections opens soon.
- Attendees can collect items brought from the Poppy Shop at National Conference.
- Town Hall meetings.

Central News March 2026

Articles include:

Officers and Membership editions, include some articles in the February newsletter above and sent separately (in the rest of this list). Other articles include:

- How to submit questions to the Membership forum at Conference.
- May 2026 election guidance for members – reminder about political impartiality.
- Help to shape new interest groups opportunities for our members – online survey.

New Membership Grant Fund

- Branches can bid for funds for innovative and impactful activities.
- Replaces the county grants process and ad hoc commemorative funding.

Religious Officiators Information

- Request from Headquarters to supply names and details of any Branch Chaplain.

Chairman's Catchup Meeting

- For Branch Officers at Newbury RBL Club on Saturday 21st March.
- Update on the Audit & Compliance Report and the Strategy that was launched last year.
- RSVP by 19th March.

Official RBL Community Emails

- From Berkshire County Membership Support Officer,
- A number of these email addresses have not been used so they will be deleted by HQ IT as Microsoft charges for each email.

Purchasing Branded Clothing for Branch Community Support Events

- Branch funds can be used to purchase clothing for those that attend regular events on behalf of the Legion.
- An online form is now available to enable Branches to send in suggestions.

Correspondence from Other Organisations

March 2026 Chilton Chronicle

No Legion information in this issue.

Harwell Neighbourhood Plan Survey

- From Harwell Parish Council to local organisations.
- Includes if a neighbourhood plan is a good idea and what issues we would like included.
- Deadline is 3rd March

8.4 Distribution of Correspondence

List sent out with a short summary only.

9. TREASURER'S REPORT

S Haycox reported:

9.1 Branch Funds

S Haycox said that he is still has not received the recent Branch Funds Initiative (BFI) statements, so the Branch Funds Initiative balance is from September. It will not have gone down though. The Lloyds current account balance is as of this month.

HARWELL BRANCH

Branch Funds Initiative (BFI) Account	£ 372
Current Account:	<u>£ 104</u>
<u>Total:</u>	<u>£ 476</u>

9.2 Funds Transfer

BFI and Legacy have been requested. T. Pearson to take the Legacy paperwork to Newbury on Saturday to ask R. Edgington to sign so that it can be sent on for action.

10. STANDARD BEARER REPORT

P Sedwards said that he had nothing to report.

11. POPPY APPEAL ORGANISERS (PAO) REPORT

Wreaths

£264.25 confirmed so far for 13 wreaths. No news yet of the three invoice and BACS payments.

Poor Quality Wooden Crosses on War Graves

G Richardson, Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) gardener, states the crosses are peeling apart already, and we may want them removed now. Other CWGC gardeners have reported the same issue.

P. Cox to investigate

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

13. CONFIRM DATE AND VENUE OF APRIL MEETING

T Pearson said that the next meeting will be on Thursday 9th April, at 18:15 in the Village Hall Committee Room.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 18:30 hours.

Minutes approved at the Branch meeting held on _____

Chair _____