



Royal British Legion Minchinhampton Branch
www.britishlegion.org/branches/minchinhampton

Annual General Meeting 4th October 2017 – 7.30pm – The Cotswold Club

Item	Minutes																																										
1	Act of Homage – Mr Roger Sims																																										
2	<p>Roll call</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Mr K Bucknell</td> <td>Mrs J Broad</td> <td>Mr N Gooch</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mrs C Gooch</td> <td>Mrs S Hayward</td> <td>Mr C Hooker</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr P Hayward</td> <td>Mr I Lloyd</td> <td>Dr H Lister</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mrs H Lander</td> <td>Mr K Lander</td> <td>Mr S Ritter</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Miss P Selway</td> <td>Mr R Sims</td> <td>Mr C Riggs</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr D Russell</td> <td>Mrs R Robbins</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">Apologies:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr W Allen</td> <td>Mr M Ballinger</td> <td>Mrs G Ballinger</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr I Hartley</td> <td>Miss L Hayward</td> <td>Mrs A Lambley</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mrs H Sims</td> <td>Mr J Cleever</td> <td>Mrs J Cleever</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr I Clements</td> <td>Mrs K Hurst</td> <td>Mrs S Palmer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr G Palmer</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Mr K Bucknell	Mrs J Broad	Mr N Gooch	Mrs C Gooch	Mrs S Hayward	Mr C Hooker	Mr P Hayward	Mr I Lloyd	Dr H Lister	Mrs H Lander	Mr K Lander	Mr S Ritter	Miss P Selway	Mr R Sims	Mr C Riggs	Mr D Russell	Mrs R Robbins		Apologies:			Mr W Allen	Mr M Ballinger	Mrs G Ballinger	Mr I Hartley	Miss L Hayward	Mrs A Lambley	Mrs H Sims	Mr J Cleever	Mrs J Cleever	Mr I Clements	Mrs K Hurst	Mrs S Palmer	Mr G Palmer								
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3	<p>Chairman's Opening Remarks:</p> <p>The Chairman made everyone welcome, especially our President and proceeded to the formal meeting.</p> <p>The agenda is as published. No items have been put forward by members.</p>																																										
4	<p>Adoption of Minutes of the 2016 AGM:</p> <p>Minutes have been circulated – Proposed: Mr N Gooch; Seconded: Mr D Russell. All in favour - none against. Minutes accepted as true record.</p>																																										
5	<p>Matters arising from previous minutes:</p> <p>None</p>																																										
6	<p>President's Address:</p> <p>The President made his address and thanked all the Committee for their continued hard work throughout the year. Without the dedication of such hard-working volunteers it would not be possible to maintain the Branch. He also thanked the membership for keeping the Branch going and all the fund raising which has been done throughout the year.</p>																																										

Chairman's Report:

Firstly, I am sure we are all saddened by the loss during this year of 6 good friends and members, namely Mary Smith, Ken Brown and Ray Storey plus Eric Martin, Anthony Perrett and Richard Chapman who had not been active members for many years.

Mary although not a member of this Branch regularly attended meetings and supported Kathy with the raffle. She was forthright with her opinions and no one dared say no to buying one of her raffle tickets! My lasting memory of Mary is on our trip to The Majestic Hotel in Torquay in 2014 when she and the late Eve Baynham dressed up for the VE day event and on our morning trip to Teignmouth where I have a lovely photo of Mary coming out of a souvenir shop proudly displaying the corn dolly she had just purchased.

Ken served on the committee for many years and he and Jean were staunch supporters of all events and regularly attended meetings.

Ray was our long serving Chaplain and as well as regularly attending meetings he also conducted ceremonies at the Cross and when laying poppies on the graves of the fallen in Holy Trinity cemetery accompanied by children from the Primary school. Ray had latterly taken on the Branch Welfare officer role.

Their funerals/memorial services were well attended by Branch members – for which I thank you all. Rest in peace – we shall miss them.

Remembrance;

On Sunday 13th Nov 2016, the usual Memorial service was held in the Parish church followed by the 2 minutes silence at the cross and the reading of the names of the fallen. The ceremony was followed by lunch at the Kitchen which was well attended.

On Friday 11th Nov 2016, several members including Annie Toomer Sec of the Women's Branch visited the Primary school where we talked to the assembly about the role of the British Legion today and emphasised how it has adapted to a changing world and attitudes particularly in the areas of Welfare and after care. The year groups in return presented a homage to all who had been affected by past and present conflict in words, pictures and song which was excellent. Selected children then accompanied Legion members to the cemetery where they laid Poppy Crosses on the graves of the fallen directed by Ray with a short prayer at each laying. We intend involving the school again this year – a tradition the Head Teacher Nick Moss is very keen to perpetuate.

The 2016 Poppy appeal raised £5437.45 and will be the subject of the Appeal Coordinators report.

On Friday October 28th, a Daisy Chain concert and supper was held in the Market House in aid of the Poppy Appeal and Initial concerns over lack of pre-booking were overcome on the night by excellent attendance. A most enjoyable and entertaining evening.

On Wednesday 24th May our visit to the National Memorial Arboretum was well attended and attracted several non-members from other organisations – It Pays to advertise

On Saturday the 29th July this year, Sandra and Paul kindly hosted (& provided a considerable amount of food) a BBQ at their home. Once again, the weather was kind and the event was well attended. Excellent afternoon and company. A similar event is planned for next summer – watch this space

Throughout the year we have been blessed with a variety guest speakers including:

Molly Worrall – Growing up in Wartime Plymouth.

Tony Pritchard – authority on TV's "Dads Army"

Di Wall – Minchinhampton Airfields.

Col Mike Bennett – The War Memorial Trust

and latterly

Wing Commander Jules Merrison – My life in the Royal Air Force.

Totally diverse subjects and most enjoyable. Our thanks to Kathy Hurst for arranging them.

Thanks to all who provided prizes and sold tickets for the raffles this past year. Thanks also to Darrell and Paul (Poppy Appeal) and the rest of the Committee. I also need to thank John Bingle who as always maintains the excellent floral display at the Cross throughout the year. Particular thanks from me to Sandra our Secretary for her support, advice and guidance and all the hard work she does for this Branch.

I am concerned that some meetings are poorly attended especially as we arrange such a wide variety of Guest Speakers and only meet every other month. It often appears that it's the same members that make the effort every time. Although I am well aware that malady and holidays often influence attendance there are some members we rarely see. If you are aware of a member that has transport difficulties or needs a bit of encouragement please let the Committee know

Future Programme:

A Skittles evening and light supper at the Cotswold Club is planned for early next year on a date yet to be confirmed.

A trip to Luxembourg is planned for May next year details of which are in the Brochure I have circulated or you can get a copy from me this evening. Costing and viability is based on 20 people and currently we have interest from 12. Even if you individually are not interested then please circulate the details as widely as possible amongst friends and any organisations you may belong to.

As previously mentioned a summer BBQ at Sandra and Paul's house is planned for next year on a date yet to be agreed.

	<p>It is intended to hold an RBL concert in Holy Trinity on Friday 9th November next year to commemorate the centenary of WW1 Armistice. The format will involve the Stuart Singers, Scouts, Guides, Minchinhampton Primary School and other community organisations. The Church has been booked and those involved given prior notice.</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>Secretary's report & Correspondence:</p> <p>Membership now stands at 60 but the level of membership has declined as with all Branches. County news: Angela Jarvis has now returned as Membership Support Officer for Gloucestershire following her maternity leave and Brian Hewitt was appointed as the new chairman of the Gloucestershire County. The Legion has now launched its 5 Year Plan which was delivered at the Membership Day in Dursley which was attended by Branch Secretary.</p> <p>The Branch Community Support has been fully rolled out and an appointment for a BCS Officer will hopefully be appointed tonight as Ken Bucknell our Welfare Rep will be stepping down from his position. Our thanks go to Ken for all his hard work in the support which he has given in the Welfare side to the Branch.</p> <p>GP90 is well underway but our Branch will not be participating.</p> <p>Tonight, we will see a change of Committee Members. Membership renewal are now in process.</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>Treasurer's Report, Presentation and adoption of accounts:</p> <p>The accounts were not available to be adopted at this meeting. These will be circulated at the next meeting where the adoption will take place having been circulated to membership beforehand.</p>

Poppy Organiser's Report:

The Branch kick started the Poppy Appeal year for 2016/17 with a very successful Vintage Duo concert by Daisy Chain productions, where we were royally entertained by Daisy and her friend. Music, song, dance and a ploughman's supper were the making of a great evening with the event raising £219.55 for the appeal, and an additional £60 in donations taken on the night.

The Poppy Appeal fortnight ran through to Remembrance weekend and I would like to say a big thank you to all those who supported us in collecting house to house or standing in the High Street for our street collections. I would also like to thank our local Business community who once again asked their staff and visitors to give generously for our cause. During the fortnight, the work of all our collectors helped us raise £3,988.71 for the appeal.

The Branch Barbeque in July was another very well attended event. Good food and even better company made for a very enjoyable afternoon with many members and friends making the most of the fine weather to while away the time together. Thanks to all who were able to attend as we raised an incredible £309.50 for the appeal.

On Sunday 10th September, our Secretary and PAO provided Minchinhampton Branch assistance to our Area Community Fund Raiser at Frampton Country Fair. Unfortunately, the weather did not play ball but we helped by walking the showground to sell Poppy Appeal 'beer mats' for people to enter the Poppy Raffle. All monies raised at the fair go to the Poppy Appeal via the accounts of the Branches who helped out on the day, and I am pleased to report that we were able to add £201.81 to our Poppy Appeal tally for our efforts on the day.

2016/17 Poppy Appeal year in numbers:

Total for Gloucestershire as a whole £694,809.22

Total for Minchinhampton Branch £5,433.45

Street Collections £318.78

House to house collections £1,941.56

Business Community collections £1,402.13

Donations (inc. miniboxes) £700.56

Special Events £790.86 (Concert, BBQ and Frampton Show)

Remembrance Wreaths £205.00

Gift Aid Contributions £74.56

We are now looking forward to the 2017/18 Poppy Appeal which started last weekend (1st October). We have a full complement of house to house collectors lined up to start collections on Saturday 28th October, and we will be asking our local business community for their support again this year.

We are now seeking volunteers to help cover the Street collections which will be held in the town on Friday 10th November outside the Market House, and on Saturday 11th November at the Market House and outside Boots Chemist.

<p>11</p>	<p>Election of Officers and Committee Members:</p> <p>Chairman – Roger Sims – Proposed: Jenny Broad Seconded: Paul Hayward Vice-Chair – Ian Lloyd – Proposed: Keith Lander Seconded: Ken Bucnell Secretary - Sandra Hayward – Proposed: Heather Lander Seconded Darrell Russell Treasurer – Paul Hayward – Proposed: Jenny Broad Seconded: Norman Gooch Committee Members, Pamela Selway, Jenny Broad and Ian Hartley Proposed: Christina Gooch Seconded: Heather Lander BCS Officer – Simon Ritter – Proposed Roger Sims Seconded Ken Bucknell</p> <p>Membership unanimously all agreed to all appointments.</p> <p>Standard Bearer – Darrell Russell – Poppy Appeal Organiser – Paul Hayward</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>Appointment of Delegates for County/District Conference and Annual Conference: No appointments were made due to the Branch not being able to send any delegates due to accounts now having been filed by 30th September 2017.</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>Remembrance Sunday 12th November & Remembrance Day 11th November:</p> <p>Due to the reordering of the Parish Church it is proposed that on the forthcoming Remembrance Sunday we gather direct at the Cross for the short service of dedication probably at 10:45. Other partaking organisations will be informed accordingly.</p> <p><i>NOTE: On reflection, it is more likely all groups including clergy will form up in Bell Lane adjacent to the school and progress to the Cross together.</i></p> <p>Attendance will be at the school on Friday 10th November – full details will be circulated to member when final details have been confirmed.</p>
<p>14</p>	<p>Any Other Business:</p> <p>Request from Charles Hooker for the Belly Dancer to return to entertain us and also Christina & Norman Gooch suggested a Classical Concert.</p> <p>Branch Chairman welcomed Simon Ritter to the membership and thanked hom for taking on the new Role of BCS Officer.</p> <p>Social programme will follow in due course.</p>
<p>15</p>	<p>Date of next meeting:</p> <p>To be advised as Secretary awaiting confirmation of dates from Cotswold Club</p>