

Minutes from: Newent and District Branch of The Royal British Legion

Meeting held 24 November 2022 at Cobblers Ale House

<u>Attendees</u>	<u>Post</u>
Richard Balding	Chairman
Keith Urch	Vice Chairman/Branch Community Support Officer/Youth Liaison Officer
Mary Curtis	Secretary
Helen Axon	Treasurer
Simon Mason	Padre
Pat Phillips	Deputy Padre
Graham Barton	Parade Marshal
Rick Axon	Entertainments & Bar Member
John Price	
Pat Price	
Colin Calcutt	
Susan Urch	
Tom Heseltine	
Viv Miles	
Jon Miles	
David Pollock	Raffle Coordinator

<u>Item</u>	<u>Action</u>
<u>1. Act of Remembrance</u> <p>The Chairman Opened the Meeting at 1900 hrs and welcomed everyone to Cobblers. He asked if we could spare a moment of thought for those who could not be with us tonight and those that were feeling under the weather. He read the names of those from the Parish of Newent who had lost their lives during WWI and WWII during the month of December and January and concluded with the Act of Remembrance.</p>	
<u>2. Apologies</u> <p>Apologies had been received from Elaine Balding, Adrian Dover, Sue Colborne, Susanne & Colin Britt.</p>	
<u>3. Chairman's Report</u> <u>Introduction</u> <p>Good evening and welcome to everyone, it's lovely to have a change of scenery for these meetings every now and again for which I would like to thank Sue and Dave for allowing us to use their back room for what is their final week running Cobblers prior to retirement which we all wish them good luck.</p> <p>My report starts with:</p> <u>3.a. Remembrance Parade and Service – 13 November 2022</u> <p>As usual the Remembrance Parade and Service went off without a hitch, the Parade appeared to attract a record number of participants and it was well received by the local community. Thanks for making the day a success go to: Newent Town Council (NTC) for Organising the event and leading the Parade, for the Air Cadets for helping us out with a Standard Bearer who was exemplary, our Parade Marshal for his excellence in shepherding the flock</p>	

and of course for the Branch Padre for leading us in the Service of Remembrance which was outstanding.

3.b. Poppy Appeal – Market House Stall

My thanks go to the 2 Colin's: Colin Thomson and Calcutt for their endeavours over the 2 weeks that the Poppy Appeal had a stall under the Market House, I thought they both looked very smart and I hope lots of monies was collected to start us on another great total for this year.

3.c. Curry Lunch – Beauchamp Arms – 13 November 2022

After the Parade and Service on 13 November 2022, Elaine, Padre Pat and Myself attended the Curry Lunch at the Beauchamp Arms that was in aid of the Dymock War Memorial Restoration Project. The Curry lunch was excellent and after the meal they held the raffle which many of you contributed to. Unfortunately none of the Newent Branch ticket holders won a prize but the husband of our new Secretary did, which gave us a moral victory! Our best wishes go to the future endeavours to raise donations towards the fund.

3.d. New Raffle Coordinator

Fantastic news, after last month's AGM I was approached by one of our members and he volunteered to take on the Raffle Coordinator role for the branch, this is fantastic news and I'd like to formally welcome David onto the branch committee, please give David your usual exceptional support and don't forget that those unwanted Christmas presents will always come in handy to suppliment the raffle prizes.

3.e. Finally

Don't forget that as normal if anyone needs help in any way at all please do not hesitate to get in contact, and if we can help, we will.

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record with a proposal from PP, seconded by RA and agreed unanimously.

There was just one matter arising:

Item 5.d. Branch Padre Report: It was suggested that some of the young people would wear T Shirts bearing the names of the fallen to take more of an active role in the Remembrance Service, it didn't happen this year but plans are still in place for future years.

5. Reports by Officers

5.a. Deputy Chairman/Membership/Youth Liaison/Branch Community Support (BCS)

For the local veterans, friends and colleagues suffering ill health, caring for other family members remember that we are here to assist and support; you only need to contact one of your Committee Members.

5.a.1. Membership, Branch Community Support Representative and Youth Liaison Officer

Members are reminded that those of you still considering to aspire to be BCS Representatives, a series of on-line courses are available.

5.a.2. Welfare and Membership

5.a.2.a. Welfare

The Branch continues to aid and support its members and veterans.

In the first instant, please contact your Branch Representative(s) or Committee Member.

Should you wish to contact The National RBL Helpline, their telephone number is: 0808 802 8080

The Veteran's Gateway:

https://support.veteransgateway.org.uk/app/answers/detail/a_id/127/~the-royal-british-legion



support.veteransgateway.org.uk

Be assured that we will continue to utilise our local knowledge and contacts to support our members.

5.a.2.b. Branch Membership

In accordance with TRBL records, Branch Membership currently stands at 40 members but with several members yet to renew their Branch memberships, it is anticipated that the numbers will return to their previous levels.

5.a.3. Branch Statistics

The Branch has provided support to several Members and veterans during the period. This clearly identifies us as a caring Branch, providing various levels of assistance to our colleagues in need of support.

In the event that the members identify a comrade in need, they are encouraged to contact a Committee Member or BCS Representative at the earliest convenience.

Branch Statistics for this period are therefore as follows:

Total Number of Welfare visits	8
How many beneficiaries visited	3
How many visitors (Branch Community Supporters)	4
Total Welfare Expenditure	NIL
Telephone Buddies:	
Total Number if Calls made by Brach Executive	26
Telephone - How many beneficiaries called	4
Telephone - How many telephone buddies	4

A number of email and telephone communications were made to TRBL HQ during this period on behalf of veterans and their families.

5.a.4. Community and Youth Liaison

Members are reminded that Nominations for The John Whitehorn Trophy remain open. To date, one nomination has been received. Application Forms are available from your BCS Officer and Branch Chairman.

Thanks are extended to those attending Remembrance Day activities: this year being a significant milestone for many, reflected in the large numbers attending, in the activities returned to a level normality - see the Chairman's report for further information.

Activities continue on the works to upgrade Newent's War Memorial and incorporate those names originally omitted.

We were informed that our deceased community veteran, Corp. Fred Sandbach was finally laid to rest on Wednesday, 26th October at the Forest Crematorium, albeit in extremely unusual circumstances. A thanksgiving/memorial service is being planned to celebrate his service and life within our community: further information with publicised in due course.

A Dymock based veteran has been identified in need of urgent support: your BCS representative is currently liaising with TRBL HQ and other veteran organisations. Several offers of support from Branch members present were received and discussions held around those.

As we now move towards Christmas, our Branch events, and the colder weather, we are reminded of those less fortunate and their needs. For those Branch members giving of their time in support of others, we are indebted to your support.

As this is the final meeting of our Branch year, we also extend our best wishes to all the members, friends and their families for a joyous festive holiday and peaceful New Year.

5.a.5. TRBL HQ Liaison and Branch Communications (OS365)

For further information relating to other HQ/Branch communications and other local activities, please see your chairman's and other Representative Reports.

5.b. Treasurers Report

There were no transactions this month, the current account remains at £1199.34

5.c. Entertainments and Bar Member

Events proposed for the rest of this year are:

December Branch Christmas Meal - 14th December, 19:00 - Alma Inn, Linton, (Off Fording Lane, Ross-on-Wye, HR9 7RY)

The Entertainments member also has several Branch mugs available to sell at £5 each and that if anyone wanted a Branch T-Shirt with the new RBL branding on please let him know, Rick needs a minimum order of 8, please email with sizes. Entertainments Member email for contact: rick@axon.org.uk

5.d. Branch Padre

<p>General thanks and appreciation to all involved in Remembrance Day celebrations/commemorations. Martha, ATC Bugler performed wonderfully especially as she was unwell on the day.</p> <p><u>5.e. Parade Marshal</u></p> <p>The Branch Standard was paraded at the Newent Community School act of Remembrance on 11 November and afterwards for the wreath laying in the school hall.</p> <p>On Sunday 13 November there was a very large turnout for the Remembrance Parade organised by Newent Town Council (NTC). After the march through the Town, there was a Guard of Honour outside Saint Mary's Church provided by all the Standard Bearers present. After the Church service, the Parade reassembled by the War Memorial for the Act of Remembrance. Thanks go to NTC for organising the road closures and to all the uniformed groups for their participation and smart turnout.</p> <p>There were no other officer reports.</p>	
<p><u>6. Any Other Business</u></p> <p>6.a. Welfare Officer.</p> <p>With cooperation from TRBL HQ the branch was authorised to use £200 of Branch funds under a 'branch crisis grants' for one of the branches current welfare beneficiaries. This was voted on and agreed on unanimously. The funds should be reimbursed by TRBL.</p> <p>6.b. Donation from Newent Young Farmers Club (YFC)</p> <p>SU has received a cheque from Newent Young Farmers Club for this years Poppy Appeal. SU has volunteered to drop off the Cheque to the local Poppy Appeal Organiser CT. The Chairman offered to write a Letter of Thanks for the donation to Newent Young Farmer, also distributed through SU.</p> <p>6.c. Padre Pat was pleased to hear that the Remembrance Service at Newent Community School & the church went well but was unable to attend due to other commitments.</p> <p>6.d. Raffle DP passed his thanks to all members for the warm welcome and stated that the raffle would continue at the January meeting.</p> <p>6.e. Christmas Cake Fundraiser.</p> <p>We received any offer of a Christmas Cake Fundraiser from Longhope and District Branch. They have a member who would makes Christmas Cakes to help raise funds. The information for this was sent out in a separate email due to technical difficulties in getting the minutes out promptly after the meeting.</p>	<p>Chairman SU NYFC</p>
<p><u>7. Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>7.a. The next Meeting will 26 January 2023 at 19:00 hrs in the Memorial Hall. The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 20:00 hrs.</p>	<p>All</p>

Agenda

Newent & District Branch of the Royal British Legion

26 January 2023

1. Act of Remembrance.
2. Apologies for Absence.
3. Chairman's Report.
4. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising.
5. Reports by Officers.
6. Any Other Business.
7. Date of Next Meeting.