

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

**Meeting held on 23 June 2022**

<b><u>Attendees</u></b>	<b><u>Post</u></b>
Keith Urch Rev Simon Mason Rev Pat Phillips Helen Axon Susan Urch Dave Pollock Adrian Dover Jonathan Miles Viv Miles	BCS Representative, Deputy Chairman, Youth Liaison and Membership Secretary. Padre Deputy Padre Treasurer
<b><u>Item</u></b>	<b><u>Action</u></b>
<b><u>1. Act of Remembrance</u></b> The Deputy Chairman Opened the Meeting at 19:00 hrs, read the names of those from the Parish of Newent who had lost their lives during WWI and WWII during the months of July and concluded with the Act of Remembrance.	
<b><u>2. Apologies</u></b> Apologies had been received from Richard and Elaine Balding, Rick and Tom Axon, Mary Curtis, Colin Calcutt, Tom Heseltine, Graham Barton, Pat and John Price, David Sass	
<b><u>Chairman's Report – 23 June 2022 in the Memorial Hall</u></b>	
<b><u>Introduction</u></b> Good evening and welcome, first of all my thanks go to the Deputy Chairman and Treasurer for standing in for myself and the Secretary for this meeting, please give them as much hassle as you give me! My report starts with the Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations: <b><u>Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations update – 2-5 June 2022</u></b>  For those of you that were around between the 2 <sup>nd</sup> to 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2022, I hope managed to participate in some or all of the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations held by Newent for HM the Queen. I managed to get to all the events and thoroughly every one, obviously the diet went out the window and we enjoyed a rain free weekend of festivities, particularly impressed with the turnout of towns people, thanks go to Newent Town Council, Memorial Hall, the Churches of Newent,	

Glebe Chapel Hub, Josh from Newent Air Cadets and Graham for not only parading the standard at the Flag ceremony and Memorial Hall but Marshalling the parade on Sunday with plan 'F' including last minute venue changes.

### **County BCS Training Course 11 June 2022**

Keith and I attended the Branch Community Support (BCS) training course on 11 June 2022 in Stoke Gifford, the training went a lot better than we expected primarily due to the trainer Matt Ford who is the BCS Partnership Development worker for the BCS support team. I'm not certain we learnt anything different or new but we did get a very good overview on the whole BCS process, to which I might add our branch appears to be doing everything right. I'm sure Keith will let you know his feelings on the course.

### **Newent Ukrainian Hub Meeting and Lunch 28 May 2022**

The organisers of Newent Ukrainian Hub organised a Lunch at Picklenash School on Saturday 28 May 2022 starting at 12pm, in last month's meeting the Branch were invited to attend as an interested party. With no other volunteers from the branch Elaine and I attended the lunch and spent a nice hour in the company of like-minded people.

The main purpose of the lunch was to welcome Ukrainian families to Newent and for the various organisations involved to meet up and discuss ideas and proposals, several Ukrainian families attended and were very grateful for all the support they had already received. The organisations that I spotted and talked to were: Rotary Club, who are doing a fantastic job of coordinating the Newent collections and have many good ideas going forward, also represented was the Gloucester Ukrainian Church, who gave a heart felt address and GARAS (Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers) who are supporting the Community Groups around Gloucestershire and helping to coordinate this project. Newent Town Council (NTC) and the Guiding community were also represented along with St Mary's who provided the excellent lunch.

### **Newent Onion Fayre – Cancellation**

As most of you will already know this years Onion Fayre has been cancelled, unfortunately we had already secured and paid for our 'Pitch', I have therefore asked the treasurer to recoup the money back from the Onion Fayre committee, I have also informed the Poppy Appeal Organiser (PAO) that we can no longer have a joint stall at the Fayre. If anyone has any ideas on suitable events whereby we can promote the Branch and collect a few donations towards the Poppy Appeal, please let us know.

Since writing this I've had confirmation from the Chairman of the Onion Fayre Committee that they have received our bank details and will be crediting our account with the monies paid, he also mentioned that ***"Ledbury Carnival have been in touch and their event takes place on August Bank Holiday, Monday 29th August and they***

**have some space available. They are offering free space for charity and not-for-profit organisations. If we are interested in a pitch, we will need to contact Janet Mededith on 07858 599037, or e-mailjsykes1936@live.co.uk**

**Hopefully this may help replace the fund raising/awareness opportunity for your organisation that has been lost by the cancellation of the Onion Fayre.”**

If anyone is interested in running with this, it could be a good opportunity but would need volunteers to help with set-up and running the stall, please let the Deputy Chairman know your idea's. I am currently free so would be able to offer my support.

**Branch Committee Positions**

As I've mentioned previously, the branch is looking for a Secretary to join the committee. The Secretary is a mandatory requirement of maintaining a branch. If a Secretary is not found then in all likelihood our branch would be amalgamated with another branch or disbanded, and I have also decided to standdown at this years AGM, so if anyone would like to take on the Chairman's role I would be happy to show you the ropes. So please if you have any thoughts or suggestions on recruiting a Secretary or Chairman please let me know.

**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.

Regards and best wishes  
Richard

All Branch  
Members

**4. Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising**

**Matters Arising.**

SM gave an update on the work of the Ukrainian Hub. Numbers are increasing of those coming to stay locally. Many have left families behind. Hosts will need to be checked by an Environmental Health Officer and be DBS checked. There is a need to help those who have already arrived here.

SM reported that the planned sponsored walk has been cancelled due to ill-health. This may be resumed in the future.

Approval of Minutes:  
Proposed by SM, seconded by PP. All agreed as accurate.

## **Branch Community Support (BCS) Report for June 2022**

### **Deputy Chairman/Membership/Youth Liaison/Branch Community Support (BCS)**

Being ever mindful of our friends and colleagues that are suffering ill health, caring for other family members and friends, we remember that we are always here to assist and support; you only need to contact one of the Committee.

### **Membership, Branch Community Support Representative and Youth Liaison Officer**

TRBL HQ businesses have fully returned to a new level of normal.

Your BCS representative and your Chairman attended the BCS training and safeguarding training session on Saturday, 11th June, in Stoke Gifford, Bristol.

It was an interesting event but more of an overview of the BCS process and the way in which it is being developed.

For those members particularly interested in supporting all aspects of BCS, on-line courses are now available and The Branch should be given access to these in the very near future.

Once all three primary courses are completed, including one relating to Basic DBS clearance, The Branch will have a formally registered BCS representative, able to process a variety of RBL BCS activities.

Further updates will be available upon issue and completion of these courses.

Members are also reminded of key Officer vacancies within the Branch, without which The Branch may be forced to close or integrate with another Branch.

### **Welfare and Membership**

TRBL continues with its Strategic Review: the rollout of the BCS process after some two years is an excellent step forward.

### **Welfare**

The Branch continues to aid and support its members and veterans, in the first instant, by signposting them to the National RBL Helpline. The National RBL Helpline 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](https://support.veteransgateway.org.uk/app/answers/detail/a_id/127/~the-royal-british-legion)

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

### **Branch Membership**

In accordance with TRBL records, current Branch Membership stands at 47 members.

Having welcomed our two new members, Clare and Martin Gregory from Redmarley, we look forward to their attendance at Branch events.

### **Branch Statistics**

Fortunately, once again, The Branch has not been presented with any new formal requests for support this period.

However, as a caring Branch, members have kindly provided various levels of assistance to their colleagues and friends in need of support.

In the event that members identify a comrade in need, they are encouraged to contact their BCS Representatives at the earliest convenience.

Branch Statistics for this period are therefore as follows:

Total Number of Welfare visits	2
How many beneficiaries "visited"	2
How many visitors (Branch Community Supporters)	4
Total Welfare Expenditure	NIL
Telephone Buddies:	
Total Number of Calls made by Branch Executive	8
Telephone – How many beneficiaries called	2
Telephone – How many telephone buddies:	5

In addition, to the above, a small number of email communications were also made during this period.

### **Community and Youth Liaison**

Communications have continued between Newent Community School, Glos Constabulary (PCSOs) and certain businesses regarding recent anti-social behaviour.

We have now received assurances that many issues have been resolved.

Ongoing:

The young people's activity group YAG has become independent of Newent Town Council and a meeting is being arranged to encourage

their support and involvement with TRBL. YAG is currently in the process of developing their processes and procedures.

### **TRBL HQ Liaison**

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

### **Other Branch Information**

#### **Branch Communcations OS365**

Your representative continues to await TRBL HQ links to be reinstated but in the meantime your Chairman is supporting the transfer of TRBL information.

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## **REPORTS FROM OFFICERS**

### **Treasurer's Report**

The Onion Fayre Committee have returned our payment for the stall. The current balance is £1191.34

### **Entertainments Member Report**

Events proposed for the rest of this year are:

#### **July**

**Nothing Planned**

#### **August**

**Branch BBQ** – 2pm Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>, 35 Fordhouse Road  
Please bring your own food to the BBQ for cooking and bring something to sit on.  
The Bar will be available, though members may bring their own drinks.  
Salads and light deserts etc will be provided once numbers are known this will be funded out of RBL Branch funds.

#### **September Skittles –**

Possible match with the Ross-On-Wye Conservative club.

**Onion Fayre** – Cancelled

**Afternoon/Cream tea** – Trioscape -

Date to be confirmed.

#### **October**

**Skittles** – Dependent on numbers.  
**Cheese and Wine** - after AGM

#### **November**

**Skittles** - Dependent on numbers.

<p><b>Social in Cobblers</b> - Date to be confirmed. (RA to book).</p> <p><b>December Skittles</b> - Dependent on numbers. <b>Branch Christmas Meal</b> - Date to be confirmed. (RA to book).</p>	
<p><b>6. Any Other Business</b></p> <p>SM reported that the County Council has agreed to convene an “inter-agency share” with regards to safeguarding. Confidentiality within each agency often prevents them from sharing information with other agencies. County Council involvement should help sharing information.</p> <p>SM also hopes that Remembrance service will return to pre-covid status.</p> <p>The new head of Newent Community School, will be approached regarding Remembrance Commemorations at the school.</p> <p>AD asked who had been appointed as Head. This is Dawn Burke, previously of Harrow Grammar.</p> <p>PP informed that Tom Heseltine gave his apologies as it is his wife Jenny’s birthday.</p> <p>DP information about a forthcoming event to be held at The Park, Wormelow, Hereford. This will be the Violette Szabo Celebration. DP outlined details of Violette’s life as a member of the SOE during WWII. This was portrayed in the film: “Carve her name with Pride”</p> <p>Details of the event are attached.</p>	
<p><b>7. Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>The next Meeting will be held on 28 July 2022 at 19:00 hrs in the Memorial Hall.</p> <p>The Deputy Chairman closed the meeting at 7:50pm</p>	<p>All</p>