

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

Meeting held 28 July 2022 at the Memorial Hall

<u>Attendees</u>	<u>Post</u>
Richard Balding Keith Urch Elaine Balding Pat Phillips Susan Urch Pat Price Dave Pollock Colin Thompson	Chairman Deputy Chairman, BCS Rep, Youth Liaison and Membership Secretary Raffle Coordinator Deputy Padre Poppy Appeal Organiser (PAO)
<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 the Memorial Hall. 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 August and concluded with the Act of Remembrance.</p>	
<u>2. Apologies</u> <p>Apologies had been received from Adrian Dover, Graham Barton, Rick Axon, Helen Axon, Tom Axon, John Celino, Mary Curtis, Viv Miles, Jon Miles, John Price, Sue Colbourne, David Sass, Colin Calcott and Tom Heseltine.</p>	
<u>3. Chairman's Report</u> <u>Introduction</u> <p>Good evening and welcome, thanks first of all to our Deputy Chairman and Treasurer for standing in at the last meeting, whilst Elaine and I enjoyed a couple to trips away.</p> <p>My report this month is very short, however I did receive the following emails:</p> <u>3.a.Tibberton show – 20 August 2022</u> <p>At the beginning of July, I was contacted by the Secretary of the Tibberton Show - Hylary Kingham who gave us the following offer: <i>“we are resuming this year after a break because of Covid. We run competitions in the marquee, for horticulture, and home crafts, which are always keenly contested. One of the categories in the Needlework section is for ‘6 knitted poppies to be donated to the British Legion’. I hope they will be welcome!”</i> I have graciously accepted this offer on behalf of Newent and District Branch of the RBL with a suggestion to use the poppies for generating donations towards the Poppy Appeal.</p> <u>3.b. Health & Wellbeing Invitation Event</u> <p>I also received the following email from Beverley Paxton whom works as part of the Health & Wellbeing Team for TWNS (Tewkesbury, West Chelt, Newent & Staunton). Beverley stated: <i>“We are based in Tewkesbury but cover all 5 surgeries. We have recently held a very successful Health &</i></p>	

<p><i>Wellbeing event for the local community here in Tewkesbury & are looking to replicate the same for Newent.</i></p> <p><i>We invite Local Support Networks – Community Police, Fire & Rescue, Age UK, Alzheimer’s Society, Active Gloucestershire, Healthy Lifestyles, Bereavement Groups, U3A, local theatre & Library plus a whole host of others to give help & advise to the local community & would really like the RBL to attend to give help & advice to veterans</i></p> <p><i>The event is on Friday 2nd September 10 – 1pm in Newent’s Glebe Chapel Hall & we really hope that you may be able to attend?</i></p> <p><i>If you could come back to me to advise I would really appreciate it & perhaps we could arrange for me to pop over to talk you through the event?”</i></p> <p>I have sent Beverley a reply to indicated that we would discuss it at this meeting and I will get back to her with our decision.</p> <p>After some discussion it was decided that the Branch would have representatives at this event anyone who is interested in volunteering for this event should let the Chairman know, the Chairman would write back to Beverley with the decision.</p> <p><u>3.c. Branch Committee Positions</u></p> <p>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 after being in the role for 7 years, a volunteer is required to take on the Chairman’s role; I will be happy to show any successer the ropes. So please if you have any thoughts or suggestions on recruiting a Secretary or Chairman please let me know.</p> <p><u>3.d. Finally</u></p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Chairman</p>
<p><u>4. Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising</u></p> <p>The Minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record and no matters arising.</p> <p>Proposed by: SU, Seconded by PP and agreed unanimously.</p>	
<p><u>5. Reports by Officers</u></p> <p><u>5.a. Poppy Appeal Organiser (PAO)</u></p> <p>The PAO stated that due to the cancellation of the Onion Fayre for this year, the Memorial Hall was now available for hire on that Saturday if anyone needed the space.</p> <p>The PAO then went on to state that he had received a letter from the National Poppy Appeal Organisation to say that this year Newent & District PAO had received donations to the appeal of £11,929.45, he went on to say that approximately £8,500 of that total was donated in cash so the remainder is made up of direct payments.</p>	

All the members present agreed that under the current incredible circumstances this was an absolutely brilliant total so far and that the PAO should be congratulated for his continuing endeavours, a vote of thanks was given by all those in attendance.

5.b. Entertainments and Bar Member

The Entertainments and Bar Members report was read out by the Chairman:

Events proposed for the rest of this year are:

August - Branch BBQ – 2pm Saturday 6th, 35 Fordhouse Road
Please bring your own food and drink to the BBQ and bring some-thing to sit on. Helen and I will be away so there will be no bar available, 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 (RA to organise)

November - Skittles - Dependent on numbers.
Social in Cobblers - Date to be confirmed. (RA to book).

December - Skittles - Dependent on numbers.
Branch Christmas Meal - Date to be confirmed. (RA to book).

The Chairman stated that he would ask how many members would be attending the BBQ so that details could be finalised.

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.c. Treasurers Report

The Treasurer's report was read out by the Chairman:

There have been no transactions in the last 30 days.

The balance stands at £1191.34.

The end of year report (30th June 2022) has been returned to the MSO. There has been no confirmation that this has been received despite an email from me requesting this.

The Chairman stated that he would follow up on this with the County Membership Support Officer.

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

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

Chairman

Chairman

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

Having attended the recent BCS training and safeguarding training session in Stoke Gifford, Bristol, I am pleased to report that the links to the BCS courses are now available to all members that wish to participate in BCS activities.

Both your Chairman and Deputy have completed the on-line training courses.

While TRBL continues with its Strategic Review: the rollout of the BCS process is an excellent step forward and we are assured that even more information will be available in the coming months.

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.

5.d.1. 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

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

5.d.2. Branch Membership

In accordance with TRBL records, currently Branch Membership stands at 45 members.

We look forward to being able to welcome our two new members, Clare and Martin Gregory from Redmarley, in due course.

5.d.3. Branch Statistics

Fortunately, 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	0
How many beneficiaries "visited"	0
How many visitors (Branch Community Supporters)	0
Total Welfare Expenditure	NIL
Telephone Buddies:	
Total Number of Calls made by Branch Executive	0
Telephone – How many beneficiaries called	0
Telephone – How many telephone buddies:	0

However, a small number of email communications were made during this period.

<p><u>5.d.4. Community and Youth Liaison</u></p> <p>Members are reminded of the forthcoming events:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Branch h BBQ at 35 Fordhouse Road, Newent, Saturday 6th August, commencing 1:30pm 2. Branch invitation to join Newent Local History Society outing to Litchfield, Thursday, 11th August: details below: <p>NOTE: All bookings etc direct to Dood Pearce (doodpearce@btinternet.com)</p> <p>Visit to The Staffordshire Regiments Museum and Litchfield. We will leave Newent Central Car Park at 9-00am and arrive at the Staffordshire Regiments Museum about 10-30am. We will have a guided tour of the Museum which includes outdoor WW I trenches with sound effects and some military vehicles.</p> <p>At about 12-30pm we will drive into Litchfield where you will have about 2½ hours of free time to get some lunch, visit the Cathedral or do some shopping.</p> <p>We will depart about 3-15pm and arrive back in Newent about 4-45pm.</p> <p>The cost including the coach, the tour and entry to the museum and tips is £23.</p> <p>Friends and non-members are welcome</p> <p>Please send your booking form to Dood Pearce, Arron Ross Road Newent, Glos, GL18 1BE and make cheques payable to Newent Local History Society</p> <p>Your representative has met with Dawn Burke (Head, Newent Community School) and appraised her of the John Whitehorn Trophy and Remembrance Day activities.</p> <p>The planned meeting with the young peoples’s activity group YAG, unfortunately had to be rescheduled due to school related end of term activities.</p> <p>The Newent Local History Society has invited members to participate on their forthcoming trip to Litchfield</p> <p><u>5.d.5. TRBL HQ Liaison and Branch Communications (OS365)</u></p> <p>For further information relating to other HQ/Branch communications and other local activities, please see your Chairman’s and other Representative Reports.</p> <p>There were no other officer reports.</p>	
<p><u>6. Any Other Business</u></p> <p>6.a. The Chairman mentioned that the County News Letter for June/July was now available and that he would attach them to the completed minutes.</p> <p>6.b. The Raffle Coordinator asked if anyone has any unwanted gifts, she would welcome any donations to help with the selection of raffle prizes.</p>	Chairman
<p><u>7. Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>7.a. The next Meeting will be held on 25 August 2022 at 19:00 hrs in the Memorial Hall. The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 20:00 hrs.</p>	All

Agenda for Meeting of Newent and District Royal British Legion

Branch on 25 August 2022

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.