



“THE JENDIT”

All the clips!

THE CREWKERNE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



WINTER EDITION 2019/2020

The passing of Judge Roger Hall

It is with Great sadness that we must first announce the passing of our dear friend Roger Hall. Roger has been a branch member for many years and has always led from the front when it came to supporting The Royal British Legion. Roger would always help out at events, be it fundraising or just showing the flag, he was always immaculately turned out in his former regimental mess uniform and Glengarry cap with feather. Roger was without doubt a great attraction especially at our annual trip to Weymouth Veteran's day parade. Roger had been living alone at his home in Haselbury Plucknett after his wife passed away 2 years ago, however he spent Christmas with his daughter in the north east but on Christmas day he suffered a stroke and was admitted to hospital, where he passed away 2 days later. Roger will be sorely missed by us all at the Legion and by many in the wider community as he was a larger than life character



Roger leads the Crewkerne RBL at the Weymouth Parade 2016



who always spoke with an air of authority. Our thoughts go out to his family and friends. God Bless you Roger.

Remembrance

Leading up to this year's Remembrance, branch members took time out to visit the various youth and childrens groups around the town, starting with the Brownies at Speedwell Hall and then on to the Cubs, Scouts and Beavers.



The Brownies offered us cakes during our visit.



Vice Chairman, Tony Smith visits the Cubs.



Cadets help with collecting at the Poppy Launch.



Branch Secretary and Vice Chairman visit the Scouts.

Poppy Appeal Launch 26th November

This year was our first ever Poppy Appeal Launch in Crewkerne, and to set this off the Crewkerne branch RBL were honoured for the Town Crier, David Craner, to announce the launch at 10:00. Following this announcement, the Mayor, Kathy Head, presented a prize to Taylor Wills from Ashlands School for the naming of the Legion Lion competition. The name she chose was 'Winston', well done Taylor.

Winston spent many hours that day waving to the local community and although he got very cold and soggy, he was very pleased that drivers responded with a wave or a toot. Crewkerne Army Cadet Force were very supportive by selling poppies



Taylor receives her prize from Mayor Kathy Head.



around the town whilst dodging the raindrops. The branch were very proud of them and were truly grateful that they gave up their Saturday to support the Poppy Appeal. Somerset Legion Riders braved the elements to support Crewkerne. Their bikes were a prominent display outside the Town Hall and they attended the stall all day and were a great attraction, so many thanks to the Riders. A special thanks also goes to Tim Garrett whose creative slates portraying various war artwork, were very popular and he donated 20% to the Poppy Appeal.

Thank you to Adam Parkes LAET (RN) and his children, Adam turned up in his uniform to support the occasion.

We would like to thank the members of the Crewkerne branch RBL, because without them these events would not be possible, thanks also to Bob King, Poppy Appeal Officer (PAO) and his deputy Darren Bradbury. Finally, a special thanks goes to the community of Crewkerne who popped by and stopped to support the Poppy Appeal 2019. Waitrose and Lidl were also very supportive. The first day's collection in the whole of the town was just under £1000, which was a fantastic result. Thank you everyone involved.

Affiliation with St. Bartholomew's

On Friday the 8th November, children from St. Bart's school joined us at the war memorial on Severalls Avenue for a short service of Remembrance. Following this, branch and committee members went to the school where we were joined by teachers, parents, the County



Rita with the affiliation cake.

Chairman, Robert McDonald and County Youth Affiliation Officer, John Headford. This was to confirm our affiliation with the school. The County Chairman spoke of the importance of the RBL being relevant to young people so that Remembrance continues long into the future.

The headteacher Mrs. Coward also spoke about the pride with which the school feels to be affiliated with such a long standing and important charity as ours. We now hope that in the future we can work to support each other with projects and fundraising. After there was tea and cakes for all and a very special affiliation cake, kindly made by our own Rita Brown.



Headteacher Gemma Coward and County Chairman Robert McDonald

Soldiers and Poppies around the town During Remembrance you may have noticed that all the main routes into town were adorned with poppies and a soldier silhouette, the soldiers were kindly made and donated by branch member Peter Heather to whom we are truly grateful. Thanks must also go to Tony Smith, Darren Bradbury and Charlotte Brennan for helping put the soldiers and poppies out.



Arthur Watts and John Smith, Branch Standard Bearers.



Remembrance Sunday



Two minutes silence before the match

Remembrance Sunday was once again extremely well attended by Cadets, Scouts, Guides, Cubs, Brownies, Beavers and Rainbows and not forgetting the serving members of the armed forces, Police, Fire Service and local councillors. Following the Parade at Severalls many of us went down to the Church Service at St. Bart's where wreaths were laid outside by the town's organisations and inside the children of St. Bart's choir sang their Remembrance song and the names of the fallen were read out just before a cascade of poppies was released from the church ceiling. Following the church service, we had an afternoon's entertainment at the George Reynolds Centre with music provided by the Decadettes and food provided by Sue Wills and her catering team at the GRC. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Sue and Sarah at the GRC for providing an excellent lunch. We would like to make a special mention to Arthur Watts and John Smith for parading the Standard and union flag respectively. John is our new deputy standard bearer, and this was his debut. Towards the end of the afternoon our friends at Crewkerne Rugby club invited us to hold a two-minute silence before the commencement of the lady's match against Cullompton. This was carried out by the branch Chairman Tony Samuel and Bugler Mark Barrett along with branch Secretary Alice Samuel.

Armistice

Armistice Day was also well attended in Falkland Square. The service was led by the Rev. Newman a prayer was read by pupils from St. Bart's School, Kent Sibley played the last post and reveille and the wreath was laid by branch President Terry Austin.



Members of the community in Falkland Square for Armistice.

Christmas lighting up

On Friday 29th November six branch members assisted with the Christmas lighting up in town they helped with traffic control and fundraising. Branch Secretary was Santa's helper and of course Winston our new branch mascot joined the parade. Then a few days later three members helped the Crewkerne Rotary club with their annual Christmas fundraising by escorting Santa's sleigh around the Ashlands Road estate so all in all this Autumn has been a very busy time for us all at the Branch.

Carols on the Green

On Friday 13th December we intended to hold a carol service on Severalls green but unfortunately the weather was against us so the Cubs kindly allowed us to use their hall where the children from St. Barts School gave us some lively renditions of some favourite Christmas songs.



The Tommy at Severalls

Some of you may have noticed, that the Tommy soldier on the war memorial is starting to show serious signs of deterioration, which is not surprising when you consider he has been there in the elements, for nearly 100 years. At this year's AGM, the Chairman Tony Samuel, put forward a proposal to investigate the possibilities of having the soldier replaced. A team of branch members have now had their first meeting to discuss the way forward with this idea, and how to raise the funds required, for what will be quite an expensive project. We believe there are several charities out there that have the funds for just such a project and we will keep you updated on our progress in future editions of the Jendit.



The Tommy at Severalls, looking a little worse for ware

Poppy Appeal so far 2019/20

Our Poppy Appeal Officer, Bob King, reported in January that the Crewkerne Poppy Appeal total so far stood at a staggering £16,015.14 which is a truly fantastic figure and praise must go to Bob, Darren and their team of helpers for such an outstanding effort, this is by far the most we have ever raised in Crewkerne.

County Conference awards

On Sunday the 12th of January, eight committee members attended the County Conference, held at Taunton Golf club. And as is customary at this event a number of awards were handed to various branches. This year Crewkerne Branch were highly commended for efficiency, also our Poppy Officer Bob King won an award for outstanding efforts with the Poppy Appeal, and Branch Chairman Tony Samuel won "Volunteer of the Year" this is the third year running that someone from Crewkerne has won this award, previous winners being, Alice Samuel, last year, and President Terry Austin in 2018. So well done to all, it's always good to see Crewkerne Branch getting a mention at County Conference.



The Branch receive three awards this year.

Visit to St. Bart's School

On 17th January, St Bart's School invited branch members to attend the unveiling of their 3D artwork that the whole school were involved in making and it depicts the RBL emblem in a field of poppies with white crosses, the children were assisted by local artist Darrell Wakelam who was also in attendance for the unveiling.





Severalls Jubilee Bowls Club

Our friends at the bowling club in Severalls have asked us to inform you that it's that time of the year when they start planning their Open Day in an effort to increase their membership. They would really appreciate it if we would give their Open Day a mention in the Jendit. This year they are offering a 1-year free membership for anyone who comes to their Open Day and decides to join their club on the day, also, they will be offering coaching to anyone wishing to try bowling and free refreshments throughout the day. If anyone would like more information, then please contact Geoff Kerr on 01308 867221.

Committee members

- PresidentTerry Austin
- ChairmanAntony Samuel
- Vice ChairmanAnthony Smith
- Secretary.....Alice Samuel
- TreasurerVivien Green
- Committee.....Sue Phinn
- Committee.....Peter Brown
- Committee.....Rita Brown
- Committee.....Sandie Smith
- Committee.....Robert King
- Committee.....John Davies
- Committee.....John Smith
- Committee.....Arthur Hamlin
- Committee.....Peter Heather
- Poppy Appeal Officer...Robert King
- Standard Bearer.....Andrew Watts
- Membership Sec.....Alice Samuel
- BCS RepSandie Smith
- BCS Sec.....Alice Samuel
- BCS Treasurer..... Vivien Green

