



"SANDBAG"
WINCANTON AND DISTRICT
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION NEWSLETTER



NEWS FROM THE BRANCH

Branch Chairman
Rob Dickinson

September/October 2021

Branch secretary
Steve Lee 01963 34374

Dear Members, as we all know the COVID pandemic has disrupted so much of our daily life and from a Branch perspective this has prevented us from holding any meetings (other than by Zoom), and social gatherings. As we ease towards some form of normality it is time for us all to look to the future and plan how we continue to work towards the longevity of the Branch. As many of you will know Tony Goddard our current Branch President and the driving force of the Branch, assisted by others over the years has given formal notification of his pending retirement at the end of September 2021. We all know how hard Tony has worked over the years for the Branch, so many events and commemorations which take a lot of organisation. It is with great pride that we are now able to announce that Tony has been awarded an RBL Gold Badge in recognition of all his work over many years. We will be holding a presentation for Tony on Saturday 25th September at 11 am in the old stables block at the Dolphin Hotel, Wincanton. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend to say a big 'Well Done', and 'Thank You', for all his tireless work over the years. It will indeed be very difficult to maintain such efforts but we will continue as best we can to keep the Branch going and active. Andy Chilton our Branch Treasurer will also be retiring from his role at the end of September and we thank Andy for all his efforts. In order to keep the Branch going we really do need other members to help, there will be several committee roles to be filled, we appreciate that this can be a daunting thing to do but together we can re-build. Our remaining committee members all work full time but are prepared to keep going, communication will be key so we have posted a copy of this 'Sandbag', to all our current members, if you'd prefer to keep receiving your copy by post please let us know, alternatively please contact the Branch Secretary, Steve Lee, if you would like a copy emailed. This option does help keep the cost down but we are fully aware that some may prefer a hard copy or may not have the means to receive emails. Either way please let Steve know by telephone on 01963 34374 or by email at steve-clare1@tiscali.co.uk. We would stress that it is really important that you let us know how you wish to be contacted in the future. 'Sandbag', is and always has been key to communicating, we will continue to produce although it may not be as regular as previously. We also like to stress that it is your Newsletter so please do tell us your stories relating to appropriate matters. Welfare plays a huge part in the RBLs current work so we will continue to keep you updated on the latest news. If you need help please just ask and we'll guide you in the right direction. If you'd like a visit or a telephone call just to chat please let us know, supporting our members is key. We plan to hold our AGM on Saturday 30th October 2021 and with this in mind we'd be grateful if you could read the AGM guidance information on page 2 and respond accordingly. Sadly over recent years we've lost so many long standing and active members. We sincerely hope that we can continue to keep the Branch going and hopefully attracting new members and at the same time looking after our existing ones. **Steve**

**Royal British Legion free Welfare helpline 0808
8028080**



The Branch are most grateful to David Sales, (brother of Brian Sales who I'm sure many of you will know from Wincanton), who very kindly donated this wonderful collection of un-used British postage stamps. David was keen for the collection to go to a worthy Charity and due to the subject matter of the stamps he felt the RBL would be an appropriate choice. The collection comprises of many Poppy related stamps and other military themed subjects. As a Branch, we'd be keen to hear all member's thoughts on what to do with the collection. If you have any suggestions please contact the Branch Secretary, Steve Lee, by telephone on 01963 34374 or email steve-clare1@tiscali.co.uk

FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE - Membership Ticketing - The Royal British Legion
Festival of Remembrance will be held in the Royal Albert Hall, London on Saturday 13 November 2021 with performances at 2.00pm and 7.00pm.



Saturday 25th September 11 am

All members are invited to attend a very special presentation to Branch President Tony Goddard. Tony has been awarded the Royal British Legion's Gold Badge for his outstanding contribution to the Branch and beyond over many years. The presentation will take place in the old stable block at the Dolphin Hotel, just off the High Street in Wincanton.

Somerset County weekly Bulletin. Our County MSO (Membership Support Officer) is currently producing a weekly RBL County Bulletin, this is emailed to the Branch Secretary usually on a Friday. If you'd like the Bulletin emailed each week, again, please contact the Branch Secretary (contact details above). In addition, a monthly County Newsletter is also emailed out, if you'd like this forwarded please let the Branch Secretary know. The County Newsletter is also available online at <http://counties.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/somerset> For those that may not have internet access hard copies can be made available via the Branch Secretary.

AGM

Wincanton Branch AGM - Saturday 30th October 2021. This year's AGM will be held in the old Stable block at the Dolphin Hotel just off the High Street. The meeting will commence at 11.15 am. All members are invited to attend, if you wish to attend please let the Branch Secretary know in advance. And if you wish to add any items to the agenda please submit in writing or email to the Branch Secretary. Nominations from members for Office and Committee are to reach the Branch Secretary at least seven days in advance of the AGM. If you wish to nominate a member the roles are; President, Vice-President, Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Standard Bearer and Committee Member.

Can you help?

Are you a Woman Veteran who left the Services between the last 2 and 20 years? Did you serve in the Royal Navy, Army or Royal Air Force? If so, and you would like to take part in research about your experiences during your transition to civilian life and your work life experiences since leaving the UK Armed Forces, I would really like to speak to you. WHAT IS THE RESEARCH ABOUT? I am interested in finding out how you make decisions regarding your work life, what your experiences of transition from military to civilian life were, your experiences of work in civilian life and how you measure success in the civilian world. WHAT DOES BEING PART OF THE RESEARCH INVOLVE? You would be invited to an interview lasting approximately one hour via an online platform. WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY DATA IF I TAKE PART IN THE STUDY? All participants will be assigned a pseudonym and data will be stored securely. The anonymized data will be reported in my thesis, potentially in further academic publications. WHY SHOULD I TAKE PART? By taking part you will contribute to a better understanding of the experiences of UK Armed Forces women veterans during transition and in the civilian world of work. ABOUT THE RESEARCHER My name is Andreana Glendinning, I am a veteran of the Royal Navy and I am a doctoral researcher in the Institute of Employment Research at the University of Warwick. This research is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council and the data generated will form the basis of my PhD thesis. This research has received ethical approval from the Humanities and Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee at the University of Warwick. If you would like more information about the research, or you have any questions please contact me at andreana.glendinning@warwick.ac.uk If you would like to take part please follow the link below and complete the questionnaire. Longer-Term Working Lives of UKAF Women Veterans (warwick.ac.uk) Data from the questionnaire will be used to find out if you meet the criteria to be a participant in this study.

2021 marks the 100th Anniversary of the Royal British Legion to see and learn more visit <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/about-us/our-centenary/telling-our-story> There will be a tour of Somerset's RBL history in photos travelling around the county for those who wish to visit. Here are the current location and date details; Pawlett Club 24/25th September., Weston super Mare 5th -7th November (Sovereign Centre), Shepton Mallet 12th -14th November (local Parish church), and Chard in October date to be confirmed.

The message below from Her Majesty The Queen was passed to the Branch in the form of a commemorative copy from our National Chairman, Una Cleminson. The Queen's message was sent in recognition of the Royal British Legion's 100th Anniversary this year, 2021.



WINDSOR CASTLE

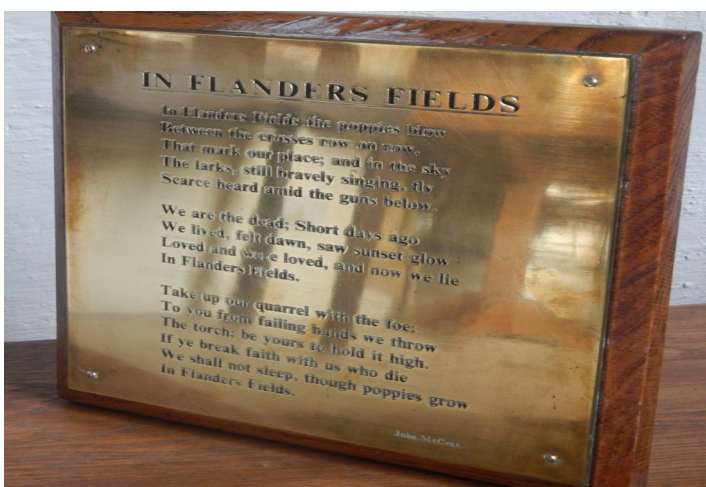
On the centenary of its formation, I send my heartfelt congratulations to the Royal British Legion at home and overseas, and commend its one hundred years of service to the Armed Forces community.

Since 1921, when four ex-service organisations joined together in a spirit of placing service to others before self, the Legion has worked with alacrity, intelligence and commitment, pursuing a mission of bringing together nations, communities and people to provide better futures for our Armed Forces, veterans and their families.

Remarkably, the Legion's purpose has remained unchanged to this day, as it continues to provide help and assistance to the Armed Forces community under a lifelong duty of care, whilst keeping its promise never to forget the service and sacrifice of those who have been prepared to step into harm's way, in defence of democracy and freedom.

As you reflect on your long history and consider your future, I have pleasure in sending all those associated with the Royal British Legion my best wishes on this very special anniversary.

ELIZABETH R.



A few years ago I discovered this wonderful plaque in St. Mary's Church, Beaminster, Dorset of John McCrae's classic War Poem 'In Flanders Field'.