

NEWS FROM THE BRANCH

Chairman Rob Dickinson

November 2021

Branch secretary
Steve Lee 01963-34374

‘Congratulations’ Tony

On Saturday 25th September 2021, Branch members and guests attended a very special presentation of a RBL Gold Badge to Tony Goddard at the Dolphin Hotel in Wincanton. The badge was presented to Tony by Phil Davies, Membership Council representative for Somerset & Wiltshire. Invited guests included Robert McDonald, County Chairman and Kate Hurley, County Membership Support Officer. It was a befitting celebration for all Tony’s work over many years. Tony also received a letter of congratulations and recognition from National Chairman, Una Cleminson. Guests enjoyed champagne and a slice of specially made cake. A very special ‘thank you’, to Branch member Bill Chaplin.



Remembrance Parade and Service

This year's Remembrance Parade and Parish Church Service will take place on Sunday 14th November 2021. After the challenges of the past two years the Parade and Service return to some form of normality and all those attending are asked to meet outside the Memorial Hall for 10 am. The Parade will march off promptly at 10.20 am to the Parish Church and a Remembrance Service at 10.45 am which will last for approximately one hour. The Parade will then form up and march back to Churchfield's car park. As we have all become so fully aware of we need to be very mindful of COVID so please be mindful that plans could change. It is also advised to wear a mask during the Church Service.

War Memorial Lights

Wonderful to see that lights have recently been added to the War Memorial located in the grounds of the Memorial Hall. Thanks Tony for the photograph and additional information. The Memorial Hall were able to secure a grant from Wincanton Town Council.



Poppy Appeal 2021

Poppy Appeal Organiser Dawn Old, will, at the time of writing be working very hard to bring together this year's collection and for those of you who have been involved with the collection previously you will fully appreciate how hard the task is under normal circumstances let alone with the challenges of COVID. Our best wishes to Dawn and her team and if you would like to help you contact Dawn direct by emailing her at oldiescottage@hotmail.co.uk or contact the Branch Secretary on the number on the front cover and I will pass on to Dawn.

Trips

Tony Goddard is organising a pre Christmas trip to Taunton on 18th November. The CAT bus will be departing from the Memorial Hall car park at 9.30 am and costing £12. There is very limited seating available so it is essential for members to register and pay as soon as possible. If you'd like to attend please call Tony directly on (01963) 824193. Hopefully further trips can be arranged so if you have any suggestions on where you'd like to go please do let Tony know.

Apologies for the belated announcement but it is with great sadness that I inform you all of the passing of three Branch member's and friends. Our sincere condolences to the families of Fred Keay, Mike Holmes and George Judd.

AGM

The Branch AGM was held on Saturday 30th October 2021 at the Dolphin Hotel, Wincanton. Due to COVID last year's AGM was postponed. It was good to finally meet up again and welcome long standing members and new ones. Apologies were given followed by the Exhortation from Branch Chairman Rob Dickinson followed by his welcome. The 2019 AGM Minutes were read out and matters arising from those Minutes were discussed. Rob then gave his Chairman's report high lightening the ceremonies which had taken place over the past two years under the restrictions of the pandemic. He also raised a vote of thanks to Tony Goddard and Andy Chilton for their work within the Branch in their various roles. The Branch Secretary informed the meeting that Wincanton and District Branch currently had 72 members and informed those in attendance that he would be over seeing 'Sandbag', the Branch newsletter which he hoped others would contribute to with relevant articles as it is the 'members', newsletter. He stressed the importance of the newsletter as a communication tool particularly at the present time. An over view of the last accounting year was then given both the Branch Secretary in the absence of a current Treasurer. The Election of Officers and Committee members then took place and the following were elected; Rob Dickinson - Chairman, Dave Roberts - President, Steve Lee - Secretary and stand-in Treasurer until another person offers to take on the role with the full support of the Committee. Other roles within the Branch which are still available should anyone wish to take on include Standard Bearer, Vice President and Committee Members, please contact the Branch Secretary if you'd like to know more or take on one of the roles. As the meeting drew to a close 'Any other Business', was followed by the Kohima Blessing.

Buddy calls

There are several members within the Branch who are more than happy to call for a chat. Isolation throughout the last two years now has been unprecedented so if you'd like a call just let the Branch Secretary know On (01963) 34374.

Thursday 11th November 2021

As with previous year's there will be a short Service at the War Memorial located in the grounds of Wincanton Memorial Hall. Those wishing to attend are asked to arrive at the Memorial for 10.45am. This will be followed by a laying of a wreath at the 'Old Faithful', memorial.

The Not Forgotten Organisation

The Not Forgotten Organisation are looking to organise a golf day on 29th June 2022 any person who plays golf will be welcome, to date I have around 7 teams who have expressed semi firm attendance, teams of ladies and men are invited. 'We provide events for wounded serving personnel and disabled veterans, which improve physical and mental health, address isolation and loneliness, and promote a sense of community and balance. This enables beneficiaries to live a normal, if not better life'. More information on the Organisation can be seen at www.thenotforgotten.org. If you are interested playing or would like to know more please contact the Branch Secretary.

Pre Christmas Lunch

Tony Goddard has pencilled in a pre Christmas lunch as interest was shown on recent trips. It is only tentative at the moment and the plan is to hold it at the Lamb & Lark pub in Limington near Yeovilton Village. The cost would be £19.95 for a two course meal or £24.95 for a three course meal, proposed date is 10th December possibly 1230 or 1300 hrs. Please see the menu below. For the lunch to happen Tony will need to know if you would like to attend as soon as possible so again can I ask that you contact Tony directly on (01963) 824193.

The Lamb and Lark Inn, Inn Keeping at its best Christmas Party Menu

STARTERS

Ham Hock Terrine

Served with warm toast & chutney (GF)

Creamy Parsnip & Apple Soup

Served with roll & butter (GF) (V) (VGN)

Smoked Salmon & Prawn Cocktail

Served with salad & roll & butter (GF)

Breaded Camembert

Served with red currant jellie (V)

Creamy Garlic Mushrooms

with sourdough toasted bread (V)

MAINS

Traditional Roast Turkey

Served with chestnut stuffing, pig in blanket, crispy roast potatoes, seasonal veg all with meat infused gravy (GF without stuffing)

Butchers 8oz Beef Burger

topped with crispy bacon, brie or stilton & cranberry sauce with French fries

Cod Loin wrapped in Smoked Salmon

With a white wine & parsley sauce served on a bed of wilted spinach with baby new potatoes and seasonal veg (GF)

Beef Bourguignon

Served with creamy mashed potatoes and seasonal veg.

Vegetable Wellington

Served with roasted stuffed cauliflower (V) (VGN)

DESSERTS

Traditional Christmas Pudding

with brandy sauce

Salted Caramel Brownie

with salted caramel ice cream or vegan ice cream (V) (VGN)

Orange Fig & Cinnamon Baked Cheesecake

with blood orange sorbet

Chocolate Roulade

With rum flavoured cream and chocolate ganache

Cheese & Crackers

Cheddar, Brie or Stilton & chutney (V) (GF)

Includes Tea / Coffee & Mince Pies

This menu must be pre-ordered. Please use the attached booking form.

Any meals cancelled within 24 hours or less must be paid for in full.

ALLERGIES

If you have food allergies or intolerances, you must let us know. Please do not assume anything! We cannot put all ingredients on the menu. Please mark your order form with any food allergies or intolerances – this is your responsibility.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Our cancellation policy is one that is fair but strict. If any of your party cancels less than 24 hours before your party date, they may still be charged in full. If you announce upon arrival at your party that any guest will not be attending you will be charged for their meal(s).