

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION (KILMINGTON BRANCH) AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2018

I can't believe that I am sending this out to you already, especially as we are still in August, however, at our latest committee meeting it was deemed a good idea as we have so much to tell you; whether it should be called the 'Autumn' edition or 'Summer Part 2' is still up for discussion. First our annual trip; on Wednesday 13th June, 34 members of the Kilmington RBL undertook a one-off deployment to the Tank museum at Bovington. For many this was the first visit for several years and everyone commented on the fantastic facility and large number of exhibits. While some commenced the visit with a second breakfast and welcome coffee, others took the opportunity to join a guided tour of the museum. After a fascinating and thoroughly enjoyable three hours everyone boarded the coach and headed for a prearranged lunch at the Martyrs Inn, Tolpuddle. Replenished and suitably refreshed the group then boarded the coach for the return

leg to Kilmington. Our thanks to Tony Thompkins for arranging a very interesting and enjoyable deployment (next year?)



Our next expedition saw us supporting the Axminster Ladies branch of the RBL at the Axe Vale Show on the 23rd & 24th June; during a very warm 48 hours, many people stopped and viewed the stand and an opportunity was taken to ask what they thought about the Royal British Legion. While most answers were favourable there was a clear message that the RBL needs to update its image and has to do more to appeal to the younger generation (I feel this needs to start in schools where our history should be

taught and understood, we have a heritage that we should all be proud of). Our next foray was in support of the Kilmington Flower Show & Village Fayre on 28th July, where a very busy team supplied over 150 burgers, sausages and bacon baps to visitors who braved the liquid sunshine to enjoy a fun filled family afternoon.

As previously highlighted, 2018 is a special year for the Royal British Legion, who have been marking the 100th Anniversary of the end of WW1 by staging events titled 'The Greatest Thank You' and Kilmington, as many of you will be aware was no different. As many of the Legion departed to France to take part in GP90, Kilmington RBL staged its 'Greatest Thank You' over the weekend 3rd to 5th August, slightly ahead of the National event and certainly got celebrations off to an incredible start when it staged three consecutive days of events. After nearly a year of planning and preparation, the weekend got off to a truly excellent start with a concert on Friday evening by the Lypstone Military Wives Choir in the Beacon Church. Under the Musical Director, Rachel Smith, the ladies of the choir entertained a sell-out audience of over 200 and encouraged lively audience participation in the "WW2 Medley".



On Saturday morning, it was the turn of Kilmington's children to enjoy a party in the decorated village hall, with food, a bouncy castle, face painting and a very entertaining clown/magician.

LIVE ON

Later the same day, came a fantastic double event: the Village Hall was again the venue for a family BBQ followed by a musical extravaganza and disco. On a very hot evening, the refreshment stand did a roaring trade as members and their guests sat at tables both inside and outside the hall to enjoy the excellent BBQ, (including a magnificent selection of puddings provided by volunteers). As the evening wore on, the focus moved into the hall with a disco and incredible solo performance by the international singer Gemma Louise Doyle, which prompted, among the younger participants, some enthusiastic participation on the dance floor.



On Sunday the mood became more serious when a service was held on Kilmington Common to dedicate an Oak tree planted to honour the men of Kilmington who gave their lives for their country in WW1. The service was led by Simon d'Albertanson, a Royal navy chaplain based at Lymptone, and a roll call of the men who gave their lives was read by Branch President, Roger Lovegrove. On completion many of those present then retired to the New Inn for a Sunday roast lunch, to reflect on the events of an incredibly successful weekend.



On Monday morning and having had time to reflect, it was clearly apparent that the Kilmington Branch of the Royal British Legion had staged and presented an event way beyond the comprehension of many, which was reflected in the generosity of all those who supported and participated in the weekend events; raising over £2450. I would like to say a huge thank you to all those who helped and supported us in making this an absolutely magical weekend, but most especially to your committee, who worked tirelessly to make this an incredible event. You might wonder, what next!! It's our AGM, which will be in the New Inn, Kilmington at 5pm on Fri 7th September, followed by our monthly get together in the same location. We are currently looking for willing recruits to stand as committee members and also the position of treasurer, so if you are interested can you please contact our Secretary Jean Falconer (01297 33708) as soon as possible. Following the AGM, at 7.30pm on Sat 15th September in Kilmington Village Hall we will be holding our annual lecture, this year presented by Jonathan Walker, the talk is called 'Passion and Power; Three Mistresses in the Great War' and provides a slightly lighter overview of events in WW1 (I say no more!!). At the end of October we will commence the official Poppy Appeal and we are currently looking for 2 new volunteers to assist!! Finally, our membership continues at around 127, however, we are always looking for new members to support our very worthy cause, so please come and join us 'KILMINGTON RBL NEEDS YOU'

Dates for your Diary:

Fri 7th September – AGM AT 5pm followed by the monthly get together 6pm in the New Inn

Sat 15th September – 7.30pm, Annual lecture Kilmington Village Hall.

Fri 5th October – 6pm, monthly get together in the 'Old Inn' Kilmington.

Fri 2nd November – 6pm, monthly get together in the 'New Inn' Kilmington

Sun 11th November – Remembrance Sunday, St Giles Church, followed by the 'Act of Remembrance' at the War memorial. On completion lunch at Haselbury Mill (Names to Jean Falconer if you would like to join us at Haselbury, transport from the Hall car park).



Sat 24th November – Kilmington Village Hall ‘End of WW1 celebration’ + In 2 the blue accompanied by
GR Davie on the keyboard (Look out for the posters).

Fri 7th December – 6pm, monthly get together – venue TBC.

Sat 8th December – RBL Christmas Coffee Morning Extravaganza, Kilmington Village Hall.

Cdr Staff Seward OBE RN Rtd

Chairman RBL Kilmington Branch