

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION (KILMINGTON BRANCH) SPRING NEWSLETTER 2017

Well spring is well and truly here, the clocks have gone forward and the lighter nights are hopefully inviting us all to spend more time outside rather than sat beside our comforting fires, of course you will have all noted that I have in a small way contributed to this by not producing the Newsletter until now and therefore not giving you an excuse to sit beside the fire to read the latest news from Kilmingon RBL; sadly this is not true and once again I have to apologise for not getting this to the press earlier! First and foremost, it is with much sadness that I have to report the deaths of two our longstanding members, Betty Parkinson & Alan Harding, both who passed away earlier this year; both funerals were extremely well attended by family, friends and members of the Kilmingon RBL. So what has been happening since the autumn newsletter; at the end of November we held our Autumn/Christmas Coffee morning, which was a huge success and it would be remiss of me not to thank our committee members, spouses, helpers and of course all of you, for making it such a special event. Since Nov we have met the first Friday of each month in either the New Inn or the Old Inn at Kilmingon and taken the opportunity to catch up with old friends, comrades and some new members. This month we will meet at 6pm in the Old Inn on Friday 7th April, so if you have time, come and join us, it's amazing what you find out!! Of course, it goes without saying that your



committee have been very busy planning an entertaining programme for 2017, including our Spring/Easter Coffee Morning this Saturday 8th April at Kilmingon Village Hall, which this time will include a special Easter Table as well as plants, items for the garden and much more. I would also like to take this opportunity to provide a little more information about our 'away day' on Wed 14th June. This year we are taking a coach trip to Torquay; the coach will leave the Village Hall at 9.00am and on the way will stop at the village of Cockington, before travelling onto to the centre of Torquay, where there will be ample time to explore, have lunch or sit on the beach! At 3.00 pm the coach will take us to the House of Marbles at Bovey Tracey, before leaving returning us all to Kilmingon at 6.00 pm. All this, including the coach for the princely sum of £8 per person. For more details, or to book, please see your shepherd, or sign up at the Coffee morning this promises to be a fun day out. Unfortunately our annual pilgrimage to France as part of the ongoing WW1 commemoration has been cancelled this year, however, plans are already underway for next year! I would also like to take this opportunity to confirm that the RBL Annual BBQ will take place at Fernwood on Sat 15 Jul (more information to follow).

Devon County News: Roger and I attended the annual county meeting on 21 Jan in Plymouth. The main item raised was the continued problems with membership; we were all asked to remain proactive and to continue to highlight difficulties encountered, this was followed quickly by a promise that things would get better!! If you have problems with your membership, please don't turn away, speak to John Watts (membership secretary), myself or any other committee member and we will help; sadly the difficulties encountered have led to us losing 7 or 8 members, however our membership remains at a very healthy 133 Other news, The County's Vice-Chairman, Ron Reynolds, tendered his resignation from the position at the County's Annual Conference. The election process for a new County Vice-Chairman has now commenced. We have received guidance regarding Political Comment by Legion Members, which reminds us that should we wish to comment or take part in any event (such as support for Marine A) we may do so, but are requested not to wear badges or suggest that what we may be doing is on behalf or supported by the RBL; if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to ask.

We have also been reminded of a number of significant Remembrance events this year including:

2 Apr – 35th Anniversary of the Falklands War.

31 Jul – 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Passchendaele.

23 Oct – 75th Anniversary of the 2nd Battle of El Alamein.

20th Nov – 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Cambrai.

In addition, we received one other invitation from the Exmouth Branch, who invited all branches to a Service of Thanksgiving on Sunday 7th May to mark the 90th anniversary of the commissioning of the Exmouth RBL Branch. Anyone wishing to attend are requested to RSVP as soon as possible to the Secretary, Sue McQueen on sue.mcqueen9@gmail.com or telephone 01395 489936 or 07496 820978). Finally, please don't forget, we are also on the Kilmington Village Website and my thanks to you all for your continued support.

Cdr Stafford Seward OBE RN Rtd
(Chairman RBL Kilmington Branch)