

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION (KILMINGTON BRANCH) SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2019

LIVE ON 

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
KILMINGTON BRANCH

Annual Lecture
Death, Disease and Denial –
Devon at D-Day'

BY
DEAN HOLLANDS

KILMINGTON VILLAGE HALL
7.30pm FRIDAY, 6th SEPTEMBER 2019

ALL WELCOME.
FREE ENTRY BUT DONATIONS TO THE POPPY APPEAL WILL
BE WELCOME.

Greetings from your RBL Committee, we hope this finds you well and ready for another entertaining autumn with Kilmington RBL. Unfortunately, it is with much regret that I must first report the sad passing of Michael O'Flaherty, who passed away in Tiverton Hospital at the age of 84. The Royal British Legion played a big part in his life; he was treasurer in Seaton, secretary and later a member of the committee in Kilmington. A Funeral Service for Michael was held at the Roman Catholic Church in Axminster on Friday, 19th April and was extremely well attended. My thanks to Richard for presenting the Kilmington Standard in a most fitting manner.

On 30th May, Ron Foster, a long-standing member of our branch and dedicated committee member tendered his resignation to me by letter. Born 29 July 1932 in Canning Town east London, Ron originally trained as a carpenter & joiner before joining the Royal Engineers as part of his National Service. Most of his service time was spent in West Germany helping to restore many of the bridges destroyed

during the war. On completion of his National Service he returned home and spent the next 43 years in the construction industry primarily reinstating homes and later constructing tower blocks in the London area. In 1961 he married Pat and they had two children. A member of the RBL since 1965, Ron served in a number of posts ranging from Secretary to Vice Chairman. In 1997 Ron and Pat retired to Kilmington to be close to their son. He joined Kilmington RBL and has been a willing helper at all our functions and fund-raising events as well as a stalwart committee member. After 54 years he has most definitely earned a break and we wish both Ron and Pat all the very best and thank them for their outstanding support. I am sure most of you will only be too aware of everything that we have been doing.

Since our last update we have had three major events; our Annual Summer outing to Dartmouth and Slapton, where nearly 50 members enjoyed a trip on the river Dart, a leisurely stroll around Dartmouth and finally, a brief memorial service dedicated to all those who lost their lives in the D-Day rehearsals off of Slapton Sands. Our sincere thanks to Tony for organising such a special and varied day that was enjoyed by all.

The next event was our annual RBL Family BBQ, which this year attracted nearly 150 members and their families. Blessed with incredible weather, astonishing puddings and the odd banger or two, everyone relaxed amongst friends and relatives, making it a very special evening; my sincere thanks to everyone who was involved for making both events incredibly successful and most importantly, enjoyable. Of course, without your support and generosity it would not be possible; your efforts this year raised £1700 for the RBL, which will be split between the Poppy Appeal and Devon Welfare.



Our last event in the period was the Annual Kilmington Fayre & Flower Show where again the RBL provided the BBQ. The turnout was much improved compared to previous years, (probably helped a little by the weather) and the BBQ profits were a little over £300 which were shared 50/50 with the Fayre organisation. Unfortunately, we did not gain any new members and next year we may have someone dedicated to advertising the branch.

On to other news; first and foremost, our membership currently stands at 125, which is slightly down on previous years, however, we are actively seeking more members to join our cause. Please remember you don't have to be, or have been a serving member of the Armed Forces to join, we welcome everyone. Whilst highlighting the committee, Lesley Rew has asked to take an extended sabbatical in order to spend more time assisting with her grandchildren. Lesley has been an extremely proactive member of our committee that we will be sad to lose, but fully understand the importance of family priorities. I would like to add my sincere thanks for everything she has done especially with advertising and preparing for our events. I am hoping that she will return to our fold sometime in the future when family life is less hectic. This leaves us with a vacancy on our committee, therefore if you would like to take an active role in our planning or support in any way possible, please get in touch with me on 01297 33909, 07799612557 or e-mail t60sas@hotmail.co.uk.

So far this year the Branch Standard has represented the branch at a number of events, the major one being the County Festival of Remembrance in the Cathedral. In addition, it was also paraded at the funeral of Mike O'Flaherty a well-known and long-standing Branch member, ex Police Officer and Scout Leader. You should all be aware that Kilmington RBL is now affiliated to the Lyme Bay Scout Troop, which is an ideal way of introducing younger members to the RBL. As part of their summer camp, the Troop took the ferry from Poole to Cherbourg and cycled along the D-Day US Normandy landing beaches Utah and Omaha, visiting the US Airborne Museum, the Omaha Cemetery and Memorial, the Grand camp Maisy Battery, Pointe du Hoc and the Bayeux Tapestry. The troop are very eager to be involved in the Legion events.

Last but not least, may I congratulate the committee and everyone in the Kilmington RBL on being awarded the Devon County, 'Cameron Webb Cup' for all the branch achievements in 2018, this is a huge award for a village and is normally reserved for much larger branches; you should all be immensely proud of your outstanding efforts.

Of course, our monthly get togethers continue at the New Inn, Old Inn and Tuckers Arms, Dalwood on the first Friday of each month; the next being at the Old Inn tonight, so please come and join us for a jovial pint, glass of wine or just a good chat! I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Peter Huscroft and John Watts for the floral display in front of the Kilmington War memorial, it is most fitting and highlights the area so well.



As always, I look forward to seeing you all at our Annual Lecture tonight and the AGM in October. Thank you all again for your incredible support.

Finally, please see below the new dates for your diaries:

Dates for your Diary:

Friday 6th September, Get together at the Old Inn & Annual Lecture - 'Death, Disease and Denial – Devon at D-Day'.

Friday 4th October, AGM – New Inn followed by monthly get together.

Friday 1st November – Monthly get together – Tuckers Arms, Dalwood.

Sun 10th November, Remembrance Sunday, Kilimington Baptist Church followed by lunch at Hazelbury Mill.

Mon 11th November – Maroons Kilmington Cricket Pavilion.

Sat 30th November – Christmas Coffee Morning

Fri 6th December – Christmas get together – New Inn Kilmigton

Cdr Staff Seward OBE RN Rtd
Chairman RBL Kilmington Branch