

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION (KILMINGTON BRANCH) 'LATE' SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2017

Where does the time go? A frequent question we all ask ourselves and unfortunately I do not have the answer, however, I do know that somewhere in that disappearing world was the last Newsletter!! After gentle persuasion, well to be honest a few reminders, here is the next offering!! 'Yes' this is the summer issue from that all inspiring group known as the Royal British Legion 'Kilminster Branch' (not to be confused with the Kilminster social wing who appear to have meetings at a similar time)! As we go to press Summer is well and truly here, although judging by the weather some may well believe that we have already had this precious season and are now heading towards Autumn (I hope not as we will have much more to tell you in that edition, providing of course that I am able to get it out on time!!). Anyway to business, it is again with much sadness that I have to report the deaths of five our treasured and longstanding members, Jean Stanford, Dickie Dawe, Saville Burdett, Merrie Acton and my mother Mary Seward; all the funerals were extremely well attended by family, friends and members of the Kilminster RBL; 'We Will Remember Them'. Since the Spring newsletter you will be pleased to know that we have been active and involved in a number of events; on Sat 8th April we held our annual Spring Coffee Morning which was very well attended



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 successful event. Of course since then we have met the first Friday of each month in either the New Inn or the Old Inn Kilminster and have done our best to bolster the profits of both establishments, but more importantly had fun catching up with old friends, comrades and some new members (our next get together is on the 1st September at the New Inn, post the AGM so come and join us, it's amazing what you find out!!) On Wed 14th June over 35 people embarked on our Annual outing, which this year was to Torquay, via Cockington; as well as enjoying a truly relaxing day many ventured onto the beach (although not many buckets and spades were evident!) and partook in the local cuisine; the return journey was via the House of Marbles at Bovey Tracey, before returning to Kilminster; again my thanks must go to Sandra for organising such an enjoyable day out. On Sat 15th July we held our annual RBL BBQ at 'Fernwood' and I am pleased to report that we broke all our previous records. Nearly 150 family and friends



attended which made for a fantastic atmosphere, the Raffle and Bar also broke their respective records, which resulted in an incredible £1800 raised for the RBL; our sincere thanks to the committee



and everyone for their incredible support and generosity. To complete our enterprising period on Sat 29th July the RBL took great pleasure in providing the BBQ in support of the annual Flower Show and Village Fayre; despite the weather everyone had a most enjoyable day.

Devon County News: Most of the recent correspondence has been in connection with the 'Great Pilgrimage' this is a National event planned for France next year to commemorate the end of WW1. All branches have been asked if they would like to send representatives, however, the cost is quite prohibitive and to date we have taken the decision not to attend. I will add that County have now confirmed that there will be a Battlefield Tour to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War 23-26th March based in

Arras, which we as a branch feel is more appropriate. This is likely to be a very popular event and I would encourage those who wish to attend to let their shepherds or indeed committee members know as soon as possible. In addition, there will also be a Devon County Trip to the National Arboretum on 5/6th December, the cost of which will be £80 with a single supplement of £15; again, please speak to your Shepherd if you are interested in attending. Below is a quick reminder of other significant Remembrance events this year:

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

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

Of course, as you would expect, your committee have been very busy continuing to plan an entertaining programme for the remainder of 2017 and in addition to our AGM that I mentioned earlier, below is a list of forthcoming events:

Fri, 1st Sep, New Inn, Kilmingon, 5.00 p.m -

Sat, 16th Sep, Kilmingon Village Hall, 7.00 p.m -

Fri, 20th Oct, Kilmingon Village Hall, 7.30 p.m -

Sat, 11th Nov, Kilmingon Cricket Pavilion, 11.00 a.m -

Sun, 12th Nov, Kilmingon Baptist Church, 9.45 a.m -

Sun, 12th Nov, Kilmingon War Memorial 11.00 a.m -

Sun. 12th Nov. Haselbury Mill

Sat, 25th Nov, Kilmingon Village Hall, 10.30 a.m -

(I highly recommend the WW1 Commemoration Dinner)

Kilmingon Branch AGM.

WWI Commemoration Dinner with talk '1917 – a year of dramatic events'. (Tickets: £10).

Lecture by Martin Pelling – 'Passchendaele'.

Armistice Day: Maroons and 2-minute silence.

Remembrance Service

Remembrance Ceremony, wreath laying followed by tea/coffee at the Village Hall.

Lunch (details to follow nearer the time)

Christmas Coffee Morning

This brings me to the end of my current update, which I hope you have all found a little entertaining, if not at least informative. We look forward to seeing you at our events and are always looking for new members, so please come and join us.

Finally, please don't forget, we are also on the Kilmingon Village Website and my thanks to you all for your continued support.

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