

**ROYAL BRITISH LEGION (KILMINGTON BRANCH) WINTER/SPRING NEWSLETTER 2018**

As I write, it is one of the coldest mornings that I have known for a long time, areas of the stream are frozen over and a ‘Red Warning’ for snow and ice has just been issued, therefore my apologies if you think ‘Spring’ is not appropriate. Despite the numbness in my fingers I think it’s time for me to highlight what an incredible year we have ahead of us. You are all aware, that I like where possible, to keep my updates positive and very upbeat, unfortunately it is with much sadness that I have to report that Anthony Double, one of our long serving members sadly passed away recently; our thoughts are with his family.

You will all no doubt understand that 2018 is a special year for the Royal British Legion, especially as it marks the 100th Anniversary of the end of WW1. Nationally, there are two major events; Grand Pilgrimage 90, is where all branches of the RBL have been invited to send two representatives to Belgium between 8 – 12 August, culminating in a parade at the Menin gate; unfortunately, due to the cost and availability of personnel we have taken the decision not to attend this event. The second event, however, we do intend to participate in. The ‘Greatest Thank You’ is a National event which will run from 8th August – 11th November and invites communities to come together to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the end of WW1 in any way or form they wish. We are currently investigating a number of ways on how we might do this, but would welcome thoughts and ideas from all organisations in Kilmingon. Our current plan is as follows:

- Fri 03 Aug – PM Military Wives Choir (Village Hall)
- Sat 04 Aug – AM Children’s Party (Hosted by RBL & volunteers)
- Sat 04 Aug - PM BBQ followed by a dance in the evening
- Sun 05 Aug AM Church Service on the Common to commemorate those killed in WW1 (Planting of an Oak tree).



The Royal British Legion  
**SPRING COFFEE MORNING**  
*Plants, Goodies, Cakes, Etc.*  
**10.30 - 12.00**  
**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March**  
**KILMINGTON VILLAGE HALL**  
*£1.50 Entrance with Tea / Coffee & Cake*  
**LIVE ON**

On to other news; first and foremost our annual Spring Coffee morning will take place on Saturday 17th March at Kilmingon Village Hall, where you will be able to enjoy some very jovial company while topping up on all your spring/ Easter necessities (if the weather continues it may even include help and tips of how to operate in the snow!! look out for the posters). Later, on the 23rd March I can now confirm that we will travel to France as part of the ongoing remembrance of World War One. If you have any questions regarding France, please do not hesitate to contact either Jean Falconer (secretary) or any of the committee.

I hope by this point you have not fallen asleep and will quickly remind you that our monthly get together’s continue alternately at both the New & Old Inn on the first Friday of each month; the next being at the New Inn on Fri 2nd March, so please come and join us for a jovial pint, glass of wine or just a good chat!

While writing I am proud to inform you that the Legion has joined a number of other organisations in ensuring that the best support is available to our veterans and their families. The Veterans Gateway .

<https://www.veteransgateway.org.uk/> will give everyone access to organisations providing support; if the Legion is unable to help, an individual will automatically be assisted in contacting a sister organisation (H4H, etc); for me, this marks a huge step forward in supporting veterans and their families.

Finally, as we go to press our membership continues at around 130, which is fantastic, especially considering the difficulties with membership, payment methods and huge amounts of glossy fliers (which you no longer have to receive), however, we do not want to rest on our laurels so please consider speaking to your friends and family, you do not need to be an ex service person to join us. We are certainly not just a group of elderly ex veterans, but an upwardly mobile sociable bunch, who just want to help those who can no longer help themselves!

Dates for your Diary:

Fri 2nd Mar – Get together 6pm in the New Inn

Sat 17th Mar – RBL Spring Coffee Morning – Easter Theme (watch out for the posters)

Fri 23 – Mon 26 Mar – RBL trip to France

Fri 6th Apr – Get together 6pm in the Old Inn

Fri 4th May – Get together 6pm in the New Inn

Fri 1st Jun - Get together 6pm in the Old Inn

Cdr Staff Seward OBE RN Rtd

Chairman RBL Kilmington Branch