

Report from Wrentham & District British Legion Branch

The Wrentham Branch of the British Legion now has 27 members, we lost a few during the year, but also gained some.

To mark the Coronation of Their Majesties The King and Queen in May, a village party was organised in and around the Village Hall. This was open to everyone, but the three organisers are all members of the Legion. The weather was lovely, Southwold Rotary Club kindly manned the barbeque, and an enjoyable afternoon was had by all. In October Giles Stibbe, one of our members, gave an interesting talk on the role the Household Cavalry played in both the late Queen's funeral and the Coronation, refreshments were provided.

As usual, Rosie Carter planned another memorable and moving service on Remembrance Sunday. We are very grateful to her, and the Wrentham Band, for making this service so special every year.

Our Poppy Appeal Co-ordinator continues to increase the amount our small branch raises for the Poppy Appeal - the total for 2023 was £2,664.72, £300 up on the previous year! Although a few stalwart collectors are still willing to do door to door collections, sadly these no longer raise as much as they used to, and if collectors no longer wish to do this, we will cease door to door collections. Most funds are raised from the collecting boxes put in shops, pubs, etc.

The AGM was held on 29th September and all officers were re-elected – these are Lucinda Hutson as Chairman, Rosie Carter as Treasurer and Beryl Banester as Secretary. Frank Pope also agreed to continue as our Standard Bearer for another year. Lady Gooch also agreed to continue as our President.

The next two years sees many important anniversaries, this year being the 80th anniversary of D-Day, Operation Market Garden, the battle of Kohima, to name but a few. We are organising a Drumhead Service on 9th June followed by tea, which is the nearest Sunday to D-day. Next year is obviously the 80th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War, so watch this space for another village celebration.

As a reminder, anyone can join the British Legion – you do not have to have served in the forces. We meet every other month in the Village Hall, and coffee and biscuits are always available, so if you are interested in supporting the Legion, and therefore our servicemen and women, do please get in touch with Beryl.

Lucinda Hutson
15th April 2024