



Royal British Legion  
 Henley and Peppard Branch BRO753  
 Minutes of the AGM – 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021

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|  | <p><b>Attendees</b><br/>         John Green, Stan Ainsley, Mollie Jeffrey, Martine Goodyear, Alex and Gillian Manning, Ray Kingsley, Marion Ford, Shirley Lees, David Lees, Magaret Andrews, Evelyn Robinson, Christine Searle, Tony Anderson, Berry Burt, Joyce Kay, Richard Kingston Raymond Pinkley, Ania Kozniewska, Karen Grieve, Kathy Bardwell-Springett, Anne Evans, Judy Dinsdale, Sandra Moon, John Robinson, W A Cox, John Todd, Geoff Lockett, Hazel Howood, Sara Abey.<br/>         *In Attendance Pete Eldridge from County and Lynda Atkins RBL National Vice Chair from HQ</p>  |  |
|  | <p><b>Previous minutes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The minutes from previous AGM on October 19<sup>th</sup> 2020 were approved</li> <li>• Chairman's Report</li> </ul> <p>The Meeting very reluctantly accepted John Green's resignation as Chairman of the Henley and Peppard Branch of the Royal British Legion. However thankfully he continued on the Committee as our President, and Standard Bearer. To make his retirement possible, the Committee appointed me, Anne Evans as Branch Chairman to be ratified at this meeting when you will have a chance to express any concerns you may have. Lt Col (Retd) Peter Blaker moved to become our Patron on Brig Malcolm Page's retirement.</p> <p>I would like to take this chance to thank the then Committee for staying on and in particular Martin Goodier who despite indicating much earlier his wish to retire, continued on to help me, as indeed the whole committee has done during the last year.</p> <p>There is no doubt that the Branch and Committee will miss JG on the committee, but as President he will continue to be a reassuring presence.<br/>         Its worth mentioning that during his 5 years in office the branch has raised over £200,000 and he himself around £40,000 for the Poppy Appeal.</p> <p>During this lockdown period your Committee has been holding virtual meeting via Zoom. The focus being how to commemorate the various important dates during the year 2021, which I am pleased to report we managed very well with a little ingenuity despite the restrictions imposed upon us by the Government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poppy Appeal was launched by PA Organiser Annie Arscott by inviting the Mayor to purchase the 1<sup>st</sup> poppy, albeit being presented to him in a slightly unusual way from the barrel of JG's deactivated WW1 Lee-Enfield rifle.</li> <li>• Remembrance Sunday was a well organised and meaningful Service for which we owe a huge thank you to the then Mayor of Henley, Councillor Ken Arlett, and the Mayor's Chaplain Fr Jeremy Tayler, and especially not forgetting everyone at the Town Hall for their hard work. The service was live-streamed by Richard Pinches which gave those not able to attend in person a way of being involved and which was very much appreciated by all.</li> </ul> |  |



It was particularly gratifying to see our members and community out in numbers too, not wishing to miss marking with gratitude such an important date and all it stands for, wonderfully distanced and taking the opportunity to donate to the Poppy Appeal.

- VE day which was moved to Friday 8 May to accommodate a 3 day 75<sup>th</sup> International celebration and for which we successfully invited the town to turn itself Red White and Blue by way of window decorations. A simple ceremony was held in the Market Square for VE day and for VJ Day on 15 August.

#### **Accounts**

- The accounts for the 12 months June 30<sup>th</sup> 2021 were approved

#### **Election of Officers**

- The following were elected to the committee
  - Ania Kozniewska
  - Karen Grieve – Events Coordinator
  - Kathy Bardwell-Springett - Treasurer
- Anne Evans was approved as Chair of the Branch and John Green as President and Peter Blaker as Patron
- Martin Goodier & Nick Launders resigned from the Committee
- All other committee members agreed to continue in office – M Jeffrey; P Blaker; S Ainsley; S Abey.