



## Royal British Legion Report 2017

The current membership is 34, of ageing members, we have a Poppy Appeal organiser, and the response locally is very good, raising about £3000, last year. The Welfare Officer visits bereaved wives and elderly members who can then be referred to the County representative if help and support are needed.

The branch Standard Bearer attends funerals and Memorial services as requested. At Christmas we distribute Christmas Gifts to Widows of deceased members from a private fund which is ringfenced as County money can not be used for this purpose.

We meet three times a year at the Barley Mow, and attendance from the 34 members is good, despite this membership continues to fall as elderly members pass away, 15 years ago we had 80 members.

If membership continues to fall, within five years the branch will not be viable, we may then have to amalgamate with another branch, possibly Woodbridge or Kesgrave. We therefore need more members if the branch is to continue.

The Branch has men and women members and no Military background is needed, if interested please see me later.

As Branch Secretary I liaise with three local churches and a Remembrance Day Service is arranged in Church attended by Members and a short service is held at the War Memorials with a Standard Bearer in attendance.

The next meeting of the Branch is on 19<sup>th</sup> June at the Barley Mow, please come along to that meeting and see if The Royal British Legion might be an organisation that you might support.

Tom Bennett (Hon Sec)  
18<sup>th</sup> April 2018