

## **ROYAL BRITISH LEGION**

### **BARNACK AND DISTRICT BRANCH**

#### **ANNUAL REPORT 2021 – 2022**

Naturally our Branch activities over the past year have been heavily affected by the covid pandemic. Nevertheless, the Armistice Day service on November 11<sup>th</sup> at the war memorial was well attended and it was good to welcome a contingent of children with their teachers from the village school. On Remembrance Day, Sunday November 14<sup>th</sup>, a large congregation attended the Church service and this was followed by a sizeable gathering at the war memorial.

The Poppy Appeal raised the sum of £6,492. The organisation of the appeal is a major task and we all owe thanks to Columb Hanna and his volunteers for their unstinting efforts.

November also saw the funeral of our much respected Branch Treasurer, Ken Waller. Ken had for many years overseen our financial affairs in his calm and thorough way right into his nineties. We will miss him and we offer sincere condolences to his wife and family.

Each year we fly flags and erect information boards at the war memorial to mark notable memorial and commemoration days. These include Holocaust Memorial Day 27<sup>th</sup> January, Armed Forces Day 26<sup>th</sup> June, Merchant Navy Day 3<sup>rd</sup> September and Battle of Britain Day 15<sup>th</sup> September.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> April last year, one of our members, Tamsin Cunningham, who is a member of the Falkland Islands Association, spoke about the Falklands conflict and its effect on the islanders, at the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the conflict service held at Horncastle. In addition last year we commemorated the centenary of the foundation of the Royal British Legion on May 15<sup>th</sup> 1921. Armed Forces Day on June 26<sup>th</sup> was marked with a small social event at the Millstone and some members met for a social on September 1<sup>st</sup> at the Bluebell in Helpston. On October 7<sup>th</sup> several members attended a concert by the band of the Coldstream Guards at Stamford School. Our annual lecture was given in the Bainton Reading Room on November 19<sup>th</sup> by Dr. Duraid Jalili of King's College, London. His subject was *Security risks in the modern world*.

Our Branch currently has around ninety members. If our activities interest you and you support the work of the Royal British Legion then please get in touch and join us.

In conclusion, may I invite you to join us at the War Memorial on Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup> at 11a.m. to honour the memory of Lt. Cdr John Eyton-Jones a Sea Harrier pilot who died in the Falklands conflict in 1982. He trained at Wittering and his family lived in Barnack.

Brian Palmer