



Shotley, Erwarton and District Branch of the

The Royal British Legion

Annual Report June 2007- May2008

This past year has been a very busy one for the R.B.L. in Shotley; we have had many events take place and an increase in the charitable workload for our Welfare Officers. There is still a large Royal Naval presence in Shotley both serving and Ex. There is most definitely a strong R.A.F. presence serving and Ex. and lastly and more recently the presence of the Army, with the Army Air Corps, has been seen and felt in the area.

Many try to forget our Military heritage as something in the past, it is not, and it is as strong as ever and is not one to be underestimated in terms of the population of the parish.

The Legion has several purposes in Shotley:-

1. The Promotion and Commemoration of the Fallen and Injured Service Personnel. (Remembrance and Veterans days)
2. The Welfare of the Service and Ex-Service community in time of need. (Poppy Support)
3. Comradeship for those whom are serving or who have served this Countries Colours.
4. The assisting in the raising of Benevolent Funds through the Poppy Appeal and other activities.
5. Assisting the Parish/Church/District Councils when Domestic or Foreign Dignitaries visit for Ex-Service or Service ceremonies.
6. Provision of Funeral Guard of Honour, when requested, for Ex- Service personnel.(a small donation is required if Bugler is requested)

These purposes have been utilised much in the past year starting in June 07: -

On The Ceremonial and Remembrance purposes:-

- I. The Laying up of the Branch Standard in June, with over 150 people attending and 14 Standards on parade.
- II. The Remembrance Parade on the 9th November for the School
- III. The Remembrance Sunday Parade on the 11th at St. Mary's Church.
- IV. The visit by the Royal Netherlands Ambassador on the 14th December where he lay a wreath at the cross of Sacrifice for the 5 Royal Netherlands Navy personnel, who lay in the Naval cemetery surrounded by over 200 of their Royal Navy and Marine Brothers. 18 Standards were on Parade
- V. Through the Legion, the appointment of a Sea Cadet (a Shotley Boy) to lay a wreath on behalf of the Netherlands at future Remembrance Services
- VI. The Attendance of the Branch at the A.N.Z.A.C. parade on the 27th April at St.Mary's Church, Woodbridge. 28 Standards on Parade
- VII. The funerals of several former servicemen and women in the area

On the Welfare purposes:

- I. The visiting of over 50 persons in the Branch Area.(the Welfare Case Officers carried out 37 Completed Welfare Cases in 2007 for the Royal British Legion as well as visits in other parts of Suffolk).
- II. 14 cases so far this year with 3 in the Shotley area
- III. The helping of many people in need.
- IV. The supply of white goods, heating and disability equipment for those who had an immediate need.
- V. The Re-Housing of those in need.

On the Comradeship purpose: -

An annual dinner is held for members, at a local Restaurant.

We will be holding another dinner this year in Late August early September, probably at the Shipwreck this year.

We also intend to have trips to the National Arboretum in Staffordshire, with other branches.

And though the branch is aging for the most, it intends to move on and be active in the area.

I would like to publicly thank all the Poppy Collectors at this time, especially:-

Vic Whayman, Tony and June Slatter, Terry and Audrey Perkins, Norman and Eileen Bugg all whom received commendations from the Poppy Appeal for extensive services to the Appeal as collectors.

I would also like to thank H. 'Eddie' and Norma Bembridge for their work over the past years as Branch Chairman and Secretary respectively, Vic again for his time and Jack Whelan former Branch President for his guidance as I was nuts enough to take on the role of Chairman.

Lastly in the list of thanks there is Tony Slatter, Branch Treasurer and Sarah Ives, my wife whom I told she only had to open letters to be the Branch Secretary (bit of a whopper that one, but it worked, I got a Secretary). She is also the Branch Welfare Case Worker.

My thanks to the Parish Council who supported us in our need for a grant to put up the old Standard in the Church.

I finish with this request:-

For us to help those out there,
You must tell them
To call us here
When they need our help, out there.

01473 787 168 / 01284 725 833

Brian Ives

Branch Chairman,
Ceremonial / Parade Officer and Standard Bearer
County Welfare Caseworker,
V.Chairman, County Welfare Advisory Committee, County Of Suffolk.
County Committee Member for the Ipswich and Surrounding Area (I) Group

Service not Self

Reg. charity 219279