

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION SHOTLEY, ERWARTON AND DISTRICT

The Royal British Legion is now over 60 Years old, and during all those years has help millions of men and women who during many conflicts this country has been through has been able to help them in many ways - financially or perhaps requiring equipment for their needs.

Our Branch although regrettably now, has only 73 members is 58 years old in August and still meets on the last Wednesday of every month, at the Village Hall in the Large Committee room at 8 pm and enjoys a meeting which usually takes about an hour depending on the discussion at the time. Our Welfare section has been able to help many people on the Peninsular which we are happy to do. We visit those who are ill and take gifts or those who would like to have people visit them for a chat.

We have our Annual Dinner which is held during the year and our County Rally where we meet up with other Branch's and old friends and "I" Group meetings 3 times a year. One of our most important events of course is Remembrance Sunday and Our Christmas Raffle - this takes a lighter form of meeting at the end of November during which we have a few drinks and nibbles - this Raffle is a very important part of the British Legion the money raised goes towards the Christmas Vouchers we give to our members and dependents of those who have passed away.

On October 21st at St.Mary's Shotley the Old Branch Standard will be laid up and our New Standard will be dedicated, this is a very important and moving ceremony for our members. Which I am sure all members and their families will be attending, apart from the Branch's in our "I" Group which are around the Ipswich area. This has been arranged for the 11.am service with the Suffolk Brass Band who will be playing for us during the service.

I hope that we will be able to recruit new members from this meeting as we did last year. It is vital that we keep the Royal British Legion functioning as there are so many men and women who have sacrificed the lives for this country and who have left behind loved one's these people will need care and support not only for their grief but also in a lot of cases financial help also. That is why we have the Poppy Appeal Collection which is our vital link. But also we have members who care and who also give their support in time and energy to help those in need.

Norma.M.Bembridge
Hon.Secretary.