

## **Royal British Legion SWTC Annual Meeting 2022 Report**

The Royal British Legion, is a British charity providing financial, social and emotional support to members and veterans of the British Armed Forces, their families and dependants. At Branch level we are able to guide people to the Veterans Gateway which is there as a first contact points and will assist people to get the type of support they need.

The Legion works to ensure that the people of the United Kingdom remember all those who have lost their lives on active service to the Crown and honours the service of the Armed Forces and veterans, and the contribution of their families.

The Saffron Walden Branch takes the lead in the Annual Remembrance Day Parade. They invite those groups and organisations who take part in and attend the Parade each year, they also arrange for and supply the wreaths that are laid at the War Memorial ensuring each has the correct organisations badge, where possible. They liaise with the organisations who carry out activities essential to the Parade like the Town Council, District Council and Police, that carry out the activities that go on in the background but without which the Parade could not happen.

They provide the Parade Marshal to coordinate things on the day and officiate over the Parade. The Parade and Church Service take about 2 hours from the start at the War Memorial to the finish at the Market Square, but represent many more hours of work by dedicated individuals and groups whose input is immeasurable.

It is not easy to quantify the benefits The Saffron Walden Branch of the Legion brings to the town but their activities can be seen to enhance living in the town. They are ready to take the Branch Standard to the funerals of ex serviceman who pass away in the local area as a mark of respect and the Branch secures the services of a Band for the Remembrance Parade which improves an already fantastic spectacle. Throughout the year the Branch will put on Social Activities that are open to and enjoyed by many townspeople. Last year thanks to a kind donation from the Town Council we were able to lay on an Exhibition of Artwork by young people of the area, this had a Remembrance theme and was produced during November 2020 as we were unable to mark the occasion with the usual Parade.

Saffron Walden Branch is small in relation to the number of members and we will be canvassing the public during the coming year, in an attempt to increase membership which is open to all. In comparison to the amount we collect each year for the Poppy Appeal we are a heavyweight and when the 20 collection ends later this year we will have banked over £29000, a tribute not only to Our Poppy Appeal organisers and the small band of collectors who freely give their time each year but also to the generosity of the people of Saffron Walden.

Thank you