

The Bride Valley Branch of The Royal British Legion

**THE BRIDE VALLEY BRANCH
OF THE
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION**

**THE FIRST 75 YEARS
1936 - 2011**

**Compiled from the Branch Minute Books
By Ray West
Chairman from 1996**



Presidents and Chairman of the Bride Valley Branch of The Royal British Legion

<u>Date</u>	<u>President</u>	<u>Chairman.</u>
1936-1946	Rev. A.R. Dittmer	Maj. J.M.B. Wratlslaw
1946-1948	Rev. A.R. Dittmer	Mr. Panton
1948-1960	Col. Maddocks	Mr. Panton
1960-1962	Col. Maddocks	W/Com Day
1962-1967	Col. Maddocks	Mr. W. Jarman
1967-1971	Maj. Sandeman	Mr. W.F. Jenkins
1971-1973	Mr. R.B. Howarth	Mr. W.F. Jenkins
1973-1975	Mr. W. Heal	Mr. W.F. Jenkins
1975-1978	Mr. L.C. Hope	Mr. W.F. Jenkins
1978-1980	Mr. L.C. Hope	Col. J.A. Gibbons
1980-1981	Mr. L.C. Hope	Mr. K. Miles
1981-1987	Mr. L.C. Hope	Mr. J. Eastwood
1987-1990	Mr. L.C. Hope	Col. Bushell
1990-1992	Mr. L.C. Hope	Mr. R. Newton
1992-1994	Mr. L.C. Hope	Mr. L.F. Starkey
1994-1996	Rear Admiral G. Pritchard	Mr. L.F. Starkey
1996-	Rear Admiral G. Pritchard	Mr. R. C. West

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SEVENTY FIVE YEARS with the Bride Valley Branch of the British Legion.

In 1921 the British Legion was founded by Field Marshall Earl Haigh. The organisation's purpose was to help needy ex-servicemen financially and to restore their self-respect by providing employment.

Fifteen years later in 1936 The Bride Valley Branch of the British Legion was inaugurated and the following historical information has been obtained from the Minutes Book of the various Committees since that time.

The form that this information has taken is by removing the relevant information directly from the Minute Books. In some cases the whole of the text is taken but in the majority just that information that is significant at the time. Most of the wording is as written in the Minutes. (*Apologies if there are any errors in names*).

18th September 1936.

The first Committee Meeting of the Bride Valley Branch was held in the School, Burton Bradstock on the 18th Sept. 1936.

Major Wratislaw presided.

The following appointments were made.

President - Rev. A.R. Dittmer

Chairman - Major J.M.B. Wratislaw.

Treasurer - Mr. A. Hackett

Secretary - Mr. R.B. Howarth.

Committee - The Officers with the addition of Messrs. Elton,R. Cammell, Nethercott, E. Hawkins. A. Brown.

The relief committee was appointed being the above with the addition of Mr. A.G. Shipp and also three women members be appointed at the next meeting. It was decided that the Committee meet on the 1st Tuesday in each month.



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6th October 1936

At this Committee meeting Mrs. Howarth, Mrs. Churchouse and Miss A. Mercer were co-opted on to the Relief Committee.

The Committee also said they would be responsible for the Poppy collection on the 11th November and that a parade of ex-servicemen be called for 7.15 p.m. for the Remembrance Day Service. It was decided that a wreath be placed on the War Memorial during the Service.

26th October 1936.

At this Committee meeting a Social was arranged for November 4th and that a Banking account be opened. The accounts showed a balance of £1.10.0d

November 10th 1936.

The balance sheet of the Supper was presented and shows a deficit of 16.1d. It was decided that in future, Social events must pay their way! It was decided that a savings club be formed to enable members to attend the King's Review in London in 1937.

November 30th 1936.

The constitution of the Relief Committee was approved and it was decided that the following be elected Officers

Chairman Major Wratishlaw

Vice Chairman Major King

Treasurer Mr. Hackett

Secretary Mr. Howarth.

It was also decided to purchase a Standard for the Branch.

December 15th 1936.

The Secretary read out a letter from Capt. Scott R.N. conveying his good wishes and congratulations to the members on their efforts for the benefit of ex-servicemen. A recruiting meeting was arranged to be held at Litton Cheney.

6th January, 1937.

The new Legion standard was on view and a dedication service was arranged for the January 14th at 7.30 p.m. Mr. A.G. Shipp D.C.M. was elected Standard bearer.



Ted Price, Albert Shipp and Tommy Swafield

26th January, 1937. Committee Meeting.

A Coronation Committee was formed.

26th January 1937 General Meeting.

A good number of members were present! Major Wratishlaw addressed the meeting on the progress of the Branch and the new rules in connection with the Benevolent Work was explained . 22 members gave their names to go to the Review in London on June 27th. It was decided to start a fund to provide a Head Quarters of the Branch and to this end to organise a Jumble Sale.

4th March 1937

Members stood in silence in memory of their late comrade John Williams. The family were written to conveying the Branches condolence and appreciation of the members great service to King and Country in the Royal Navy. A letter was also sent to Colonel Day thanking him for his gift of ash trays to the Branch. Arrangements were made for the Smoking Concert to be held in the W.I. Hall on March 10th. Members could bring a friend preferably ex-servicemen and beer and light refreshments were priced at 1/3d

Mr. Churchouse will formally present his drums to the Branch.

Messrs Marsh shall be asked to give a present of beer. Shipton and Litton members be offered free transport. The secretary reported that he had asked T. Anis to make a notice board for the Branch.

23rd March 1937.

The balance sheet of the Smoking Concert showed a balance of 4/11d. Mr. Churchman had presented a parcel of flags for the Branch.

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14th April 1937.

The result of the jumble sale for the building fund was a profit of £15.13.10d. At the next church parade the Sunday before the Coronation a group photograph would be taken.

5th May 1937.

A further sum of £4.2.7d had been received for the jumble sale.

Arrangements were made for a sale of Emblems in aid of the B.L. Pension Fund and King George V Trust.

21st May 1937.

The Emblem sale brought in a collection of £6.3.10d. It was decided to purchase a copy of each of the Branch photographs to be kept by the Branch.

19th July 1937.

The committee went into the question of procedure at a funeral of a comrade and drew up certain rules for the parade which it was decided should be placed on the notice board for the information of members.

1. The escort should proceed at the head of the procession from the house to the Church.
2. The escort shall line both paths at the Churchyard afterwards entering the Church.
3. After the service the members shall proceed at the head of the procession to the grave taking up position at the end opposite to the mourners. They shall file past at the end of the service and drop poppies in the grave.

Mr. Bailey was thanked for making the Legion Notice Board and Mr, Sturdy was thanked for his gifts of chocolate at the Royal Review.

22nd September 1937.

Facilities were offered by the Branch for the Bridport Group to hold their meeting at Burton. A motion was put forward to that meeting " That Head quarters be asked to arrange a visit of ex-servicemen to Germany next year to meet the German ex-servicemen"

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Annual General Meeting 8th October 1937 in the School, Burton Bradstock.

Major General Sir Reginald Pinney, County President attended together with about 40 members.

The Annual report showed that there were 72 fully paid members.

The Committee was elected and the officers remained the same except that Capt. Denning was elected Treasurer following the resignation of Mr. Hackett and with the addition of a Mr. Elliott.

The meeting concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.

11th October 1937

Arrangements were made for the Legion Whist Drive and Mr. Bull was appointed. Arrangements for the sale of Poppies on Armistice Day was discussed and it was decided to ask the same ladies who did it last year. A letter of condolence was sent to Geo. Jacobs on the death of his mother.

2nd November 1937.

It was decided to purchase a Union Jack from Headquarters the size to be 3 yards long. A social evening was organised for November 16th and the following was agreed. Price Members 1/0d; Guests 1/6d.

Supper. Beef, Pickles, beer, cider, minerals. The musical part of the programme to be left to Mr. Nethercott. The Committee arranged to meet on Nov. 7th at 12 o'clock and place sprays of Flanders poppies on the graves of those who died as a result of the war. Also that remembrance crosses be placed on the graves of members who had died during the past year. A ballot was taken to select the bearer of the Legion Wreath at the service on Nov. 11th and the following were chosen:- D.Burton; D.Hawkins; W. Williams.

30th November 1937

On the question of the provision of cutlery etc. for the supper, members of the committee were authorized to purchase these at sales if an opportunity occurred of getting these at a cheap rate.

1st February 1938.

At the social to be held on the 11th Feb. Sausage and Mash Supper was organised followed by a Darts tournament and cards. All the members of the committee promised to share in the cooking of the food required. Discussion then took place about what form the last Social event of the season should take and it was agreed that there should be a

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Concert by Mrs Gales' Concert Party followed by a Dance and the profits shared equally between the Legion and the Concert Party.

1st March 1938.

The Branch outing was arranged for the 11th June and that the outing be to Portsmouth by way of the New Forest and Southampton and that the ladies be invited.

4th July 1938.

Following a successful concert the entertainment account now stood at £13.6.4d and the General account £23 . 18. 4d

27th September 1938

Messrs Nethercott and Howarth were appointed delegates to the Group Meeting at Charmouth on Sept. 30th and the ladies were to be asked to attend the A.G.M. in October with a view of forming a Ladies section of the Legion.

4th November 1938.

The W.I. Hall was chosen as the venue for the forthcoming A.G.M. and it was decided that the following resolution be put to the A.G.M. " That after 1938 the election of the Committee be by secret ballot". £1 be paid to the School managers for the use of the Schoolroom.

Annual General Meeting 15th November 1938.

A large number were present and the meeting was opened with "The Silence" . The membership had risen over the year from 72 to 81 which included 3 women and the chief points were that £20000 had been voted by the Annual Conference to the Prince of Wales pension fund. The Legion has 1½ million members and has found work for 38000 ex-servicemen including 4000 disabled men and had succeeded in obtaining 404 new pensions last year. He remarked that he would like to see this Branch with a Women's section. £5.5.0d was given from Branch Funds to the Legions Distressed Areas Fund. The women present agreed to the formation of a Women's section.

29th November 1938.

It was proposed that a wreath or a floral tribute be placed annually on the War Memorials at Shipton, Litton, Puncknowle and Swyre and if practicable a member attend the memorial service. A decision to call a meeting of Women to decide about a Women's section was confirmed. The Committee next discussed the foundation of a Branch Benevolent Fund but this was held in abeyance. The President drew the attention of the Committee to the War Memorial in Church and the question of regularly placing flowers

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thereon. It was considered it would be advantageous if a rota was made of persons who would undertake the responsibility for this.

12th December 1938

Arrangements were made for a social to be held on New Years Eve with refreshments of Beef;Ham;Pickles;Bread;Beer;Minerals and cheese.

Invitations would be sent to Capt. Scott and the County Chairman.

An outing to Plymouth was arranged for the summer.

3rd January 1939.

A letter had been received from Mrs. Green, Chairman of the Women's Section in which it stated that they would be responsible for the flowers on the war memorial.

Arrangements for the Concert and Dance to be held on Jan 17th. Chairs to be hired from Northover and Gilbert and to apply for an exemption from entertainment tax. The case of a member Mr. Charles Bugler who was in receipt of a small disability pension was agreed to be sent to Headquarters for consideration for a review.

7th February, 1939

The details of a Darts match was discussed and it was agreed that it should be limited to 108 players and if all tickets were sold the prizes would be 3 @ 10/- and 3@ 6/-

15th March 1939

In connection with the proposed Branch benevolent Fund the following resolution was passed " That a Branch Benevolent Fund be established by setting the sum of £5 aside from the general fund, the sum to be used for the assistance of needy members and that it be applied by the Secretary and Treasurer after consulting the Chairman"

12th June 1939

It was agreed that a church parade be held at Litton Cheney on July 16th at 6.30 p.m. and at Shipton on the 3rd Sunday in September.

28th September 1939.

After consideration it was agreed to send the Legion Journal to members serving in the Forces. The emergency Resolutions submitted by the County Committee were approved. Mr. Nethercott was appointed Treasurer in place of Capt. Denning who had resigned. Capt. Denning was thanked for his services.

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27th October 1939

A bugler from the troops stationed in Bridport would be at the Remembrance service on the 12th November. A Benevolence Fund Savings Bank a/c was opened. It was also agreed that all Branch payments would be made by cheque.

Annual General Meeting 27th November 1939.

Following the Treasurers report it was decided that part of the balance of £32.4.9d be invested in a National Security such as War Savings Certificates or P.O. Savings Bank and Trustees nominated for this. Membership of the Branch was now 89. The Poppy Day collection realised £30.6.3d an increase of £5.7.7d over last year. Mr. Mullins and Mr. Panton were elected onto the Committee. Mr. Axford was elected for Shipton and Lt. Col. Harper for Litton Cheney. It was agreed that every member of the committee retire each year and shall be eligible for re-election and that election be by secret ballot. Members were told that if they wanted their medals renovated the Hon. Sec. would arrange for this to be done. He also pointed out the importance of wearing medals on all parades and social meetings.

5th December 1939.

A discussion to place over the question of the amount of grant from the Womens section towards the cost of Christmas parcels being sent to the residents in the Bride Valley serving with the Forces. It was agreed that a grant of £2.10.0d be paid. A letter of condolence was sent to Mrs. Smith on the death of her husband Mr. W.Smith.

6th January 1940

The question of holding games nights for the Troops was discussed and the chairman undertook to see the Commanding Officers to discuss the matter with them.

12th January, 1940

It was decided that as a means of raising money for the Benevolent Fund to organise a scrap metal collection in the District.

22nd April 1940

It was decided that messages of sympathy and offers of help where needed to send to next of kin from the Legion when casualties occur among those residing in the Bride Valley District.

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12th November 1940

Special thanks were accorded to Mr. Shipp for his great care and thought in making the Legion Wreath so beautifully for Armistice Day. It was decided to send a message of congratulations to the Home Guard on their turnout at the Armistice Day parade service. The chairman reported that Mrs Cook wife of a late member of the Beaminster Branch had returned to him a the mechanical arm which had been supplied to her husband by the Legion.

Annual General Meeting 27th November 1940.

The Annual Poppy Day collection £35.3.1d- a record. During this meeting the following were elected.

President Rev. A.R. Dittmer
V. President Colonel Harper
Chairman Major Wratishlaw
V. Chairman Mr. Panton
Secretary Mr. R.B. Howarth
Asst Sec Mr. Speak
Treasurer Mr. Nethercott
Committee Mr. Elton; Mr. Hawkins;Mr. Panton;Mr Mullin;
Mr. Bull; Mr. Shipp; Mr. Churchouse;Col. Harper;Mr. Alliot

The Women's section were praised and thanked for their work for the men from the Valley serving with the Forces and also for their work in the Canteen for Troops in the Village.

22nd January 1941

It was decided to grant £1 to buy a stirrup pump for use in the village also £3 for Women's Section Christmas parcels for serving men and women. Also £2 for wool for the children's effort of knitting comforts for the troops.

Annual General Meeting 5th November 1941

The attendance was not as good as usual, owing to some members being engaged on war work and others being away in the Services.

The same Officers were elected and the committee consisted of J.Buckler,Elton,Hawkins,Mullins,Bull,Shipp,Churchouse,Elliott and Symes.

The children of the village were thanked for their steady work throughout the year in collecting waste paper for the Benevolent Fund. The Chairman also congratulated Mr. Shipp and Symes on the promotion of their sons, S. Shipp and J. Symes in the Royal Navy.

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28th November, 1941.

It was proposed and agreed that 30/- be given to the children's Christmas treat in recognition of the work they had done in the waste paper collection.

2nd November 1942.

The following proposal was made and seconded:-

" The present War Pensions are totally inadequate and we urge that strong representations to Parliament be made by the National Executive Committee pressing for an early revision based on the principle that no ex-serviceman's (or his dependants) standard of living be reduced owing to death or disability caused in the service of his Country."

Annual General Meeting 20th November 1942.

Mr. Jeffrey, Chairman of the Dorchester Branch addressed the meeting and his main theme was the work of the Legion in watching the interest of ex-servicemen during and after this present war. We must see that the disgraceful spectacle of disabled men begging their living must not occur again. The Women's section was thanked by the Bride Valley Chairman for the splendid work they were doing on behalf of the Legion and the fact that they were providing a pension of 10/- per week for the widow of an ex-servicemen deserves special praise. Then their work on behalf of the Troops canteen, whist drives and the Christmas parcels for the Bride Valley men and women serving.

18th May 1943

A letter from the County secretary was read concerning the memorial to Major General Sir Reginald Pinney and it was decided to send out a circular to all members asking for individual subscription for this fund and in addition £5 be sent from Branch Funds. A letter from the Mayor of Dorchester was read appealing for funds for Dorset Regt Prisoners of War. Major Wratishlaw promised to organise the appeal and to be responsible for at least £2 per quarter and Mr. Hawkins £1 per quarter.

28th September 1943

The chairman announced the result to date of the Prisoner of War (Dorset Regt) Fund amounting to £51.9.9d.

Annual General Meeting 3rd November 1943.

The number of paid up members was 78. The same committee would serve again with the addition of Alf Brown.

Mr. Howarth proposed that the following resolution be sent to the County Conference

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and to the Annual Conference.

1. That the Nat. Executive be urged to press the Government for a more generous scale of pensions both for this and the last war.
2. To press for a Select Committee of the House of Commons to consider the whole system of Pensions.
3. That the Nat. Executive be urged to embark on a more active and widespread publicity campaign to bring before the public the aims and objects of the Legion and of the work the Legion is doing on behalf of ex-servicemen and women.

Mr. England asked that the meeting send to Headquarters a letter asking them to bring before the Ministry of Pensions the inadequacy of the provision of meals for disabled men who have to travel long distances to the Medical Boards at Exeter.

The Hon. Secretary then gave an address on the War Pensions. The activities of the Ministry of Pensions and an interesting discussion took place which brought out the complete dissatisfaction with the present scale of War pensions and the self satisfied attitude of the Minister of Pensions.

19th October 1944

At a joint Committee meeting with the Women's section it was decided that a Christmas card and a minimum of 5/- postal order be sent to each man and woman.

The Chairman read out a circular from the County Committee regarding a proposal to alter the Legion Charter to make 3 months instead of 7 days service in the Forces as qualifying period for membership of the Legion.

It was recommended to send a resolution to the County Conference in favour of admitting the Member of the Home Guard to the Legion.

Annual General Meeting 3rd November 1944.

The Secretary presented his report and said the we had lost 3 members by removal and one by death during the past year. The membership was now 83 and 20 Hon Members. The amount raised to date for Christmas gift for men and women from the Bride Valley serving in the forces was £120 and it was probable that we shall be able to send a Christmas card and a P.O. for 12/6d to each one in the forces.

Brigadier Gardiner addressed the meeting and in his speech said that there was much work to do when the young people return from the war and he suggested that preparations for future activities be made now, The Service committee of the Branch would especially have much work to do. He said that we must do more to provide adequate Branch H.Quarters so that members could meet more often than is possible now. He suggested three sub committees be constituted 1. Benevolent Grants. 2. Employment. 3. Gen. Purposes. Afterwards refreshments on a liberal scale was provided by the Women's section.

The following were appointed to form the Services Committee:-

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Maj. Wratlslaw	Chairman	Army
Mr. R.B. Howarth	Secretary	R.N.
Col. Harper	Army	
Mrs. Ryan	Red Cross	
Mrs Churchouse	Women's Section	
Mr. J.W. Nethercott	Treasurer	R.N.
Mr. J. Panton	V. Chairman	Army
Mr. F. Elliott	Army	
Rev. A.R. Dittmer	Army	
Mr. W. Symes	Army	
Mrs Aylott	Poppy Seller	
Mrs. A.W. Howarth	Women's Section	
Mr. A. Churchouse	Army	
Mr. A.G. Shipp	Army	
Mr. G.J. Hawkins	Army	
Capt. Shoobridge	War Pension Comm	
Mrs. Wratlslaw	S.S.& A.F.S.	
Mr. Park	Army	

8th November 1944

When the preliminary results of the Christmas Gifts effort was stated it was agreed that 180 men and women must be allowed for The money available to date was £120. It was decided to send a P.O. for 12/6d. The Christmas card was passed round for inspection and approved. It was agreed to send a special card of Remembrance and a P.O. when needed to next of Kin of all those who had given their lives in the war.

Copy of a letter sent by the Chairman to Major Bishop C.O. Home Guard on the occasion of the 'Stand down' of the Home Guard.

Burton Bradstock
1 Dec 1944

Dear Major Bishop,

I am writing on behalf of the Bride Valley Branch, British Legion to express to you our admiration and pride in the achievements of the Burton and Shipton Platoons in the Company under your command, on the occasion of the Standing down of the Home Guard.

We have remarked and have so often heard of their high quality, spoken of in terms of warm commendation.

It has been a comfort to us and to our women folk to feel we had your present protection. Had it come to actual combat there is no doubt but that your company would gloriously have upheld the fame and traditions of the County Regiment which is now performing such wonderful deeds of valour.

How much has been due to your own personal and tireless enthusiasm perhaps will go unrecorded, but you will have the deep satisfaction of seeing yourself in their great qualities- Good luck to you and all of them,

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Yours very sincerely,
J.M. Wratishaw
Branch Chairman.

Reply to the previous letter

Burton Bradstock
5th December 1944

Dear Major Wratishaw,

On behalf of 'D' company 1st Battn Dorset Home Guard I would like to thank you and all the members of the Bride Valley Branch, British Legion for your kind and appreciative letter which I read to the Burton and Shipton Platoon on last Sunday's parade. Your appreciation of our efforts is a reward for all we have done during the past 4½ years- a reward which is greatly valued by every member of the Home Guard. It gave us great pleasure to have the support of the British Legion at our final parade.

Yours sincerely,
J. Bishop. o.c. 'D' Coy.
1st Batt. D.H.G.

13th December 1944

It was decided to hold a Legion party in the hall on Boxing Day for members and their families and that the American soldiers in the village be invited.

1st February 1945

The plans for post war housing as far as the Bride Valley were concerned was discussed and the following Resolution, proposed by Rev. Dittmer and seconded by Mr. Nethercott was passed unanimously " The Bride Valley Branch, British Legion urge the Bridport Rural District Council when considering applicants for tenancy of houses which may be built under post war housing plans to give first preference to ex-servicemen and their dependants.

May 11th 1945

The President referred to the fact that this was the first meeting of the Committee after the war in Europe had ceased.

It was decided to write to the County secretary informing him that the Branch very strongly was in favour of all serving men being warned against taking up land in answer to plausible advertisement and advising them before doing so to ask advice of the nearest

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Branch. It was also suggested that this matter be brought to the notice of all C.O.'s of holding units with a request that the men should be advised on the matter. A discussion took place on the suggestion of a Community Centre and the part that the Branch should take in the question.

30th July, 1945

The Committee considered the housing problem as it affected men and women returning from the forces. Rev. Dittmer was asked to find out through his monthly circular how many serving men would be needing a house in Burton Bradstock on demobilisation. It was also suggested and agreed that the Rivers estate be approached with a view of providing houses for ex-servicemen and they were to meet Mr. Cowley on the subject. The Parish Council was asked to take up with the District Council the question of turning Bind Barrow Camp into temporary houses.

Annual General Meeting 8th November 1945.

Membership 84 ordinary members, 29 Hon. Members. 7 new members and 12 new hon. members during the year.
Poppy day proceeds £44.12.7d.

Capt. Shoobridge, the County Chairman addressed the meeting and said that the Legion had increased its membership by 150,000 during the year. He was strongly in favour of all Branches of establishing a Legion House which should be a centre of activities.

15th November 1945

A party was being arranged for Boxing Day open to all members and their families and serving men home on leave. If funds available a present would be given to children of school age. A Prize Draw to be arranged and the following prizes were promised:-

Bottle of Whisky	Col Harper
Bottle of Gin	Mr. Howarth
100 cigarettes	Mr. Hawkins
2 Rabbits	Mr. Churchouse
2 Birds	Major Wratlaw.

A discussion arose of the question of a Legion House which proved very interesting. The general opinion seemed to be in favour of establishing a Legion Club in preference to supporting a scheme for a Community Centre.

20th December 1945

It was reported that all Christmas cards to those serving in the forces in the area had been dispatched. It was agreed that a P.O. for 12/6d should be sent to L. Bailey, R.A.F. as we were unable to do this last year when he was a P.O.W. in Japan. Results of the Christmas draw was as follows:-

Bottle Whisky	P. House
Bottle Gin	E. Bealing
2 Chicken	J. Gadge
100 Cigarettes	C. Symes.
2 Rabbits	J. Danbrey

25th January 1946

Certificates of Appreciation printed to present to Poppy Sellers who have given five years service.

The Silver Jubilee of the Legion occurs on June 30th next and the Chairman requested the committee to turn over in their minds the question of celebrating the occasion suitably.

1st February 1946

The Executive Committee recommended the Committee to sanction the purchase of a duplicator so that members can be easily circularised when necessary.

10th April 1946

Held at Puncknowle School.

Mr. Laver asked why the committee met in the school for which a fee had to be paid when he had a room at the Crown Inn which the Committee could have free. The secretary explained that since the formation of the Branch it had been the practice not to have Branch committee meetings in licenced premises.

8th May 1946

Held at Litton Cheney.

Members would be circulated with details of the Salisbury Rally. It was also decided that the Branch should join the Bridport Rally and every endeavour be made to send in a contingent. Hearty congratulations were sent to the Women's section on their success in winning the Jellico Cup.

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24th July 1946

A letter was read from Major Cohen accepting the invitation to the A.G.M. and also a letter from Brig. Fitzpatrick thanking the Branch for congratulating him on his Knighthood.

11th September 1946

The question of the appointment of Conscientious Objectors as drivers of W.A.E Committee arose and the secretary was instructed to bring this question to the notice of the County Chairman with a view to finding out how many C.O are employed and the number of ex-servicemen appointed to the same jobs.

Annual General Meeting 26th October 1946

The membership stood at 152 an increase of 68 for the year. The poppy day sales amounted to £50.12.10d. In the elections Maj. Wratislaw stood down and was thanked for his valued services to the Branch since its formation. He was made a Vice President. The rest of the committee was as follows:-

President	Rev. A.R. Dittmer
V. President	Col Harper
Chairman	Mr. Panlin
V. Chairman	Mr. Hawkins
Secretary	Mr. Howarth.
Ass. Sec.	Mr. Shipp
Treasurer	Mr. Nethercott
Committee	Mr. Widges
	Mr. B. Hill
	Mr. Bobell
	Mr. E. Price
	Mr. W. Bryant
	Mr. A. Churchouse.
	Mr. A. Hutchings.
	Mr. R. Walbrin
	Col Maddocks

13th November 1946

A letter was read from Miss Clifford, resident tutor for the University of Bristol and Southampton inviting the Branch to co-operate in starting an Adult Education Class in Burton Bradstock.

The Secretary had approached the Rivers Estate with a view to using the Reading Room

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for Legion business.

At the suggestion of Col. Maddocks the Hon .Sec was instructed to write to the Clerk to the Rural District Council to ask if the Branch could be of any assistance in providing him a list of candidates for Council Houses indicating their opinion of the priority of candidates.

18th November 1946 Puncknowle.

The question of buying an army hut situated at Swyre on the property of Mr. Taylor for the use of the Legion members was discussed.

11th December 1946

It was agreed that the for the Christmas entertainment Mr. Churchouse undertook to order the beer 18 gallons.

It was decided to send a Christmas present to R. Travers a disabled member who was in hospital in Warminster. Col. Harper reported that W. Lovell a disabled member has received assistance through the County Benevolent Fund he requires materials for making toys. It was also decided to make a further application for training in a trade for Sid Trevett of Litton Cheney.

8th January 1947

A letter had been received from Miss P.J. Gordon stating that a supply of materials for toy making had been sent to Mr. Lovell.

Major Wratlaw was congratulated on his receiving the M.B.E.

12th March 1947 Litton Cheney.

The Branch was asked to approach the R.D.C. to see if the provision of a water supply for Shipton Gorge could be hastened in view of the fact that houses could not be built until a water supply was available.

16th April 1947

The Rivers estate were written to to press that in the event of cottages in Grove Road being de-requisitioned they be let to the first 2 on the Legion list.

The Rector to be approached with regard to providing a flag for the Shipton War Memorial.

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The question of conscientious objectors being appointed drivers under the W.A.E.C. was discussed and it was agreed that the secretary put the position before Mr. Digby, M.P.

21st May 1947

The Chairman referred to the loss the Branch had sustained in the death of the treasurer Mr. John Nethercott, a founder member of the Branch. His keenness for the work of the Legion was well known to members and all members would realise the Branch could ill afford to lose such an active member. The Hon. Sec. also paid tribute to the work of the late treasurer. Mr. Ball was elected Treasurer.

Annual General Meeting 29th October 1947

The only alteration to the committee was the addition of J and F. Churchill.

19th November 1947

The entertainments committee reported that Mr. England had seen the Bridport Operatic Society who were holding a meeting to arrange for show at Burton. Also Miss Gibbs who has promised to provide a show. For the children's party on the 8th January Mr. England had arranged T. Trevells Punch and Judy show at a fee of £3.3.0d plus transport.

17th December 1947.

The entertainments committee confirmed the previous arrangements and the party was confined to members and their wives or husbands or sweethearts. Best Radio-gram would be hired and 9 galls of beer provided. The children would have Trevells Cinema with tea and organised games-age limit 14.

14th January 1948

Col. Maddocks explained the plans of the Legion Room and was authorised to make arrangements after the consultation with the Rivers Estate. It was agreed that the room shall not be let for Political Party meetings.

11th February 1948

A letter was read from Mr. Galpin of Rivers Estate stating that the alterations to the Reading Room were approved subject to minor alterations and the agreement would be drawn up shortly.

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14th April 1948

Mr. England reported that following the success of the recent concert the Bridport Operatic Society would produce a play at Burton in Sept. for the benefit of the Legion's Funds.

The Hon. Sec. was instructed to make enquiries from the Railway Co. about terms for an outing to London in July.

12th May 1948

The Sec was asked to enquire of the Bere Regis Motor Co. for quotation for trip to London and obtain names of members wishing to partake.

The Women's section was congratulated for winning 2 certificates at the Annual conference.

8th September 1948

A letter was read from the Nat. Bus Co, asking for the support of the Branch in their application to run a bus service to Weymouth via Burton, Puncknowle and Litton. This was agreed.

The secretary read the Legion letter re the drive for pensions increase and the Branch strongly supports the petition and the secretary was instructed to write to Mr. Digby, M.P. asking him to support the proposal in Parliament. It was decided to purchase a dart board for use in the Reading Room.

13th October 1948

The secretary was asked to write to Mr. Cowley, the agent to the Rivers estate protesting at the long delay in coming to a decision of the lease of the Reading Room. The Committee were desirous of carrying out certain improvements and decorations of the room but owing to the procrastination of the Rivers Estate these improvements could not be made.

Annual General Meeting 28th October 1948.

The membership now stood at 193. 20 new members had joined and they have lost 2 by death and 12 by removal which 2 had lapsed.

An election was held for the election of a new President and Col. Maddocks was elected Col. Holland, Major Plummer and Col. Harper were elected as Vice Presidents in

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addition to Maj. Wratislaw, Life V. President.

Chairman	Mr. Panton	
V. Chairman	Mr. Chapman	
Hon Sec.	Mr. Howarth.	
Ass Sec.	Mr. L. Hope.	
Treasurer	Mr. Bull	
Committee	Mr. Bobbett	
	Mr. J. Churchill	
	Mr. S. Shipp	
	Mr. E. Norris	
	Mr. F. Churchill	
	Mr. Widges	
	Mr. B. Hill	
	Mr. Hawkins	
	Mr. Gudge	
	Mr. Park	Long Bredy
	Mr. Hiscock	Swyre
	Mr. Alner	Puncknowle
	Mr. Cheney	Ditto
	Mr. W. Symes	Shipton
	Mr. England	Ditto
	Mr. Staples	Litton Cheney

Mr. Shoobridge County Chairman addressed the meeting and said that the membership in Dorset was now 11048 and that there were now 55 Branches, three having been opened this year.

10th November 1948

The secretary said that he was awaiting a visit from Capt. Pitt-Rivers before the lease could be settled.

Mr. Bobbett proposed that we support the application of the Nat. Bus Co., to run a workman's bus service between Bridport and Litton Cheney.

11th January 1949.

The draft lease of the Reading Room had been received from the Rivers Estate and it was decided to accept the lease subject to certain amendments. It was agreed that the Trustees should be Col Maddocks, J.W. Panton, B.J. Bull and R.B. Howarth.

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13th April 1949

The secretary reported on the Dorset County British Legion War Memorial. The memorial will consist of 10 houses specially built for disabled men or women or widows of servicemen with young families. The houses will be built in a group in Stone Park, Wimbourne. The land purchased by Branches in the Wimbourne area.

11th May 1949

The details of the Legion Rally to be held at Weymouth on 30th July was given out. The circular about the Haig Homes at Wimbourne was read and it was agreed that £50 be given to the fund from the Branch.

Annual General Meeting 29th October 1949

The officers were elected as last year and the committee consists of:-

Mr. Hawkins	
Mr. Norris	
Mr. Hutchings	
Mr. Mullins	
Mr. Thorne	
Mr. J. Churchill	
Mr. Wylde	
Mr. Staples	Litton Cheney
Mr. Hiscock	Ditto
Mr. Park	Long Bredy
Mr. Pashen	Little Bredy
Mr. Hickey	Ditto
Mr. Pellow	Shipton Gorge
Mr. Heathcote	Ditto
Mr. Rodsway	Ditto

Puncknowle and Swyre members were not present.

Lord Llewellyn addressed the meeting.

9th November 1949

The decorations to the outside of the Reading room was discussed and it was agreed that the Room be let to other organisations in the Village at a fixed charge with the exception of the Burton Bradstock Football Club who should be allowed to meet in the room free of charge providing the way they use the room meets with the approval of the Committee.

14th December 1949

Col Maddocks confirmed that Mr. Churchouse was ready to proceed with the work of renovating the Reading Room and that he would work at cost. Also he would be able to

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obtain a stove very cheaply. He was instructed to carry out the work and to supply a heating stove.

11th January, 1950.

Enquires were made of Askers Road House about cost of holding a supper there. The cost was 5/- per head plus a room charge of £5.5.0d

8th February, 1950.

It was decided to purchase 200 copies of the booklet "Why the Legion is necessary"

15th March 1950.

It was proposed by Mr Wylde that four dances be held on a Friday evenings during July and August.

Col. Maddocks proposed "That a resolution be sent to Group H.Q. that a member of the Legion should not support a case of a member without referring to the Branch in whose area that member lives"

20th April 1950

It was proposed that a skittle alley be erected in the Playing Field during the Whitsun week. Prizes suggested were men £3 ; £2 ;and £1. Women £1.10.0d - £1.0.0d

13th September 1950

Mr. Chapman called the attention of the Committee to the question of perpetuating the memory of the late W.J. Nethercott who did so much work for the Branch and the Legion in the early days.

11th October 1950

On the retirement of Mr. R.B. Howarth from the post of Poppy Day organiser, Col. Maddocks proposed and Major Plummer seconded that Mr. Howarth be accorded the thanks of the members for his work in connection with Poppy Day Appeal over the last 30 years.

The Annual General Meeting 18th October 1950.

Col. Maddocks was elected President; Col. Harper, Major Plummer, Col. Holland elected Vice Presidents. Mr. Panton (chairman); Mr. Howarth (secretary) Mr. Bull (treasurer) Committee consisted of Mr. Hawkins; Mr. Wylde, Rev. Dittmer; Fred Northover; E. Thorne; J. Gudge and Mr. Toms. Litton Cheney was represented by Mr. J. Staples and Mr. W. Hiscock. Long Bredy by Mr. H. Parks and Mr. H. Roper. Little Bredy by Mr. Pashen and Mr. Hickley. Puncknowle by Mr. Alner . Shipton by Mr. England and

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Swyre by Mr. Woolmington.

A cheque for £5 was sent to the Somerset Convalescent Home.

8th November 1950

The secretary was asked to arrange to have photograph of Mr. Nethercott framed.

13th December, 1950

The charges for the use of the W.I. hall by Burton Bradstock W.I. were discussed and it was decided that the secretary write to ask the W.I. Committee to meet a deputation from the Branch to discuss the matter! It was decided that a copy of the Royal Charter be put in the Legion Room.

The total amount collected on Poppy Day was £64.12.7d an increase of £6.10.0d on 1949!

10th January 1951

A discussion took place on meeting the cost of running the Legion Room as a Club. A sub-committee was formed to discuss this.

18th April 1951

Suggestions for the summer social programme was as follows:-

1. An afternoon to Bournemouth
2. An Old Time Dance.
3. Concert and Dance.
4. Trip to the Festival of Britain.
5. Trip to Weston Super Mare and visit the Legion House.

12th September 1951

The committee accepted with grateful thanks to Miss Hutchinson the picture of "Three Hampshire Naturalists" which she had kindly presented for the Legion Room.

The Annual General Meeting 22nd October 1951

The paid membership was 183 with 9 new members and 16 had left the district.

The use of the Legion Room for recreation was discussed. It was pointed out that it was not very well patronised last winter but the cost had been covered.

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19th December 1951

It was decided to send a present of cigarettes to the County Secretary. Mr. Hawkins reported that the Puncknowle Band was unable to perform at the Christmas Party and it was decided to engage a Radiogram!

13th February 1952

The members stood in silence in tribute to our late King George VI and our late comrade Desmond Wylde.

12th March 1952

The secretary was asked to obtain particulars of forthcoming attractions at the Ritz Theatre, Weymouth with a view of arranging a visit by members. The Secretary gave a report of the County Committee meeting particularly with regard to the position of the Legion Homes in Wimborne.

18th September 1952

A Badge and Beret were ordered for the Standard Bearer. Members were asked for co-operation in providing an episode at the Bridport Pageant in June 1953.

8th October 1952

The result of the Bridport Operatic Entertainment given in the W.I. Hall was £10.10.7d and the society was thanked for their fine entertainment and for kindly giving their services.

Annual General Meeting 31st October 1952.

Membership was now 185.

Elected were:-

Col Maddocks	President
Col Holland	
Maj. Plummer	
Col Harper	
Mr. Hawkins	
Major Wratlslaw (Life)	Vice Presidents.
Mr. Panton	Chairman
Mr. Chapman	V. Chairman
Mr. Howarth	Secretary
Mr. Hope	Assist. Secretary
Mr. Bull	Treasurer

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Mr. Norris	Journal Sec.
Rev. A.R.W. Dittmer	Committee Burton Bradstock
Messrs Gudge, Wylde, Norris, Heal, D. Burton and Toms	Ditto
Messrs Staples and Hiscock	Litton Cheney
Mr. Mowdsley	Puncknowle
Mr. Woolmington	Swyre
Messrs Stickley and Pashen	Little Bredy
Messrs Park and Roper	Long Bredy
Wing Com. Day	Shipton Gorge.

13th November 1952

The Rev. Dittmer raised the question of the Remembrance Service and suggested that instead of having the service at each village in the valley in turn, each village should have its own Remembrance Service. He suggested also that we should consider making it obligatory on the part of Legion members to attend the Remembrance Service. In reply to the above the Secretary pointed out that each village at present had its own Remembrance Service at 11 a.m. and that the Legion held an evening service which was a special United Remembrance Service for the Bride Valley. He also pointed out that the Legion was non-secretarian and that no member could be compelled to attend any religious service at any time.

10th December 1952.

The following were elected as the Legion representatives on the Burton Bradstock Coronation Committee - Col. Maddocks, E. Norris, A. Wylde and B. Bull.

23rd December 1952

The members stood in silence in memory of our late comrade Sydney Hounsell.

14th January 1953

The members stood in a silent tribute to our late comrade Walter Samways.

11th February 1953

It was decided to hold the committee meetings bi-monthly unless the chairman and secretary think a meeting is necessary.

The secretary was asked to obtain a price for placing an open fireplace in the Legion

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Room in place of the stove.

Mr. Toms proposed and Mr. Wylde seconded that we send the sum of £10 to the Legion Branch most in need owing to the floods.

9th September 1953

A silent tribute with special remembrance of our comrade Benjamin Burton, a member of the Branch since its foundation.

The discussion took place on the Legion Service of Remembrance and was proposed by Col. Maddocks and seconded by Mr. Wylde that one service for the Branch should be held at each village in turn.

Annual General Meeting November 4th 1953

Membership was now 177. The secretary referred to the loss by death of Benjamin Burton, Chas Greening, Walter Samways and quite recently of Joe Ring. The following resolution was proposed and seconded at the meeting " That this meeting strongly supports the Nat. Executive Committee in their demand that the basic rate of pension for 100% disability be raised to £4.10.00d per week and that the pension of their widows be substantially raised from the miserable pittance at present -paid. Also that war pensions should be linked with the cost of living index."

15th December 1953

A reply had been received from the M.P. Mr. Wingfield Digby relating to the Legions demand for increased pensions for disabled servicemen.

Mr. N. Pinketts Concert Party was engaged for the Christmas Party and Mr. E. Bailey of Beaminster was willing to give a film show for the children's party.

15th September 1954

It was agreed that the monthly meetings should take the form of being partly social and that speakers be invited to talk to members on topics such as their interesting experiences in Service life, travels etc. Mr. Howarth was congratulated on his appointment as Justice of the Peace.

Annual General Meeting 27th October 1954.

Membership stood at 173. The officers of the committee were the same but the rest of the committee was made up of the following:-

Burton Bradstock	Messrs. Heal, Norris, Wylde, Burton, Gudge, Capt. Mallinson, J. Northover.
Litton Cheney	Messrs Staple and Hiscock.
Swyre	Mr. Woolmington
Puncknowle	Mr. Duggan
Shipton	Wing Com. Day.

9th February, 1955

The secretary reported that Miss Vera Macheon had offered to get up a variety entertainment jointly for the British Legion and The Young Farmers on March 9th. A photograph of the Queen at the Garden of Remembrance was ordered for the Legion's Room.

9th March 1955

Correspondence was read from E. Ellis in respect to the charge for the Radiogram for the Christmas Party and it was decided to pay the charge estimated and to explain to the W.I. how the interference with the operation has caused inconvenience. (*apparently the W.I. had refused access to the hall for this equipment!*)

11th May 1955

The secretary and treasurer were empowered to buy a second hand piano whenever they were able to find a suitable one - the cost to be about £5.

21st September 1955

A letter was read from the County H.Q. asking for donations to provide garages for the disabled men's cars and £2.guineas was sent for this purpose.

12th October 1955

A letter was sent to the Women's section thanking them for their gift of £10 towards the damage caused by a flood in the Legion Room. It was decided to purchase chairs when suitable ones were available at sales. The billiard table was offered to the Burton Youth Club or failing this to some similar organisation in Bridport.

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Annual General Meeting 26th October, 1955

No change on the committee except that Wing Co. Day was elected to one of the Vice Presidents and also Vice Chairman.

A discussion took place as to the continuance of the Remembrance Service by visiting the churches in the valley in turn. No one spoke in favour of change and it was therefore decided to continue as at present.

15th November 1955

Mr. Heal offered to obtain further particulars of the sale of chairs in the next NAAFI disposal sale.

19th September 1956

The secretary was authorised to register the Branch as a charitable organisation for the purposes of the Lottery Act of 1956. The secretary was authorised to purchase a suitable heating stove for the Legion Room. (*An oil stove was approved at the next meeting*) The committee wish to register a protest that nothing was done by the Branch to mark the occasion of the Golden Wedding of the secretary and Mrs. Howarth.

Annual General Meeting 24th October 1956

The secretary referred to the death of John Hitchcock our oldest member who had taken part in the Egyptian Campaign and was a member of the crew of HMS Powerful which landed ship's guns for the relief of Ladysmith.

Wing Com. Day proposed and Mr. Hawkins seconded and it was passed unanimously the Life Membership of the Legion be awarded to Mr. R.B. Howarth for his meritorious work as Hon Sec. of the Branch since it's formation in 1936.

10th April 1957

A block booking was arranged for members to go to see Rose Marie performed by the Bridport Operatic Society. Mr. Williams raised the question a what could be done to help the Youth of the Village or in guidance and in other ways through the Youth Club or in other ways. After a discussion it was decided to discuss the question at another meeting.

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Annual General Meeting 29th October 1957

The secretary presented his report and wished and hoped for greater interest to be shown in Legion work by the Rank and File members, he paid tribute to Mr. Shipp the standard bearer and to Mr. Bull.

The Officers elected were as before except that Mr. B. Bull became Assist. Secretary and Mr. Arnold became Treasurer.

The secretary mentioned that the Youth Club wished to use the Legion Room and it was subsequently agreed that they could use it on Mondays and Wednesdays provided there was proper supervision at a fee of 5/0d.

14th May 1958

The secretary reported that as yet he had no definite information from the Rivers Estate about the gift of the Reading Room to the Legion.

Annual General Meeting 30th October 1958.

Membership stood at 115.

Mr. Mallinson said that the Poppy day collection for 1957 was £84.15.11d The secretary referred to the long Service of Mr. Shipp, the standard bearer and it was unanimously resolved that the Life membership be given to Mr. Shipp in recognition. It was also agreed to admit to Hon. Membership anyone with the interests of the Legion at heart and with a desire to further it's objects. It was decided to invest up to £5 in Premium Bonds.

19th November 1958

It was decided to purchase five £1 Premium Bonds in the name of the Treasurer and the number of the Bonds to be entered into the Minute book. The secretary was to recommend to the County Committee that Mr. A.G. Shipp, Standard Bearer be awarded a Certificate of Merit for outstanding Services to the Legion- 22 years. It was decided to provide a new Union Jack for the War memorial at Shipton Gorge.

11th February 1959

The numbers of the Premium Bonds purchased by the Treasurer, Mr. Arnold's on behalf of the Legion were 2EZ957801 to 2EZ957805.

It was decided to hold a draw with the prizes being 10 - £1 Premium Bonds.

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14th October 1959

A question of the repair of the door to the Legion Room was discussed and if it could not be repaired then a new one or second hand be obtained. Heating was again discussed and it was agreed that the present heater was adequate providing it was properly attended to.

Annual General Meeting 4th November 1959

The Branch was not increasing in membership the young people, mainly National Servicemen did not seem to feel the need of the Legion.

9th March , 11th May and 14th September 1960

A discussion to place on plans to raise funds especially for benevolent purposes and it was decided to go into the question of having skittling on the Three Horseshoes Car park. Prizes were to be Highest Daily 10/= Gent; 5/= Lady and Highest individual score for the week £5. Profit from this event was £12.

12th October 1960

Mr. Shipp, the Standard Bearer had been selected to bear the Standard at The Festival of Remembrance at Albert Hall on November 12th.

Annual General Meeting 27th October 1960

The Chairman, Mr. J.W. Panton informed the members that as he was leaving the District he would be giving up the Chairmanship. Wing Commander Day was elected as Chairman and Mr. Heal as Vice Chairman. The secretary reported a falling off in membership. This was occasioned principally by the failure in the system in collecting subscriptions.

Committee Meetings 1961

Several took place but not of general interest.

Annual General Meeting November 8th 1961

The Officers remained the same but the Committee was voted on as follow:-

Burton Bradstock

Shipton

Puncknowle

Swyre

Messrs F. Norris, Williams, Mullins,
Heal, Shipp, Jarman and House

Mr. Butler

Mr. J. Simmonds

Mr. Woolmington

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Litton Cheney
Long Bredy
Little Bredy

Mr. Hiscock and Mr. Webber.
Mr. Park and Mr. Roper.
Mr. Squibb.

Membership stood at 101 and we had lost by death during the year, five members, Raymond Walbrin, Ernest Thorne, Henry Northover, William Rodway and F. Forsey. There was much increased disability owing to advancing years among the disabled. Capt. Mallinson, Poppy Day Organiser, presented his report on Poppy Day receipts. The Earl Haigh Fund had received from Poppy Day, nationally, £1,053,000, more than this had been spent on Benevolent Work. The Branch collection was £82.14.4d.

13th December, 1961

Quotations had been received from South West Electricity and Household and Commercial Services for the heating of the Legion Room and the secretary was asked to find out particulars of time switches and Tarriff and then act as he thought fit.

14th March 1962

At the start of the meeting the members stood in silence in tribute to Ernest G. House who had been a zealous worker for the Legion for many years. The Chairman, Wing Commander Day, had been in Hospital and had been visited on three occasions and was now home.

16th October 1962

The Remembrance service was arranged for Puncknowle. Repairs had to be carried out to the roof of the Legion Room and there was to be a discussion with the Parish Council as to the liability. The Youth Club have the use of the room for Committee meetings but not for Judo! It was agreed that the Parish Council have free use of the room for Parish Council meetings.

Annual General Meeting 8th November 1962

In the election of Officers Mr. Jarman was elected Chairman and Major Sandeman Vice Chairman.

The secretary said that relief had been given to two members of 16 weeks at 10/6d per week. He thought that this was inadequate and asked members to bring to the Benevolent Committee only cases of sickness or need so that help could be quickly given. The total number of paid up members was 77 with 17 outstanding subscriptions. The Poppy Day total for the area was £86.1.3d. A letter of thanks was sent to Mrs. Wratislaw for her splendid service in making poppy sprays to put on the War memorials in the villages and also a letter to Major Wratislaw wishing him a speedy recovery from his illness.

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13th February, 1963

The secretary reported on the proposed visit to the pantomime at Weymouth which owing to the weather had to be abandoned. This resulted after paying for 62 tickets and no refund could be obtained. The secretary reported also that a card containing good wishes and a 10/= note had been sent to all widows of ex-servicemen in the district and to the sick and infirmed members a total of 61 in number.

13th March 1963

The secretary had been asked to meet the members of the Women's Institute who were in financial difficulties with the Hall. The present charges were not enough to meet the working of the Hall and its upkeep and a decision had to be made whether to sell the Hall or increase the charges. It was decided the latter for the time being and consider later whether this step would solve the difficulties. The members stood in silence in memory of our comrade, Reg Webb.

10th April 1963

The owner of Bay View Club had been approached and would provide a supper for 7/6d per head for the May social meeting.

Col. Maddocks was to be approached to take steps to improve the acoustics in the Room.

16th October 1963.

A circular was read out from H.Q. inviting Branches with a deposit account to invest with them at 4%. The Committee was in favour of this but would discuss it later.

Annual General Meeting 31st October, 1963

The election of the Committee was as follows:-

President	Col. Maddocks.
Vice Presidents:	Col. Harper
	Wing Com. Day.
	Canon Dittmer
	Mr. E.J.Hawkins
	Mr. L. Hope
	Maj. Sandeman
Chairman	Mr. W. Jarman.
Vice Chairman	Maj. Sandeman
Secretary	Mr. R.B. Howarth

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Assist Secretary	Mr. L. Hope.
Treasurer	Mr. C. Ledger
Committee:	
Burton Bradstock	Messrs Fife, Shipp, E. Norris, F. Norris, Mullins, Heal.
Shipton	Mr. England.
Puncknowle	Mr. J. Simmonds
Swyre	Vacant
Litton Cheney	Mr. Hiscock and Mr. Webber
Long Bredy	Mr. H. Park.
Little Bredy	Mr. Squibb

A great loss to the Branch had been the tragic death of Major Wratlslaw, a founder member and its first chairman. Also the deaths of Joe Ward, Alfie Hutchings and Reg Webb.

Membership stood at 77. The poppy day collection amounted to £95.13.3d.

13th November

It was agreed to transfer the Benefit Fund from Lloyds Bank to H.Q. Deposit account at 4% A Christmas gift as last year would be sent to widows of ex-servicemen in the Bride Valley.

12th February, 1964

A quotation had been received for the supply and installation of a basin and hot and cold water from Rosamunds Ltd. for £31.2.0d but this could be lower if the drain connection had already been made!

An application to let the Room to a Beat Group of learners was received but this was refused on the ground that it might cause annoyance to the neighbours.

18th March 1964

Mr. Jarman was elected representative to the Burton Bradstock Old Peoples Welfare Committee. The Womens section had sent a letter saying that they would be unable to support the Children's Party financially this year. The Old Peoples Welfare Committee and the Village Society should have the Legion Room free for their meetings until such times they had funds available. It was agreed to buy an electric water heater for £5.13.0d.

Annual General Meeting 28th October, 1964

(Poorly attended)

No change in committee other than Major Sandeman elected as Vice Chairman and Wing

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Commander Day being representative for Shipton Gorge. Membership now stood at 101. Tribute was paid to the excellent work of Mr. Mallinson, the Poppy Organiser who reported a record year of £93.10.8d collected in the Bride Valley.

10th March 1965

Mr. Shipp, the Standard Bearer was presented with a cheque in celebration of his Golden Wedding and the President paid tribute to the long and unselfish service Mr. Shipp had given to the Branch during the time he had been Standard Bearer, since the formation of the Branch.

Annual General Meeting 8th November 1965

The Secretary read the Annual report the chief points were the the ageing membership and the need of a better system for collecting subscriptions.

11th May 1966

Burton Bradstock Labour Party asked permission to use the Room for meetings. It was decided to ask H.Q. for their advice on this matter. Permission was given for the Burton Bradstock Association (a non-political organisation) to use the room for their annual meetings.

Annual General Meeting 2nd November 1966

Capt. Mallinson was elected a Vice President . Membership was 76. Tribute was paid to the work of the Women's section done by all too few and to the splendid service rendered by Mr. Shipp, who has completed 30 years Service as Standard Bearer for the Branch.

11th May 1967

The question was discussed as to the liability for maintenance and decorations to the Legion Room. It was stated that the responsibility was that of the legion, but it was decided to ask the Parish Council to consider assistance in the work.

11th October 1967

The memorial service would be at Litton Cheney this year and transport would be arranged. Mr. Rooke has done a splendid job of work in renovating the War memorial at Swyre and he was heartily thanked by the Committee for this valuable service.

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Annual General Meeting 8th November 1967

Members stood in silence in memory of our late President Col. Maddocks.

President	Major Sandeman
Vice Presidents	Capt. Mallinson, Col. Harper, Wing Com. Day, Mr. Heal, Mr. Hope.
Chairman	Mr. Jenkins
Vice Chairman	Mr. Jarman
Secretary	Mr. Howarth
Ass. Secretary	Mr. Hope.
Treasurer	Mr. Rooke
Committee	Messrs. Waters, Mullins, Shipp, Turnbull and Maj. Hubbard
Shipton	Wing Com Day
Swyre	Mr. Walden
Puncknoll	Mr. J. Simmonds
Litton Cheney	Mr. Hiscock
Long Bredy	Mr. H. Park
Little Bredy	Mr. Squibb

Mr. Ledger was thanked for his duties as Treasurer but had now retired on leaving the district.

10th January 1968

A letter was to be sent to all households in the villages to encourage membership of the Legion. It was also decided to inform the Rector of Legion Events for notice to be put in "Tidings".

14th January 1968

Propaganda leaflets were issued to the Committee for distribution in the Villages. Mr. Lucas of West Bexington was co-opted onto the Committee.

Annual General Meeting 30th October 1968

The present paid up membership was 71 being 67 Ordinary members and 4 Life members. 6 members had left the District, 2 had been transferred in and 3 new members. Tribute was again paid to the help received from the Women's section and to the continuous splendid record of Mr. Shipp, the Standard Bearer, who had performed this office from the start of the the Branch. The Branch had received a Legacy of £50 from Mrs. Churchouse who was for many years the treasurer for the Women's section. The Poppy Day collection totaled £108.14.3d

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13th November 1968

Mr. Rooke presented his report as Treasurer and he then handed over the Post to Mr. Waters.

8th January 1969

Congratulations were given to Mr. Howarth, Hon Secretary on the award of the M.B.E. in the recent New Years Honours List.

12th February 1969

The question of retaining the piano in the Legion Room was discussed and as it was felt there was no further use for it, it might as well be disposed of after discussion with Mr. Hawkins who had originally given the piano.

12th March 1969

Mr. Hawkins had agreed to the disposal of the piano and the Rector to be approached to see whether the Youth Club would be interested.

14th May 1969

It was agreed to allow the Football Club use of the Room for committee meetings and to give Mr. Proctor a picture of the Old Mill .

8th October 1969

The Christmas gift to Widows of ex-servicemen was to be doubled from 10/- to £1 .

Annual General Meeting 29th October 1969

Major Hubbard who is leaving the Village wrote wishing success to the Branch and expressing his thanks to the members of the Branch for the welcome he had received while a member of the committee and Poppy Day organiser.

Rev. L. Levette was made Legion Chaplain.

Membership stood at 76 including 4 Life Members. 4 New members joined and Mr. W. Williams, a founder member had died during the year.

10th December 1969

A letter was read from the St. Marys(Group) Bridport Boy Scouts asking if we would give them the Bass Drum as they were forming a Band and were in need of one. It was decided that the Scouts be *loaned* the drum for as long as the Band existed but if and when the Band ceased to exist the Drum be returned to the Branch.

14th January 1970

Greetings were given to Mr. Heal this day being his birthday. Mr. Howarth was also greeted and congratulated on recently arriving at his 89th Birthday and the Branch also thanked him for his services to the Branch as Hon Secretary since its formation.

11th February 1970

The secretary reported that the Lease of the Reading Room to the Branch had expired and the Parish Council would be notified.

4th March 1970

The President, Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer were appointed Trustees under the New Lease of the Legion Room from the Parish Council. A quarterly News Letter to be issued to members.

9th April 1970

It was reported that the Secretary, Mr. Howarth was in Weymouth Hospital and the Committee asked the Chairman to write a letter to him wishing him a speedy recovery. The Lease of the Reading Room was read and signed by the Trustees.

1st July 1970

It was reported that Mr. Miles had now replaced the letters which had been missing from the War Memorial in the Church. These letters had been unattainable and the Branch are grateful to Mr. Miles for making and replacing the letters which complete the names of the Fallen. The investment with H.Q. now amounted to £300. The secretary was authorised to enquire about replacing the present Standard with a new one.

Annual General Meeting 22nd October 1970

The President, Major Sandeman, welcomed the members and spoke of the need for comradeship and care of the infirm and disabled. The membership was now 70.

9th December 1970

The secretary gave a review of the present state of pensions for the War disabled and for Widows and dependants. The Basic pension of 100% disabled private and equivalent rank is £8.8.0d a week and for a widow with children £6.10.0d. For a widow under 40

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without children £1.10.0d. Further allowances for children's education, rent etc., can be obtained. The meeting decided that the present day pensions are inadequate in view of the continuing increase in the cost of living and the following resolution was passed to be sent for consideration by the area conference at Salisbury in February. " this meeting deplors the present totally inadequate rate of War Pensions and calls upon the Government to increase the pensions and bring them in line with the increased cost of living " The question of altering the Royal Charter so as to admit persons, other than those who had served in the Armed forces of the Crown to membership was discussed and it was the unanimous opinion of the meeting that the present rules of membership should be maintained.

11th February 1971

The secretary reported on the position with regard to the Drum which had been lent to the Bridport District Scouts. This Drum had now been damaged and was out of use. The sum of £5 had been given to the Branch through the Rev. C.H.B. Ridler and a promise that the Drum would be returned. This had not been done and it was decided to put the matter before the District Commissioner, Mr. Angus. in order to arrive at a settlement.

14th April 1971

The dedication of the new Branch Standard was to be held on Sunday September 12th at 3 pm.

The secretary read a letter from Headquarters in reply to one of his where he complained that a Navy pensioner had his pension reduced owing to decimalisation of the coinage. The secretary proposed that he write to the Prime Minister and the committee supported this step.

16th June 1971.

Arrangements of the Ceremony of the Dedication of the New Standard were discussed and it was decided :-

1. To invite the Lord Lieutenant of Dorset, Col. Weld.
2. The County Chairman and Mrs. Smith.
3. To engage the Allington Silver Band if suitable arrangements could be made with them.
4. To consider asking a caterer to provide the refreshments in the Hall after the Parade.
5. Invitations to be limited to West Dorset Branches because of the limited accommodation in the Church.
6. Col. Gibbons to undertake marshalling of the parade on the Playing field and deciding route of march.
7. To ask Parish Council for permission to use playing field for Parade and for parking cars.
8. Mr. Miles be asked to assist the secretary in the arrangements.
9. The Bishop of Sherbourne be invited to take the Service.

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10. The Standard bearers escorts to be Mr. Heal, Mr. Hope, Mr. J. Simmonds and a member from Shipton Gorge.

31st August 1971

The secretary reported that to date he had only received 4 replies from Branches to the invitation to the Dedication of the new Standard and that he had recently issued invitations to 17 more Branches in the County. The Chairman of the Bridport Rural District Council, Mrs. Palmer had also been invited.

Annual General Meeting 27th October 1971

The secretary gave his report and said that the year had been an eventful one and the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Legion and the Dedication of the new Standard on Sept 12th 1971. The Branch membership was 73. £1 each had been given to all widows of ex-servicemen in the Valley at Christmas. This amounted to 68 in number. In addition help had been given in other cases amounting to £54. Mr. Howarth went on to say that "This is my last report I have made 35 of them as secretary. Since the Branch was started I have travelled thousands of miles in the Valley and to the Area and National Conferences. I have done a little to help those who on two occasions saved the Country from slavery." He went on to thank everyone for their help. The Chairman, Mr. Jenkins, paid tribute to Mr. Howarth and said that he had carried out his duties with little regard for himself but had always foremost in his mind the welfare of the ex-servicemen and women. The infirm and disabled but it was hoped that on his retirement he would be able to have more rest and so be beneficial to his health. The Poppy appeal this year amounted to £201.00p

Election of Officers

Major Sandeman had decided not to stand as President this year and so the following were elected:-

President.	Mr. R.B. Howarth.
Chairman.	Mr. W.F. Jenkins.
Vice Chairman	Mr. W. Heal.
Vice Presidents:	Messrs Mallinson, Hope, Heal, Ince and Col. Harper.
Secretary	Mr. K. Miles.
Ass. Secretary	Mr. L. Hope.
Treasurer	Mr. F.A. Waters.
Chaplain	Rev. L.G. Levetlee

November 10th 1971

A presentation of an illuminated address was made to Mr. R.B. Howarth by the retiring President Maj. G. Sandeman. Major Sandeman said that it was a small token from

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Officers and members of the Branch to show their esteem and regard for Mr. Howarth who had carried out the duties of Branch secretary for 35 years, with zeal and devotion.

A group resolution was supported by the Branch and this read as follows:-

" This Group does not agree with the N.E.C. proposals with regard to widening the membership of the Legion to include associate members and considers that a special effort should be made nationally and sponsored by N.E.C. to gather in the many thousands of persons eligible under existing rules. At the same time a closer liaison with Navy, Corps, Regimental and Air Force Associations to bring the Royal British Legion and its work and principles to the notice of their members."

The Old Standard was agreed to be laid up in the South Transept under the guidance of Rev. C.H.B. Ridler.

December 8th 1971.

The chairman reported the winning of the John Vaughan Cup and Certificate of Merit by the Branch. The Cup was awarded by Dorset County for the first time and we had the honour of being the first winners. The award was offered to Small Branches of up to 100 members showing the best efficiency and progress during the year 1970-71.

January 12th 1972.

The secretary reported that a cheque for £51,142 .20p was handed to His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, President of the Royal National Life Boat Institution on December 1st 1971 by the Royal British Legion to celebrate their 50th Anniversary enabling the Institution to purchase a Life-Boat which will be named The Royal British Legion Jubilee.

A further discussion took place about membership categories and it was felt that small branches could not make their opinions felt due to the large branches having greater voting power. In consequence the Secretary was instructed to write to County headquarters, suggesting a Small Branch Group be formed within the County and a possible Small Branch Conference held in order that Resolutions could be put forward to County Conference. Thus giving some weight of opinion from Small Branches.

February 9th 1972.

The Branch agreed to participate with Dorchester Branch in organising a roster to visit ex-service patients in Herrison Hospital.

March 8th 1972.

It was agreed that the Secretary should attend the opening of the Burton Bradstock Library.

April 13th 1972 Branch Meeting.

This was a combined meeting with the Women's section and Mr. S.J.W. Smith J.P. the R.B.L. Dorset County Chairman and his wife were guests. Mr. Smith addressed the meeting and brought to the attention of the members what the R.B.L. had achieved over the years and special mention was made of the Housing Association, 2000 units had been proposed and developed in this Country and the latest being 14 units in Shaftesbury.

May 10th 1972.

The Committee had received Mr.A.G. Shipp's resignation as Standard Bearer due to ill health. It was recorded that throughout the life of the Branch, 36 years, in which he had been Standard Bearer he has carried out his duties with devotion, zeal, dignity and in a most exemplary manner. It was proposed that a gold badge presentation be made to Mr. Shipp who had reached the age of 84.

It was resolved that Mr. W. Heal should be the Branch Standard Bearer in succession to Mr. Shipp.

September 27th 1972.

The President paid tribute to four members who had died since the last meeting, namely Ivor Peacock, Henry Brett Ince, Tom Turnbull and Col. Tom Harper.

A resolution was sent via the Bridport Group for onward transmission to Dorset County for inclusion in the next agenda of the County Conference " That this Branch feels despite the recent increase in pensions to the war disabled that these are still inadequate.The secretary was instructed to order 24 new "Crown " badges at the cost of 15p each.

£100 was sent to the Earl Haigh Homes.

Annual General Meeting October 12th 1972

The President, Mr. R.B. Howarth, M.B.E. addressed the meeting and confined his remarks to Mr. A.G. Shipp D.C.M. explaining to the members that Mr. Shipp had been awarded a Gold Badge by the National Executive Council and it was one of the highest awards the Royal British Legion could make. At the same time the Dorset County had awarded Mr. Shipp a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of his services. Further the South West Area had shown their recognition by the award of a Certificate of Merit and he called upon the County Chairman, Mr. S. Smith to present the awards. Mr. Smith read out a letter of appreciation from the National Headquarters and continued by saying that Mr. Shipp's service as a Standard Bearer for 36 years showed more than the usual

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devotion to duty and he doubted if there were many Standard Bearers in the R.B.L. who had served that long. In the elections two new Vice Presidents were elected namely Col.T.A. Gibbons O.B.E and Mr. A.G. Shipp, D.C.M.

Branch Membership had grown to 83 including 11 new members including their only lady member Mrs. Muriel Lucas. In the Poppy report the amount collected was £245,36 which was an average of 8p per head of population as against the National average of 3.05p Mr. House raised the question of the possibility of acquiring premises for a Club in the Bride Valley and the Chairman said this would be raised at the next Branch Committee meeting.



Mr. A.S. Smith receiving his Gold badge and Certificate of Appreciation from Mr. Sydney Smith, County Chairman.



The County Chairman, Mr.S. Smith presents Certificates of Appreciation to the Poppy Collectors.

January 10th 1973.

Mr. W.F. Jenkins opened the meeting with the following tribute to Robert B. Howarth " May we stand and remember in our silence the passing of our President Robert. B. Howarth . I would like to put on record our tribute and appreciation of our late President and who was our secretary for 36 years. He was a man of outstanding qualities his work for our great organisation has covered many years, he was founder member of this Branch and his work for ex-servicemen and women in the Bride Valley and the Legion in general was first priority in his life. He was one who was always fighting for better Pensions for the ex-servicemen and widows. I had the pleasure of knowing him for over 50 years and had connections with him in many of his varied interests and I always found him a fighter for what he thought be in the interest and betterment of others. The best memorial we can erect in his memory , is one he would I am sure, greatly appreciate and that is to continue the work of this Branch which he so ably founded and carry forward and support the work of the Royal British Legion in general. May we give him a place of honour in our thoughts when we repeat those great words, 'We will remember them'.



Painting of Mr. Howarth

7th February, 1973 Benevolent Committee Meeting.

It was recommended that Christmas Benevolence to War widows and others should be discontinued in its present form.

14th February, 1973

Mr. Jenkins was elected President and would continue as both President and Chairman until the next A.G.M.

Mr. Adkins then showed a large series of slides on East and West Berlin and some escapes from East to West Berlin with an excellent commentary.

10th April 1973

A new centre panel for the Branch Standard was ordered at a cost of £18.

14th May 1973

Presentations were made to Mr. Shipp, D.C.M. and to Poppy sellers Mrs. L.C. Hope, 25 years, Mrs. J.S. Mallinson over 25 years, Mrs. Thorner 15 years and Mrs. Bartlett both over 15 years.

10th October 1973

The chairman gave notice of the Dedication of a plaque to Col. Harper at Litton Cheney Church on the 19th October.

£100 was sent to Somerset House, Weston-Super-Mare.

Annual General Meeting 30th October 1973

Election of Officers.

President	Mr. W. Heal.
Chairman	Mr. W.F. Jenkins.
Vice Chairman	Mr. J. Loving
Vice Presidents	L.C. Hope, J.S. Mallinson, A.G. Shipp, Col Gibbons and Major Sandeman.
Secretary	Mr. F.A. Waters
Ass Secretary	Mr. L.C. Hope
Treasurer	Mr. L.B. Funnel
Chaplain	Rev. T. Salisbury.
Committee Members	Messrs Loving, Gibbons, Heal, Hope, Mullins, Wheten, Waldren and Brindle.

Members enquired as to the purpose of the Fund held at headquarters and were told that this was a Benevolent Fund and the Branch received a small rate of interest but that it could be withdrawn at any time.

12th December 1973

It was decided to ask H.Q. to transfer the sum of £100 to the amenity fund of the R.B.L's Homes £20 to each of the five. from the Benevolent Fund held at H.Q.

9th January 1974

Special mention was made of Mr. A.G. Squibb who had died two days previously. £45.96 was transferred from HQ funds to Branch Funds.

13th February 1974

The chairs were discussed and 7 were disposed of with the forms being offered to the school and the Football Club.

It was confirmed that election meetings could not be held in the Legion Room.

It was agreed that old books could be sold from the Legion Room on Saturday mornings.

Mr. F.H. Birt to be asked to be our representative in Little Bredy in place of Mr. Squib.

4th June, 1974

The secretary expressed his thanks for the attendance at the funeral of Mr. Shipp and it was agreed that the Legion would pay for the inscription to be put into the Book of Remembrance in St. Mary's Church.

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2nd October 1974

Mr. N.J. Knightsmith's application for membership had been received and accepted.

Annual General Meeting 30th October, 1974

Elected Officers were:-

President	W.C. Heal
Vice Presidents	J.S. Mallinson
	L.C. Hope
	Col J.A. Gibbons
	Maj Sandeman
	K.G. Miles
Chairman	W.F. Jenkins
Vice Chairman	J. Loving
Secretary	F.A. Waters
Ass. Secretary	L.C. Hope
Treasurer	B. Funnell
Committee	J. Brindle
	F.W. Mullins
	W. Whiten
	A. Waldren
	J.Simmonds
	A.W. Thurston
	C.J. Hiscock
Chaplain	Rev.T. Salisbury

There were 20 members present at the meeting and Mr. Jack Naylor, the County Vice Chairman gave a talk on the Housing Association.

5th February 1975

A letter had been received from the W.I. Hall management informing the Legion of increased charges viz:£2.25 without heating and £3 with heating.

The chairman showed the J. Vaughan Cup and certificate which the Branch had recently won for efficiency and he was requested to arrange for a public view during the year.

5th April 1975

Membership application forms had been completed and accepted from Lt. Col. P.G. Bushell and R.W. Frost.

4th June 1975

It was proposed that the Chairman, W.F. Jenkins, be recommended for the award by the National Executive Council of Life Membership for meritorious service to the Legion over a long period of service.

It was reported that the lease of the Legion Room expired on the 29th September, 1977.

1st October 1975

The dedication for the New Standard of the Women's section was fixed for the 2nd November 1975 at St. Mary's Church, Burton Bradstock.

Mr. W.C. Heal resigned as the President and Standard Bearer.

Annual General Meeting 29th October 1975

Mr. W.F. Jenkins was presented with the Certificate of Life membership awarded by the National Executive Council.

Election of Officers:

President

Mr. L.C. Hope

All remaining members of the committee were as last year.

3rd December 1975

Two old members had rejoined D.T. Soper and L.F. Starkey and applications had been received from J.W. Bethel, E.D. Gazeley and P.R. Small.

Mr. D. Burton and R.E. Lee had expressed their willingness to act as Standard Bearers.

The J. Vaughan Cup had again been won by this Branch.

3rd February 1976

The death of a very old member R. Gobbett was noted

7th April 1976

A memorial book had been purchased in memory of Mr Shipp and was being held at the Rest and Convalescent home at West Super Mare with Mr. Shipp's name appearing on the first page.

The Burton Wive's group asked if they could hire the Legion Hall for their meetings and this was agreed.

Annual General Meeting 3rd November 1976

The change in the officers and committee was as follows:-

Vice Chairman	Col Gibbons
Ass. Secretary	T.J. Macey
Committee	V.J. Brindle
	N.J. Knightsmith
	W.E. Whiten
Standard Bearer	D. Burton.

Sixteen members attended the meeting.

1st December 1976

The Poppy Appeal for this year showed an increase with £191.67 collected in the boxes. This together with £15 being received from the Women's section and £53 from the coffee morning and the collection from the Church should well exceed last years total.

5th January 1977

Repairs to the outside of the Legion Hall to be undertaken by Mr. W.C. Heal in accordance with his estimate.

The lease of the Legion Room was discussed in detail but referred to the next meeting.

2nd February 1977

The acting secretary Mr. F.A. Waters submitted his letter of resignation and also of Trustee of the Reading Room.

2nd March 1977

A new agreement had been reached with the Parish Council over the lease of the Reading Room.

6th April 1977

Mr. Bates had agreed to take over the job as Branch secretary.

A new sling and gloves were ordered for the Standard Bearer.

A Silver Jubilee fund was agreed to be held to celebrate the Queen's Silver Jubilee.

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1st June 1977

A total of £166.01p was collected for the Jubilee fund.

A Church Service was to be held at St. Mary's Burton Bradstock on the 5th June 1977.

Air Vice Marshall P. Cracroft's membership was transferred to the Bride Valley Branch.

7th September 1977

Mary Florence Thorner deceased had left the Bride Valley Branch one quarter share of her estate.

Annual General Meeting 14th October 1977

Election of Officers:-

President	Mr. L.C. Hope.
Vice Presidents	Messrs W.C. Heal, J.S. Mallinson, T. Macey G. Sandeman, A. Waldran
Chairman	W.F. Jenkins.
Vice Chairman	Col. J. Gibbons.
Secretary	J. Bate
Treasurer	B. Funnell
Chaplain	Rev. T. Salisbury
Standard Bearer	D. Burton.
Committee	Messrs Brindle, Knightsmith, Burton, Adams and Gazeley.

2nd November 1977

The new lease agreement for the Reading Room had been signed and exchanged with the Parish Council.

Col. Gibbons proposed that a donation of £10 be made to Weymouth Flats.

7th December 1977

The Branch had been awarded the John Vaughan Cup and it was agreed that enquiries would be made to allow it to be placed in the Library at Burton Bradstock. Dennis Burton the Standard Bearer had been awarded a certificate of efficiency at the area Standard Bearers competition. He lost marks for wearing the old style Legion Badge.

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Mr. Dennis Burton
1st March 1978

The Chairman Mr. Jenkins announced that after 57 years in this area he was now leaving to live in Somerset. It was decided to apply for a gold badge for presentation to Mr. Jenkins.



Party held for the Retiring Chairman, Mr. W. F. Jenkins in 1978

4th April 1978

Col. Gibbons was elected Chairman until the next A.G.M. as Mr. Jenkins had left the district and Mr. Heal was appointed Vice Chairman.

10th May 1978

The Chairman, Col. Gibbons, had written to the Chairman of the Parish Council regarding the rumours in the village concerning the repairs and alterations to the Reading Room, pointing out that some of the committee were under the erroneous impression that these were being carried out and paid for by the Parish Council for the benefit of the British Legion, when in fact we had paid for the repairs and were not consulted regarding the alterations. He asked the chairman to use his good office to dispel these rumours. No formal reply had been received but the President, Mr. Hope, reported that although the Parish Council were aware of this situation they could not do any thing in particular without specific names of people circulating the rumours.

The balance of the Jubilee fund remaining to be used for the alterations to the Reading Room for the benefit of the community as a whole and a suitable plaque commemorating this to be provided.

thing in particular without specific names of people circulating the rumours.

The balance of the Jubilee fund remaining to be used for the alterations to the Reading Room for the benefit of the community as a whole and a suitable plaque commemorating this to be provided.

It was proposed that 40 chairs and two tables be purchased at a price of £217.08 and that the Parish Council be approached for their views and possible contribution to the cost.

4th October 1978

The Parish Council had agreed to to donate £50 towards the chairs and 30 chairs of MSF/S14PP type were ordered.

Annual General Meeting 27th October 1978

The Treasurer reported that a legacy of £586 had been received under the will of the late Mrs. Mary Thorner .

The election of the committee was as follows:-

President	Mr. L.C. Hope.
Vice Presidents	Messrs Heal, Mallinson, Macey, Maj. Sandeman, Walden, Col. Gibbons and Knightsmith.
Chairman	Col. J.A. Gibbons.

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Vice Chairman	W. Heal.
Secretary	J. Bate
Treasurer	E.D. Gazeley.
Committee	Messrs Burton, Adams and Gibbs.

Mr. Mallinson spoke on the dual effort of the Parish Council and the Legion in the modification of the Reading Room. The Porch would be re-built as per an old photograph. A plaque commemorating Jubilee year would be placed above the porch. Mr. Hiscock of Litton Cheney who had been looking after the interests and collecting subscriptions would at the age of 83 make way for a younger man.

6th June 1979

A 20% disability pension had been obtained for a member in Shipton Gorge. It was decided that any damage by recent floods to the Reading Room was the responsibility of the Branch.

5th September 1979

The exhortation was given by the President with particular reference to the untimely deaths of Lord Mountbatten and 18 paratroopers in the recent bomb outrage in Ireland.

Letter from W.I. advising rent to be increased to £4.50. President advised that this would make Bingo uneconomical.

Decided to purchase tables to enable Bingo to be run in Reading Room.

Annual General Meeting 26th October 1979

The committee were re-elected with the following additions:-

Vice Chairmen	Mr. Symonds
Assist Sec.	Mr. Dockrell.

It was agreed that meetings be held quarterly and a special meeting called if required.

9th September, 1980

On a proposal by Mr. Miles it was agreed to form a sub-committee of four Branch officers to investigate the manner in which the Diamond Jubilee should be celebrated locally and to invite the Women's section to nominate their representative to join committee.

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Annual General Meeting 21st October 1980

Election of Officers:

President	L.C. Hope
Vice Presidents	Messrs Heal, Mallinson, Macey, Sandeman, Gibbons, Knightsmith, Miles and Simmonds.
Chairman	K. Miles
Vice Chairman	P. Eastwood.
Secretary	J. Bate
Ass. Secretary	H. Dockrell
Treasurer	E.D. Gazeley
Standard Bearer	D. Burton.
Poppy Organiser	N. Knightsmith
Committee	Messrs Gibbs, Burton and Frost.

5th November 1980

It was agreed to purchase 3 Diamond Jubilee medallions for Mr. Hope, Mr. Heal and Col. Gibbons.

Remembrance service to be held at Litton Cheney.

4th December 1980

Reading Room Lease The Parish Council offered the following:-

3 years lease with option of renewal. Rent £2 per annum

Contribution of £50 per annum from the Parish Council for their use of the Reading Room..

5th January, 1981

It was agreed to hold a Service to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the chairman would ask Bishop Pike to preach at this service.

5th March 1981

Owing to the resignation of the Secretary Mr. J. Bate a special meeting had been called and Mr. Miles agreed to fill the position for the time being.

April 2nd 1981.

The meeting was called primarily for the purpose of filling the vacant posts of Chairman and Secretary following the resignations of the previous holders Messrs Miles and Bates. Mr. Eastwood was proposed and accepted as Chairman and Mr. Burton was elected as secretary.

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3rd JUNE 1981

In the Legion Room a display of the work of the Legion past and present and items of interest including certificates awarded to the Branch and Women's section and the Standards hung on the West wall was agreed for the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. This was to be arranged by Mr. Darby.

10th August 1981

Mr. Hope reported a good result for the sale of D.M.I. goods in our Jubilee week a total of £74.30 being collected. and an excellent concert given by the Crewkerne Concert Band. The Church Parade and service was a success 38 standards were present. A vote of thanks to the secretary for helping to organise this parade.

The speaker at the meeting was Mr. S. Smith M.B.E., J.P. and he talked of the work of the British Legion.

Annual General Meeting 28th October 1981.

After the exhortation the President remembered past members who had died that year. Rev. Levette and Maj. Sandeman.

President	Mr. L. Hope
Vice Presidents	Col. Gibbons, Messrs Heal, Macey, Knightsmith
Chairman	Mr. P. Eastwood
Vice Chairman	Mr. Gibbs.
Secretary	Mr. D. Burton
Ass. Secretary	Mr. H. Dockrell
Treasurer	Mr. Gazeley
Poppy Organiser	Mr. N. Knightsmith
Standard Bearer	Mr. D. Burton
Committee	Mr. N. Foster

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Glady McClean receiving her Certificate for 13 years Poppy Collecting from Mr. Nick Knightsmith (Poppy Organiser)

6th January 1982

Mr. D. Burton had been placed third at the recent Standard Bearer's competition at Bovington Camp.

3rd March 1982

Mr. Knightsmith editing Bride Valley Branch scrap book and any material for this would be appreciated.

3rd April 1982

Messrs Lovell, Burt and Hill were remembered

2nd June 1982

It was agreed that £50 be made available for use to any local dependants of the Task Force if need arose.

Annual General Meeting 28th October 1982

The Poppy Appeal for 1981 was £868.10 for the Bride Valley a record.

62 members consisting of 57 ordinary members and 5 associate members.

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The Officers and committee were the same as for 1981 except that the post of Chaplain which was deferred until a later date after the Rev. Smith had a word with Rev. Salisbury.

6th November 1982

Miss S. Knightsmith was sent congratulations on becoming deputy county womens section standard bearer.

It was reported that the Swyre War memorial had been kindly cleaned by Mrs. Smidt of Holland who also planted some bulbs.

December 1st 1982

The amount for 1982 poppy collection was £910 .05p

The Branch donated £20 to the Wessex Youth Band.

It was decided to return the cups and saucers to the Conservative Party Committee and purchase some of their own.

The County Certificate of Appreciation had been awarded to our Branch President Mr. L.C. Hope for all his work for this Branch.

In the County Standard Bearer's Competition Mr. D.A. Burton our Branch Standard Bearer won the competition and is now County Standard Bearer for 1983.

January 5th 1983

A letter had been received from the Burton Bradstock Parish Council stating that the Parish Council wished to terminate the lease on the Reading Room in September 1983. Mr. Eastwood to contact County H.Q. for legal advice.

March 2nd 1983

The Chairman read the letter received from the County Solicitor stating that we the Branch have the right to discuss the terms of the lease under clause 8 of the 1980 agreement. A meeting was arranged with the B.B. P.C.

Draw tickets to be produced for the Derby draw.

D, Burton had become runner up in the South Western Area Standard Bearer's Championship.

April 6th 1983.

Members reported from the Group meeting on a very interesting talk given by Lt. Comdr. Thorpe on his Falkland Island experience.

Letter from Parish Council and it was finally agreed that the Legion would lease the room at £2 per session and terminate the lease in October, 1983.

Notice to be published in the Bride Valley News explaining why the Legion was giving up the Lease.

May 4th 1983.

Following the agreement to give up the Lease the Parish Council have offered the Branch 100 square feet of storage space in the Reading Room free of Charge. The large wooden table is the property of the Women's section.

October 5th 1983

Mr. Hope wished it to be recorded that the Branch had now finally give up the lease of the Reading Room to the Parish Council. The Parish Council purchased the chairs and Calor gas stove at a sum of £225. This years Remembrance service to be held at Little Bredy and transport would be arranged.

Annual General Meeting 1983

Eighteen members present . Mr Hope gave a talk about his visit to the War Graves in France and to the Poppy factory.



Mrs Gladys McLean receives her special poppy brooch and certificate for completing 15 years as a Poppy Appeal Fund collector from Mr. Nick Knightsmith (Poppy Organiser) also in the picture are Leonard Hope, President of the Branch and Miss Elizabeth Young chairman of the Women's section and Dorset County vice-chairman (Women's section)

The Bride Valley Branch of The Royal British Legion

February 1st 1984

Mr. Hope asked the committee for ideas to help raise funds to finance the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Branch in September 1986. Mr. Knightsmith to walk an eight mile sponsored walk for the Poppy appeal in March 1984. Mr. H. Ball of Puncknowle celebrates his 90th birthday.

March 7th 1984

Mr. Burton told the committee that he was appalled at the treatment of the standard bearers at the recent visit of Princess Anne to open the new Dorchester Legion Club.

April 4th 1984

Mr. Hope reported that he had received a cheque for £35 from Mrs. E. Gale for Branch funds from the sale of her recent book "Farmers, Fishermen and Flax Spinners."

June 13th 1984

Mr. Eastwood reported that he was awakened early on D.Day anniversary morning by a gentleman complaining about the state of Swyre War Memorial!

August 1st 1984

Tender received from Karl Dixon and accepted for the re-enamelling of the names on the Swyre Memorial.

Annual General Meeting October 26th 1984.

The existing officers were re-elected for the year.

Mr. Burton was congratulated on being the County Standard bearer again this year and he would have the honour of to carry the South Western Area standard at the Royal Albert Hall Festival of Remembrance.

July 3rd 1985

The thanksgiving service for 40 years peace to be held at Burton Bradstock Church on Sunday, 14th July, 1985. The Church Council decided that no R.B.L. Standards to be paraded at this service and the members of the Branch committee thought this deplorable.

Annual General Meeting October 25th 1985

10 members attended with 2 ladies from the Women's section. The Rev. H. Smith

The Bride Valley Branch of The Royal British Legion

accepted the position of Branch chaplain for the year. The remainder of the officers were re-elected.

May 7th 1986

The branch learnt of the death of Mr. W.F. (Bill) Jenkins at Western-Super-Mare . He was chairman of this branch 1973-1978 and a member of the British Legion since its formation.

October 1st 1986

Mr. Harrington was thanked for the splendid work carried out in organising and running the 50th Anniversary Dance.

The Jubilee parade went well despite no County Standard. A letter had been received from the County Chairman for the absence of the Standard.



Bride Valley Branch Golden Jubilee Parade 1986



Bride Valley Branch Golden Jubilee. Leonard Hope (Chairman) cutting the cake.

Annual General Meeting October 29th 1986

20 members attended with 2 members of the women's section.

Following the Treasurer's report a member asked what the 'building Fund' was for and was told that it was for the Branch to purchase their own premises. The members felt that this was not possible as land and property in the village had increased in price so much and therefore the members wished it to be spent on benevolence.

Capt. P. Oldridge was elected Treasurer the remaining officers being re-elected.

Mr. Harrington voiced his opinion that he was disgusted with the sale of 'white' poppies at this time of the year.

The Bride Valley Branch of The Royal British Legion

November 5th 1986

The West Dorset Poppy Appeal competition for shop window displays was won by Shadrack Stores, Burton Bradstock and Mrs.Percy's Post Office at Burton came third.

December 3rd 1986

Mr. Burton was again congratulated on becoming the Dorset County Deputy Standard Bearer for 1987 at a recent competition held at Bovington Camp. Only 0.07 of a mark separated first and second.

March 4th 1987

Membership comprised of 62 members including 5 associate members, 4 over 80 years of age and 6 not paid.

A letter has been received about the distribution of E.E.C. surplus butter and cheese to the elderly. Mr. Harrington to look into the matter.

Annual General Meeting 28th October 1987

18 members attended together with ladies from the Women's section.

Dennis Burton was presented with a Branch Appreciation Certificate.

President	Mr. L.C. Hope
Vice President	Mr. A. Gibbs
Chairman	Col. Bushell
Vice Chairman	Mr. C. Thomas
Treasurer	Mr. R. Oulton-Powell
Secretary	Mr. D. Burton
Chaplain	Rev. H. Smith
Membership Secretary	Mr. N. Farley
Standard Bearer	Mr. D. Burton
Poppy Organiser	Mr. N. Knightsmith
Committee	Mr. J. Read
	Mr. V. Halsall
	Mr. Rodwell-Jones

The Bride Valley Branch of The Royal British Legion

November 4th 1987

Col. Bushell enquired about the pilgrimage throughout the valley. Mr. Hope replied that a wreath or Poppy cross was placed on each War Memorial or war grave omitting the memorial at the village where the Service was to be held.

Social evenings were arranged throughout the winter each month alternating between the Public Houses.

Mr. D. Burton had become the County Standard Bearer for 1988.

March 25th 1988

A silent tribute was given for Mr. Oulton-Powell who had died suddenly whilst on holiday.

Mr. N. Farley accepted the post of Treasurer and Mr. Rodwell-Jones accepted the post of Membership secretary.



Dennis Burton displaying the South West Standard and cups and medals he had won.

Annual General Meeting October 26th 1988

19 members were present together with two members from the Women's section.

Dennis Burton was congratulated for coming 6th out of 12 at the National Standard Bearers competition held in the Isle of Man this year and will represent the South West at the Festival of Remembrance at The Royal Albert Hall.

The Bride Valley Branch of The Royal British Legion

Capt. Mallinson told members that 22 years ago he and his father visited his brother's grave in Italy. He ordered a wreath six weeks before from H.Q. to be delivered to his Hotel but the wreath never arrived. This year he and Mrs. Mallinson returned to Italy and re-visited his brother's grave and this time he ordered the wreath from our own Poppy Organiser, Mr. N. Knightsmith and it arrived on time with it's regimental crest. Well done local enterprise!.



Poppy Collector's party 1988



St. Swithun's Band Concert in aid of The Poppy Appeal fund 1988

The Bride Valley Branch of The Royal British Legion

September 20th 1989

The Barbecue was a great success and another was proposed for the following year. Mr. & Mrs. Farley were thanked for the use of their garden.

Mr. Burton felt that time was approaching when the Remembrance Services should be discontinued at the various Valley Churches through lack of support from these villages and the accessibility of the Churches and should only be held at St. Mary's Church, Burton Bradstock. This to be discussed at the next A.G.M.

Annual General Meeting 25th October 1989

18 members were present plus 8 members from the Women's Section.

+At the meeting the following officers were elected:- President, Mr. L. Hope. Chairman Mr. A.C. Thomas, Vice Chairman, Mr. R. Newton. Treasurer, Mr. N. Farley. Secretary, Mr. D. Burton. Membership Secretary, Mr. A. Rodwell-Jones. Poppy Appeal Organiser, Mr. N. Knightsmith and committee member, Mr. V. Halsall.

It was reported that the Bride Valley, Royal British legion mens standard bearer Mr. Dennis Burton had won the County Cup.

The total amount raised for the Poppy Appeal was £1850.00

Following a discussion Capt. Mallinson proposed and it was accepted that the Remembrance Services be held alternative years between Burton Bradstock and the Valley churches.

November 16th 1989

The Committee held a silent tribute for the life of Col. Bushell, the Branch Chairman who died on the 30th October.

It was proposed and seconded that Mr. Thomas be elected Branch Chairman.

Invitation to Mr. Hope as Branch President to attend the induction of the new Vicar at Litton Cheney on 13th December 1998

December 4th 1989

The Committee remembered Rev. H. Smith who was Branch Chaplain for 4 years and who died suddenly in November.

Poppy Appeal amounted to £1850!

The Bride Valley Branch of The Royal British Legion

January 17th 1990

Canon McDougal to be asked to accept the post of Branch Chaplain for 1990 and the Rev. Salmon for 1991.

February 21st 1990

Mr. Hope welcomed two new committee members, Mr. Newton and Mr. L. Bailey..

Mr. Burton won the Area Standard Bearers competition at Exmouth and goes on to represent the area at the National Championships at Scarborough.

July 20th 1990

Mr. J. Reeves co-opted to the committee.

Branch Poppy Organiser, Nick Knightsmith was presented with a Poppy Badge and a Certificate of Appreciation for 12 years service by the chairman, Chris Thomas.

September 19th 1990

Mr. Thomas the Branch Chairman resigned from the committee.

Annual General Meeting October 24th 1990

Held in the Three Horseshoes, Burton Bradstock.

Since the last meeting two of our Branch Officers had died, Col. Bushell and Rev. H. Smith.

Election of Officers and Committee.

President	Mr. Hope
V. Presidents	Mr. Knightsmith, Mr. Gibbs.
Chairman	Mr. R. Newton.
V. Chairman	Mr. J. Reeves.
Secretary	Mr. D. Burton
Treasurer	Mr. N. Farley
Mem Secretary	Mr. Rodwell-Jones
Chaplain	Mr. A. Salmon
Poppy Organiser	Mr. Knightsmith

The Bride Valley Branch of The Royal British Legion

Standard Bearer
Committee

Mr. D. Burton
Mr. Bailey.

21st November 1990

Poppy Appeal

£1900

A list of Committee members to be posted in the Legion's Notice Boards.

18th September 1991

A minutes silence was observed following the death of a long standing member, Mr. Dennis Arthur Burton. Standard Bearers from all over the Dorset attended Dennis' funeral. Mr. Burton age 62 died after a long illness. A Burton Bradstock man, Mr. Burton had served as county and area standard bearer and won area competitions. Formerly a village blacksmith. He served the Bride Valley Branch for more than 20 years and took on the role of secretary when the Branch was in danger of folding. He had been standard bearer since 1977. He became county standard bearer on four occasions during the 1980s and was runner up for the title on three occasions. In 1988 and 1990 he won the South West area standard bearer's competition and carried the area standard at the Festival of Remembrance at The Royal Albert Hall
Mr. C. Blackaller was requested to fill the vacancy on the committee.



Standard Bearers from all over Dorset marched at Dennis Burton's funeral

The Bride Valley Branch of The Royal British Legion

Annual General Meeting 30th October 1991

Officers were elected as previous year with the exception of Mr. J. Reeves who took over the post of secretary and Mr. N. Knightsmith that of Standard Bearer.

6th November 1991

Mr. Rodwell-Jones was thanked for the capable way he had carried out the job of acting secretary over the past six months.

12th March 1992

Mr. Knightsmith tabled a letter advising that the 50th anniversary reunion of the survivors from H.M.S. Dorchester sunk in 1942 would be held in April.

Mr. George Hirst to be contacted to see whether he would play at the Dove Social evening.

2nd September 1992

Letter from Mr.& Mrs. Hope thanking the Branch for the present for their Golden Wedding.

8th October 1992

Mr. Rodwell-Jones suggested that an advert be placed in the Bride Valley News to attract new members.

Annual General Meeting 28th October 1992

Election of Officers.

President	Mr. L. Hope
Vice President	Mr. N. Knightsmith
Chairman	Mr. L. Starkey
V. Chairman	Mr. J. Dean
Secretary	Mr. J. Reeves
Treasurer	Mr. N. Farley
Mem Secretary	Mr. A. Rodwell-Jones.
Committee	Mr. C. Blackaller, Mr. L. Bailey, Mr. N. Knightsmith

The Bride Valley Branch of The Royal British Legion

3rd December, 1992

Mr. Knightsmith reported on the County Annual General Meeting at Blandford and said that Rear Admiral Pritchard had given a very good speech. Referring to the appointment of Field Officers it was stated that they would not be able to interfere with Branch activities. The Poppy Appeal for 1991 was £2050.

7th January, 1993

Mr. Knightsmith expressed his thanks for the framed photograph presented to him by the committee.

11th March 1993

Letter from H.Q. concerning Service personnel who are being made redundant and will be trained at the new training centre at Tidworth, a donation was sent by the Branch.

4th May, 1993

Secretary reported that three new members had joined, Messrs. Ankrett, Dubrey and Hodgins.

2nd June 1993

It was reported that Mr. A. Gillett had died and a minutes silence was held in his memory.

Mr. Knightsmith said that he would be leaving the area and therefore would have to resign. A party was arranged and H.Q. had been contacted to obtain a gold badge for his services.

6th July 1993

Three new members had joined Messrs Ivall, Gillam and Reid.

Annual General Meeting October 27th 1993

The President, Mr. L. Hope, who despite his ill-health attended and welcomed everyone. The chairman, Mr. Starkey reported that the membership was now 50 having recruited 6 new members this year.

The officers remained the same but the committee members consisted of Messrs. Bailey, Blackaller, Ivall and Capt. Oldridge. Chas. Blackaller was elected Standard Bearer.

The Bride Valley Branch of The Royal British Legion

7th December 1993

The secretary reported the retirement of our Chaplain, John McDougal and put forward a motion that the Branch should make a presentation to him and his wife Sue and this should be made at the Annual Dinner in February.

11th March 1994

A new convalescent home had been opened at Bishop Lydiard and a donation was sent. Arrangements were made for a Barn Dance to be held in the W.I. Hall.

It was reported that both the President and Chairman were still very ill.

Two goblets had been sent to Mr. & Mrs. McDougal .

15th February, 1994

The secretary reported that this Branch had won the Burtonshaw Cup for the most money collected by a small Branch for the Poppy Appeal Fund.

Members were told that Mr. Arthur Gibb had died in February.

15th March 1994

The Vice Chairman, J. Read, asked the members to stand in silence as attribute to our late President, Mr. L.C. Hope.

12th April, 1994

A photograph of our late President was to be framed and presented to be hung in the Reading Room.

Mr. Rodwell-Jones had resigned from the Committee.

10th May 1994

Details of the Remembrance service to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of 'D' Day in 1994 was given by the Chairman.

John Ivall volunteered to be Poppy Appeal Organiser for the year.

The Bride Valley Branch of The Royal British Legion

21st June 1994

Chairman reported that the 50th Anniversary 'D'Day Service and fund had been very successful.

Mr. J.G. Rees membership application was accepted.

12th July, 1994

The Chairman reported that he had written to all Churches in the Bride Valley asking for donations to the Poppy Appeal Fund but only Shipton Gorge, Burton Bradstock and Chilcombe had re-donated their collections and nothing was heard from the rest. The Chairman suggested that only Shipton Gorge and Burton Bradstock Churches be considered for holding the 1994 Remembrance Service. As the new Rector would be in residence in October it was agreed that the Service would be held at Burton Bradstock with the new Rector being invited to take the Service.

11th October 1994

It was agreed that as the Treasurer was very ill the A.G.M. be postponed until December to allow the Auditor to check the books and give an up to date record.

Annual General Meeting 28th November, 1994

The Committee proposed that Rear Admiral G.I. Pritchard be elected as President and this was agreed and the Admiral accepted and was duly elected.

The Chairman introduced two new members, Rev. J.D. Atkinson and Mr. R. C. West. The Poppy Appeal Fund Poster competition had been well supported by the local school and some of the children had won certificates. Next year will be the 50th Anniversary of the ending of the War and committees were being formed to celebrate both V.E. & V.J. Day in the village.

Election of Officers.

President	Rear Admiral. G.I. Pritchard
Chairman	Mr. L. Starkey
Vice Chairman	Mr. J. Dean.
Treasurer	Mr. J.G. Rees
Secretary	Mr. J. Reeves
Chaplain	Rev. J.D. Atkinson.
Standard Bearer	Mr. C. Blackaller.
Committee	Messrs Bailey, Ivall, Oldridge and Blackaller

The Bride Valley Branch of The Royal British Legion

The photograph of the late President Leonard Hope was presented to the Parish Council and accepted by Capt. Mallinson.

It was agreed that the memorial wreaths laid on the war memorials throughout the valley would be removed on the 26th December, each year.

A talk followed given by Michael Anderson the County Field Officer for Dorset. Amongst the items he raised was that Dorset collected 15% of the total National Total for the 'D'Day celebrations.

3rd January, 1995

The Chairman asked that Mr. R. West be co-opted onto the committee as due to an oversight his name had not been put forward at the A.G.M.

It was agreed that the money received from the Women's section from the Fete be donated to the Poppy Appeal Fund.

It was also agreed that in future the Bingo sessions would be held in 'The Anchor' in the hope that it will attract more players.

21st February 1995

It was reported that the Annual Dinner had been a great success with record attendance.

The new Legions Logo was discussed and agreed, with reservations, that it was a good idea to promote the Legions image and work in the future.

Mr. J. Reeves had been appointed Poppy Appeal Organiser for West Dorset.

Details for the VE Day celebrations were discussed and Mr. Oldridge referred to VJ Day and hoped that the Legion were thinking of celebrating this in some way especially as a member of the Branch, Lionel Bailey had been a P.O.W. of the Japanese .

23rd May 1995

The V.E. Thanksgiving Service was deemed to be a success as was the Torchlight procession and the other arrangements made by the Parish Council and the Legion.

The secretary reported the death of Bert Funnel.

Mr. R. West accepted the nomination to be Group representative on the County Committee.

27th June 1995

The Treasurer had phoned Blandford, following Ray West's query over whether wreaths

The Bride Valley Branch of The Royal British Legion

and/or gift to nominated Charities can be given at a Funeral of a member and the ruling is that we may do as we please with costs to be met from the general fund.

25th July 1995

The Barn Dance was a success. The Thanksgiving Service to celebrate 50 years on from V.J. Day would be held at Burton Bradstock Church in August with a two minute silence.

Annual General Meeting 22nd November 1995

Election of Officers:

President	Rear Admiral G. Pritchard
Chairman	Mr. L. Starkey
V. Chairman	Mr. R.C. West
Secretary	Mr. J. Reeves
Treasurer	Mr. G. Rees
Poppy Appeal Organiser	Mr. J. Ivall
Committee	Messrs Blackaller, Bailey.

Rev. John Atkinson would continue as Chaplain.

Mr. H. Darby referred to the fact that nothing had been mentioned in the reports about any welfare activities during the past year. The Chairman reported that the Welfare committee had been operative and an ex-serviceman and his wife had been given substantial help.

27th February 1996

Arrangements were being made for a visit to the Dunkirk Memorial Home at Bishops Lydiard and it was agreed that a donation from the Branch would be given by our President.

22nd April 1996u

The secretary, Jim Reeves, suggested that to celebrate the Branch's 60th Anniversary we should invite the members who are disabled to a luncheon together with their carers. Also a social evening should be held for the remaining members to celebrate the anniversary.

8th July 1996

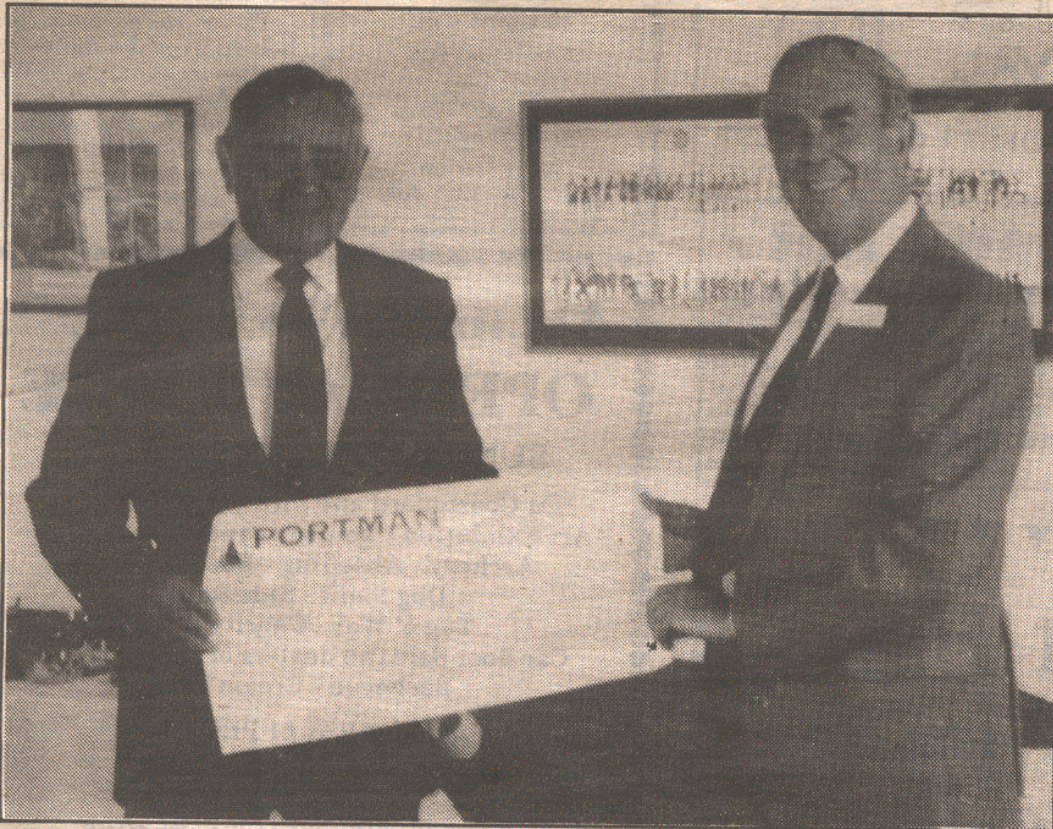
The Vice Chairman asked the committee to stand and remember in silence the passing of our Chairman, Mr. Leonard F. Starkey who died the previous Saturday.

The Bride Valley Branch of The Royal British Legion

The visit to the Dunkirk Memorial House had taken place and a cheque for £500 had been presented to enable them to use it in their House amenity Fund. A letter had been received from the House Manager in it he said that some of the money would go to purchase a garden seat suitably inscribed.

The President referred to the Women's section service on the 29th September when they would dedicate their new Standard kindly supplied by Miss Elizabeth Young on her retirement as Chairman for many years. The Ladies had kindly allowed us to include in the service a reminder of our 60 years anniversary.

BRIDE VALLEY CASH BOOST TO RETIREMENT HOME



Rear Admiral heads visit

■ PRESIDENT of the Royal British Legion Bride Valley branch Rear Admiral Gwyn Pritchard (left) made a donation to the House Amenity Fund when a local branch contingent visited the Legion's newest residential home — Dunkirk Memorial House.

■ Sited in 17 acres of land at Bishops Lydeard, near Taunton, Dunkirk Memor-

ial House is a purpose-built complex, providing a wide range of facilities in a friendly home environment.

■ After being shown round the home, Admiral Pritchard presented a cheque for £500 to Major General V. Carpenter, chairman of the house committee and president of the Dunkirk Veterans' Association.

(S)

The Bride Valley Branch of The Royal British Legion

9th September 1996

A discussion took place over a letter received from H.Q. about increasing the number of Field Officers in certain areas. It was agreed that we should be represented at the meeting in Bridport.

The Vice Chairman to approach the Parish Council asking whether they would share the cost of buying a "Pause to Remember" Flag to be flown from the Reading Room flag pole each year to remind people of the need to Pause to Remember on the 11th hour of the 11th Day of the 11th Month.

The Remembrance Service to be held at St. Mary's Church, Burton Bradstock, this year.

7th October 1996

The Parish Council had generously agreed to purchase a Pause to Remember Flag and to fly during Poppy Week on the Reading Room Flagpole.

11th November 1996

It was noted that many stores and offices throughout Bridport had stopped for two minutes Silence at 11 am that day to remember.

Annual General Meeting 20th November, 1996

A minutes silence was held to remember the lives of our late Chairman, Leonard Starkey and our late Treasurer, Neville Farley.

Election of Officers.

President	Rear Admiral G. Pritchard
Chairman	Mr. R.C. West
Vice Chairman	Mr. J. Ivall
Secretary	Mr. J. Reeves
Treasurer	Mr. G. Rees
Standard Bearer	Mr. C. Blackaller
Chaplain	Rev. J. Atkinson
Committee	Messrs Blackaller, Bailey and Darby.

The Chairman paid tribute to the late chairman, Leonard Starkey. This year the Branch had reached its 60th anniversary and this was celebrated with two special evenings and we held a Church service in conjunction with the Women's section when they dedicated their new standard.

11th March 1997 Committee Meeting

Harry Darby referred to his query at the A.G.M. concerning the large amount of money held by the Branch and that we should not hold so much money. The secretary explained that originally the money had been earmarked for a building fund. The President proposed that the money be run down over the next two years and this was unanimously agreed by the meeting.

The Chairman, Ray West proposed that the social events be held in various public Houses throughout the Valley to try and promote new members. And this was agreed. It was also proposed and agreed that the Remembrance Day Services be held at the various Churches throughout the Valley in turn.

20th May, 1997 Committee meeting

After the treasurer gave the annual running costs of the Branch the committee agreed that the excess money of £3000 be distributed to the Poppy Appeal Fund and the Dunkirk memorial House over a period of 3years.

Ray West, Chairman, said that he had been appointed onto the Millennium Committee of the Village to discuss various ways the village could celebrate the event, and that the Branch would be invited to take part in the proceedings. It was agreed that this years Remembrance Day Service be held at Shipton Gorge.

23rd September, 1997 Committee Meeting.

The treasurer reported that £500 had been sent to The Dunkirk Memorial Home and £500 to the Poppy Appeal Fund. The Chairman was requested to write to HQ complaining about the Poppy Appeal Poster which the committee agreed was in bad taste.

1997 Annual General Meeting

All the officers and committee were re-elected. Ray West, the chairman thanked the committee for all their work over the past year. It was reported that the Bingo sessions were waning but would continue for a while to see what response it gets. The chairman, Ray West gave his report and congratulated the Women's section on the amount of monies raised this year in the region of £1900. He said that the Branch had returned to the old tradition of holding the Remembrance Services in the various churches in the Valley and this year it was held at Shipton Gorge. The reason for this was to advertise the fact that this was Bride Valley Branch and not just Burton Bradstock.

13th January, 1998 Committee meeting.

The chairman congratulated the secretary, Jim Reeves on his award of the County Certificate of Appreciation. Mr. Harry Darby also suggested that we try and have our social evenings in the various Public Houses in the Bride Valley and he would approach the landlord of The New Inn at Shipton Gorge to see whether this was possible. The Branch had been invited to submit their views on The National Conference open forum

The Bride Valley Branch of The Royal British Legion

about Members Issues. Mr Darby said that he had carefully read the document and as far as the legions rules regarding Associate Members he thought it reasonable that if an associate member had served three years on a branch committee he should be eligible to serve on a County committee for another three years before being eligible to serve as a County Officer. It had also been proposed that Ordinary membership of The Legion should be extended to spouses of existing ordinary members. The Branch opposed this motion on the grounds that Associate membership was available and that Ordinary Membership should only be the privilege of ex-servicemen and women. However it was felt that members of the Pension service, Police and Merchant Navy should be eligible for membership. The chairman undertook to convey the Branch position to the National Chairman with a copy to County.

8th September, 1998 Committee Meeting.

A mention was made of the Women's Section 60th Anniversary.

18th November, 1998 Committee Meeting

A "Branch Certification of Appreciation" had been obtained for Chas. Blackaller for services to the Branch and who was leaving the district..

A donation of £50 was sent to the RNLI in memory of Lou Brown our eldest member who died in January.

Annual General Meeting 1998

The Officers and committee were re-elected en-bloc with the addition of Mr. Chris Skues who was elected on the committee.

The Poppy Appeal for 1997/98 amounted to £2758.87 and the total to date for 1998/99 amounts to £2351.01.

The Women's section was congratulated for reaching their 60th year and the chairman also thanked them for the flower arrangements in the memorial window in the Church.

9th February, 1999 Committee meeting.

The chairman had checked the various minutes and was of the opinion that Capt Justin Mallinson had never received a certificate of appreciation from the Branch and thought that it was time that he was recognised for all the work he had done for the Branch as Vice President and Poppy Appeal organiser.

A letter had been received from the manager of the Dunkirk Memorial House for the donation we had sent them. A visit was being arranged for later in the spring.

The Bride Valley Branch of The Royal British Legion

Annual General Meeting 1999

A minutes silence was held for Ron Gillham who died this year.

The Officers and committee members remained the same and were re-elected.

Mr. Maurice Ackland was thanked for the his past services to the Branch as auditor.

It was agreed that £500 would be given to the Poppy Appeal this year.

At the Annual Dinner held earlier in the year Branch Appreciation certificates were presented to Chas. Blackaller and Lionel Bailey and Capt. Justin Mallinson, Col. Peter Bates and George Hirst were presented to them by Admiral Pritchard during the year. These were, as far as could be ascertained, the first time that these Certificated of Appreciation had been presented in 60 years.

Mrs. Joyce Hyde was congratulated on being elected the Women's section chairman.

As the millennium approaches the Village had formed a Web committee and those who had a computer are able to log into the Branch website.

4th April, 2000 Committee Meeting.

A minutes silence was held in memory of Harry Darby who died on the 10th March.

The committee suggested that Mr. Basil Dent be approached to come onto the committee.

It was also suggested that Mr. Steve Dove be approached to fill the vacancy of Standard Bearer.

Annual General Meeting 2000

The Chairman, Mr. Ray West sent his apologies but his report was read out where he mentioned the work that Mr. Harry Darby had done during his time on the committee and thanked Chas. Blackaller for his splendid work as Standard bearer and wished him well in his move.

The President, Admiral Pritchard referred to the need for charities and to the work that the Royal British legion and SSAFA carried out. And that the number of Service personnel would decline over the next ten years and therefore the number of charities will reduce.

It was agreed that the Bingo sessions should now cease as Mike Read the caller was no longer able to continue due to ill health.

The Bride Valley Branch of The Royal British Legion

The following members were elected :- Chairman;- Ray West; Vice Chairman:- John Ivall; Secretary:- Jim Reeves; Treasurer:- Graham Rees; Standard Bearer:- Steve Dove; Committee members:- Lionel Bailey; Basil Dent; Chris Skues. Auditor: Mike Burr.

29th May,2001 Committee Meeting

A Barn Dance was arranged for the 28th September.

The Vice Chairman, John Ivall said that he is retiring from the position of Poppy Organiser but had spoken to Mr. Tony Comb and persuaded him to come onto the committee and take up that position.

It was also suggested that the Scout Group be asked if they would parade on Remembrance Day .

25th October 2001 Committee Meeting

Tony Combe and Steve Dove were welcomed onto the committee
It was agreed to send £20 towards the cost of a new County Standard.

Annual General Meeting 2001

The President, Admiral Pritchard in his opening address hoped that the present situation engaging American and British forces in Iraq would not last long and pointed out that there had only been one year since the end of the 39-45 war where British Troops had not been involved in conflict.

Captain Justin Mallinson referred to the bad state of the war memorials at Swyre and Little Bredy...

The Officers and committee members were voted back en-bloc and Basil Dent was elected Vice Chairman.

The proposed Royal Charter was discussed in detail and after some discussion agreed to support the proposals.

12th March 2002 Committee Meeting

The Chairman congratulated Jim Reeves for the success of the Annual Dinner at Freshwater Holiday Camp in February.

It was with sadness that the deaths of Norman Foster and Elizabeth Young were reported and it was stated that the Standard Bearers would be present at Elizabeth's funeral.

Annual General Meeting 2002

The Bride Valley Branch of The Royal British Legion

A minutes silence was held to remember V. Jack Brindle, Major Richards and Norman Foster.

The Committee were again voted on to serve another year.

The Chairman thanked the Poppy Collectors and Women's section collecting £3227 for the Poppy Fund; this included a very generous donation from a former member's wife.

13th October 2003 Committee Meeting.

An Annual Band concert had been arranged for October in aid of The Poppy Appeal by the Women's section.

The Hawkins's Trophy had been won by Tony Comb for the Poppy Appeal Organiser for the most improved collection per head of population in Dorset.

Annual General Meeting 2003

A minutes silence was observed remembering Mrs. Marjory Jarman, the President of The Women's section.

It was also reported that a farewell gift of a photo album and a cheque had been given to our Chaplain, Canon John Atkinson and his wife Pam at a special farewell party held at the Three Horseshoes.

Captain Mallinson referred to a newspaper report that an award of the MBE had been given to Lt. Commander Alastair David Gibson serving in Iraq and who lives in Litton Cheney.



Presentation to Canon John Atkinson and his wife Pam on their retirement. L to R Admiral Gwyn Pritchard –President of the Branch, Pam, Jim Reeves- Secretary, John and Ray West-Chairman.

14th September 2004 Committee meeting.

The chairman reported that he had written to The Rev. Bob Thorn, the new rector inviting him to be the Branch chaplain and he had replied saying that he would be most grateful for the invitation and the answer is yes.

The chairman referred to the War memorials at Swyre and Little Bredy and said that Swyre Parish council were keen to carry out repairs but no reply had been received from Little Bredy.

3rd November 2004 Committee meeting

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It was reported that the Women's Section would be disbanded after the Memorial Service and various options were discussed by the committee as to how we could accommodate the lady members into our Branch.

The chairman referred to the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar and the plans to replicate the journey from Falmouth the London with the dispatches and the President said that he was involved with this as the coach would be calling at Burton Bradstock on its journey.

The chairman also referred to the fact that 2005 would be the 60th Anniversary of VE & VJ day and any ideas should be discussed shortly.

Annual General Meeting 2004

A minutes silence was observed for Peter Oldridge, Arthur Ankrett and Harold Dockerill

In Ray West's chairman's report for the year he stated on a very sad note the sudden and un-expected death of Peter Oldridge saying that Peter had been a staunch supporter of this Branch for many years and his presence will be greatly missed. There had been two Memorial services during the year the first being the annual remembrance service Held this year at Punknowle and during the summer another to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the D-Day campaign. As part of the D-Day commemorations the village successfully organised an exhibition in the Reading room, followed by a party on the beach and the profit from this was divided between our Branch and the Dorset and Somerset Air ambulance. The Branch benefited by £894.50 which included the collection taken at the D-Day Service. He also mentioned the demise of the Women's Section of the branch and the efforts being made to incorporate them within this Branch.

Two new members were welcomed:- The Revd.Bob Thorn (our new chaplain) Tom James and Jim Harding.

Officers re-elected were:- Ray West, Chairman; Basil Dent, Vice Chairman; Jim reeves, secretary; Graham Rees, treasurer; Lionel Bailey, Tony Comb and Chris Skues.

In any other business it was suggested that we elect a lady onto our committee.



60th Anniversary of VE Day Exhibition held in the Reading Room 2005

16th August, 2005 Committee Meeting.

The chairman read a letter advising the Branch of the death of Ron Newton who had died at his home in Berkshire. Mr. Newton had been Chairman of the Branch 1990-92.



Colour Party at Litton Cheney Church 2005 (L to R) Lionel Bailey, Steve Dove, Tony Combes, Joan Gillett, and Greta Hill.

Annual General Meeting 2005

The chairman, Ray West reported that two services were again held during the year the first being The Remembrance Day Service held this year at Litton Cheney . And another held at St. Mary's Church, Burton Bradstock to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of V.E Day and V.J. Day with emphasis on the latter. During the summer to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the end of the 39/45 war a village committee was formed ably chaired by Mrs. Susan Moores to arrange events for the village. In June a VE Tea Dance was held in the Village Hall and people living in the Village and who had served during the war were invited, together with their partners to attend, together with other villagers. In August the same committee organised a one day exhibition in the village hall called "the Forgotten Army" involving men and women who had served in the Far East inviting them to tell their stories by visual means. Amongst those who participated were Major Derek Parsons, Lionel Bailey, Patrick Leander and Derek Maude and Roy Harrington. The Royal British Legion were celebrating the 60th Anniversary

The Committee were voted on en-bloc.

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Forgotten Army exhibition August 2005- Burton Bradstock Village Hall.



Four of the villagers who took part in the Far East War. Derek Maude, Lionel Bailey, Roy Harrington and Derek Parsons at the tea Party held in their honour in August 2005

31st July, 2006 Committee Meeting.

The chairman reported that the War memorial at Swyre had been successfully cleaned and that the Branch had made a donation of £100 towards the cost.



Swyre memorial – Graham Rees- Treasurer, Basil Dent- Vice Chairman, Tony Combes-Poppy Appeal Organiser, Capt. Justin Mallinson- Vice President, Jim Reeves – Secretary, Ray West-Chairman and Admiral Gwyn Pritchard- President.

Annual General Meeting 2005/6.

In his report the chairman, Ray West, said that 70 years ago on the 18th September, 1936 this Branch was formed and he was sure that when that happened the Founders would have had no idea that the Legion would be as necessary now, as it was then.

He reported that the Remembrance Service last year had been held at Long Bredy and an address given by Sir Geoffrey Howlett, K.B.E., M.C. with Steve Dove the standard bearer being escorted by Lionel Bailey and Joyce Hyde. The Annual Band Concert

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featuring The St. Swithun's Band was a great success and £400 was raised towards The Poppy Appeal. Membership stood at 47 members.

Annual General meeting 2007

Branch membership for the year was 51.

The chairman, Ray West in his report said that The Annual Dinner had been a little disappointing, not in quality but in lack of attendance mainly due to illness.

He brought to the member's attention that Ray Lea a staunch supporter of The Legion had died this year.

Also two members of the Women's section Josie Hope, wife of the late Len Hope and Felicity Knightsmith a former Standard bearer for the Women's section.

Certificates of Appreciation had been given this year to our Poppy Appeal collectors

5 year Certificates were awarded to:-

Mrs. Elaine Tame, Mrs. Eleanor Frost and Mr. Tony Combe.

10 year Certificates to:-

Mrs. Veda Bull, Mrs. Joyce Tillman and Mr. Basil Dent.

A Badge for 15 years service to:-

Mr. Jim Reeves and Mr. Fred White.

A Brooch for 15 years to Mrs. Sheila Body

A Badge to Mrs. K. Wilkinson for 20 years service.

A "For Merit" badge to Mrs. Nancy Bushell

A Long Service Medal for 30 years service.

A Bar to her LSM Brooch to Mrs. Juliana Mallinson.

A Certificate of Appreciation to The St. Swithun's Band for performing at our Annual Band Concert.

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A Certification of Appreciation to Burton Bradstock Primary School for allowing the pupils to produce Poppy Appeal Posters for display at our annual Coffee Poppy Appeal morning.

Mr. Graham Rees, Hon treasurer announced that The Poppy Appeal for 2006/7 for the Bride Valley amounted to £3,089.60p



Poppy Appeal Presentation to St. Swithun's Band October 2007 L toR Admiral Gwyn Pritchard,(Chairman of the Bride Valley Branch), Mrs. Margaret Trevett (wife of the late Rex Trevett) and Philip George Bandmaster.



Extract from the Bridport News

Annual General Meeting for 2008

Membership stands at 54.

The Remembrance Service held at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Burton Bradstock had a huge attendance with people standing the area *behind the organ*. 180 adults and 60 children. The Brownie Pack attended for the first time. Collection from this Service amounting to £514.91p was given by the Church to the Poppy Appeal.

Peter and Elaine Colbert arranged for a collection at their Golden Wedding celebrations amounting to £271.31p also in aid of The Poppy Appeal.

Jim Reeves our secretary reached his 90th birthday this year and he was thanked for all the hard work he puts into the Branch.

Graham Rees reported that since the Portman Building Society had been taken over by the Nationwide Building Society and they were not prepared to support the type of account opened for us. Fortunately this coincided with the decision of the RBL trustees to require Branches to deposit centrally with the Legion funds in excess of a minimum of £1000. This we have done.

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A donation of £100 was made to The Dorset Regiment Great War Memorial Project the aim of which is to provide a lasting memorial to some 3929 members of the Regiment who died on active service and which is to be sited on the Somme Battlefield.

The election of the Committee was held and the present committee was voted en-bloc but with the addition of Mr. Geoffrey Bourne-Taylor.

21st April, 2009 Committee meeting.

The chairman asked the committee to remember the following members who had died recently.

Mr. Geoff Hirst, Mr. Ron Thatcher and Mr. Geoffrey Guppy.

It was suggested that the committee should be increased and that Mr. Tom James, Mr. Howard Bongers and Mr. Jim Harding be asked.

14th July, 2009 Committee Meeting.

A letter had been received from Lionel Bailey giving his resignation on the committee due to ill health. The chairman said that he would write a letter thanking him for all his work over the past years.

8th September, 2009 Committee Meeting.

The chairman, Ray West, welcomed Tom James and Howard Bongers to the committee and thanked them for accepting and looked forward to their input into the Branch.

It was with sadness that it was brought to the attention of the committee that Lionel Bailey had died, a committee member and a member of the Branch for a great number of years. (*See Burton Bradstock web site for his full story*)

25th November, 2009 Annual General Meeting.

During the exhortation and silent tribute members were asked to remember the following members who had died during the year namely George Hirst, Lionel Bailey, Bob Hatcher, Roy Perry, Geoff Guppy and Fred White.

The chairman, Ray West reported that the year had commenced with a successful Annual Dinner at The West Dorset and Bridport Golf Club premises and that the social evenings had been well attended and enjoyed by the majority of members. The Poppy Appeal events were also a great success both socially and financially- The Band Concert raised over £645, the Coffee morning £408 and the house to house collections over £2018.

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All committee members were re-elected en bloc.