



Fressingfield & District Branch, The Royal British Legion

Annual Report to the Parish Council 2024/25

The last 12 months has run along similar lines for the branch and its membership, with fund-raising, events, visits and talks. The branch remains in a healthy state of affairs, much more so than some neighbouring branches that are slowly diminishing in size. New members are welcome to join, whether or not they have been in the Services.

Our first talk in mid April was from a small group of 1st Fressingfield Scouts (the Explorers) who treated us to a fascinating run-down of both their recent Iceland and Kenya trips. A number of parents also came along and it was a most informative talk given by the youngsters, many speaking for the first time at a public event – well done.

There followed a branch visit to the RAF Heritage Museum at RAF Honington, where we saw some amazing equipment and heard great stories from battles and skirmishes past from the RAF's history. Ken Rowbottom even had the chance to speak Ghurkali to one of the gate guards.

In June we set up our stand for the Fressingfield Summer Fete. The weather had threatened all day, and putting the stand under the large tent proved to be a sensible decision, as the heavens opened to put rather a dampener on the proceedings, which was a real shame for all concerned. Not so for our annual branch lunch on Election Day at the King's Head ('Low House') in Laxfield, where we all roundly agreed to return to again.

We opened our doors (well the Sports and Social Club's) to all-comers for a fascinating and highly entertaining talk from George Watson our RBL President. But it was about his time serving as an officer on the Royal Yacht about which he talked regaling the assembled company with many a story of royal connection.

And as always our main fundraiser of the year was at the Grand Christmas Draw. Our branch is kindly donated a Christmas tree every year, and it forms the backdrop not only in the village to the Sancroft Hall at Christmas, but also to the Draw. Many fantastic prizes are always up for grabs, and some of the money raised this year went to the RBL Suffolk Almonisation Bequest. Service veterans across Suffolk benefit from these funds, and coupled with a fantastic collection for the Poppy Appeal, we have a strong representation as a Suffolk RBL Branch.

“Service not self”

3/4/25