

Report from Wrentham & District British Legion Branch

The Wrentham Branch of the British Legion's membership has remained around 30 throughout the year, which is excellent.

To mark the 80th Anniversary VE Day we held a party on 10th May, which followed the previous format of a free bbq and ice creams, together with a paying bar run by the Horse & Groom. The Wrentham Band provided their usual excellent entertainment, and various people had made cakes, including a beautiful special cake made by Gill Middleditch. We were grateful to the Parish Council's financial support for this event.

On Sunday 17th August we held our second Drumhead Service, to mark the 80th Anniversary of VJ Day. VJ Day obviously marked the end of the Second World War, but this date is especially important in Suffolk, as a very large number of Suffolk residents fought in the Far East and lost their lives; some of the men who did make it home, did not return until 1946. Guests were asked to bring any memorabilia they had relating to family members who had fought in the Far East, and these were placed on the Drumhead Altar – it was a very moving afternoon. The Wrentham Band once again provided the music, and the afternoon's proceedings were carefully orchestrated by our splendid Standard Bearer, Frank Pope.

Rosie Carter planned another memorable and moving service on Remembrance Sunday. We are very grateful to her, and the Wrentham Band, for making this service so special every year.

We raised £3,255.47 for the Poppy Appeal this year; and although up on last year's total, it included donations collected during the events for VE and VJ Day. The total raised during the main Poppy Appeal leading up to Remembrance Sunday was slightly down on the previous year.

The AGM was held on 11th November and all officers were re-elected – these are Lucinda Hutson as Chairman, Rosie Carter as Treasurer and Beryl Banester as Secretary. Frank Pope also agreed to continue as our Standard Bearer for another year. Lady Gooch also agreed to continue as our President.

We have no 'large' events planned for 2026, but a couple of our members have 'special' birthdays, and these will be celebrated at the meetings nearest to the birthdays. Our sights are set on 2027, when our branch will be 100 years old.

As a reminder, anyone can join the British Legion – you do not have to have served in the forces. We meet every other month in the Village Hall, and coffee and biscuits are always available, so if you are interested in supporting the Legion, and therefore our servicemen and women, do please get in touch with Beryl.

Lucinda Hutson
12th April 2026