**The ROYAL BRITISH LEGION – WEST FELTON BRANCH**

Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 27th April 2022

As is common with so many institutions, we are trying to return to some sort of normality following a difficult time for all. That said the RBL in West Felton has recognised its limitations for some years given the inevitable reduction in our role call and the ever increasing pressure on everyone’s time. To that effect we have purposely focussed on ensuring we continue with our traditional events the most important of which clearly being the POPPY APPEAL and the Memorial Service on Remembrance Day at WF War Memorial, enhanced by the Children from the School, and last, but certainly not least, our annual POPPY CONCERT at the Village Hall.

It was with great relief that we managed the return of the Concert last year and it was tremendous to see our Village Hall once again crowded, with virtually every seat taken, to enjoy the evenings entertainment. The Poppy Appeal, notwithstanding the constraints of Covid, is beginning to change in the way it is administered. Door to Door visits are not so popular anymore although we will try to offer a service to those who still want it. Having collection boxes at specific locations – the Punch/Queenshead, our Local Shop, School, Village Hall etc, will doubtless be our future focus and we are of course mindful that the convenience of such boxes at our local Supermarkets may detract from that donated in the Village. That said it is clearly not meant to be a competition as the overall result is the prime objective. For the record the amount collected in West Felton for the Appeal last year including that raised at the Concert, was £3,155.40. Absolutely brilliant and grateful thanks to everyone.

This year I assure you that we will continue to raise as much money as possible for the Appeal and of course our Concert is already booked. We shall also be having a stall at our Village Carnival on the 10th July.

We continue to hold monthly meetings at The Punch Bowl at 8pm on the first Monday of the month (unless it is a Bank Holiday in which we revert to the second Monday). As we now focus our management time on specific events, many of these evenings have become a more informal affair and as a result I would encourage anyone who has an interest in the British Legion, even if it is only the ”social activities”, to join us on a Monday evening. Please remember you do not have to be an active or past member of the forces to join, in fact it is now recognised that the majority of members never had the opportunity to serve their country. New members will be assured that they do not have to buy the first drink!

Thank You So Much for your continued Support.

DAVID CURTIS

PRESIDENT