**ROYAL BRITISH LEGION – WEST FELTON BRANCH**

 *Report for the Annual Parish Meeting 2023*

We retain a small but very loyal membership in the Village and continue to realise that with limited resources we must concentrate our efforts towards those events that are of particular importance. Our focus over the past year has been first and foremost to commemorate Remembrance Day on the 11th November and with the wonderful help from our Village School, hold a service at our Village War Memorial. Once again crowds flocked to join us to the extent that there was no need for official road marshals – traffic stopped anyway. Complimenting this event as always is the Church Service at St Michaels, again well attended.

The ”Poppy Appeal” collection was again very successful although we realise that the pandemic has altered peoples habits which restricts the traditional door to door collections. We are so grateful to local businesses who support the cause with their own collections and of course those who do venture out on the streets.

The Poppy Concert at the Village Hall was a wonderful success. Once again a full and wonderful programme from the RJAH Orthopaedic Male Voice Choir and a special performance from the children at West Felton School which was amazing. A packed hall showed their appreciation, loud and long, which says it all. This concert has, over the years, become a major event on the Village Hall calendar and long may that be the case.

I remarked that our membership is small but hopefully with new residents we can grow. Remember you do not have to be a past or present member of the armed forces to become a member. You just need to consider it a great cause and enjoy the comradery. Mindful of the later we have purposely cut down on informal meetings restricting them to certain times of the year. That said informal meetings take place every month on the first Monday (excluding Bank Holidays – then the second Monday) at the Punch Bowl at around 8pm. I say around because that makes it less formal. So come and join us for a chat and a pint/or whatever, and you will be sure to meet some characters.

Best Wishes to Everyone.

David Curtis, President.