**ROYAL BRITISH LEGION**

 ***WEST FELTON BRANCH***

Report for the Annual Parish Meeting 18th April 2024

During the past year we have maintained our three main objectives with the fantastic support of all in the Village. They are of course the Remembrance Service at the Memorial, Our combined Church Service at St Michael’s, and last but by no means least, the Memorial Concert at the Village Hall.

Attendance at all three events was remarkable and of course encourages us to ensure their longevity for as long as we can still stand.

I am of course mindful that these events take place around an obvious tight time scale, which therefore questions what we have to offer at other times of the year. Even in my relatively short tenure in the Village I can remember fund raising events taking place mid-summer including exceptional “Cheese and Wine” afternoons/evenings at distinguished hosts homes. Fund Raising use to be a year-round affair but Bureaucracy and Central Accounting has taken away the local flavour to our efforts which sadly has rendered us unable to support individual and personal causes without “sign off” from Central Office. That has had an obvious and detrimental effect on our endeavours and sadly our membership. That PENDEMIC, which seems to be the fulcrum of all that we no longer take for granted, has altered functions – mind sets – even enthusiasm, to carry on as before. How Sad.

Unfortunately, the RBL West Felton Branch is facing obvious signs of decline as members numbers attending each month has become but a handful. We have decided not to hold formal meetings each month but use our regular dates just to have a chat and of course, quench our thirst. Over the next couple of meetings, we will be addressing our future. The “bottom line” quite clearly is that we may decide to close the branch purely to save on administration. In respect of financial matters we have no ability to direct the outcome of your individual contributions without going through an endless series of Central Office hoops and ladders. (if only it was just a game!)

That said, notwithstanding whatever we choose for the future of the branch, the current members PROMISE that we shall continue to ensure that the Village has the benefit of –

1. Remembrance Service at the Memorial
2. Combined Church Service at St Michael’s
3. Hold the “POPPY CONCERT” at the Village Hall.

It Falls upon me to thank each and everyone of you who have supported the Royal British Legion (West Felton Branch) and the events which we have be so proud to ensure over the years and to give our solemn promise that those events will continue as long as your branch members remain standing.

BEST WISHES TO EVERYONE

**DAVID CURTIS**

**PRESIDENT**