



**Royal British Legion
Dickleburgh and District Branch
NEWSLETTER
December 2021**



Christmas Issue

Wishing all our RBL Family and Friends a Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year

Just a short newsletter this month to provide you with some festive chuckles from Norman, a report and some pictures of our recent Bun, Cuppa and Chat Xmas Lunch and a few other pieces suitable for the time of year. We hope that you will be able to celebrate Christmas with family and friends this year, even if perhaps not quite at pre-pandemic levels, and that everyone keeps well and Covid-free as we move into 2022.

We held our Bun, Cuppa and Chat Christmas Lunch on 9 December, but rather than holding it in the Church Rooms as usual with our splendid volunteers doing all the work, we used the larger Village Centre, bringing in outside caterers, so our volunteer Catering Team could attend as our guests. The change of venue was a good move, as we had nearly 50 attending, and we also delivered four plated meals locally for those who were not well enough to attend. We also delivered around a dozen Christmas cakes afterwards to those unable to join us.



Many thanks to all our RBL volunteers who set up the room, dressed the tables, donated the drinks, waited at table and provided lifts; to friends and families of our Bun, Cuppa and Chat folk who helped with transport and deliveries; to Claire Calton-Moore for an excellent Christmas lunch; to the ladies of Pulham St Mary Church who made the Christmas cakes for everyone; and to the superb Village Voices community choir from Hoxne who entertained us with festive music (I have never heard *While Shepherds Watched* sung to the tune of *On Ilkley Moor* before!). But most of all to you lovely Bun, Cuppa and Chat folk who came along, and to the absent

friends who were unable to attend on the day - it was great to see you all – at or after the event.



Dates for Your Diary – Subject to any Covid restrictions

Wed 26 January, Branch Meeting, Village Centre, 8pm, followed by talk from Jim Kerr

Fri 28 January, Bun, Cuppa and Chat, Church Rooms, 2.30-4pm

Sat 19 February, Branch Dinner, Half Moon, Rushall

Wed 23 February, Branch Meeting, 8pm, followed by entertainment from Norman

Friday 25 February, Bun, Cuppa and Chat, 2.30-4pm

Members' News

It is with great sadness that we learned of the death of Patrick Marney this month. Patrick served on the branch committee for a while and always supported our branch outings. He had a most interesting profession - restoring antique barometers and other scientific instruments, learning his skills with his father's firm of London barometer makers in the 1960s. Our sympathy goes to Patrick's family and friends, in particular his children, Julie and Darren.

Norman's Chuckle Corner

- ✚ A mother took her young son to Cherry Lane to see Father Christmas. "What would you like for Christmas young man?" asked Father Christmas. The lad replied, "A game console, a bicycle and an action man". "I'll do my best" said Father Christmas. Later that day they went into John Lewis and saw another Father Christmas who asked the boy what he wanted for Christmas. Again, the lad replied, "A game console, a bicycle and an action man." "And are you going to be a good boy for your mother?" asked Father Christmas. The boy turned to his mother and said, "Let's go back to Cherry Lane, I didn't have to make any promises there!"
- ✚ I am giving my children some unusual presents this Christmas - some batteries, toys not included.
- ✚ We had the mother-in-law for Christmas dinner this year. I much prefer turkey, but times are changing.
- ✚ Dustman with hands out and broad smile said to the householder, "Merry Christmas Sir, I am the man who empties your bin all year round." "Merry Christmas to you, young man," said the householder with an equally broad smile, shaking him by the hand, "I am the one who fills it."
- ✚ My uncle did his Christmas shopping early this year -what did he get? Six months for shoplifting.
- ✚ A worried mother consulted a psychologist about what to give her twin children, Will and Mary, for Christmas because her son was a pessimist, and her daughter an optimist. "I think if you paid good money on Will's present and wrap up a heap of manure for Mary, they would both be pleased," he said. Christmas Day came, and mum watched them open their presents with bated breath. Will was first and as he opened his presents, he said "A bike, but I'll probably get run over while riding it, oh, football boots, but I'll probably break my leg while playing and I'll probably electrocute myself with this electric train set." Mum, realising all was not going to plan turned to her daughter, who was scrabbling in the bag and up to her elbows in manure "What has Santa brought you, Mary?" "I think I've got a pony, but I haven't been able to find it yet"!
- ✚ What do Santa's little helpers learn at school? The elf-abet!
- ✚ How did Mary and Joseph know Jesus' weight when he was born? They had a weigh in a manger!
- ✚ What goes "Oh, Oh, Oh"? Santa walking backwards!
- ✚ Why is Christmas dinner different after Brexit? No Brussels!

Contributions or comments, please, to the Editor, Rosemary Steer, tel.: 01379 854245; email: rosemary@steerfamily.plus.com

MY HOME

Home of the halcyon, skimming the beck,
Of the yellow-footed egret, pristine white,
Of the frolicking hares with black-tipped ears,
Of the ghostly owl, quartering the field.

Home of the seasons and farming year,
Of emerging shoots and burgeoning buds,
Of the flooded meadows and lowering skies,
Of autumn glories and yellow stubble.

Home of the sounds of God's creation.
Of the deafening chatter of birds awakening,
Of the barking muntjac seeking a mate,
Of the tawny's eerie call across the way.

Home of laughter and friendship and chat,
Of homemade cake and the chink of glasses,
Of church bells and mardling, and Christmas lights,
Of sharing and caring, and offers of help.

Home of the Christ-child nestled in hay,
Of sadness and joy, and loss and hope,
Of forgiveness and redemption, and lives fulfilled,
Of love, unending, enduring, a gift from God.

Rosemary Steer



This magnificent rainbow appeared outside our back door a few weeks ago and seemed a fitting image with which to finish 2021 – both as a thank you to all NHS staff and carers, and as a symbol of hope for the future.
Editor

If you have received this Newsletter, but are not involved with the Royal British Legion, don't worry, we just wanted to spread a little fun and humour around! Please contact me, though, if you would like your name removed from the mailing list.