



HISTORY OF SANDBACH

PART 6 = R to S.

Compiled by Stewart Green © From 2013 to date.
 (Including information from publications by the Sandbach History Society)
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SANDBACH HISTORY PART 6 = R to S

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RAMBLERS / SANDBACH RAMBLERS FOOTBALL CLUB

Formed Pre the 1899 - 1900 Football Season the Sandbach Rambler's were part of the Crewe and District Cup with the first recorded match found so far being between the Ramblers and Witten Villa. Other team matches in the league included Crewe Trinity V Bunbury, Crewe Olympics V Audlem Villa, Crewe Celtic V Willaston Swifts. Nantwich Red Rose V Crewe Town Reserves, Winsford Celtic V Over, Byes V Coppenhall and Wheelock Albion.

The Monthly meetings for the First Division of the Crewe and District League were held on a Tuesday night at the Anchor Inn in Crewe with Mr C.W. Collyer in the Chairman's seat. During their January 1900 meeting

Crewe Celtic were forced to resign while the Winsford United team was fined 5 shillings for only playing nine men during their match between themselves and Mouton True Blues on the 18 November 1899.

By February 1900 the League was as follows with Crewe Celtic having withdrawn from the competition and so their record was expunged.

CLUB	PLAYED	WON	LOST	DRAWN	GOAL FOR	GOAL AGAINST	POINTS
Whitchurch Alex	10	8	1	1	43	10	19
Sandbach Ramblers	9	4	2	3	19	11	11
Crewe Villa	10	4	3	3	34	18	11
Winsford United	8	4	4	0	18	25	8
Nantwich	9	2	3	4	17	28	8
Middlewich AR	5	2	2	1	15	7	5
Moulton True Blues	7	1	4	2	15	29	4
Willaston Swifts	10	1	7	2	14	36	4

A match in December 1900 for the Cheshire Amateur Cup Second Round, between Sandbach Ramblers and Northwich Victoria at Sandbach was played before a good gate attendance with Northwich starting uphill and Mr Hitchen scoring for Northwich with a good shot followed soon after by a second goal. (Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser Thursday 27 December 1900).

In the 1911-12 season the Sandbach Ramblers played as part of the FA Amateur Cup and reached the fourth round with two victories over New Brighton and Liverpool Amateurs. They also beat Stanley United, Crook Town and Sheffield before losing to Bishop Auckland.

The first ground for the Sandbach Ramblers was in Welles Street at the old Foden's Recreation Ground with the president in 1914 as being John Brunner (Later Sir John Brunner of Brunner Mond) and played in the Crewe and District League.

The final of the Cheshire Senior Cup 1913-14 season was between Nantwich Town and Sandbach Ramblers with 10,000 people attending the match which was held at the Crewe Alexandra's Ground and was won by the Sandbach side 3-1. During this time the team had the following players, Leonard Cooke and Bill Cooke (His Brother), Arthur Jones (Centre Half), Jimmy Billington (Left Back), F Twemlow (Right Back), Mr J Birchall (Trainer), George Prohett (Centre Forward), Martin Mitchell (Outside Left), Jim Stanley (Left Half), A Hewitt (Reserve), George (Juda / Juddy) Thompson (Reserve), Harry Turner (Secretary), Freddie Simister (Outside Right), George Brereton (Goalkeeper), Reg Lambert (Right Back), Albert Reeves (Inside Right) and Mr Arnold Leadbeater (Treasurer).

After their win they were all awarded medals for coming first and pictured outside Westfields on Middlewich Road, the home of the Foden Family.

In 1914 at 7pm on the 4 August Britain declared war on Germany with the local papers consigning the information to page 2 along with an article about the resignation of Sandbach Ramblers FC secretary Mr H Turner after the annual general meeting at the Market Tavern on the previous Friday. He had made an application for an increase in his salary which was criticised by the trainer Mr J Birchall and Mr J Thomas, with a heated debate followed by the storming out of the room by Mr Turner who then sent in a note tendering his resignation of office. The meeting then decided they should increase the secretary's salary to £5 and Mr Eardley attempted to persuade Mr Turner to stay in the job without success. The meeting also decided to pay the trainer Mr Birchall 2s 6d per week and 1s 6d for tea at away matches. This was not accepted and the committee will therefore have to appoint another.

In 1920 (1920-21 Season) the Sandbach Ramblers were part of the Cheshire County League and continued playing in their schedules until 1934.

A match in March 1922 with Congleton Town was preceded by music from the Congleton Town Band. Players for Sandbach Ramblers included Hunter, Prophett and Kelly with Congleton fielding Fitchford (Headed the first Goal and added a second off a rebound), Dykes, Sutcliffe and Jones (Scored third goal for Congleton). In 1922, the team moved back to Wells Street (Foden's Ground) for a short period with limited success from the players.

In 1924, the Sandbach Ramblers signed up George Arthur Bridgett (Known as Arthur). He was born on the 11 October 1882 at Forsbrook, Staffordshire. He played in the Outside Left position and signed with Burlem Park in 1900.

In 1901 Arthur signed for Trentham and then in October 1902 for Stoke where he transferred to Sunderland in 1903 and stayed with them until 1911 having scored 116 goals in 347 league and cup games.

Arthur Bridgett was also an England player playing his first match for the National team on the 1 April 1905 against Scotland and three years later on the 4 April 1908 again against Scotland in-front of a new world record crowd of 121,452 at Hamden Park for a 1-1 draw. In 1908 Arthur was chosen for the National team's tour to Austria (6-1 Match 1 and 11-1 Match 2), Hungary and Bohemia scoring in both Austria's Matches. In 1909, he played in the British Home Championships against Ireland (4-0) and Wales (2-0) followed by a Summer tour of Europe with his last match for England against Austria on the 1 June 1909.

In 1911 Arthur was transferred to South Shields for £175 being appointed as Manager for them on the 10 July 1912. At this time Arthur was also asked to manage North Shields. In 1923, Arthur was signed as a player for Port Vale and then he came to the Sandbach Ramblers in 1924 after he had lost his first team place with Port Vale in February 1924. There are no records of Arthur playing professionally since 1924 until his death on the 26 July 1954 in Ashton, Near Market Drayton.

On the 25 December 1926, Sandbach Ramblers reserve team were playing in Hanley with a kick off time of 2.30pm.

At the end of the 1927-1928 season Sandbach Ramblers FC was the only one of the Cheshire Cuntly League Clubs to finish the season with a profit of 30 shillings after allowing £34 for depreciation. The entertainments committee of members of the Football Club were responsible for raising £115 for the club by running whist drives and dances.

At the end of the 1927-1928 season Eli Fletcher, formally of Manchester City who had played with the Sandbach Ramblers during the last season has just signed for Manchester Central.

In March 1929, the Sandbach Ramblers were up against Port Vale reserves in an unfortunate 4-1 defeat in the Cheshire League when they played at the Old Recreation Ground in Hanley. This was not typical of the Sandbach team as they had recently had phenomenal success scoring no fewer than 31 goals in the previous season. The Ramblers were a team of surprises having lost 10-3 to Tranmere Rovers and beaten Runcorn 6-1 with a defeat from Hurst 7-4 before their game at Port Vale.

PORT VALE PLAYERS = Prince, Shenton, Rollo, Sherlock, Whitcombe, Rouse, Anstiss, Page, Fishwich, Gillespie and Griffiths.

SANDBACH RAMBLERS PLAYERS = Burke, Coleman, Hardy, Duckworth, Moores, Goodwin, Newton, Bailey, Lythgoe, Riley and Lees

With the Match Referee for the Port Vale V Sandbach Ramblers game being Mr T Brown of Crewe.

For the start of the 1929-1930 season in August 1929 the Sandbach Ramblers secured the services of last year's Swindon Town goalkeeper J.H. Bourne who had also played for Bolton Wanderers. Another player Carney had been with New Brighton was also signed for the team.

At the 4 July 1930 AGM of the Sandbach Ramblers FC Mr E W Mantle was re-elected Chairman with Mr E J Walker as Vice Chairman. The rest of the committee were also elected without a ballot and included Mr Arthur Simcox, Mr J Eachus, Mr T Platt, Mr H Downing and Mr T Bickerton with the job of secretary still not filled.

PLAYERS

Goalkeeper	Bourne
Back	Coleman
Back	Hardy
Half-back	Appleton
Half-back	Moores
Half-back	Rosson
Half-back	Gotsell
Forward	Newton
Forward	Bailey

Forward Crump
 Forward Edmonds
 Forward Baynham
 Trial players H Young, H Thompson, J Wright and W Hulme.

The 1933-1934 season was uneventful except for one player called Henry “Ninny” Newton who was signed for Manchester City for a transfer fee of £200 the highest price paid for a Sandbach Ramblers Player to date.

In 1948 (1948-49 Season) the Sandbach Ramblers were one of the first teams to join the Mid Cheshire League with their home being at the “Slaughterhouse” in **Flat Lane** (demolished 19 March 1988).

As the team played on the Slaughter House Field the team’s dressing room was situated behind the George Public House. It was also said that when the team were playing the doors to the abattoir were left open so the slaughter-men could watch the match. The unfortunate thing was everyone else could also see in the slaughterhouse.

The field was also used for various events including fun fairs, circus and fates including the Co-op Gala in the 1930’s.

On the 23 June 1960, St Mary’s Primary School held their annual sports evening at the Sandbach Ramblers football field off Flat Lane.

The 1960’s Sandbach Ramblers team included Will Edwards, Hector, Paul Thompson, Rod Edwards, Chris Kane, Kenny Bolshers, Bill Ron Swan, Jimmy Johnson, Colin Wheatley, Roy “Eggy” Truman, Stuart Bannister, Tony Agater.

In 1964, the Sandbach Ramblers reached the final of the Cheshire Amateur Cup only to be beaten by their old rivals Nantwich.

In the 1968 -1969 season they became part of the Cheshire County League again and moved from Flat Lane to **Newall Avenue** which was a Council owned pitch. At this time the Sandbach Ramblers continued to run a reserve side as well as the main team for the Mid Cheshire League.

FA CUP

	HOME	SCORE	AWAY
1968-69	Nantwich	4 – 5	Sandbach Ramblers
1969-70	Sandbach Ramblers	0-1	Lostock Gralam
1970-71	Sandbach Ramblers	0-2	Marine
1971-72	New Mills	1-3	Sandbach Ramblers
1972-73	Sandbach Ramblers	0-7	Whitton Albion
1973-74	Leek Town	0-4	Sandbach Ramblers
1974 -75	Northwich Victoria	3-2	Sandbach Ramblers
	Sandbach Ramblers	2-1	Skelmsdale United
	Sandbach Ramblers	0-1	Marine

(For more information on Matches visit fchd.info/SANDBACR.HTM)

1973 MATCHES AGAINST HYDE UNITED

22 Sept 1973	Sandbach Ramblers	V (1-0)	Hyde United
1 Oct 1973	Hyde United	V (0-2)	Sandbach Ramblers
1 Dec 1973	Sandbach Ramblers	V (1-1)	Hyde United
9 Dec 1973	Hyde United	V (0-1)	Sandbach Ramblers

The 1970’s Sandbach Ramblers team included Manager Johnny Morris with Tony Latham (Trainer), Ron Reddy, Alan Stimpson and Jeff Morgans.

In 1975, the Sandbach Ramblers folded.

A NEW ERA

In 1979 the G E C Villa changed its name to the new Sandbach Ramblers.

In 1983 the Division two was disbanded with the remaining clubs formed into a single division.

In 1985 they left the Mid Cheshire League which was later disbanded.

In 1995 (1965-6 Season) a third football team took on the name Sandbach Ramblers and joined the Midland League Division one until 1996 when they left the league.

In 2004 the Sandbach United football club was formed from the merger of Sandbach Albion and the Sandbach Ramblers.

In August 2011 The Sandbach Ramblers pitch in Newall Avenue had its gates locked by Cheshire East Council who owned the site. The club was now building a new £2m Soccer Centre in Abbeyfields (Ettley Heath) Sandbach with the opening unfortunately being delayed until later in 2011 but even though they had no home until the building was open the Council still decided to lock up the pitch, leaving all of the town's teams to play their home matches outside the area. These included the Cricketers Arms FC (Secretary Michelle Melville). Cheshire East Cllr Rod Menlove said that they would reconsider the decision to close the pitch. "The Council will mark out and out up the goalposts so the pitch can be used as a training ground and general kick-about pitch for the local community to use. But what we cannot do at this present time is maintain the pitch as a hired resource due to budget constraints".

In August 2012, the changing rooms at Newall Avenue were closed after vandals caused £1,000 worth of damage.

In 2012 the new Sandbach Community Football Centre opened.

By September 2016 the Newfield football field was in a very sorry state waiting for builders to dig up the area to make a new estate along with the Council Depot next door. The Bulldozers moved into the area on the 20 September 2016.

COMMITTEE Date unknown.

President Mr E P Foden

Chairman Mr G Larkin

Secretary Mr N P Hanlon

Treasurer Mr D Trump

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ROOKERY BRIDGE REFINING COMPANY

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Located on the bank of the Trent and Mersey Canal by Rookery Bridge the "Rookery Bridge Refining Co Ltd" or "Rookery Bridge Bone and Manure Works" part of the Manchester Bone and Manure Works started by Thomas Vickers who in 1853 announced in the Chester Chronicle that he was building a new works in Sandbach and by 1875 can be seen on the OS Map as the "Rookery Mills Bone". They were a bone grinding company which was used to make various glues.

In 1856, "Long's National Dressing Compositions" were being advertised as available from Thomas Vickers at Rookery Bridge Bone Works in Sandbach.

In 1857, the Post Office directory lists Thomas Vickers at Rookery Bridge and a second operation in Wheelock.

In 1878, the Post Office directory listed Robert Finlow (.b. 1849) as the Manager of the works at Rookery Bridge and Wheelock but by 1891 he was classed as a traveller for the Bone works and was living at Elton Cottage, Elton, Sandbach with his wife Emily (.b. 1850), 5 Sons and 4 Daughters.

In 1937, the London Gazette announced the dissolution of the Ernest Hancock and William Jump Partnership at Rookery Bridge who had taken over the company on the death of Herbert Vickers in 1917.

In 1942, the Managing Director of the company was Ernest W Hancock.

In 1961, the Rookery Bridge Refining Company was sold to the John Wallace Group of Glasgow who probably closed the factory soon afterwards in 1964/5 when the Wallace Group bought the Edward Gorton Group (Animal Glue and Co makers / Also known as "Cheshire Gelatines" of Warrington) for £275,000 and moved its manufacturing elsewhere. (Edward Gorton .b. 1836-7 .D. 1912)

By 1981, the building was derelict

(From information at http://www.themeister.co.uk/hindley/rookery_bridge.htm)

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ROTARY CLUB IN SANDBACH

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In 1945 the Rotary Club of Crewe approached Robert Baldwin Hovey MC (Zan) with a view to forming a group in Sandbach. After a number of meetings, the first meeting took place in the town on the 13 October 1945 at Sandbach Town Hall with Emrys Hughes attending for Rotary International.

At the first meeting Robert Hovey was installed as their President. The next meeting was on the 17 October 1945 and secretary E Phillips recorded the minutes in a small red book. 28 members decided to cover the costs

of the meal at the Town Hall meeting as it had a deficit of £8/7/2d. Early fundraising funded items for the poor people of Holland, books for patients at Arclid Hospital, white sticks for blind people as well as reconditioned radios for those who couldn't afford them.

On the 1 May 1946 the group were officially handed over a Rotary Club Charter for the Sandbach Rotary Club (Dated December 1945) at its dinner held at the Masonic Hall with entertainment provided by Mr A Unsworth (Act not indicated).

In 1947, having ordered equipment when the society was formed, finally received a chain of office, Mr Robert B Hovey organised a bell to be rung at the start of the meetings which was made from salvaged roof timbers from St Mary's church for the surround with the bell being the former ARP (Air Raid Precautions) equipment.

In 1949, the suggestion was made to get a box made to keep all the societies documents and items in. Finally, in 1952 the box was handed over to the group and was made by pupils from the approved school with the top lid decorated by Cath Jones the local Music Studio (Record Shop) owner and dance band leader, whose father had been a prominent cabinet maker in the town.

In the 1950's the group organised a trip to Bodelwyddan for "Cripples" (old term for disabled people who had a problem walking), with the coach taking them to see the White Church, a café lunch and a trip to the seaside at Rhyl with founder member John Hollinshead organising the coach from his company to make the trip.

In 2020 meetings were held each Wednesday including during the National shutdown due to the Coronavirus outbreak when meetings moved from the Market Tavern to ZOOM a social media system.

(From an article in the Sandbach Chronicle by John Higgins 18 June 2020)

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ROYAL BRITISH LEGION Sandbach Branches

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Royal British Legion (Sandbach Branch) **FOUNDED 1921.**

Royal British Legion (Elworth) Disbanded 1989

Royal British Legion (Wheelock) Disbanded

Congleton Branch July 1921 (Was the DF and S / Comrades of the Great War)

Crewe Branch Possibly 1921

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It is over 100 years since the British Legion was formed and the Sandbach Branch is one of the founding members of this organisation that has helped members of the Armed Forces through a world war and numerous conflicts but mainly giving support to any person who has served their country through National Service conscription or volunteering via the Reserves as well as those who have joined the regular British Army, Royal Air Force and Royal Navy, Veterans and their families. Today they provide financial assistance, specialist care and numerous benefits to those in need of that extra support not provided by the NHS or Government Assistance.

In 1918 after the Great War had ended there was a growing outpouring of grief and a thought that those who had died in the war should be remembered. War Memorials were erected in London and many of the major cities of the allied countries.

In Britain a body of people were needed to co-ordinate the acts of remembrance and so on the 15 May 1921 the British Legion was formed by Field Marshal Earl Haig (Douglas Haig, 1st Earl Haig .b. 16 June 1891 .D. 29 January 1928) and Tom Lister (of the FODADSS) out of four separate charities the "National Association of Discharged Sailors and Soldiers" (Formed in 1917 in Blackburn), The "British National Federation of Discharged and Demobilised Sailors and Soldiers" (Formed in 1917), "The Comrades of the Great War" (Formed in 1917 with over 2,000 branches) and "The Officers' Association" (Formed in 1920, incorporated by Royal Charter on the 30 June 1921).

On the 15 May 1921, a small number of ex-servicemen walked to the Cenotaph War Memorial in Whitehall, London and at 9am when Big Ben struck the hour four men representing the charities that were merging to form the Royal British Legion laid a wreath with their individual badges on them at the base of the monument officially amalgamating the rival organisations into one

The Legion took on the Earl Haig Poppy Appeal and started to employ ex-servicemen to make the paper poppies for their first appeal in November 1921.

By December 1921 there were 2,500 branches across the country and in 2021 there were still 2,500 branches some original and some started later with some like Elworth and Wheelock folding.

In 1925 the British Legion was granted a Royal Charter by King George V which sets out how the organisation is to be structured.

Supplementary Charters were issued over a period of time and a completely new Supplemental Charter was granted on the 30 May 2003 and version 14 was issued on the 8 October 2019.

In 2021 the 100th Anniversary of the organisation at 9am (0900 hrs) all branches were asked to lay a wreath at the anniversary hour to celebrate the centenary.

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SANDBACH

There were three groups set up in the town to remember the fallen and to raise funds for ex-servicemen.

On the 16 May 1920, the Elworth War Memorial was unveiled. It was made of Portland Stone with a York Stone Base and has a soldier on its plinth.

A year later in 1921 the Brunner Mond factory erected a memorial to its workers which was later relocated in 1934 to the Sandbach Cemetery by Darcy Braddell (for Brunner Mond) after the factory closed.

After the First World War in Sandbach a group of people formed the COMRADES OF THE GREAT WAR. At their A.G.M. on Wednesday the 30 June 1920 at the club Mr Arthur Simcox presided and the following officers were elected.

President Mr J.F.T. Royds J.P.

Chairman Mr Arthur Simcox

Secretary Mr G.H. Charlesworth

Organising Secretary Mr W Rosson

Treasurer Mr T Edwards

A Branch and Club Committee was also formed with a membership at the time of 348. Mr T Edwards presented a statement of accounts with the total receipts amounting to £162 19s 0d and expenditure of £139 leaving a balance in hand of £23 19s 0d.

The meeting also discussed the erection of a new "Hut" which had cost £154 so far and would be soon fully equipped having been moved by Foden's Ltd from its previous home in Prees Heath to a new site owned by Dr Riddell. Members who were involved in the moving of the hut included, Mr T Vine, Mr S Smallwood, Mr J Shaw with other members Mr A Dutton and Mr J Shaw.

The town of Sandbach was one of the first in the country to open a British Legion branch and on the 15 May 1921 (The Same date nationally), it was formed out of the local "Comrades of the Great War" organisation but with over 2,000 branches of that organisation it took until the 21 August 1921 for their Certificate of Amalgamation to be issued. The Sandbach British Legion had as its first President Captain Herbert P. Rigby. Local founder members included Mr Cyril Massey (.b. 1891 .D. 1970 Aged 79) who went on to write the definitive history of Sandbach.

During 1920 those members of the "Comrades" who were moving into the British Legion started putting together the framework for the changeover.

(See 4 September 1920 Crewe Chronicle Page 6 about a procession from the Comrades of the Great War)

FOUNDER MEMBERS Included

PRESIDENT Captain Herbert P. Rigby

MEMBERS Mr Cyril Massey (.b. 1891 .D. 1970 Aged 79).

In the 1914-18 war he served in France with the Royal Army Medical Corps. During the Second World War he served as an Air Raid Warden

He was responsible for setting up the Ex Servicemen's Club in Sandbach which later became the United Services Club. He was also a local historian writing many books on the Town. In 1965 Cyril was made a Life Member of the British Legion.)

OTHER POSSIBLE FOUNDER MEMBERS

Herbert Farr, Mr Thomas Lake (Gentlemen's Outfitters at 11 High Town), Mr H Loynes, Mr Simcox.

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At a Meeting in the Drill Hall in Congleton of the DF and S and the Comrades of the Great War in July 1921 it was decided to combine to become the British Legion. Col WP Reade presided over the meeting and it was understood that the two clubs would be managed by a joint committee.

Congleton Branch Combined July 1921 (Was the DF and S / Comrades of the Great War)

#####

In September 1921, the Sandbach Branch of the British Legion (Late Comrades of the Great War) held a Grand Smoking Concert and Convivial Evening on Friday the 23 Sept 1921 at 7.30pm (Venue not noted in the advert) (Advert in the Crewe Chronicle 24 Sept 1921 – the day after the event). The advert also asked for “Ex-Servicemen! Join the Branch at Once and help to fight for the things you have won”, W.J. Rosson, Hon Sec., Sandbach.

#####

The 1921 Poppy appeal in Sandbach and district on Thursday and Friday (17- 18 November 1921) raised about £20 with Miss Sherratt disposing of the most number of Poppies.

#####

The War Memorial in the Market Square, Sandbach was unveiled on the 16 April 1922, at 3pm by Lieutenant Colonel John Kennedy, C.M.G., D.S.O., of the Black Watch. He was the son of Colonel and Mrs Kennedy of Brookside, Arclid. This would be the first occasion the Sandbach Branch of the British Legion would be involved in the memorial service.

#####

Soon after its formation the Sandbach British Legion formed its own football team that took part in the Crewe and District League alongside teams from Crewe Steam Sheds, Haslington Villa (1921-22 Champions), Willaston, Holmes Chapel, Nantwich Reserves, Shavington Juniors, Whitchurch and Coppenhall.

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29 September 1922 Alderley and Wilmslow Advertiser Page 7 (Friday)

On Wednesday the 27 September 1922 the Sandbach British Legion held a Whist Drive and Dance at the Sandbach Town Hall with music provided by the British Legion Orchestra.

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The start of the season was reported in the 30 September 1922 local newspaper.

On the 30 September 1922 a report appeared in the Staffordshire Sentinel that showed the results of a local football match with teams from Nantwich and Haslington Villa. Another team mentioned was the Crewe British Legion who had been without a victory so far but had gained three points in drawn games suggesting that the Crewe Branch of the British Legion had been formed the previous year.

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13 October 1922 Alderley and Wilmslow Advertiser Page 7.

The Sandbach Branch of the British Legion Football team passed through to the next round of the Crewe Cup Competition on Saturday after beating Moulton Villa by 2 Goals to 1.

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On the 14 June 1924, the British Legion held a “Grand Garden Fate and Sports” at Abbeyfields, Sandbach on the Saturday opened by Major-General Heath Caldwell C.B. with Chairman Lord Colum Crichton- Stuart, M.P. The band of the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion Cheshire Regiment provided the music with an open air Whist Drive, Punch and Judy Show, Fortune Telling in the Rock Gardens and numerous side shows. There was a Schoolboys Relay race (14 and Under), teams of four; 150 yards Ex-Service Men’s Race; Veterans Race (50 years and over); Reveille Race, V.C. Race, Ladies Slow Bicycle Race and a Slow Motor Cycle Race. There was also a Pontoon Race on the lake with teams of four and a 100 yard open Swimming race. Bookings for the entrants to the competitions was via W.A. Dutton at the Avenue, Elworth, Sandbach and entry to the event was 1 shilling for adults and half price for Children.

(20 May 1924 Crewe Chronicle Page 2)

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1 Feb 1925 FODEN MOTOR WORKS BRASS BAND CONCERT  
In Aid of the British Legion Widow and Orphans Fund.  
(See also 21 Nov 1926, 11 Dec 1927, 11 Nov 1928)

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NATIONAL NEWS

**In 1925 the British Legion was granted Royal Charter by King George V** which sets out how the organisation is to be structured.

Supplementary Charters were issued over a period of time and a completely new Supplemental Charter was granted on the 30 May 2003 and version 14 was issued on the 8 October 2019.

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18 July 1925 Crewe Chronicle Page 6.

Entertainment event with Miss Ada Worthington, Mr E Chantier (Tenor), Mr Harry Cubley (Humorist) with the British Legion Orchestra playing Selections.



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On Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup> June 1926, the Sandbach British Legion held a Musical Festival with classes, Mixed and Male Voice Choirs, Church and Chapel Choirs, Schools and Groups A.B.C. and No 1 Singing Game with Adjudicator Granville Bantock Esq, a famous composer and brass band conductor. Entries to Hon Sec:- A. W. Lees at 100 Crewe Road, Sandbach.

(13 Feb 1926 Staffordshire Sentinel Page 2 for Advert)

#####

The Sandbach brass band run by the Foden Motor Works played a Sacred Concert at the Sandbach Town Hall in aid of the Sandbach British Legion Widows and Orphans Fund on the 21 November 1926 with Fred Mortimer conducting and included soloist Ed Lovatt (Bass Baritone) of London, Manchester and Provincial concerts with accompanist Miss Twemlow. (8pm – Admission 2/- (Balcony), 1/- and 6d (Limited).)

(13 Nov 1926 Crewe Chronicle Page 1)

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20 November 1926 Crewe Chronicle Page 6 (14 Nov service)

Elworth held its day of remembrance on Sunday when a united service was held in the Parish Church. In addition to the attendance of parishioners there was a large body of men from the Sandbach British Legion, also the Elworth Scouts and Foden's Band.

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On the 11 December 1927, the local Foden's Motor Works Brass Band held a concert at Sandbach Town Hall in aid of the British Legion Widow and Orphans Fund.

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The following year on the 11 November 1928, the Foden Motor Works Band again held a concert to raise funds for the British Legion.

#####

Locally the Crewe Branch of the British Legion had started a women's group. In June 1929 (2 June 1929 Staffordshire Sentinel) the newly formed committee of the Woman's Branch held an American Tea at the home of the Chairman Mrs Beames MBE at Chester Place, Chester Street, Crewe.

A report in the Staffordshire Sentinel on the 4 September 1929 the Mayoress of Crewe Mrs W.C. White was appointed a Patron of the Women's Section the previous Tuesday (3 Sept 1929). Mrs J Bayley M.B.E. was Chairman of the group with Mrs Button as treasurer although they would relinquish their roles later that month at the AGM. The Branch had 102 members with one of the last to join being Mrs Brown the wife of the MP for the Division.

#####

The 9 November 1930, gathering at the War Memorial in Sandbach didn't have an address this year with Ministers, Canon Armistead, the Rev. W.A. Unsworth, the Rev. T Smith and the Rev. J Pearce taking part accompanied by the band of the Saltersford School the hymns sung were "O God our help in ages past" and "Abide with me". Buglers from the school sounded the last post and Reveille. Wreaths were laid by members of the Urban District Council, Sandbach British Legion and various schools and children who were present.

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In February 1932, the Sandbach Branch of the British Legion was being run by Captain Herbert P Rigby with support from Mr W Brame. (6 Feb 1932 Crewe Chronicle)

#####

In April 1932 a report in the local paper reported about the WHEELOCK BRITISH LEGION A.G.M. The Secretary reported that the Branch had been formed over four years ago and had raised over £100 through the poppy appeal.

The Secretary Mr H Burgess moved to the Sandbach Branch and was presented with two large easy chairs in recognition of his work with the Branch.

Its committee was as follows,

|                |                                          |
|----------------|------------------------------------------|
| President      | Mr R.B. Hovey (Presiding at the meeting) |
| Vice President | Rev. R.J. Milward                        |
| Hon Secretary  | Mr S Ollerhead (was Mr H Burgess)        |
| Hon. Treasurer | Mr J James M.C.                          |

#####

By the 1930's the local Branch had acquired a building in Bradwall Road to house the British Legion Club. A report in the Aberdeen Press and Journal on Monday the 10<sup>th</sup> October 1932 (and the Daily Mirror 10 Oct 1932), noted that a fire had taken place at a wooden structure belonging to the British Legion Club, a large corn warehouse, a wooden garage office.

The fire took two hours to get under control and caused the electrical supply for the whole town to be cut off with church services being suspended for a time.

A young girl at the time remembers going to the local Harvest Festival at St Mary's Church that day and the lights went out at the end of the service. They were then told that they couldn't go home through the town because of the fire so she had to go down Congleton Road and then back up Offley Road to Victoria Street. By the next day the grain store had been burnt to the ground.

By 1933 the British Legion Club had facilities for Billiards, Cards and entertainments.

#####

On the 5 November 1934 (Monday) Foden's Band held a celebration at the motor works after they had won the Crystal Palace Trophy for the third year in succession. At the event there were a lot of dignitaries including Brigadier General Sir William Bromley Davenport, Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire and President of the Cheshire Publicity and Industrial Development Council. A guard of Honour was made up of members of the Sandbach British Legion (Organised by Mr T.A. Mellor and berts? / Roberts) and the Elworth Scouts (Scoutmaster W Bennett) and Girl Guides (Captain Miss Mellor).

#####

On Monday the 27 Apr 1936, the Crewe and District Orme Billiard League Shield was presented at the Socialist Club and Institute in Beech Street, Crewe. Winners of the shield were the Socialist Club team captained by Mr Lou Moss. The Sandbach Branch of the British Legion were runners up and Mr A Robinson (Secretary of the Branch) attended along with players Mr W Bracegirdle, Mr H Breathen, Mr H Farr, Mr C Burrows, Mr C.H. Condliffe, Mr J Higgins, Mr A Twemlow, Mr F Wright Senr and Mr F Wright Junr.

#####

3 October 1936 Crewe Chronicle Page 12.

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual British Legion Agricultural Show had record entries and attendance.

#####

10 April 1937 Crewe Chronicle Page 12

The Sandbach Civic Service took place with representatives from the British Legion, Wheelock and Elworth Scouts and Guides, Fire Brigade, Friendly Societies, St John Ambulance, Officials and Chairmen of Neighbouring Councils, Sandbach Chamber of Commerce, Freemasons and others.

#####

The Second World War changed the direction the British Legion went, with a move from just helping those affected by the wars to raising funds to help those fighting on the front line.

In April 1940, the Sandbach Branch donated a total of 195 Postal Orders to locally serving men in the forces. Ninety-six, Five Shilling orders were sent abroad with the remaining 58 being donated to home serving men who joined since Christmas and a further 41 serving at home received 2 shilling and 6d (Pence) orders.

#####

On the 12 February 1940 the Sandbach Branch of the British Legion beat representatives of the Cheshire Battalion at a Snooker and Billiards competition. (*1 Dec 1940 Crewe Chronicle*)

#####

24 February 1940 Crewe Chronicle Page 12

The newly constituted Sandbach Branch of the British Legion held its first Committee Meeting.

#####

In April / May 1940 (Crewe Chronicle 4 May 1940) the Sandbach Branch of the British Legion sent out 203 Postal Orders to townsmen serving overseas and at home. Mr Lawson (Hon Secretary) in the Crewe Chronicle of the 1 May 1940 said that he had received 50 replies thanking the Legion for the support from the fund. Unfortunately some of the recipients had moved without informing the fund and so the change of address has added an extra expense of sending out the undelivered letters to the new addresses.

Letters included,

Pte Geo. Marsh "My companions and I consider it a very fine gesture on the part of the people of Sandbach and in particular the Sandbach British Legion".

Pte J.A. Elliot, "The British Legion at Sandbach are doing some very good work by organising such a fund for the men in the Forces. It gives us a great deal of encouragement to live up to the standard set by yourselves during 1914-18.

Gunner R Mitchell "I was surprised that the postal order came from the British Legion where I used to deliver coal".

Pte H Dickinson "The Postal Orders are a good idea. A parcel might contain something you might never use".

Sergt D. C. Kay "It is very encouraging to know that the Legion is taking such keen interest in the welfare of members in the services".

Pte W Birchenough, "The knowledge that a soldier is not forgotten outside his own family and relations is a very comforting thought. It brings home to me the comradeship which exists between our people".

Pte C Kelly, "Such efforts give inspiration to the boys in Khaki".

Signalman D Johnson, "It is always a pleasure to receive a letter from the 'Old Village'. Trusting this letter finds you as it leaves me, "Fighting Fit"."

The Wheelock Branch of the British Legion had also sent out 52 post orders to men from Wheelock, Wheelock Heath, Hassall Green, Betchton and Malkins Bank. Mr R Gregory was anxious to supplement his fund with contributions from local efforts organised by public spirited people.  
The Elworth Legion sent over sixty Postal Orders.

#####

On the 14 December 1940 (CHECK DATE) the Wheelock Branch of the British Legion held its Annual Supper on the Tuesday with a meal of Rabbits shot by the local Home Guard members. The President at the time was Mr R B Hovey (MC / Military Cross)

#####

24 May 1941 Crewe Chronicle Page 6

A Concert was given at the Sandbach Town Hall on Sunday 18 May 1941 by the Red Carnations Party and was enjoyed by a large audience.

#####

On the 14 June 1941 (CHECK DATE) the Sandbach Branch held a Whist Drive and Film Show which was organised by Mrs Dunn. The event raised £10 for the Comforts Fund to send parcels to soldiers.

#####

The 15 November 1941 Crewe Chronicle had an article updating the British Legion's Forces fund and the previous week it had sent out 81 Postal Orders of 5 shillings each to men overseas, 286 to Home Service Men, and 6 Postal Orders of 10 shillings to relatives of Prisoners of War. Thirty six Postal Orders were kept aside due to the latest addresses of serving men being unavailable. In total 409 gifts had been made with a cheerful letter being sent with the Postal Orders by Hon Secretary Mr F Lawson.

Among those who sent letters of thanks to the Legion were Pte P Allcock, AC/2 B B Bayley, R R Beard. R.A.F.. G.T. Bloor, Pte P M Broad, A.T.S. Corpl J Barton, Corpl. D Finlow, Pte A. H. Johnson and Pte J Lea.

#####

22 November 1941 Crewe Chronicle.

The Chronicle announced the results of the Poppy Appeal for 1941, raising £155 a £30 increase on last year.

1940 = £125

1941 = £155

Wheelock Raised £27 2s 10d for their fund and Elworth under the Chairmanship of Mr W Owen raised over £70 an increase of £20 on last year. Other members of the Elworth branch were Messrs. C Johnson, W Cooper and members of the ladies committee.

The Chronicle also reported on a PARADE SERVICE which was attended by the British Legion and the Home Guard at the Wesley Avenue Church on Sunday Morning when the preacher was the Rev W J Gardner. Mr T S Lake was the standard bearer and he recited the Legion's Exhortation. In the afternoon the parade visited Alsager.

#####

22 November 1941 Crewe Chronicle (Part 2).

#### NEARLY £500 RAISED BY PARCEL FUND

At the Annual meeting of the British Legion branch held at the Old Hall on Friday, Capt. H. P. Rigby presiding Mr T Hewitt, Hon treasurer reported that the membership was 153 but that 34 members were in arrears. Only three applications for assistance had been considered by the Benevolent Committee.

Mr P Lawson, Hon. Secretary of the Comforts Fund, said that when they opened the fund in 1939 they were doubtful whether they would be able to raise enough money, but at the end of the third year the fund was still in a strong position in spite of their long list of serving soldiers – now over 600. The fund had received generous support and he had had many letters of appreciation from the lads in the Forces.

#### VISITORS WELCOMED

Mr T. S. Lake, chairman of the branch welcomed Mr F Wooldridge, Chairman of the South Cheshire Area, and the secretary, Mr Bennett. He congratulated Mr Wooldridge on inducing the Cheshire County Council to increase the funeral fees of destitute ex-Service-men from £4 to £8. Mr Lake mentioned the late Archdeacon Armitstead who he said, had given the Legion every possible support.

The success of the parcels fund was due primarily to Mr F Lawson, who had the valuable help of his wife. The fund had raised nearly £500 since its inception – no mean achievement for a comparatively small town. He suggested that the Sandbach, Wheelock and Elworth branches should amalgamate in the sending out of gifts and in the Poppy Day effort. Poppy receipts had reached £150 an increase of £30.

Capt. Rigby congratulated the officials and committee on their good work and said the comforts fund was greatly appreciated by serving men and women.

#### GETTING NEW MEMBERS

Mr F Wooldridge suggested that now was the time to increase their membership and he advocated a recruiting campaign. The personal touch was very important; He himself was never without a membership form in his pocket.

Captain Rigby was appointed President. Mr H.S. Lake chairman, Mr A. W. Lees secretary, Mr T Hewitt treasurer, and the following as the committee – Messrs A Bullock, A Corwood, F Moston, F and E Robinson, W.E. Lea, F Jennings, A. E. Parkes, P Lawson, N Beard, J Harrison and E.S. Meredith.

#####

At the AGM of the Sandbach Branch on the 7 February 1942 there were changes made to the Committee.

#####

The latest dance organised by Mrs Stevens of the Sandbach Branch of the British Legion raised £37/8/11 for the British Legion Parcel Fund. (24 June 1944 Crewe Chronicle Page 6)

#####

The British Legion Sandbach Services Committee Special Meeting Meetings book starting on the 18 December 1944 shows the activities of the society.

The first meetings shown were at the Literary Institute.

#### THOSE PRESENT

F Jennings,  
E Robinson,  
A Parks,  
A Bullock,  
R Baxendale,  
Cyril Massey,  
J Snape,  
Mrs Clayton Barker,  
Mrs Lfall (Check Name)

#####

#### OFFICERS APPOINTED British Legion Sandbach Services Committee 18 Dec 1944.

|                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Chairman           | Mr Cyril Massey |
| Vice Chairman      | R Baxendale     |
| Hon Secretary      | J Snape         |
| Hon Treasurer      | A Bullock       |
| Employment Officer | F Jennings      |
| Pensions           | J Snape         |

The Branch sent out Christmas Vouchers to Ex Service men or their dependents with the following handed out.

Mrs A Whittingham £1  
Mr Mc Wallen £2  
Mr R Beech £1  
Mr H Breather £1  
Mr J Wilson £2  
Mr C Halford £1  
Mr Maybury 10/-  
Mr H Wheeler 10/-

The meeting also elected members to serve on various committees

Services Committee = Messrs F Jennings, E Robinson, A Parks

Rep P Assistance Committee = A Bullock, J Wilson, R Baxendale, C Massey, T S Lake.

Rep Labour Ex = Mr J Bateman

Rep Red Cross = Mrs Clayton Barker (Commandant)

Rep SS and AFA = Lyall

Rep District Nurse (Check) = Miss Jones

#####

The 29 January 1945 meeting was abandoned due to a Blizzard.

#####

The 26 March 1945 meeting decided to get cards printed showing the dates of the next Branch and Services Committees. The meeting also asked Mr Ashurst to join the committee due to his knowledge of the Insurance rules etc.

#####

The 28 May 1945 received a letter from the Ministry of Labour Office, Crewe informing the Branch that the Recruitment Office was now open in Market Street, Crewe with the officer in Charge being W A E Dady (Phone Number 2855).

#####

The 30 July 1945 meeting discussed contacting the Wheelock Committee and Elworth Committee to meet at the next meeting to discuss further coordination between the three Branches. (Postponed to later)

#####

26 November 1945 AGM at the Literary Institute.

The sending out of more vouchers was discussed and ten people benefited from the donation.

OFFICERS APPOINTED British Legion Sandbach Services Committee 1945.

|                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Chairman           | Mr Cyril Massey |
| Vice Chairman      | R Baxendale     |
| Hon Secretary      | J Snape         |
| Hon Treasurer      | A Bullock       |
| Employment Officer | F Jennings      |
| Pensions           | J Snape         |

#####

On the 30 June 1946, a Jubilee Celebration for the British Legion was held with representatives of the Sandbach, Wheelock, Elworth and Alsager Branches at St Mary's Church Sandbach. (6 July 1946 Crewe Chronicle Page 6)

#####

16 December 1946 Meeting at the Literary Institute, British Legion Sandbach Services Committee.

During the year various people had received money from the Legion funds both locally and via the national Head Quarters.

Christmas Vouchers would also be handed out to ten people in 1946.

THOSE PRESENT AT THE MEETING

Mrs Clayton Barker,  
R Baxendale,  
A Bullock,  
W Bullock  
Cyril Massey,  
F Jennings,  
A Parks,  
E Robinson,  
J Snape,

#####

27 January 1947 members also included

A Bullock  
H Burgess,  
J Clarke,  
Arthur Simcox.

The meeting also discussed the possibility of having a Commonwealth Hall at the Arclid Infirmary (Hospital).

#####

28 April 1947 British Legion Sandbach Services Committee meeting at the Literary Institute.

Members included = J Gorst.

A letter had been received from the Chairman of the Council for the Branch to attend a service at the Wesley Avenue Church on Sunday 4 May 1947 and it was decided that the Standard and as many members as possible should attend. (Possible Civic Service for the new Chairman.)

#####

29 December 1947 AGM

OFFICERS APPOINTED British Legion Sandbach Services Committee 1947 at the Literary Institute.

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Chairman           | Mr Cyril Massey  |
| Vice Chairman      | E Robinson (NEW) |
| Hon Secretary      | J Snape          |
| Hon Treasurer      | A Bullock        |
| Employment Officer | Mr Cyril Massey  |
| Pensions           | J Snape          |

#####

18 September 1948 Winsford Chronicle Page 2

A report of an Annual Fishing match organised by the Sandbach Branch of the British Legion taking place at Dingle Lake. The winner was a Mr Mort who pulled out 17 fish at the lake.

#####

20 September 1948 the first mention in the minutes book of the Remembrance Service invitations being sent out with the decision as to who gets in invite being decided at the following meeting.

#####

20 December 1948 AGM

OFFICERS APPOINTED British Legion Sandbach Services Committee 1948 at the Literary Institute.

Chairman Mr Cyril Massey  
Vice Chairman E Robinson  
Hon Secretary J Snape  
Hon Treasurer A Bullock  
Employment Officer Mr Cyril Massey  
Pensions J Snape

#####

|             |                                                                                                                              |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|             | UNITED SERVICES CLUB                                                                                                         |
| 21 May 1949 | Sandbach United Services Club Darts Player Roy Bickerton took part in Congleton League Match. (Newspaper Nantwich Chronicle) |

#####

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

At the 3 October 1949 meeting a letter was received from the Clerk to the Council asking for support at the Remembrance Day Service on Sunday Morning, this was agreed to.

A Service at Brereton was also to be held on Sunday Morning, 13 November and it was decided to attend.

The death was also announced of Mr W Owen and members wished to attend the funeral.

#####

27 March 1950 British Legion Sandbach Services Committee Meeting at the Literary Institute.

The meeting also elected members to serve on the Services Committee =

Chairman Cyril Massey,  
Vice Chairman E Robinson,  
Treasurer A Bullock,  
Secretary J Snape  
COMMITTEE L Barraclough, W Bullock, P Ellis, S Fairhurst, Miss Lloyd, A Parks  
CO-OPTED L Brown, H Burgess, Wilf Cullington

#####

|              |                                                                                            |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|              | UNITED SERVICES CLUB                                                                       |
| 1 April 1950 | Snooker League Trophy presented on Thursday by Vice President Mrs Wooley. (Newspaper Date) |

#####

**POSSIBLE MEMBERS AT THIS TIME**

**Mr John Gleave, Cyril Taylor, Matthew Brereton and Roy Good.**

#####

27 November 1950 British Legion Sandbach Services Committee Meeting at the Literary Institute.

The meeting also elected members to serve on the Services Committee of 1951 =

Chairman Cyril Massey,  
Vice Chairman E Robinson,  
Treasurer S Brooks,  
Secretary J Snape  
Pensions Officer J Snape  
Employment Officer Cyril Massey  
COMMITTEE L Barraclough, Wilfred Birchall, W Bullock, P Ellis, S Fairhurst, J A Harris,  
W Oliver, A Parks, G Whitehall,  
CO-OPTED L Brown, H Burgess, Wilf Cullington

NEW PRESIDENT APPOINTED.

At the 27 November 1950, A.G.M. Captain Herbert P. Rigby was elected President of the Sandbach Branch of the RBL with Cyril Massey still as Chairman. The Branch had a total of 289 members of which only 280 were fully paid up. Twenty-five new members had joined in the previous year (1949-50) and the Branch had £50 in its bank account.

#####

10 December 1951 British Legion Sandbach Services Committee at the Literary Institute.  
Meeting held at the Reading room in the Literary Institute.

|                    |                                                                                                                                                              |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chairman           | Cyril Massey,                                                                                                                                                |
| Vice Chairman      | W A Parks (NEW),                                                                                                                                             |
| Treasurer          | S Brooks,                                                                                                                                                    |
| Secretary          | J Snape                                                                                                                                                      |
| Pensions Officer   | J Snape                                                                                                                                                      |
| Employment Officer | Cyril Massey                                                                                                                                                 |
| COMMITTEE          | L Barraclough, Wilfred Birchall, W Bullock, P Ellis, S Fairhurst, J A Harris,<br>T Hewitt, W Oliver, A Parks, F Taylor, (S or) G Whitehall,<br>Mrs L Clarke. |
| CO-OPTED           | L Brown, H Burgess, Wilf Cullington                                                                                                                          |

#####

The 8 December 1952 Branch Meeting of the British Legion Sandbach Branch was held in the **UNITED SERVICES CLUB** for the first time.

#####

29 December 1952 and it was back to the Library / Reading Room of the Literary Institute for its meeting. The minutes of the Services committee are not in the book from the December to the 13 April 1953 and they seem to have not been held. From this date all future meetings would be held in the UNITED SERVICES CLUB in Bradwall Road until the Branch was forced to move out of the building (See later).  
By now all the meetings of the Services Committee to discuss the applications for grants from ex service personnel and their families were held after Branch Meetings in the United Services Club.

#####

14 December 1953 British Legion Sandbach Services Committee. Meeting held at the United Services Club, Bradwall Road.

|                    |                                                                                          |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chairman           | Cyril Massey,                                                                            |
| Vice Chairman      | C Taylor (NEW),                                                                          |
| Treasurer          | G W Brooks (NEW),                                                                        |
| Secretary          | J Snape                                                                                  |
| Pensions Officer   | J Snape                                                                                  |
| Employment Officer | Cyril Massey                                                                             |
| COMMITTEE          | Wilfred Birchall, E Brandon, W Bullock, A Curgon, S Fairhurst,<br>H Forster, J A Harris, |
| CO-OPTED           | None                                                                                     |

The Nantwich Chronicle of the 10 July 1954 reported a March past and parade of 1,200 British Legion men and women to Chester Cathedral. Taking part was representative from the Sandbach Branch with the Vicar of Sandbach and Chaplin to the Sandbach British Legion, Canon R Norton who gave an address on Service to God, Country and Humanity.

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 13 September 1954 at the United Services Club.

It was put on record the very generous gesture of the Chairman in providing the Branch with a new Minutes Book.

The members agreed to attend the Sale Festival of Remembrance on the 31 October 1954 with a bus trip alongside the Elworth and Wheelock Branches. The Chairman had purchased 32 tickets on behalf of the Branch.

It was agreed that **Mr Lake (Chairman) be appointed Poppy Day Organiser** and that the **Ladies Branch** be asked to help with the sale of Poppies.

Mr Littlemore of the Picture House was prepared to exhibit a film on how Poppy Day proceeds are allocated and the Secretary was instructed to obtain such film.

#####

The first Minutes of this Committee available in the archive had the following members.

|          |              |
|----------|--------------|
| CHAIRMAN | Mr T. S Lake |
|----------|--------------|

VICE CHAIRMAN Tbc  
 OTHER MEMBERS Mr Wilfred Birchall Jnr, Mr E Brandon, Mr G Brooks, Mr W Bullock,  
 Mr A Curzon, Mr Geoff Fairhurst, Mr H Forster, Mr James Foster, Mr H Harper,  
 Mr J A Harris, Mr T Hewitt, Mr Cyril Massey, Mr Cyril Taylor,

The Minutes book of the 13 September 1954 (General Meeting) and the 8 November 1954 (Services Committee) mentions for the first time a LADIES BRANCH with Mrs Torr (Chairman), Mrs Brereton and Mrs Brindley representing the (Ladies or) Women's Branch (12 Apr 1954 they were called the Women's Branch) at the Services Committee Meeting. It now seems that the Women of the Legion would now also be sitting on the Services Committee as they attended each meeting that year.  
 According to the AGM of the General Branch on the 26 November 1954 the Chairman reported that the Ladies Branch had been formed in this year (1954).

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 11 October 1954 at the United Services Club.  
 It was agreed to attend the Brereton Parish Church on Sunday 7 November with a bus leaving the United Services Club at 10.20am however it was also decided not to attend the Smallwood Parish Church in the Evening of the same day.

Mr Wilfred Birchall Jnr was appointed Marshall for the forthcoming ARMISTICE DAY SERVICE AND PARADE. A band had been provisionally booked and the Ladies Group were asked if they could provide provisions and refreshments for the players.

30 People had booked to go to the Sale Festival of Remembrance and so it was hoped to book two busses for this event with a cost of 2/6d per person towards the cost of transport. The bus left the Wheat Sheaf Hotel at 12.45am on the 31 October 1954.

EVENT A Poppy Day whist Drive to be held in association with the Ladies Branch on the 15 October 1954.

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 8 November 1954 at the United Services Club.  
 The 7<sup>th</sup> Btn Cheshire Regiment were thanked for the very able manner, appearance and bearing of the Band at the recent Armistice Remembrance Parade and were provisionally booked for the following year.  
 Other letters of thanks were sent to the Rev. Norton Betts for organising the Service, The Ladies Branch for refreshments and to Mr Snape for his services as Buglar for the Last Post and Revallé

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING A.G.M. Friday 26 November 1954 at the United Services Club.

PRESIDENT Squadron Leader H Cyril Rigby  
 DISTRICT CHAIRMAN Mr F Wooldridge (South Cheshire District Committee including Crewe)  
 CHAIRMAN Mr T S Lake  
 VICE CHAIRMAN Mr J A Harris  
 SECRETARY Mr G W Brooks (1953 Secretary Mr T S Lake)  
 TREASURER Mr H Harper  
 COMMITTEE MEMBERS Mr V Aldersay, Mr Wilfred Birchall Jnr, Mr E Brandon, Mr W Bullock,  
 Mr J Cleridge, A Curzon, Mr Geoff Fairhurst, Mr H Forster, Mr James Foster,  
 Mr T Howitt, Mr C Massey, Mr Cyril Taylor.

STANDARD BEARER Mr Geoff Fairhurst.

Escorts = V Aldersay, E Brandon, C Massey, C Taylor. (Delegates to the South East Cheshire District Committee)

And 23 Members attended the meeting.

There were at this point 382 Members on the Branch Register made up of the following:-

|                                                                   |       |     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----|
| Ordinary Fully Paid up Members                                    | 288   |     |
| New Members during the year                                       | 30    |     |
| Members who have not paid but are retained on the branch register |       | 64  |
| 1 Life Member                                                     | 1     |     |
|                                                                   | TOTAL | 382 |

36 Members of the Legion were lost over the last 12 months.

POPPY APPEAL The funds from the 1953 Poppy Appeal raised £231 and this year it was going to be considerably more.



SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT Cyril Massey (Services Chairman) thanked T S Lake for the vast amount of hard work which he does for the branch. I think it is quite safe to say that he does more work than all the committee and other officials put together. His generosity to the Branch is very extensive and even Committee Members are totally unaware of just how far his generosity extends.

#####

13 December 1954 British Legion Sandbach Services Committee Meeting held at the United Services Club, Bradwall Road.

Chairman Cyril Massey,  
Vice Chairman C Taylor,  
Treasurer G W Brooks  
Secretary T S Lake  
Pensions Officer T S Lake  
Employment Officer Cyril Massey

COMMITTEE This would be the Branch Committee as well as the Services Committee.  
Mr V Alderlay, Mr Wilfred Birchall Jnr, Mr E Brandon, Mr W Bullock,  
Mr C Coleridge, Mr A Curzon, Mr Geoff Fairhurst, Mr H Forster,  
Mr James Foster, Mr H Harper, Mr T Howitt.

CO-OPTED Mr Leese of the National Insurance Office was co-opted onto the committee.  
Member of the Navel Association (Possibly Mr T Howitt)

(This Committee would continue unopposed until the 1961 meeting)

#####

On Wednesday the 27 January 1955, the Women's Section of Sandbach British Legion held a whist drive at the Literary Institution with winners Miss A Stubbs, Mrs Umpleby, Mrs Bickerton, Mrs A Alcock, Mr S Bowler and Mrs K Mitchell. The special prize was won by Mrs Arrowsmith with prizes handed out by Mrs Harris the Vice Chairman of the Women's Section of the branch.

(Fri 29 January 1955 Nantwich Guardian Page 10)

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING 10 January 1955 at the United Services Club.

Mr L Barraclough was elected to the South Cheshire Hospital Committee as the Legion Representative.

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING 13 June 1955 at the United Services Club.

The Legion was asked to attend the Chairman's Service / Divine Service for the Chairman of the Council Councillor Ernest Condliffe on Sunday the 3 July 1955 at 11am.

There was also a service at the County Cathedral on the afternoon of the 3 July 1955 which the Branch was represented at.

Mr T S Lake the Chairman was awarded a Certificate of Merit at a recent South Cheshire Branch Meeting in connection with his longstanding activities as Poppy Day Organiser.

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING 10 October 1955 at the United Services Club.

REMEMBRANCE DAY ARRANGEMENTS

It was agreed that Sqd Leader Rigby be asked to lay the wreath and be in charge of the Parade and also to read the lesson.

The Branch will be represented at the War Memorial on Sunday the 6 November 1955 without the Standard. Mr Lake will arrange for the buglar to attend.

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING A.G.M. Friday 25 November 1955 at the United Services Club.

At this time there were 383 Members of the Sandbach British Legion.

PRESIDENT Squadron Leader H Cyril Rigby  
VICE PRESIDENTS Dr A Henderson, Harold Coppenhall, T S Lake, Mr A Leese, F C R Lewis,  
W R Parker, Arthur Simcox.  
*DISTRICT CHAIRMAN Mr F Wooldridge (South Cheshire District Committee including Crewe)*  
CHAIRMAN Mr T S Lake  
VICE CHAIRMAN Mr E Brandon (NEW)  
SECRETARY Mr G W Brooks  
TREASURER Mr H Harper

COMMITTEE MEMBERS Tbc  
STANDARD BEARER Mr Geoff Fairhurst.  
Escorts = V Aldersay, E Brandon, C Massey, C Taylor.

POPPY DAY COLLECTION (Previous Year) 1954 Raised £242 (Organised by T S Lake)

#####

12 December 1955 British Legion Sandbach General / Services Committee Meeting held at the United Services Club, Bradwall Road.

Chairman Mr Cyril Massey,  
Vice Chairman Mr Cyril Taylor,  
Treasurer Mr G W Brooks  
Secretary Mr T S Lake  
Pensions Officer Mr T S Lake  
Employment Officer Mr Cyril Massey

COMMITTEE This would be the Branch Committee as well as the Services Committee.  
Mr V Alderlay, Mr Wilfred Birchall Jnr, Mr E Brandon, Mr W Bullock,  
Mr Geoff Fairhurst, Mr H Forster, Mr James Foster, Mr H Harper, Mr T Howitt.

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 9 January 1956 at the United Services Club.

It was agreed to reappoint the following Roles... (The minutes do not say what they were elected to but it was for the Annual Conference).

PRESIDENT Sir Ian Fraser C.H.C.B.E. MP  
HONONARY TREASURER Colonel The Lord Cromwell D.S.O. M.C, J.P.  
CHAIRMAN Major J T Spinks J.P.

#####

|             |                                          |
|-------------|------------------------------------------|
|             | UNITED SERVICES CLUB                     |
| 16 May 1956 | New Steward Required. (Newspaper Advert) |

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 11 June 1956 at the United Services Club.

EVENT = 1) Chairman of Sandbach Urban District Council's Service on Sunday 24 June 1957 at 11am.  
(see below)

2) County Parade at Chester Sunday 24 June 1957 in the afternoon.

It was agreed to purchase a ticket for the Standard Bearer to attend the Annual Festival of Remembrance at the Albert Hall.

EVENT 11 November 1956 Service of Remembrance at Brereton (Evening)

#####

In 1956, Reg Dunning (.b. 9 July 1926 .D. 4 July 2020) took on the role of Parade Marshal (or Parade Commander the March Organiser on the day of the event) for the Sandbach Urban District Council Chairman's Parade on Sunday 24 June 1957 at 11am.

It is recorded that he took on the Remembrance Day Parade for the British Legion (Sandbach Branch) at short notice for the 1966 parade.

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 12 November 1956 at the United Services Club.

It was agreed to pay the Standard Bearers expenses for the 1956 Festival of Remembrance at the Albert Hall including his Taxi fare.

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING A.G.M. Friday 30 November 1956 at the United Services Club.

At this time there were 353 Members of the Sandbach British Legion.

PRESIDENT Squadron Leader H Cyril Rigby  
VICE PRESIDENTS Dr A Henderson, Harold Coppenhall, T S Lake, Mr A Leese,  
W R Parker, Arthur Simcox.

CHAIRMAN Mr T S Lake  
VICE CHAIRMAN Mr E Brandon  
SECRETARY Mr G W Brooks  
TREASURER Mr H Harper

COMMITTEE MEMBERS Mr V Aldersay, Mr C Bailey, Mr Wilfred Birchall Jnr, Mr W Bullock,  
Mr G Fairhurst, Mr H Forster, Mr J A Harris, Mr Cyril Massey, Mr Cyril Taylor,

STANDARD BEARER Mr Geoff Fairhurst.  
Escorts = V Aldersay, E Brandon, C Massey, C Taylor.

POPPY DAY COLLECTION (Previous Year) 1955 Raised £256 (Organised by T S Lake)

#####

10 December 1956 ELECTION OF OFFICERS to the Services Committee.

Chairman Mr Cyril Massey,  
Vice Chairman Mr Cyril Taylor,  
Treasurer Mr G W Brooks  
Secretary Mr T S Lake  
Pensions Officer Mr T S Lake  
Employment Officer Mr Cyril Massey

COMMITTEE This would be the Branch Committee as well as the Services Committee.  
Mr V Alderlay, Mr C Bailey, Mr Wilfred Birchall Jnr, Mr E Brandon, Mr W Bullock,  
Mr Geoff Fairhurst, Mr H Forster, Mr H Harper, Mr T Howitt.

#####

|             |                                          |
|-------------|------------------------------------------|
|             | UNITED SERVICES CLUB                     |
| 20 Feb 1957 | New Steward Required. (Newspaper Advert) |

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 13 May 1957 at the United Services Club.

It was decided to grant permission for the Women's Section to form a Building Fund.

#####

EVENT 23 June 1957 Sandbach Urban District Council Chairman's Service.

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 9 September 1957 at the United Services Club.

After a recent illness the **Chairman Mr T S Lake had decided that after about 21 years he would be resigning** as Chairman at the next AGM. He said that Mr Barraclough has expressed an interest in taking over the role.

The Poppy Appeal / Poppy Day Collections would now be taken over by the Ladies Section as organisers.

It was agreed that the Cheshire Regiment Band be asked to lead the procession for the Annual Remembrance Day Service on the 10 November 1957.

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 14 October 1957 at the United Services Club.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

The Secretary reported that the 7<sup>th</sup> Cheshire Regiment Band would be available for the forthcoming Remembrance Day Parade and Service.

Mr Birchall would act as Marshall for the Remembrance Day Parade. Mr Rigby the President would lay the Wreath on behalf of the Legion.

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING A.G.M. Thursday 28 November 1957 at the United Services Club.

At this time there were 330 Members of the Sandbach British Legion.

PRESIDENT Squadron Leader H Cyril Rigby  
VICE PRESIDENTS Dr A Henderson, Harold Coppenhall, T S Lake, Mr A Leese,  
W R Parker, Arthur Simcox.

CHAIRMAN Mr L Barraclough (NEW)

VICE CHAIRMAN Mr Cyril Taylor (NEW)

SECRETARY Mr G W Brooks

TREASURER Mr H Harper

COMMITTEE MEMBERS Mr V Aldersay, Mr C Bailey, Mr Wilfred Birchall Jnr, Mr A Birchenough,  
Mr W Bullock, Mr G Fairhurst, Mr H Forster, Mr J A Harris,  
Mr Cyril Massey, Mr T S Lake.

STANDARD BEARER Mr Geoff Fairhurst.

Escorts = Mr V Aldersay, Mr J A Harris, Mr C Massey, Mr Cyril Taylor.

POPPY DAY COLLECTION (Previous Year) 1956 Raised £261 (£5 Up on last year. Organised by Mrs Birchall)

ASSETTS The Branch held assets of £163/3/11 made up of £47/11/4 from the General Branch Fund and £69/3/7 from the Services Committee. The Branch had invested in 29 Units of Savings Certificates.

#####

The Minutes Book of the Services Committee changed for the Monday 10 February 1958 report which was now typed rather than hand written making it clearer to read. Attending the meeting were Chairman Mr C Massey, Messrs Geoff Fairhurst, A Birchenough, H Forster, J A Harris and G W Brooks.

Apologies were received from Mr T S Lake, Mr H Harper, Mr Wilfred Birchall, Mr Basnett and Mr Cyril Taylor.

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 14 April 1958 at the United Services Club.

There was a Standard Bearers Competition at Chester on the 6 July 1958 and it was suggested that the Sandbach Branch took part.

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 12 May 1958 at the United Services Club.

There was a Memorial Parade at the Cenotaph in London on Whit Sunday the 25 May 1958. It was decided not to send a representative of the Sandbach Branch.

It was agreed to order half a dozen Wreaths from Headquarters at a cost of 25/- each to be deposited at the shop of Miss Jones (Location not listed in the Minutes book / Or Mrs Jones).

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 8 September 1958 at the United Services Club.

REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE

Mr Cyril Taylor agreed to act as Poppy Day Organiser for Remembrance Day 1958.

The Chairman Mr L Barraclough said that he had outhouses that were available at his offices that could be used to store Poppies etc and that Mr Taylor should view the premises.

The Chairman agreed to ask Miss Thornton of Sandbach Urban District Council to send out the usual letters of invitation to attend the Remembrance Day Service that was to be held on the 9 November 1958. Miss Thornton would also discuss matters relating to the service with the Rev. Canon Betts.

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 13 October 1958 at the United Services Club.

REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE

It was agreed that the President, Squadron Leader H Cyril Rigby, should act as Parade Marshall and would also read a lesson with Mr Cyril Taylor laying the Wreath of the Branch's behalf with the Chairman Mr L Barraclough reading the Ode.

Arrangements for Poppy Day were discussed and it was agreed that work should commence at Messrs Stringer and Co's Office on Monday the 27 October 1958 at 7pm. (Location not named in Minutes)

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGM Monday 8 December 1958 at the United Services Club.

This year's Poppy day was arranged at short notice by Mr Cyril Taylor whose wife was at the time about to go into hospital.

The Ladies section had been through a difficult year in 1958 but was supported by RBL President Mr H Cyril Rigby who had arranged a Headquarters for them.

During the year former Chairman Mr Lake had been awarded the Legion Gold Medal.

At this time there were 336 Members of the Sandbach British Legion.

PRESIDENT Squadron Leader H Cyril Rigby

VICE PRESIDENTS Mr A Leese, Mr Arthur Simcox.

CHAIRMAN Mr L Barraclough

VICE CHAIRMAN Mr Cyril Taylor

SECRETARY Mr G W Brooks

TREASURER Mr H Harper

COMMITTEE MEMBERS Mr V Aldersay, Mr C Bailey, Mr N Basnett, Mr Wilfred Birchall Jnr, Mr A Birchenough,

Mr W Bullock, Mr G Fairhurst, Mr H Forster, Mr J A Harris,  
Mr Cyril Massey, Mr T S Lake.  
STANDARD BEARER Mr Geoff Fairhurst.  
Escorts = Mr V Aldersay, Mr J A Harris, Mr C Massey, Mr Cyril Taylor.

POPPY DAY COLLECTION (Previous Year) 1957 Raised £248.01

#####

8 December 1958 British Legion Sandbach Services Committee Meeting held at the United Services Club,  
Bradwall Road. At 9pm

The former Ladies Section Chairman Mrs Torr wrote a letter to the Committee about organising a Carol Party to  
visit Arclid Hospital at Christmas. This was supported by the Ladies section and Men's branch.

COMMITTEE

Chairman Mr C Massey  
Vice Chairman Mr Cyril Taylor  
Hon Secretary and Pensions Officer Mr G W Brooks  
Hon Treasurer Mr N Basnett  
Employment Officer Mr C Massey  
Committee All Members of the Branch Committee

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 8 June 1959 at the United Services Club.

The question of the annual Branch Subscription was raised and it was agreed to increase it from 2/6d to 3/6d

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 14 September 1959 at the United Services Club.

A minutes silence was observed for the loss of comrades and also in respect after the **death of Former  
Chairman MR T S LAKE** a tribute would be sent to the Legion Journal.

It was reported that the 7<sup>th</sup> **Cheshire Regimental Band would not be available for the Remembrance Day  
Service.**

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 9 November 1959 at the United Services Club.

A letter of thanks was written to Messrs Johnson and Jones for their help with the Poppy Appeal and a window  
display. (Location not named in the minutes book)

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGM Friday 27 November 1959 at the United Services Club.

POPPY DAY PARADE AND SERVICE

The weather was better this year than it had been for a while. Unfortunately the attendance of ex-servicemen on  
parade was not very good. Thanks were given to the Rev. Canon Betts for his help with organising the band and  
the service. Thanks were also expressed to Sandbach School Cadets for leading the parade.

POPPY SALES

Mr Arthur Simcox told members that he thought Sandbach had not received its fair share of the better quality  
poppies. He also said that poppy sellers had gone from door to door quoting prices for various poppies. He was  
informed that street sellers could not sell poppies at fixed prices but door to door sellers could. There were  
various sizes of poppy and the President said that it shouldn't matter whether you paid 1d or £5 for it there  
should not be a snob value for the larger poppy.

At this time there were 337 Members of the Sandbach British Legion.

PRESIDENT Squadron Leader H Cyril Rigby  
VICE PRESIDENTS Mr A Leese, Mr Arthur Simcox.  
CHAIRMAN Mr L Barraclough  
VICE CHAIRMAN Mr Cyril Taylor  
SECRETARY Mr G W Brooks  
TREASURER Mr H Harper  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS Mr N Basnett, Mr A Birchenough, Mr Jack F Edwards (NEW / Co-opted),  
Mr G Fairhurst, Mr H Forster, Mr John Gleave, Mr J A Harris,  
Mr Cyril Massey,  
STANDARD BEARER Mr Geoff Fairhurst.  
Escorts = Mr A Birchenough, Mr J A Harris, Mr C Massey, Mr Cyril Taylor.

POPPY DAY COLLECTION (Previous Year) 1958 Raised £146/19/7d (Poppy sales only / Wreaths extra)  
 1959 Raised £150/12/6d (Poppy sales only / Wreaths extra)  
 1959 Total (8 Feb 1960 Meeting) £251/10/ 4 (Up £3 on last Year)  
 (Organised by Mr Cyril Taylor)

#####

14 December 1959 British Legion Sandbach Services Committee Meeting held at the United Services Club, Bradwall Road.

On the 14 December 1959 a letter was sent to the former Chairman of the Ladies Section wishing her a speedy recovery. It is unknown what she was recovering from.  
 The Secretary informed the Committee that the Ministry was looking for a representative to the Local War Pensions Committee. It was decided that the name of Mr R. B. Hovey should be sponsored as a member for this committee.

COMMITTEE Services Committee  
 Chairman Mr C Massey  
 Vice Chairman Mr Cyril Taylor  
 Hon Secretary and Pensions Officer Mr G W Brooks  
 Hon Treasurer Mr N Basnett  
 Employment Officer Mr C Massey  
 Committee All Members of the Branch Committee

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 14 December 1959 at the United Services Club.  
 Mr Jack F Edwards was welcomed as a new member of the Committee.

**Mr John Gleave resigned his post on the committee** as the dates of meetings clashed with Urban District Council meetings and he was unable to attend both.

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 8 February 1960 at the United Services Club.  
**Mr H Harper (Manager of the Westminster Bank) resigned as Treasurer.** He was also leaving his job in the Sandbach Branch of his bank. It was decided to present him with a Cigarette Lighter for his years of service.

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 11 April 1960 at the United Services Club.  
 Sandbach Urban District Council asked to borrow the Poppy Collecting Tins so they could make a collection for a present for Princess Margaret's Wedding Present Appeal.

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 13 June 1960 at the United Services Club.  
 The Branch would be represented at the Winsford Remembrance Service on the 30 October.

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 11 July 1960 at the United Services Club.  
 DEATH OF THE CHAIRMAN

The Vice Chairman Mr Cyril Taylor announced the sudden **death of the Chairman Mr L Barraclough.** He had chaired the meeting on the 9 May 1960 but was not at the 13 June 1960 Meeting and had passed away in the interim. The Committee stood in a minutes silence for the Chairman.

#####

|             |                                                             |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
|             | UNITED SERVICES CLUB                                        |
| 3 Sept 1960 | Talent Show at the United Services Club. (Newspaper Advert) |

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 18 September 1960 at the United Services Club.  
 The 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion 7<sup>th</sup> Cheshire Regimental Band President informed the Branch that the band would be available for Remembrance Sunday provided that transport was made available. . Transport was left in the hand of the Secretary to make arrangements.

After months of postponing a discussion took place regarding the arrangements for the Poppy Day Appeal.

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 10 October 1960 at the United Services Club.

The Secretary informed the committee that Mrs Coppenhall (Coppenhall Coaches) would provide the transport for the 7<sup>th</sup> Cheshire Regimental Band at a cost of £4 and arrangements had also been made for transport to the Evening Service at Brereton Church.

The position of the Chairman was discussed and the President had asked Mr C Taylor if he would like to take on the role at the AGM. Mr Cyril Taylor said that he was not interested in the position and after a discussion it was decided that unless a suitable person could be found Mr Jack F Edwards would be asked to accept the position.

The County Secretary reported that only three standards from Cheshire could take part in the Festival of Remembrance at the Albert Hall this year and that Sandbach would not be one of them this year.

#####

#### REMEMBRANCE DAY REPORT

The 1960 Remembrance Day Service took place at St Mary's Church on Sunday the 13 November 1960 at 3pm with the collection being donated to the Earl Haig Fund. Leading the parade was the Band of the 7<sup>th</sup> Cheshire Regiment which started from the Council Offices on Crewe Road, Sandbach at 2.40pm. Applications for Poppy Wreaths were made to Messrs Johnson and Jones of Hightown Sandbach or Secretary Mr G W Brooks (18 Abbey Road, Sandbach.)

#### REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE

Formed at the Gas Showroom (Crewe Road, Sandbach opposite the Council Building.)

1. Police
2. Band
3. Territorial's
4. Army School Cadets
5. Air Training School
6. British Legion Observer and Civil Defence
7. Sandbach Urban District Council
8. Round Table, Rotary etc.
9. St John's Ambulance
10. Boy Scouts and Guides

All persons laying wreaths to form up in front of the Main Parade.

The band to proceed along the High Street to Eachus and Sons. Other ranks to turn left in square and form a square until the British Legion who will proceed along the High Street as the band (To Eachus and Son) to form in front of the War Memorial.

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 14 November 1960 at the United Services Club.

The recent Remembrance Day was discussed and it was agreed to thank the band and also to Messrs Johnson and Jones for letting the Branch have the use of their window and storage facilities and to the Sandbach Urban District Council for the Market Hall (Board Room) to making up the Poppy Boxes.

It was agreed that extra expenses incurred from the Remembrance Day Service would come out of the Earl Haig Poppy Fund Appeal.

Mr C Massey asked if Mr Cyril Taylor would reconsider taking up the role of Chairman especially as he had connections with the United Services Club that could lead to more co-operation between the Branch and the club. Mr Cyril Taylor agreed to give his final decision at the AGM on the 25 November.

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGM Friday 25 November 1960 at the United Services Club.

Tribute was made to Mr L Barraclough the Chairman who had died during the year and who had taken on the role after the health of the previous Chairman had deteriorated and had subsequently died. Mr L Barraclough had steered the Branch through a difficult time and his loss was felt by the members.

Mr G Brooks said that the present Committee was the best he had known in his 13 in the role of Secretary.

Christmas gifts had as usual been handed out to a number of Ex Service men or women in 1959.

Poppy Sales had been increased in 1960 by £20 due in part to the **addition of a silver paper to Poppies** by the Ladies Group.

At this time there were 357 (up 20) Members of the Sandbach British Legion. (121 members however had failed to pay their subscription.

PRESIDENT Squadron Leader H Cyril Rigby  
VICE PRESIDENTS Mr A Leese, Mr Arthur Simcox.  
CHAIRMAN Mr Jack F Edwards (NEW)  
VICE CHAIRMAN Mr Cyril Taylor  
SECRETARY Mr G W Brooks (13<sup>th</sup> Year)  
TREASURER Mr A E Withington (NEW)  
TREASURER Services Committee Mr N Basnett  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS Mr N Basnett, Mr A Birchenough,  
Mr G Fairhurst, Mr H Forster, Mr J A Harris, Mr J Higgins (NEW),  
Mr Cyril Massey, Mr J Newton (NEW), Mr P Ryder (NEW),  
Mr R Simcox (NEW), Mr G Williams (NEW),  
STANDARD BEARER Mr Geoff Fairhurst.  
Escorts = Mr A Birchenough, Mr J A Harris, Mr C Massey, Mr Cyril Taylor.

POPPY DAY COLLECTION (Previous Year) 1959 £251/10/ 4 (Up £3 on last Year Tbc)  
1960 Raised £172/13/11d (Poppy sales only / Wreaths extra)

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 12 December 1960 at the United Services Club.  
Report on the Poppy Sales amounted to £172/13/11 (£20 up on last year)

Voting then took place for the Services Committee.

COMMITTEE Services Committee  
Chairman Mr C Massey  
Vice Chairman Mr Cyril Taylor  
Hon Secretary and Pensions Officer Mr G W Brooks  
Hon Treasurer Mr N Basnett  
Employment Officer Mr C Massey  
Committee All Members of the Branch Committee

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 9 January 1961 at the United Services Club.  
The **Death was announced of former Treasurer Mr H Harper** (Treasurer to 1959) with his funeral on the 11 January 1961 at St Mary's Parish Church at 2.15pm. .

#####

A case related to the committee on the 9 January 1961 by Miss Royds regarding a Mr Glynn Mitchell came under the Wheelock Branch and would be passed on to Mr Graham Hovey Secretary of the Wheelock Branch Services Committee.

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 13 February 1961 at the United Services Club.  
The following agreed to act as Club Stewards for the following month. (Not specified but possibly Stewards at the United Services Club)

18 Feb Mr G Fairhurst  
25 Feb Mr G Williams  
4 March Mr Cyril Taylor  
11 March Mr H Forster

The Secretary read out a letter from the Victory Club as to the Annual Contribution being increased from 10/- to £1. It was agreed to continue membership at the new rate.

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 13 March 1961 at the United Services Club.  
The Chairman asked if it was possible to clean the Old Standard currently at St Mary's Church and it was agreed to see Mr Bennett as to whether it was possible.

EVENT 24 April 1961 Tombola Evening at the United Services Club.

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 10 April 1961 at the United Services Club.  
Mr Doug E Roycroft was now able to attend the monthly meetings and was approached to be co-opted onto the Committee.



The Chairman had been to see Mr Bennett who was not able to clean the Standard at the moment but promised to inspect the old Standard and clean it if practicable free of cost as soon as he could.

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 8 May 1961 at the United Services Club.

Mr Bennett had been to see the old Standard and made an examination of it. He expressed doubt as to the advisability of having it cleaned due to the lettering which is only print not woven and it may not stand up to the chemicals used.

It was agreed to approach Mrs Dunn or suitable lady to have the standard washed.

The Tombola Event was postponed.

A letter of Resignation from the Committee was received from Mr P Ryder and accepted with regret.

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 12 June 1961 at the United Services Club.

The Old Standard had been washed by Mrs Dunn and considering the age the result was most satisfactory.

The Secretary would apply for four tickets for the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall in London on the 11 November 1961 and a further ticket for the Standard Bearer.

The Branch would be represented at the Sandbach Urban District Council Chairman's Special Service (Civic Service) at St Peters Church on Sunday the 25 June 1961.

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 11 September 1961 at the United Services Club.

The Chairman Mr Jack F Edwards would attend the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Legion Dinner at Chester on the 29 September 1961.

Mr N Jackson a former member of the Nantwich Branch was co-opted onto the Committee.

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 9 October 1961 at the United Services Club.

The R.A.O.B. (Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes / Masonic Lodge) expressed an interest in taking part in the Remembrance Day Parade in 1961.

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGM Friday 24 November 1961 at the United Services Club.

At this time there were 341 (Down 16) Members of the Sandbach British Legion.

PRESIDENT Squadron Leader H Cyril Rigby (*A Solicitor in the town*)

VICE PRESIDENTS Mr John Gleave, Mr A Leese, Mr Arthur Simcox.

CHAIRMAN Mr Jack F Edwards

VICE CHAIRMAN Mr Cyril Taylor

SECRETARY Mr G W Brooks

TREASURER Mr A E Withington

COMMITTEE MEMBERS Mr A Alcock (NEW), Mr N Basnett, Mr A Birchenough,  
Mr G Fairhurst, Mr H Forster, Mr J A Harris, Mr H Hough (NEW),  
Mr J Jackson (NEW), Mr I Ireland (NEW), Mr Cyril Massey,  
Mr E L Newton (NEW), Mr Doug E Roycroft, Mr J Spooner (NEW)

STANDARD BEARER Mr Geoff Fairhurst.

Escorts = Mr A Birchenough, Mr J A Harris, Mr H Hough (NEW), Mr E L Newton (NEW).

POPPY DAY COLLECTION (Previous Year) 1959 £251/10/ 4 (Up £3 on last Year Tbc)

1960 Raised £172/13/11d (Poppy sales only / Wreaths extra)

#####

11 December 1961 British Legion Sandbach Services Committee Meeting held at the United Services Club, Bradwall Road.

|                  |                            |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| Chairman         | Cyril Massey,              |
| Vice Chairman    | C Taylor,                  |
| Treasurer        | N Basnett (NEW)            |
| Secretary        | G W Brooks (NEW)           |
| Pensions Officer | G W Brooks (NEW)           |
| Benevolent Fund  | N Basnett (NEW / New post) |

Employment Officer Cyril Massey

THOSE ATTENDING (As above plus) Messrs J F Edwards, E L Newton, J Fairhurst, J Spooner, D Roycroft, A Birchenough, H Hough, N Jackson, H Forster, J A Harris, G Brooks, J Ireland, D Alcock. With APOLOGIES from Mr A E Withington and Mr N Basnett.

#####

|      |                                                                                                                   |
|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|      | UNITED SERVICES CLUB                                                                                              |
| 1962 | By 1962 the club was registered as the United Services Club (Sandbach) Ltd. (See 23 Mar 2013) (Newspaper Article) |

#####  
GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 8 January 1962 at the United Services Club.  
The death was announced of Mr A W Leese a Life Member of the Branch.

The **Death was also announced of Mr H Hough** a Committee member and escort of the Standard.

#####

|             |                                          |
|-------------|------------------------------------------|
|             | UNITED SERVICES CLUB                     |
| 29 Jan 1962 | New Steward Required. (Newspaper Advert) |

#####  
GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 12 February 1962 at the United Services Club.  
Poppy day Appeal Results  
1960 = £255/8/8d  
1961 = £261/17/10d

#####  
By March 1962 the number of those seeking assistance dropped considerably with many meetings during the year having no cases to discuss.

#####  
GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 9 July 1962 at the United Services Club.  
The Question of Boundaries between Sandbach, Elworth and Wheelock had been discussed and representatives from adjoining branches were invited to a meeting to discuss common problems.  
Mr Cooper and Mr Greenwood (Poppy Organiser) of the ELWORTH BRANCH attended this meeting.  
SANDBACH BOUNDARY  
From Bradwall Smithy and in the direction of Elworth.  
Both Sides of London Road from Newark House near Abbey Road.  
ELWORTH  
Abbey Road

#####  
GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 10 September 1962 at the United Services Club.  
The Sandbach Branch had not been selected to take part in the Festival of Remembrance at The Albert Hall in London this year as only five branches could go from Cheshire and 16 had applied.  
At a later meeting four tickets for members to attend had become available.

#####  
GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGM Thursday 29 November 1962 at the United Services Club.

At this time there were 317 (Down 24) Members of the Sandbach British Legion. (83 Subscriptions outstanding)

PRESIDENT Squadron Leader H Cyril Rigby (*A Solicitor in the town*)  
VICE PRESIDENTS Lt Colonel F Dunkley (NEW), Mr John Gleave, Mr Arthur Simcox.  
CHAIRMAN Mr Jack F Edwards  
VICE CHAIRMAN Mr Cyril Taylor  
SECRETARY Mr G W Brooks  
TREASURER Mr A E Withington  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS Mr A Alcock (or D Alcock), Mr N Basnett, Mr A Birchenough, Mr G Fairhurst, Mr H Forster, Mr J A Harris, *Mr H Hough (See below)*, Mr J Jackson (or N Jackson), Mr I Ireland (or J Ireland), Mr Cyril Massey, Mr E L Newton, Mr Doug E Roycroft, Mr J Spooner  
STANDARD BEARER Mr Geoff Fairhurst.  
Escorts = Mr A Birchenough, Mr J A Harris,

Mr H Hough (Died in Jan 1962 unless another H Hough), Mr E L Newton.

POPPY DAY COLLECTION (Previous Year) 1961 Raised £189/16/11d (Poppy sales only / Wreaths extra)

REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE

A report was given in regard to the Remembrance Day Parade.  
The Boys of the Sandbach School Band and Cadets gave great credit to the School.

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 10 December 1962 at the United Services Club.

Voting took place for the Services Committee.

- Chairman Mr C Massey
- Vice Chairman Mr Cyril Taylor,
- Secretary and Pensions Officer Mr G W Brooks ,
- Treasurer Mr N Bennett,
- Benevolent Fund Tbc,
- Employment Officer Mr C Massey,

#####

Services Committee Meeting.

By the 11 December 1962 it was decided to send the usual Christmas Parcels to service personnel and family members with 10 gifts distributed during the festive season.

In 1963 assistance was back to the usual numbers.

#####

|            |                                                                                                                              |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|            | UNITED SERVICES CLUB                                                                                                         |
| 1 Mar 1963 | Last Night RAF Officer Mr Wilfred Birchall retired as Secretary of the United Services Club.<br>(Newspaper – Liverpool Echo) |

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 13 May 1963 at the United Services Club.

The Secretary was to write to Sandbach School to see if the School Band would be available for the forthcoming Remembrance Service.

#####

Services Committee Meeting.

At the 13 May 1963 Meeting Mr Newton informed the meeting about the formation of a League of Hospital Friends at Arclid Hospital. Over the years the British Legion has had a lot of contact with the hospital and agreed to give every possible support to this venture.

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 8 July 1963 at the United Services Club.

The **Elworth British Legion** was holding a **Dedication Service for their new Standard**. Members of the Sandbach Branch will attend.

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 9 September 1963 at the United Services Club.

It was reported that there was a newly formed League of Friends at Arclid Hospital and it was agreed for the Legion to help with this venture.

At the 14 October 1963 meeting it was agreed to organise a trip for patients at Arclid leaving the United Services Club on Sunday the 27 October 1963 at 1.30pm.

#####

|            |                                                                      |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
|            | UNITED SERVICES CLUB                                                 |
| 5 Oct 1963 | Club Darts League AGM at United Services Club.<br>(Newspaper Advert) |

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 14 October 1963 at the United Services Club.

The making up of Poppy Boxes would be at the United Services Club on the 21 October 1963 (Monday).

The War Graves Commission pay St Mary's Church 5/- a year each for the 5 graves of Servicemen who had died during the wars. It has come to the attention of the Legion that they were not being tended to over a long period of time. The matter would be brought up with Church Secretary Mr Chrimes.

On Poppy day Mr Basnett would lay the wreath on behalf of the Sandbach Branch.

Treasurer Mr Withington reported that he wished to resign at the next AGM from the post as he was leaving the district.

The Standard Bearer would represent the Branch at the Festival of Remembrance at the Albert Hall in London and 4 members could also attend the event. (In the end 8 Members attended)

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 11 November 1963 at the United Services Club.

Treasurer Mr Withington announced that his successor at the Westminster Bank Mr Warburton was willing to take on the role of Treasurer at the next AGM.

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGM Thursday 28 November 1963 at the United Services Club.

At this time there were 247 (Down 70) Members of the Sandbach British Legion.

(48 New Members and 88 Current Members Subscriptions outstanding)

|                   |                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| PRESIDENT         | Squadron Leader H Cyril Rigby ( <i>A Solicitor in the town</i> )                                                                                 |
| VICE PRESIDENTS   | Lt Colonel F Dunkley (NEW), Mr John Gleave, Mr Arthur Simcox.                                                                                    |
| CHAIRMAN          | Mr Jack F Edwards                                                                                                                                |
| VICE CHAIRMAN     | Mr Cyril Taylor                                                                                                                                  |
| SECRETARY         | Mr G W Brooks                                                                                                                                    |
| TREASURER         | Mr A Warburton (NEW)                                                                                                                             |
| COMMITTEE MEMBERS | Mr D Alcock, Mr N Basnett, Mr A Birchenough,<br>Mr G Fairhurst, Mr H Forster, Mr J A Harris,<br>Mr J Ireland, Mr E L Newton, Mr Doug E Roycroft. |
| STANDARD BEARER   | Mr Geoff Fairhurst.                                                                                                                              |
| Escorts =         | Mr N Basnett (NEW), Mr J A Harris, Mr J Ireland (NEW), Mr Doug E Roycroft (NEW).                                                                 |

POPPY DAY COLLECTION (Previous Year) 1962 Raised £ (Poppy sales only / Wreaths extra)  
(Mr Cyril Taylor poppy organiser)

#### REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE AND SERVICE

The School Cadet Band took part in the parade.

**It was discussed that the Sandbach Branch of the Legion hold its Service in the Morning rather than the Afternoon of Remembrance Day Sunday.**

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 9 December 1963 at the United Services Club.

Election of Officers to the Services Committee

|                                |                  |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Chairman                       | Mr C Massey,     |
| Vice Chairman                  | Mr Cyril Taylor, |
| Treasurer                      | Mr N Basnett,    |
| Secretary and Pensions Officer | Mr G W Brooks,   |
| Benevolent Fund                | Tbc,             |
| Employment Officer             | Mr C Massey,     |

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 13 January 1964 at the United Services Club.

It was agreed to purchase a Standard Bearers Flag Badge at 3/6

#####

Services Committee

The 13 January 1964 Services Committee Meeting reported that 12 Christmas Parcels had been distributed by Mr Basnett on behalf of the Legion.

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 11 May 1964 at the United Services Club.

Mr Jack F Edwards the Chairman was congratulated on becoming a Sandbach Urban District Councillor at the recent Elections. Mr Jack F Edwards said that he would have to resign as Chairman to take up his new role. It was decided that Future Meetings be changed to the Third Monday in the Month so he could continue as Chairman of the RBL (Sandbach Branch) and as a Councillor. Mr Jack F Edwards reconsidered his resignation and withdrew it.

The Remembrance Day Service would continue in the Afternoon as usual this year.

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 20 July 1964 at the United Services Club.

A ticket would be acquired for the Standard Bearer to attend the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall. (Not Accepted by the Regional Branch 21 September Meeting)

#####

Services Committee

16 November 1964 British Legion Sandbach Services Committee Meeting held at the United Services Club, Bradwall Road.

Election of Officers to the Services Committee

Chairman Mr Cyril Taylor (NEW),

Vice Chairman Mr D E Roycroft,

Treasurer Mr N Basnett,

Secretary and Pensions Officer Mr G W Brooks

(Secretary Miss Susan Morris Mentioned in the 15 Feb 1965 Minutes),

Benevolent Fund Tbc,

Employment Officer Tbc,

There doesn't seem to be a list of newly elected posts in November or December 1964 but Mr Cyril Taylor had held a few meetings as Vice Chairman and at the November Meeting was reported as Chairman a role that continued for many years until 1973. (Details above from General Meeting 26 November 1964)

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGM Thursday 26 November 1964 at the United Services Club.

Mr C Massey and Mr A E Withington both resigned at the AGM.

At this time there were 331 (Up by 84) Members of the Sandbach British Legion.

PRESIDENT Squadron Leader H Cyril Rigby (*A Solicitor in the town*)

VICE PRESIDENTS Lt Colonel F Dunkley, Mr John Gleave, Mr Arthur Simcox.

CHAIRMAN Mr Jack F Edwards

VICE CHAIRMAN Mr Cyril Taylor

SECRETARY Mr G W Brooks

TREASURER Mr A Warburton

COMMITTEE MEMBERS Mr D Alcock, Mr N Basnett, Mr A Birchenough, Mr A Bowe (NEW),

Mr G Fairhurst, Mr H Forster, Mr F Galway (NEW), Mr J A Harris,

Mr G Holdford (NEW), Mr J Ireland, Mr E L Newton, Mr R Porter (NEW),

Mr Doug E Roycroft, Mr A Wood (NEW),

STANDARD BEARER Mr Geoff Fairhurst.

Escorts = Mr N Basnett, Mr J A Harris, Mr J Ireland, Mr Doug E Roycroft.

POPPY DAY COLLECTION (Previous Year) 1964 Raised £180 (Poppy sales only / Wreaths extra)

(Mr Cyril Taylor poppy organiser)

REMEMBRANCE DAY

The New Vicar of St Mary's Church Sandbach Rev Geoffrey Thomas Wykes (*Died in 1972 then the Rev Basil Rigby Took Over*) was given full co-operation in organising the service.

Sandbach School Cadet Band took part in the Parade.

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 22 February 1965 at the United Services Club.

Arrangements were made for collecting for the Sir Winston Churchill Appeal (.b. 30 Nov 1894 .D. 24 Jan 1965) and the poppy boxes would be used for the collection.

(At the 15 March 1965 Meeting it was agreed to donate £5/5/0d to the appeal from Branch funds)

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 19 July 1965 at the United Services Club.

**A general discussion took place as to the forthcoming Remembrance Day Service. In view of a report in the local paper as to the Chairman of the Council (Sandbach Urban District Council) being desirous of**

**holding the service in the morning instead of the afternoon it was unanimously agreed to hold a meeting with the Council representatives to discuss the matter.**

#####

Services Committee Meeting.

On the 26 April 1965 a presentation was made to Mr Cyril Massey of "National Life Membership" to the British Legion. Mr C Rigby the President was unable to attend the meeting and so Mr Edwards (Vice Chairman) of the Branch welcomed Mr John Gleave a Vice President to make the presentation to Mr Massey who then recounted events since 1920 when the Legion was formed. (Actually formed officially in 1921)  
(The 15 March 1965 Meeting of the General Committee says that it was a "Scroll for Meritorious Service" that had been issued by the National Executive Council.)

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 21 June 1965 at the United Services Club.

Mr Taylor agreed to him continuing to organise the Poppy day appeal.

A discussion to change the times and locations was discussed as well as the thought of asking Elworth and Wheelock Branches to join with Sandbach to hold the Service on a rotational basis was suggested and dismissed.

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 19 July 1965 at the United Services Club.

Sandbach Secondary Modern School had approached the Branch about providing a wrought iron holder for the old Legion Standard in St Mary's Church. The matter would be discussed with the Vicar.

(20 September 1965 Meeting confirmed that the holder would be installed in the Church)

#####

|             |                                                                                  |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|             | UNITED SERVICES CLUB                                                             |
| 29 Jan 1965 | Talent Show at United Services Club Sunday 15 August 1965.<br>(Newspaper Advert) |

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 20 September 1965 at the United Services Club.

**The suggestion of moving the Remembrance Day Service from the Afternoon to the Morning was agreed with the Sandbach Urban District Council and only now needed the Vicars support for it to be moved this year.**

The Sandbach Standard Bearer would be taking part in the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall this year and it was suggested that more tickets would be asked for to attend the event.

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 18 October 1965 at the United Services Club.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

There was some difficulty in getting a buglar for the Remembrance Day this year. Mr J Moores would look into the matter.

As the branch was committed to attending the Brereton Church on the 14 November 1965 for their Remembrance Service and so were unable to fulfil a request from Smallwood Village this year.

The Chairman would recite the Ode at the Remembrance Day and Mr Birchenough would lay the Wreath.

#####

18 November 1965 Nantwich Chronicle Page 20

Report on the Remembrance Day Parade.

The Rev. T Geoffrey Wykes led the service of Remembrance.

The Lesson was read by Squadron Leader H.C. Rigby (President of the Sandbach British Legion)  
Organist Mr Geoffrey Meredith

PARADE

1. Headed by drummers and Buglers of Sandbach School Combined Cadet Force.
2. Members of the British Legion and other ex-service organisations.
3. The Urban Council,
4. Social Industrial,
5. Youth Groups

BUGLER

Cadet Force Buglers led by Mr Moores

STANDARD BEARER (British Legion)

Mr Geoffrey Fairhurst (Who had been at the Albert Hall in London the previous night)

Mr Jack Harris and Norman Basnett (Acted as Escorts)

PARADE MARSHAL

Flight Lieutenant Wilfred Birchall

WREATH LAYING

1. Chairman of Sandbach Urban District Council = Mr Ernest Condliffe
2. British Legion = Mr A.W. Birchenough
3. United Services Club = Squadron Leader H.C. Rigby
4. Sandbach Royal Naval Club = Mr C Matthleson
5. Sandbach Squadron of the A.T.C. = Flight Lieutenant Howard Latham
6. W.V.S. = Mrs F Howarth
7. Civil Defence = Mrs P Bolshaw
8. Sandbach St John Ambulance Brigade = Divisional Officer J.W. Bagnall Retd.
9. Sandbach Rotary Club = Mr L Newton
10. Sandbach Fire Brigade = Sub Officer Dennis Bell
11. Girl Guides = Miss Diane Royle and Miss Bridget Bowles
12. Sandbach School Combined Cadet Force = Flying Officer S Robinson
13. 7<sup>th</sup> Cheshire Territorial Army = Lieutenant J Brindley
14. Chamber of Trade and Commerce = Mr S Johnson
15. Sandbach Round Table = Mr E.G. Broadbent
16. County Primary School = Shirley Smith and Stewart Kay
17. County Secondary School = Michael Hobson and Margaret Bossons

ELWORTH REMEMBRANCE DAY

Mr Walter Williams laid a wreath on behalf of the Elworth British Legion.

Standard Bearer = Mr Jan Kwaitkowski

The Rev. E.G. McCorkindale conducted the service.

Members of Fodens Motor Works Band attended the service and played the last post and reveille

Wreaths also laid by members of the Women's Section of the British Legion and the R.A.O.B.

WHEELOCK REMEMBRANCE DAY

Procession led by the President of the Wheelock British Legion Mr R.B. Hovey and Chairman Mr W Henshall.

Standard Bearer = Mr H Bourne with escorts Mr G Hickson and Mr J Swain.

Mr Kenneth McClyment laid a wreath on behalf of the British Legion.

Wheelock Townswomen's Guild = Mrs A Burt

Member of the R.A.O.B. laid a wreath.

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGM Thursday 25 November 1965 at the United Services Club.

At this time there were 316 (Down by 15) Members of the Sandbach British Legion. (73 Subscriptions not paid)

PRESIDENT Squadron Leader H Cyril Rigby (*A Solicitor in the town*)

VICE PRESIDENTS Mr Wilfred Birchall (NEW), Lt Colonel F Dunkley, Mr John Gleave,  
Mr C Massey (NEW), Mr Arthur Simcox.

CHAIRMAN Mr Jack F Edwards

VICE CHAIRMAN Mr Cyril Taylor

SECRETARY Mr G W Brooks

TREASURER Mr A Warburton

COMMITTEE MEMBERS Mr D Alcock, Mr N Basnett, Mr A Birchenough, Mr G Bowe (Or A Bowe),  
Mr G Fairhurst, Mr H Forster, Mr F Galway, Mr J A Harris,  
Mr J Ireland, Mr E L Newton, Mr R Porter, Mr Doug E Roycroft.

STANDARD BEARER Mr Geoff Fairhurst.

Escorts = Mr N Basnett, Mr J A Harris, Mr J Ireland, Mr Doug E Roycroft.

POPPY DAY COLLECTION (Previous Year) 1965 Raised £5 up on 1964 (Poppy sales only / Wreaths extra)  
(Mr Cyril Taylor poppy organiser)

REMEMBRANCE DAY REPORT

The President stated that he was delighted the Branch had agreed with the Council to hold the Remembrance Day Service in the morning rather than the afternoon.

The Vicar Rev Geoffrey Thomas Wykes in his Remembrance Day Speech referred to the fact that many people are pacifists. The President in his speech said referring to the Vicars speech he had said "The names of the town's dead of two world wars ought not to be on the War Memorial nor should the Memorial itself be there because the whole thing was wickedly unnecessary." The President replied to this by saying "That as long as there are people left who knew these men they should if only for a short while remember them and feel that their sacrifice was not in vein.

There were more discussions about this.

Election of Officers to the Services Committee

|                                |                  |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Chairman                       | Mr Cyril Taylor, |
| Vice Chairman                  | Mr D E Roycroft, |
| Treasurer                      | Mr N Basnett,    |
| Secretary and Pensions Officer | Mr G W Brooks    |
| Benevolent Fund                | Tbc,             |
| Employment Officer             | Tbc,             |

#####

Services Committee Meeting.  
1966 New Members Mr R Porter, Mr A Bowe.

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 18 April 1966 at the United Services Club.  
The Secretary said there would be a concerted effort in the next few months to encourage new members to be called "Operation Supercharge".

#####

Services Committee Meeting.  
At the 16 May 1966 meeting the Secretary reported that they had had a visit from a Mr A Johnson of Highfield, The Hill who during the First World War had been shot in the mouth and he had called to thank the Legion who had helped him to get the Ministry of Pensions to look at providing him with a new set of false teeth, as he needed a special type of denture. (Approved for help on the 18 Apr 1966. The Ministry confirmed his request at the 18 July 1966 meeting.)

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 20 June 1966 at the United Services Club.  
It was agreed to attend the Sandbach Urban District Council Chairman's Parade on the 3 July 1966 with the Standard Bearer and Escorts.

VJ Parade at Crewe (Burma Star Association) on the 14 August 1966. The Standard Bearer and 5 members to attend.

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 18 July 1966 at the United Services Club.  
Mr Roycroft introduced Mr R F Bontoft to members and he was interested in joining the Branch and was co-opted onto the Committee.  
A tender of £16 was put forward to print the Remembrance Day Service Sheets. It was accepted by the committee.  
Mr Bowles of Sandbach School would be written to with regard to their band and buglars taking part in the Remembrance Day Parade.

#####

Services Committee Meeting.  
At the 18 July 1966 meeting Mr R F Bontoft was co-opted onto the committee.

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 19 September 1966 at the United Services Club.  
The death was reported of Mr Herbert Foster. (or Mr H Forster)

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 17 October 1966 at the United Services Club.  
The Position of BRANCH CHAPLIN was raised. The Rev Geoffrey Thomas Wykes (St Mary's Sandbach) was asked to be co-opted onto the Services Committee and to be asked to act as the Branch Padre. It was raised by Mr A Birchenough and Seconded by Mr G Fairhurst and accepted by the committee.



The Rev Geoffrey Thomas Wykes would be asked about the forthcoming Remembrance Day Service.

It was reported in the Crewe Chronicle that Poppy Sellers were issued with Certificates of Appreciation, the secretary would investigate.

#####

Services Committee Meeting.

21 November 1966 AGM meeting where the committee was elected again minus Mr E L Newton who had arrived late and his apologies had been recorded. As a long standing member of the committee it was unfortunate that he had not been re-elected and at the following meeting on the 19 December 1966 Mr Newton was co-opted back onto the committee.

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGM Thursday 24 November 1966 at the United Services Club.

At this time there were 242 (Down by 74) Members of the Sandbach British Legion. (68 Subscriptions not paid)

|                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| PRESIDENT         | Squadron Leader H Cyril Rigby ( <i>A Solicitor in the town</i> )                                                                                                                                                                    |
| VICE PRESIDENTS   | Mr Wilfred Birchall, Lt Colonel F Dunkley, Mr John Gleave,<br>Mr C Massey, Mr Arthur Simcox.                                                                                                                                        |
| CHAIRMAN          | Mr Jack F Edwards                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| VICE CHAIRMAN     | Mr Cyril Taylor                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| SECRETARY         | Mr G W Brooks                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| TREASURER         | Mr A Warburton                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| COMMITTEE MEMBERS | Mr D Alcock, Mr R Bantoft, Mr N Basnett, Mr A Birchenough,<br>Mr S Booth (NEW), Mr G Bowe, Mr W Elkin (NEW),<br>Mr G Fairhurst, Mr H Forster, Mr J A Harris,<br>Mr J Ireland, Mr R Porter, Mr Doug E Roycroft, Mr J Sherratt (NEW). |
| STANDARD BEARER   | Mr Geoff Fairhurst.                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Escorts =         | Mr N Basnett, Mr J A Harris, Mr J Ireland, Mr Doug E Roycroft.                                                                                                                                                                      |

POPPY DAY COLLECTION (Previous Year) 1965 Raised £192/8/10 (Poppy sales only / Wreaths extra)  
(Mr Cyril Taylor poppy organiser)

REMEMBRANCE DAY

The new hymn sheets were a great success.

At Short Notice **MR REG DUNNING stepped in to act as PARADE MARSHALL** for the 1966 Remembrance Day Parade and Service and undertook the task with great efficiency.

Sandbach School Band once again led the Parade.

Election of Officers to the Services Committee

|                                |                  |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Chairman                       | Mr Cyril Taylor, |
| Vice Chairman                  | Mr D E Roycroft, |
| Treasurer                      | Mr N Basnett,    |
| Secretary and Pensions Officer | Mr G W Brooks    |
| Benevolent Fund                | Tbc,             |
| Employment Officer             | Tbc,             |

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 16 January 1967 at the United Services Club.

Mr Newton returned to the ranks of the Committee after being appointed to be President of the Rotary Club 18 months ago.

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 19 June 1967 at the United Services Club.

The Branch would be represented at the Chairman's Sunday Parade with Mr J A Harris to carry the Standard with Mr Doug E Roycroft and Mr J Ireland as escorts.

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 17 July 1967 at the United Services Club.

A report on the Sandbach Urban District Council's Civic Parade by Mr J A Harris said that as to taking up the standard at the end of the Service – Agreed that this service was under the jurisdiction of the Urban District Council but this point to be put to **Parade Marshal Mr Reg Dunning.**

#####

Services Committee Meeting.

At the start of July 1967, Mr Harold Gleave died at the age of 69, less than a year after retiring as landlord of the old Cheshire Inn (Lived at 3 and 5 The Cottages, Middlewich Road, Elworth). He had been a member of the British Legion branches in Warrington, Bunbury and later the Sandbach Branch. He had joined the Lancashire Fusiliers and served in Flanders trenches and in 1918 while at Arras he was bayoneted through the hand after going over the top and was then hit by a snipers bullet in the chest which almost cost him his life. The flag on the United Services Club, Sandbach was flown at half mast as a mark of respect. (Crewe Chronicle - Thursday 06 July 1967 reported he had died the previous week)

Instead of wreaths at the funeral the family asked for donations to the Legion and the sum of £26 had been raised and passed onto the committee for the 17 July 1967 Meeting.

(6 July 1967 Nantwich Chronicle Page 8)

#####

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGM Thursday 23 November 1967 at the United Services Club.

At this time there were 304 (Up 62) Members of the Sandbach British Legion.

|                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| PRESIDENT         | Squadron Leader H Cyril Rigby ( <i>A Solicitor in the town</i> )                                                                                                                                                  |
| VICE PRESIDENTS   | Mr Wilfred Birchall, Lt Colonel F Dunkley, Mr John Gleave,<br>Mr C Massey, Mr Arthur Simcox.                                                                                                                      |
| CHAIRMAN          | Mr Jack F Edwards                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| VICE CHAIRMAN     | Mr E L Newton (NEW)                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| SECRETARY         | Mr G W Brooks                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| TREASURER         | Mr A Warburton                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| COMMITTEE MEMBERS | Mr D Alcock, Mr R Bantoft, Mr N Basnett, Mr A Birchenough,<br>Mr S Booth, Mr G Bowe, Mr W Elkin, Mr G Fairhurst, Mr J A Harris,<br>Mr J Ireland, Mr R Porter, Mr Doug E Roycroft, Mr J Sherratt, Mr Cyril Taylor. |
| STANDARD BEARER   | Mr Geoff Fairhurst.                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Escorts =         | Mr N Basnett, Mr J A Harris, Mr J Ireland, Mr Doug E Roycroft.                                                                                                                                                    |

POPPY DAY COLLECTION (Previous Year) 1967 Raised £283/15/7d Total

N/A (Poppy sales only / Wreaths extra)

(Mr Cyril Taylor poppy organiser)

REMEMBRANCE DAY

A letter of thanks was sent to the Rev. Wykes for the Service and to Mr Reg Dunning for acting as the Parade Marshall. Sandbach School Band once again led the parade.

President Squadron Leader H Cyril Rigby said he was disappointed at the reaction to Remembrance Day. He said that the Selfishness is more noticeable to me during the two minutes silence on Remembrance Day that at any other time. During the silence at Sandbach War Memorial vehicles and people in the two minutes silence just went about their business as usual ignoring the short commemorative interval. Cars should be forcibly stopped if necessary and this should not be too difficult since Remembrance is on a Sunday.

Election of Officers to the Services Committee

|                                |                  |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Chairman                       | Mr Cyril Taylor, |
| Vice Chairman                  | Mr D E Roycroft, |
| Treasurer                      | Mr N Basnett,    |
| Secretary and Pensions Officer | Mr G W Brooks    |
| Benevolent Fund                | Tbc,             |
| Employment Officer             | Tbc,             |

#####

Services Committee Meeting.

At the 23 November 1967, British Legion Sandbach Services Committee Meeting the Annual Christmas Parcel distribution was discussed and 31 gifts were given out that year.

1967 COMMITTEE

Mr D Alcock (13 The Hill)  
Mr N Basnett (5 Belmont Avenue)  
Mr A Birchenough (60 Crewe Road)  
Mr S Bontoft (71 Crewe Road)  
Mr S Booth (22 Davenport Road, Arclid)

Mr A Bowe (59 Platt Avenue)  
Mr G W Brooks  
Mr Wilfred Cope (13 Crewe Road)  
Mr Jack F Edwards (Windsor, Hungerford Place)  
Mr W Ekin (Hazeldene, Sweettooth Lane)  
Mr Geoff Fairhurst (18 Sweettooth Lane)  
Mr J A Harris (Offley Avenue) CROSSED OUT (Resigned 21 Nov 1968)  
Mr Eric Hearl (14 Church Street)  
Mr J Ireland (Jaicora, Middlewich Road)  
Mr Harry Jackson (17 Cookesmere Lane)  
Mr Granville Jones (15 Princess Drive)  
Mr E L Newton (Hungerford Villas)  
Mr R Porter (53 Platt Avenue) CROSSED OUT  
Mr Doug E Roycroft (67 Third Avenue)  
Mr J Sherratt (62 Congleton Road)  
Mr Cyril Taylor  
Mr A Warburton

#####  
BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 15 January 1968 at the United Services Club.  
**By 15 January 1968 the Minutes book referred to the Meetings of the General Committee as the Branch Meeting.**

#####  
BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 18 March 1968 at the United Services Club.  
Concern was felt at the long term illness of the Chairman Mr Jack F Edwards and his inability to attend meetings in the immediate future.

#####  
EVENT = 26 May 1968 Burma Star association Special Event at Crewe Park  
#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 17 June 1968 at the United Services Club.  
The Chairman Mr Jack F Edwards said that due to changes in dates of the Sandbach Urban District Council Meetings he found himself unavailable to continue with the British Legion as its Chairman and tendered his resignation. Like last time the RBL Committee decided to change its meeting dates to the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the Month so the Chairman could continue and he withdrew his resignation.

#####  
Services Committee Meeting.  
At the meeting of the British Legion Sandbach Services Committee on the 17 June 1968, it was reported that Mr D Alcock had been told that Mr Herbert Farr was ill and it was agreed that the Chairman should take him a dozen bottles of Stout on behalf of the Branch with best wishes.

#####  
Services Committee Meeting.  
The Ladies Section of the United Services Club made a donation of £20.15.0 (Twenty Pounds and Fifteen Shillings) into the Benevolent Fund. The Secretary was asked to send a letter of thanks to the Ladies at the 28 October 1968 Meeting of the British Legion Sandbach Services Committee.

#####  
Services Committee Meeting.  
On the 21 November 1968 Mr J A Harris wrote to the British Legion apologising for not attending the next AGM and also he would like it to be known that he would not be seeking re-election to the Committee.

#####  
BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGM Monday 25 November 1968 at the United Services Club.  
The Secretary was unhappy at the monthly meeting being held on the last Monday of the month. As some months had 5 weeks it made it difficult to remember the days to attend. The letters that arrived usually at the beginning of the month were sometimes out of date by the time of the meeting so he wished the Committee would reconsider the meeting day.  
It was decided that future meetings would take place on the First Thursday of the Month starting on the 2 January.

A letter of resignation was received from Mr Harris. It was not accepted until the Chairman had had a chance to talk to Mr Harris in person.

At this time there were 266 (Down 38) Members of the Sandbach British Legion.

PRESIDENT Squadron Leader H Cyril Rigby (*A Solicitor in the town*)  
VICE PRESIDENTS Mr Wilfred Birchall, Lt Colonel F Dunkley, Mr John Gleave,  
Mr C Massey, Mr Arthur Simcox.  
CHAIRMAN Mr Jack F Edwards  
VICE CHAIRMAN Mr E L Newton  
SECRETARY Mr G W Brooks  
TREASURER Mr A Warburton  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS Mr D Alcock, Mr R Bantoft, Mr N Basnett, Mr A Birchenough,  
Mr S Booth, Mr G Bowe, Mr W Elkin, Mr G Fairhurst, Mr J A Harris,  
Mr J Ireland, Mr R Porter, Mr Doug E Roycroft, Mr J Sherratt, Mr Cyril Taylor.  
STANDARD BEARER Mr Geoff Fairhurst.  
Escorts = Mr N Basnett, Mr W Ekin (NEW), Mr J A Harris, Mr J Ireland

POPPY DAY COLLECTION (Previous Year) 1967 Raised £283/15/7d Total (All Time record for Sandbach)  
N/A (Poppy sales only / Wreaths extra)  
(Mr Cyril Taylor poppy organiser)

#### REMEMBRANCE DAY

A letter of thanks was sent to the Rev. Wykes for the Service and to Mr Reg Dunning (Parade Marshall) and Sandbach School Band who once again led the parade.  
This year the traffic was stopped during the two minutes silence.

#### Election of Officers to the Services Committee

Chairman Mr Cyril Taylor,  
Vice Chairman Mr A Birchenough (NEW),  
Treasurer Mr Doug E Roycroft (NEW),  
Secretary and Pensions Officer Mr G W Brooks  
Benevolent Fund Tbc,  
Employment Officer Tbc,

#####

#### Services Committee Meeting.

The 25 November 1968 British Legion Sandbach Services Committee meeting discussed the making up of the annual Christmas Parcels and the Ladies Section of the United Services Club had agreed to put them together on Tuesday the 17 December. A total of 48 Parcels were distributed in 1968. (At the General Meeting AGM the total was 31 Parcels)

#####

|             | UNITED SERVICES CLUB                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 28 Nov 1968 | Mr Howard Coppenhall the Concert Secretary at the United Services Club thanked the Bar Staff and Cleaners for their hard work. (Newspaper Article Nantwich Chronicle) |
| 4 Dec 1968  | Young Farmers hold a "Fur and Feathers Whist Drive". (Newspaper Advert)                                                                                               |

#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING **Thursday** 2 January 1969 at the United Services Club.  
Mr Granville Jones of 8 Elworth Street, Sandbach was Co-opted as a Member of the Committee.

#####

#### Services Committee Meeting.

A letter of than would be sent to Mrs Roberts of the Post Office, The Hill, Sandbach Heath for her services as a Poppy Day Seller. (2 Jan 1969 Meeting)

#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING **Thursday** 6 February 1969 at the United Services Club.  
Receipts from the 1968 Poppy Appeal totalled £283/14/0d (Down 1/7d on last year 1967). Due to an increase in the cost of Wreaths an amount of £2/17/0d was kept back for future use.

#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING **Thursday** 5 June 1969 at the United Services Club.

Mr D Booth a member of the branch died at Congleton Hospital a short time ago.

#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Thursday 3 July 1969 at the United Services Club.  
**Mr Cyril Taylor announced that owing to family pressure he could no longer continue as Poppy Day  
Organiser. New Committee Member Mr Granville Jones would take on this very important task.**

#####

EVENT = 12 September 1969 Tombola to be held at the United Services Club.

Organised by Mrs Coppenhall and the Ladies Section.

(Update = The Tombola made a profit of £39/7/6d)

#####

|              |                                                                |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
|              | UNITED SERVICES CLUB                                           |
| 13 Sept 1969 | Horticultural Show at United Services Club. (Newspaper Advert) |

#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Thursday 2 October 1969 at the United Services Club.  
Poppies were made up on the 22 October (Wed). The minutes than went on to say, "(Notices to be printed as to  
**Stick-On Car Poppies)**".

#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGM Wednesday 26 November 1969 at the United Services Club.

PRESIDENT Squadron Leader H Cyril Rigby (*A Solicitor in the town*)  
VICE PRESIDENTS Mr Wilfred Birchall, Lt Colonel F Dunkley, Mr John Gleave,  
Mr C Massey, Mr Arthur Simcox.

CHAIRMAN Mr Jack F Edwards  
VICE CHAIRMAN Mr E L Newton  
SECRETARY Mr A Birchenough (NEW)  
TREASURER Mr A Warburton

COMMITTEE MEMBERS Mr D Alcock, Mr N Basnett, Mr S Booth, Mr W Elkin, Mr G Fairhurst,  
Mr J Ireland, Mr G Jones (NEW), Mr Doug E Roycroft, Mr J Sherratt, Mr Cyril

Taylor.

STANDARD BEARER Mr Geoff Fairhurst.  
Escorts = Mr N Basnett, Mr Birchenough (NEW) Mr W Ekin, Mr J A Harris,  
Mr J Ireland (NEW), Mr Doug E Roycroft.

POPPY DAY COLLECTION (Previous Year) 1968 Raised £283/14/0d Total  
N/A (Poppy sales only / Wreaths extra)  
(Mr Granville Jones (NEW) poppy organiser)

#### REMEMBRANCE DAY

A letter of thanks was sent to the Rev. Wykes for the Service and to Mr Reg Dunning (Parade Marshall) and Sandbach School Band who once again led the parade.

Bad Weather kept some away from the parade.

To encourage donations to this year's poppy appeal the National British Legion started an advertising campaign which included young people and featured a mini skirted girl and a series of commercials on television.

Mr Granville Jones reported that the Sandbach Branch ran out of its 5,000 poppies six days before Remembrance Day and a top up didn't arrive until two days before Remembrance Sunday.

#### Election of Officers to the Services Committee

Chairman Mr Cyril Taylor,  
Vice Chairman Mr A Birchenough,  
Treasurer Mr Doug E Roycroft,  
Secretary and Pensions Officer Mr G W Brooks  
Benevolent Fund Tbc,  
Employment Officer Tbc,

#####

Services Committee Meeting. / BRANCH GENERAL MEETING (Services Minutes Book Version)  
DECEMBER 1969 British Legion Committee (AGM Held in the United Services Club)

PRESIDENT Lieut-Col F Dunkley

VICE PRESIDENTS Mr C Massey  
Mr Wilfred Birchall  
Mr John Gleave

CHAIRMAN Mr Jack F Edwards (School teacher and ex Royal Horse Guards)  
(Short lived Chairman details of his election in a newspaper article)

VICE CHAIRMAN Mr E L Newton

SECRETARY Mr George Brooks (Ex Prisoner of War of the Japanese)  
(1968-9) Retired after 21 years  
Mr Albert Birchenough (1969-70)  
Mr Alex Warburton (Ex Royal Navy)

TREASURER Mr Granville Jones

POPPY APPEAL ORGANISER Mr D Rycroft

BENEVOLENT FUND TREASURER Mr Geoff Fairhurst

STANDARD BEARER Mr Doug E Roycroft, Mr Geoff Fairhurst, Mr N Basnett, Mr J Ireland,  
Mr D Alcock, Mr W Ekin, Mr J Sherratt, Mr S Booth,  
Mr Cyril Taylor and Mr G Jones.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS Mr Bassett, Mr Ireland, Mr Roycroft, Mr Ekin, Mr Birchenough.

ESCORTS Mr Cyril Taylor

SERVICES COMMITTEE Mr Birchenough

SC VICE CHAIRMAN Mr Brooks

SC SECRETARY AND PENSIONS OFFICER Mr E Newton

SOUTH CHESHIRE DISTRICT COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE

1969 ACCOUNTS

The Branch ordered 5,000 poppies for the year.  
Money Balance £84 1s 11d at the start of the year and £102 11s 8d = TOTAL ASSETS £407 13s 9d  
Benevolent Fund £162 7s 8d at the start of the year and now was £174 8s 1d

#####

Services Committee Meeting.

The British Legion Sandbach Services Committee sent out 50 Christmas Parcels in 1969.

#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Thursday 4 December 1969 at the United Services Club.  
After much discussion it was decided to go back to meeting on the **first Monday of the Month.**

#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 5 January 1970 at the United Services Club.

It was reported that Mr A Birchenough (Secretary) was unable to attend the meetings and Mr Doug E Roycroft took over as acting secretary. Mr A Birchenough was welcome to attend any meetings he was able to get to in the future.

#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 4 May 1970 at the United Services Club.

**It was reported that Mr W Elkin and Mr G Fairhurst would be taking on the task of Poppy Day Organisers. For 1970.**

#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 1 June 1970 at the United Services Club.

**Mr Harry Jackson** of 73 Bradwall Road, Sandbach was welcomed to his first Committee Meeting after being Co-opted.

#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 6 July 1970 at the United Services Club.

After enquiries a few years ago the Secretary read out a letter whereby **Certificates of Appreciation were available to Poppy Day Organisers for 10 Years Service and to collectors and helpers with at least 10 years service. Mr Cyril Taylor promised to let the secretary have a list of eligible people.**

#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 7 September 1970 at the United Services Club.

EVENT a Bingo Night was arranged for the 11 September 1970 (Friday) at the United Services Club in aid of the Christmas Parcel Fund.

**Mr W H Cope** was welcomed onto the Committee.

#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 7 September 1970 at the United Services Club.  
The list of people entitled to Certificates of Appreciation numbered 16 who had acted as Poppy Day Collectors for 10 Years or more and to Mr Cyril Taylor who had been the Poppy Organiser for over 10 years.

Mr Roscoe of the Secondary Modern School reported that the offer to provide a holder for the Old Standard in St Mary's was to be a school project over the next few months.

#####

Services Committee Meeting.

The 8 September 1970 British Legion Sandbach Services Committee Meeting announced that they were holding a Bingo Night on the 11 September at the United Services Club in aid of the Christmas Parcel Fund.

#####

|              |                                                                                                             |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|              | UNITED SERVICES CLUB                                                                                        |
| 10 Sept 1970 | Tender asked for to refurbish the Lounge Bar and Games Room at the United Services Club. (Newspaper Advert) |

#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGM Monday 7 December 1970 at the United Services Club.

POPPY AWARDS = 15 Poppy Sellers were given Certificates of Appreciation at the AGM by the President Sdr H Cyril Rigby for over 15 years of poppy service. A special award was given to Mr Cyril Taylor who had looked after the Poppies for over 10 years.

**A special Poppy Broach was also given to Mrs Arthur Leese who had been a Poppy Day Collector since Poppy Day started 50 years ago (1920).** The British Legion Headquarters particularly wanted to be associated with this award presentation.

- PRESIDENT Squadron Leader H Cyril Rigby (*A Solicitor in the town*)  
VICE PRESIDENTS Mr Wilfred Birchall, Mr G W Brooks (NEW), Lt Colonel F Dunkley, Mr John Gleave,  
Mr C Massey, Mr Arthur Simcox.  
CHAIRMAN Mr Jack F Edwards  
VICE CHAIRMAN Mr Cyril Taylor (Return)  
SECRETARY N/A (Not applied for)  
TREASURER Mr A Warburton  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS Mr D Alcock, Mr N Basnett, Mr S Booth, Mr W Elkin, Mr G Fairhurst, Mr E Hearl (NEW), Mr J Ireland, Mr G Jones, Mr E L Newton (Return), Mr Doug E Roycroft, Mr J Sherratt, Mr Cyril Taylor.  
(*The past two years Mr D Alcock has been spelt Allcock*)  
STANDARD BEARER Mr Geoff Fairhurst.  
Escorts = Mr N Basnett, Mr W Ekin, Mr J Ireland, Mr Doug E Roycroft.

POPPY DAY COLLECTION (Previous Year) 1969 Raised £ Total  
N/A (Poppy sales only / Wreaths extra)  
(Mr Elkin poppy organiser)

REMEMBRANCE DAY

A letter of thanks was sent to the Rev. Wykes for the Service and to Mr Reg Dunning (Parade Marshall) and Sandbach School Band who once again led the parade.

POPPIES

Last year the British Legion spent £1,436,112/00/00d on welfare and the relief of distress. The Poppy collection fell short by £163,849/00/00d therefore the generosity of the public is of paramount importance.

- Every £1 (20 Shillings) collected is spent in the following way....  
11d = Rehabilitation  
11/8d = Welfare Schemes, Convalescent Homes etc.  
2/10d = Claims etc.  
0/ 3d = Ex Service Charities – British Commonwealth League  
0/ 2d = Maintenance of properties  
1/- = Administration

1/11d = Making Poppies by badly disabled ex servicemen and women.  
1/3d = Making Wreaths

-----

20 Shillings TOTAL (16 Shillings and 47d)

Election of Officers to the Services Committee

|                                |                                    |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Chairman                       | Mr Cyril Taylor,                   |
| Vice Chairman                  | Mr G Fairhurst,                    |
| Treasurer                      | Mr Doug E Roycroft,                |
| Secretary and Pensions Officer | Mr G W Brooks (Not in the minutes) |
| Benevolent Fund                | Tbc,                               |
| Employment Officer             | Tbc,                               |

#####

**Mr Cyril Massey (.b. 1891 in Wheelock, the son of William Massey a miller.) a Founder Member and Chairman of the Services Committee from pre 1944 to 1964 died on the 16 January 1971 at the age of 79. (Wreath Sent by Vice Chairman prior to 1 February 1971 General Meeting)  
H was married to Gladys Helen Massey (.D. 23 December 1966 aged 72) and had a son Lawrence Massey (.D. 9 April 2003 aged 82 and Married to Emmie Massey .D. 15 October 1991 aged 79)**

MR CYRIL MASSEY BIOGRAPHY

A well known historian of the town Cyril Massey was born in 1891 in Wheelock the Son of William Massey a local Miller.

He was educated at Sandbach Church of England School and gained a scholarship to Sandbach School.

In the Great War of 1914 -18 he served in France with the Royal Army Medical Corps.

After demob Cyril joined Sandbach Building Firm John Stringer who supplied many of the fine brick buildings in Sandbach.

By the 1930's Cyril Massey had established himself as an architect and designed many residential homes as well as the former Congleton R.D.C. offices in Middlewich Road, Sandbach which later became the Magistrates Court and Police Station (Now Demolished).

Cyril was a leader of the Boys Brigade, a Sunday School Teacher, A Sidesman and Church Warden at St Mary's Sandbach and a founder member of the Sandbach Branch of the British Legion and was responsible for the establishment of an ex-Servicemen's Club in Sandbach which developed into the costly United Services Club (1971).

During the Second World War Cyril Massey was a member of the Air Raid Warden's and along with his wife Gladys they were members of the Sandbach Ambulance Committee.

He tried unsuccessfully to save the Marriott House which was demolished to make way for the new Library.

On his death in 1971 the Flags round the town were flown at half mast in respect.

He is buried in the family plot at Sandbach Cemetery.

FAMILY TREE

William Massey (Father)

||

Cyril Massey (.b. 1891 .D. 16 Jan 1971) = MARRIED = Gladys Helen ? (.b. ? .D. 23 Dec 1933 aged 72)  
(Brother in Law Mr T D Fox / Mrs Fox Sister of Cyril)

||

Lawrence Massey (.b.? .D. 9 Apr 2003 aged 82) = MARRIED = Emmie Massey (.b.? .D. 15 Oct 1991 aged 79)

||

Mrs P Quintane (Granddaughter of Cyril Massey) = Miss D Massey (Granddaughter of Cyril Massey)

#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING 1 February 1971 at the United Services Club.

A wreath had been sent after the death of Mr Cyril Massey who had died on the 16 January.

#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING 1 March 1971 at the United Services Club.

Mr E Hearl was appointed Secretary at this meeting. Proposed by W Ekin, Seconded by S Sherrett.

R Hearl and W Ekin were to contact MR Brooks re wreaths.

#####

Services Committee Meeting.



At the 1 March 1971 British Legion Sandbach Services Committee Meeting they elected Mr E Hearl as Secretary.

A Circular from the British Legion North West Area told the local branches about various awards that were available.

- 1) National Certificate of Appreciation – Closing date 8 December 1971 – Highest award for an individual member that is presented at the National Conference.
- 2) Area Certificate of Appreciation – Closing date 8 December 1971 – Six awarded each year by the Area Office.
- 3) The Area Shield - Closing date 8 December 1971 – Awarded to the branch considered as showing the best record of progress and efficiency during the year ending the 30 September (1971). A Certificate of Merit is awarded to the Second placed branch.
- 4) The W.J. Bennett Poppy Day Trophy – Closing date 19 January 1972 – Awarded to the best percentage increase in the local poppy day appeal collections from the last three years (1969, 1970, 1971.)

OTHER NATIONAL AWARDS.

- 1) HAIG CUP
- 2) LISTER CUP COMPETITION
- 3) JELLICOE CUP - Best increase in membership in the year up to the 30 September (1971)
- 4) JELLICOE SHIELD - Best increase in membership over the last 10 years up to the 30 September (1971)
- 5) IAN HAMILTON CUP - Awarded to the branch considered as showing the best record of progress and efficiency during the year ending the 30 September (1971). Three entries submitted per region with the 1970 winner being Kearsley British Legion (Bolton, Greater Manchester).

#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING 6 May 1971 at the United Services Club.  
Mr Copenhall had contacted the Secretary and was now a member of the Sandbach Branch of the British Legion.

Mr G Brooks was to be recommended for a Gold Badge via Head Office.

#####

NATIONAL NEWS

Having had Royal Patronage since it was founded in 1921 the Legion received its “Royal” appellation (Entitled to a name or title eg, Doctor.) on the 29 May 1971 its Golden Anniversary.

The first National President of this Royal British Legion was George Alexander Eugene Douglas Haig the 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl Haig (.b. 1918 .D. 2009 President of the Scottish British Legion from 1965 to 1985, President of the Earl Haig Fund from 1980 to 1986 which had been set up by his father.)

#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING 14 July 1971 at the United Services Club.

Mr R Newton represented the Legion at the funeral of Mr A Simcox.

**The Branch Chairman Mr Jack F Edwards had resigned after 10 years in the role, due to pressure at work and commitments to the Sandbach Urban District Council.**

The election of his successor would be at the following meeting.

#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING 11 August 1971 at the United Services Club.

Mr Charles Oliver (Ex RAOC) was considered for a role in the Sandbach Branch.

ELECTION OF A NEW CHAIRMAN = Proposer G Fairhurst, Seconded by J Sherratt that **Mr Cyril Taylor be elected Chairman**. No other applicants.

#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING 4 November 1971 at the United Services Club.

Mrs D Roycroft told the meeting of the first Swimming Gala was on the 29 November 1971 at 7.30pm all members invited to attend.

#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGM Monday 8 December 1971 at the United Services Club.

During the year the Rev. Wykes had passed away. Although ill he had conducted the Remembrance Day Service before his death.

PRESIDENT Squadron Leader H Cyril Rigby (*A Solicitor in the town*)  
VICE PRESIDENTS Mr Wilfred Birchall, Mr G W Brooks, Lt Colonel F Dunkley, Mr John Gleave,  
Mr C Massey, Mr Arthur Simcox.  
CHAIRMAN Mr Cyril Taylor (NEW)  
VICE CHAIRMAN Mr Jack F Edwards (NEW)  
SECRETARY Mr E Hearl (NEW)  
TREASURER Mr A Warburton  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS Mr A Allcock (or D Alcock), Mr N Basnett, Mr W H Cope (NEW),  
Mr W Elkin, Mr G Fairhurst, Mr E Hearl (NEW), Mr H Jackson (NEW),  
Mr W Nielson (NEW), Mr C Ollier (NEW),  
Mr Doug E Roycroft, Mr J Sherratt, Mr Cyril Taylor, Mr J Williams (NEW).  
(*In past years Mr D Alcock has been spelt A Allcock*)  
STANDARD BEARER Mr Geoff Fairhurst.  
Escorts = Mr N Basnett, Mr H Jackson (NEW), Mr Doug E Roycroft.

POPPY DAY COLLECTION (Previous Year) 1971 Raised £274.73 Provisional Total at AGM  
N/A (Poppy sales only / Wreaths extra)  
(Mr Elkin poppy organiser)

#####  
BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING 8 February 1972 at the United Services Club.  
Meetings will take place on the second Tuesday of the Month.

Poppy Cards ready for distribution (telling poppy locations how much they made).  
#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Tuesday 14 March 1972 at the United Services Club.  
The new vicar of St Mary's Sandbach, the Rev Rigby would be invited to join the Legion as its new Padre.  
#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Tuesday 16 May 1972 at the United Services Club.  
Mr Jack F Edwards had become Chairman of the Sandbach Urban District Council (Mayor).

Mr A Warburton had left the district and so a new Treasurer had to be appointed. Mr D H H Francis was  
appointed to the role.  
#####

MEMBERS of the British Legion Sandbach Services Committee as of the 16 May 1972 Meeting.  
Chairman C Taylor,  
D Allcock, W Berwick, W Cope, J Edwards, Geoff Fairhurst, E Hearl, H Jackson, C Olier, W Neilson, D  
Roycroft, J Williams.  
#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Tuesday 11 July 1972 at the United Services Club.  
With the non appearance of Mr Elkin and no reply from letters asking him if he would like to continue as Poppy  
Organiser, Mr W H Cope was asked to take on the role for the 1972 Poppy appeal.

Mr G Oliver was congratulated on his recent marriage.

EVENT = 21 July 1972 Bingo Night  
#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Tuesday 9 September 1972 at the United Services Club.  
It was agreed to write to Head Office to see if the Standard could be updated to include the words Royal British  
Legion. (The British Legion had been granted Royal Charter Status in 1925)

The Distribution of Poppies this year would start on the 25 October 1972.  
#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Tuesday 10 October 1972 at the United Services Club.  
It was agreed to purchase 12 ties with the new Royal British Legion Motif on them. (6 Silk and 6 Nylon 14  
November 1972 Meeting)

The Secretary would be sending out invitations to those who take part in the Armistice Day Parade and will  
write to the ATC who had in the past provided the band to thank them for their past service and regret that they  
could not provide the band this year.

Beresfords Band in Congleton had been approached to provide the band this year but no reply had become forthcoming so far.

#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGM No AGM Details in the minutes book for 1972. That years AGM took place on the 9 January 1973.

There was a lack of interest in joining the British Legion and the Secretary said "it was a sorry thing for the Legion when there was not sufficient men willing to give up an hour per month for the benefit of our comrades who were in need of their help".

**It was with regret that Mr Cyril Taylor had resigned from the Legion as he had been a Member since 1945.**

**Mr G Hough asked why the United Services Club does not revert back to the Royal British Legion. Mr Taylor said that owing to the difficulties that would arise it would be far better to leave things as they were.**

|                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| PRESIDENT                 | Squadron Leader H Cyril Rigby ( <i>A Solicitor in the town</i> )                                                                                                                                                    |
| VICE PRESIDENTS           | Mr Wilfred Birchall, Mr G W Brooks, Lt Colonel F Dunkley, Mr J Edwards, Mr John Gleave, Mr Cyril Taylor.                                                                                                            |
| CHAIRMAN                  | Mr J Williams (NEW)                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| VICE CHAIRMAN             | (Not on List)                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| SECRETARY                 | Mr E Hearl                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| TREASURER                 | Mr D Francis (NEW)                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Treasurer Benevolent Fund | Mr Doug E Roycroft / Assistant Mr G Fairhurst                                                                                                                                                                       |
| COMMITTEE MEMBERS         | Mr D Allcock, Mr W H Cope, Mr W Elkin, Mr G Hough (NEW), Mr H Jackson, Mr B Lyne-ley (NEW), Mr W Nielson, Mr C Ollier, Mr S Stretton.<br>( <i>In past years Mr D Allcock has been spelt A Allcock / D Allcock</i> ) |
| STANDARD BEARER           | Mr Geoff Fairhurst.                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Escorts =                 | Mr Doug E Roycroft, Mr J Williams (NEW).                                                                                                                                                                            |

POPPY DAY COLLECTION (Previous Year) 1972 Raised £360/00/14d (13 March Meeting)  
N/A (Poppy sales only / Wreaths extra)  
(Mr W H Cope poppy organiser)

#####

Services Committee Meeting.

By 1973 Changes were taking place among the Committee. Mr Cyril Taylor was in place for the 9 January 1973 meeting (Resigned at the Branch AGM 9 Jan 1973 see above) but was replaced for the 8 February 1973 meeting by Mr J Williams with Mr W H Cope as Vice Chairman.

#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Tuesday 8 February 1973 at the United Services Club.

It was suggested that the younger generation be given the opportunity to lay crosses at the Remembrance Day Parade and that no Stickers were allowed this year.

It was suggested that Mr Cyril Taylor be awarded a Gold Badge. Headquarters would be contacted about this and a previous request for a Gold Badge for Mr Brooks.

#####

Services Committee Meeting.

MEMBERS of the British Legion Sandbach Services Committee as of the 8 February 1973 Meeting. Chairman J Williams (Signed as Chairman for the 13 Feb 1973 Meeting).  
W H Cope, E Ekin, Geoff Fairhurst, D Francis, E Hearl, G Hough, C Ollier, T Plant, S Stretton.

#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Tuesday 13 March 1973 at the United Services Club.

The final result of the Poppy Appeal for 1972 was a total of £360/00/14d according to organiser Mr D Francis.

As Mr Elkin was not interested anymore it was decided to vote Mr S Stretton to be elected to the post of Poppy Organiser for 1973.

#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Tuesday 3 April 1973 at the United Services Club.

It was suggested that a shop be found where Extra Poppies could be obtained from if other premises had run out of them.

POPPY COLLECTORS should be over 16 years of age and should be wearing a RBL Badge.

#####

Services Committee Meeting.

The British Legion Sandbach Services Committee agreed at the 5 June 1973 meeting to attend the **Council Chairman's Parade on the 17 June 1973** with Mr Williams acting as the Standard Bearer for the event as Mr Geoff Fairhurst the usual standard bearer was on holiday.

#####

Services Committee Meeting.

At the 3 July 1973 meeting of the British Legion Sandbach Services Committee the secretary told the members that there would be no band to lead the parade in November. The secretary was asked to write to HQ to find out if they could assist financially in the event of having to hire a band. He was also asked to write to Foden's Limited to see if they could supply a band for the occasion.

#####

EVENT

On Sunday the 11 November 1973 the Remembrance Day parade was organised by the Sandbach Urban District Council (Sandbach Urban Council) with the Rev. Basil Rigby taking the service. An ex Fighter Pilot the Vicar of St Mary's Sandbach remarked in his service that Remembrance Day was the nation's "Powerhouse" to ensure that we never again allow ourselves to be tied up in a war which destroyed so many of our young people. He also claimed that the day had been watered down as at one time it was held at 11am on the 11<sup>th</sup> Day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month but as it had conflicted with business it was decided to move it to the nearest Convenient Sunday (This year it was the 11<sup>th</sup>).

Wreaths were laid by Mrs Eileen Henshall (Urban Council Chairman), Mr Cyril Taylor (Vice President of the Royal British Legion Sandbach Branch) with the Standard being carried by Mr Geoff Fairhurst escorted by Mr Stan Stretton and Mr Douglas Roycroft. The parade from the Council Offices at Westfield was headed by the drums of Sandbach School's Combined Cadet Force.

During the service by the Rev. Basil Rigby the standards were blessed at the altar and lessons were read by Squadron Leader Cecil Rigby (President of the RBL) with Mr Brian Birch at the organ. The collection was made in aid of the Earl Haig Fund (Now the Poppy Appeal).

(15 November 1973 Crewe Chronicle Page 19)

#####

Services Committee Meeting.

On the 4 December 1973, Mr S A Stretton was appointed Chairman of the British Legion Sandbach Services Committee.

#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGM Thursday 13 December 1973 at the United Services Club.

Again another year of falling Committee members was reported.

GOLD BADGE AWARD = Presented to Mr G Brooks.

|                   |                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| PRESIDENT         | Squadron Leader H Cyril Rigby ( <i>A Solicitor in the town</i> )                                                                                                                            |
| VICE PRESIDENTS   | Mr Wilfred Birchall, Mr G W Brooks, Lt Colonel F Dunkley, Mr J Edwards, Mr John Gleave, Mr Cyril Taylor.                                                                                    |
| CHAIRMAN          | Mr S Stretton (NEW)                                                                                                                                                                         |
| VICE CHAIRMAN     | Mr G Fairhurst (NEW)                                                                                                                                                                        |
| SECRETARY         | Mr E Hearl                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| TREASURER         | Mr D Francis                                                                                                                                                                                |
| COMMITTEE MEMBERS | Mr G Alexander, Mr D Allcock, Mr A Bowe (NEW), Mr W H Cope, Mr W Elkin, Mr R Harrison (NEW), Mr T Platt (NEW).<br>( <i>In past years Mr D Alcock has been spelt A Allcock / D Allcock</i> ) |

STANDARD BEARER Mr Geoff Fairhurst.  
Escorts = Mr Doug E Roycroft, Mr S Stretton (NEW), Mr J Williams.

POPPY DAY COLLECTION (Previous Year) 1973 Raised £  
N/A (Poppy sales only / Wreaths extra)  
(Mr S Stretton poppy organiser)

#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING 5 March 1974 at the United Services Club.  
The cost of a new standard would be £49.50p (To have one with Royal British Legion on it).  
Matter left until a better attended meeting.

#####

|              |                                                                                                      |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|              | UNITED SERVICES CLUB                                                                                 |
| 26 Sept 1974 | Congleton Magistrates renew Registration Certificate for another 10 year period. (Newspaper Article) |

#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGM 6 December 1974 at the United Services Club.

For the last few years there has been an average of 50 Christmas Food Parcels sent out in December.

Mr E Lewis was thanked for displaying the Poppy wreaths in his shop window this year.

Mr Brooks organised the Remembrance Day Service and Parade this year.

Standard Bearer Mr Geoff Fairhurst was thinking of resigning the post and it was hoped he would reconsider.

PRESIDENT Squadron Leader H Cyril Rigby (*A Solicitor in the town*)  
VICE PRESIDENTS Mr Wilfred Birchall (NEW), Lt Colonel F Dunkley, Mr J Edwards,  
Mr John Gleave, Mr Cyril Taylor.  
CHAIRMAN Mr W H Cope (NEW)  
VICE CHAIRMAN Mr Doug E Roycroft (NEW)  
SECRETARY Mr E Hearl  
TREASURER Mr D Francis  
Benevolent Fund Treasurer Mr Doug E Roycroft  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS Mr G Alexander, Mr D Allcock, Mr A Bowe, Mr G Brooks,  
Mr Geoff Fairhurst (NEW), Mr E Falkner (NEW),  
Mr T Platt (or Plant), Mr S Stretton.  
STANDARD BEARER Mr Geoff Fairhurst.  
Escorts = Mr T Plant (NEW), Mr Doug E Roycroft, Mr S Stretton.

POPPY DAY COLLECTION (Previous Year) 1975 Raised £366 (To AGM)  
(Mr S Stretton poppy organiser)

#####

Services Committee Meeting 1975.

In January 1975 Mr W H Cope was appointed Chairman of the British Legion Sandbach Services Committee.

#####

Services Committee Meeting.

On the 27 January 1975 a Bingo Night was held at the United Services Club to raise funds for the Christmas Parcel fund. The event raised £51 and it was hoped to hold other Bingo events. At a meeting on the 4 February 1975 Mr Cope was thanked for his fundraising efforts and helping to keep the branch in existence.

#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING 4 February 1975 at the United Services Club.  
A receipt had been received from Eachus and Co for £5 regarding the printing of Posters for the Poppy Day.

#####

Services Committee Meeting.

At the 4 February 1975 meeting Mr Roycroft said that the Benevolent Fund stood at £242.67p

#####

EVENT 24 May 1975 Bingo Night

#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING 3 June 1975 at the United Services Club.

The Chairman was invited to the Aquarius Swimming Club Gala (Disabled swimmers) on the 23 June 1975 to present a trophy donated by the Branch.

EVENT 19 June 1975 Concert by the Torch Group (Hopefully with the RBL Beauty Queen in Attendance)

Compare for the Evening was hoped to be Mr G Fisher of the United Services Club.

Tickets 25p Adults. Under 16 Free

This was local entertainer Nigel Stonier's Group "Torch" in Concert.

#####

Services Committee Meeting.

The 1 July 1975 Meeting gave Mr Cyril Taylor a Certificate Permit for his long service with the British Legion.

#####

EVENT 12 July 1975 Jumble Sale at 2pm.

EVENT 17 October 1975 Concert (CANCELLED 2 Sept 1975 Meeting)

#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING 24 November 1975 at the United Services Club.

At the Meeting Mr Cyril Taylor was awarded a Gold Badge for his services to the branch.

#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGM 17 December 1975 at the United Services Club.

(In the Minutes book as dated 1976 but it is signed wrongly as 7 Dec 1976 by the President H Cyril Rigby)

Mr G W Brooks was thanked for organising the Remembrance Day Parade and Service this year and the Secretary thanked him in his report. Mr G W Brooks was pleased to be organising the Armistice Day parades again.

Branch Assets stood at £479 in 1974 and now stand at £629 in 1975.

Nigel Stonier and his group Torch gave a concert in aid of Branch Funds in June 1975.

Vice Presidents Lt Colonel F Dunkley and Mr J Edwards were ill at the time of the AGM and were wished well. (Not re-elected to their posts)

- PRESIDENT Squadron Leader H Cyril Rigby (*A Solicitor in the town*)
- VICE PRESIDENTS Mr G W Brooks, Mr J Edwards, Mr John Gleave, Mr Cyril Taylor.
- CHAIRMAN Mr W H Cope
- VICE CHAIRMAN Mr Doug E Roycroft
- SECRETARY Mr E Hearl
- TREASURER Mr D Francis
- Benevolent Fund Treasurer Mr Doug E Roycroft
- COMMITTEE MEMBERS Mr D Allcock, Mr A Bowe, Mr Geoff Fairhurst, Mr E Falkner, Mr T Platt (or Plant).
- STANDARD BEARER Mr Geoff Fairhurst.
- Escorts = Mr Doug E Roycroft, Mr S Stretton.

POPPY DAY COLLECTION (Previous Year) 1975 Raised £366 (To AGM)  
£386.04 (to 3 March 1976 Meeting)  
1976 Raised £552.15p  
(Mr S Stretton poppy organiser)

#####

|             |                                                                                          |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|             | UNITED SERVICES CLUB                                                                     |
| 18 Mar 1976 | Junior Snooker League Championships held at United Services Club.<br>(Newspaper Article) |

#####

EVENT 24 May 1976 Bingo

#####

UNITED SERVICES CLUB 1976 (and 1977)

A letter heading for the 4 May 1976 RBL Branch Minutes had on the heading the details of the management of the United Services Club. (Maybe scrap paper reused but gives an indication of the management)

Telephone 2356

CHAIRMAN W Cope  
VICE CHAIRMAN S. Stretton  
CLUB SECRETARY E. G. Hearl  
STOCKTAKER A. Broadhurst  
TREASURER S. Griffin

PRESIDENT Sqd / Ld H. C. Rigby R.A.F.  
VICE PRESIDENTS J Gleave, C Taylor, J Edwards.

#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGM 7 December 1976 at the United Services Club.

PRESIDENT Squadron Leader H Cyril Rigby (*A Solicitor in the town*)  
VICE PRESIDENTS Mr G W Brooks, Mr J Edwards, Mr John Gleave, Mr Cyril Taylor.  
CHAIRMAN Mr W H Cope  
VICE CHAIRMAN Mr Doug E Roycroft  
SECRETARY Mr E Hearl  
TREASURER Mr D Francis  
Benevolent Fund Treasurer Mr Doug E Roycroft  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS Mr A Bowe, Mr Geoff Fairhurst,  
Mr E Falkner, Mr T Platt (or Plant), Mr Doug E Roycroft, Mr S Stretton,  
STANDARD BEARER Mr Geoff Fairhurst.  
Escorts = Mr A Bone (NEW), Mr Doug E Roycroft, Mr S Stretton.

POPPY DAY COLLECTION (Previous Year) 1976 Raised £552.15p  
(Mr S Stretton poppy organiser)

#####

EVENT 13 December 1976 Bingo and Christmas Fair.

#####

Services Committee Meeting.

The Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977 opened up an opportunity to do collections for the Royal British Legion. meetings on the 4 January 1977 and 1 February 1977 discussed the matter with flags being used as tokens for these collections. At the 5 April 1977 Meeting Mr Francis would loan out about 50 collecting tins for the occasion with Mr Taylor preparing a list of poppy collectors to help on the 18 June 1977.

The 1977 Poppy appeal had a collecting tin in the Tesco Store in the town centre. Unfortunately the collection tin had been "Misappropriated" and it was decided to take no further action.

#####

UNITED SERVICES CLUB 1977

A letter heading for the 1977 RBL Branch Minutes had on the back the details of the management of the United Services Club.

Telephone 2356

CHAIRMAN I. Wealleans  
VICE CHAIRMAN S. Stretton  
CLUB SECRETARY E. G. Hearl  
STOCKTAKER A. Broadhurst  
TREASURER S. Griffin

PRESIDENT Sqd / Ld H. C. Rigby R.A.F.  
VICE PRESIDENTS J Gleave, B Johnson, F/Lt Wilfred Birchall, C Taylor, J Edwards.

#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING 1 February 1977 at the United Services Club.

After a long discussion it was agreed that the name of the President Sqd / Ld H. C. Rigby R.A.F. be put forward to the next National Hours List hoping this would get him a knighthood for his services to the branch and other groups.

A certificate of Merit was also asked for Mr Geoffrey Fairhurst for his 30years as Standard Bearer for the Branch.

#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGM 6 December 1977 at the United Services Club.

There were only two drummers on the parade this year for Remembrance Sunday.  
The services at Smallwood and Brereton were also well attended.

A Poppy Box had gone missing from Tesco's this year. It would be looked into.

PRESIDENT Squadron Leader H Cyril Rigby (*A Solicitor in the town*)  
VICE PRESIDENTS Mr G W Brooks, Mr J Edwards, Mr John Gleave, Mr Cyril Taylor.  
CHAIRMAN Mr W H Cope  
VICE CHAIRMAN Mr G Fairhurst (NEW)  
SECRETARY Mr E Hearl  
TREASURER Mr D Francis  
Benevolent Fund Treasurer Mr Doug E Roycroft  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS Mr A Bowe, Mr Congworth (NEW), Mr Frank Emery (NEW), Mr Geoff Fairhurst,  
Mr E Falkner, Mr K Peters (NEW), Mr T Platt (or Plant), Mr Doug E Roycroft,  
Mr S Stretton,  
STANDARD BEARER Mr Geoff Fairhurst.  
Escorts = Mr Frank Emery (NEW), Mr Plant (NEW), Mr S Stretton.

POPPY DAY COLLECTION (Previous Year) 1977 Raised £660.38p with two boxes still to be collected.  
(Mr S Stretton poppy organiser)

#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGM 5 December 1978 at the United Services Club.

The President Squadron Leader H Cyril Rigby celebrated 25 years unbroken in the role and had been awarded the Gold Badge.

**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY This year the Band of the Black Watch provided the Parade Band and were outstanding, a year to remember.**

Mr G W Brooks again organised the Armistice Day Parade.

Mrs Copenhall and the Ladies Branch again exceeded themselves with the distribution and arranging of the Christmas Parcels.

PRESIDENT Squadron Leader H Cyril Rigby (*A Solicitor in the town*)  
VICE PRESIDENTS Mr G W Brooks, Mr S Fairhurst (NEW), Mr D Francis (NEW),  
Mr John Gleave, Mr Cyril Taylor.  
CHAIRMAN Mr W H Cope  
VICE CHAIRMAN Mr G Fairhurst (or J Fairhurst)  
SECRETARY Mr E Hearl  
TREASURER Mr D Francis  
Benevolent Fund Treasurer Mr Doug E Roycroft  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS Mr A Bowe, Mr Frank Emery (NEW), Mr K Peters, Mr Doug E Roycroft,  
Mr S Stretton,  
STANDARD BEARER Mr Geoff Fairhurst (or J Fairhurst).  
Escorts = Mr Frank Emery, Mr Doug E Roycroft (NEW).

POPPY DAY COLLECTION (Previous Year) 1978 Raised £tbc.  
(Mr S Stretton poppy organiser)

#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGM 7 December 1979 at the United Services Club.

Mr J Williams arranged the band for Armistice Day. It was made up of young people making the pace slow but acceptable.



Mr Brooks sent out the invitations and the Police were thanked for the work they do on the day.

PRESIDENT Squadron Leader H Cyril Rigby (*A Solicitor in the town*)  
VICE PRESIDENTS Mr G W Brooks, Mr S Fairhurst, Mr John Gleave, Mr Cyril Taylor.  
CHAIRMAN Mr W H Cope  
VICE CHAIRMAN Mr G Fairhurst  
SECRETARY Mr E Hearl  
TREASURER Mr Geoff Bestall (NEW)  
Benevolent Fund Treasurer Mr Doug E Roycroft  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS Mr A Bowe, Mr Frank Emery, Mr H Hassall (NEW), Mr T Plant (NEW),  
Mr Doug E Roycroft, Mr R Russell, Mr S Stretton,  
STANDARD BEARER Mr Geoff Fairhurst (or J Fairhurst).  
Escorts = Mr A Bowe, Mr S Stratton (NEW).

POPPY DAY COLLECTION (Previous Year) 1978 Raised £840.00  
(Mr S Stretton poppy organiser)

#####

In 1980 the local paper reported that the Remembrance Day parade had the biggest attendance since the end of the Second World War. Lt Commander Harold Peters (Aged 70) laid the first wreath on behalf of the Royal British Legion after a parade which had started at Westfields (Sandbach Town Council Headquarters) following a bugler and the standards of the Sandbach British Legion and the Sandbach and Middlewich branches of the Cheshire Regiment. On arrival at the Market Square a short service was conducted by the Rev. Basil Rigby (Vicar of Sandbach) with prayers and the two minutes silence.

#### WREATH LAYING

Sandbach Town Council (Les Morris – Chairman)  
Mayor and Mayoress of Sandbach Town Council  
Mayor and Mayoress of Congleton Borough Council  
(Wreath Sent by Mrs N.J. Dale who was attending the Service in Congleton)  
United Services Club  
St Mary's Youth Action Group  
Sandbach County Primary School  
Cheshire A.C.F.  
Sandbach Red Cross  
Sandbach Chamber of Trade and Commerce  
Sandbach Scouts  
Sandbach Cubs  
Sandbach Guides  
Sandbach Brownies  
Round Table  
St John Ambulance Brigade  
Ladies Circle  
Girl's Venture Corps  
W.R.V.S.

The Crewe Scout Band led the procession to St Mary's Church where the Rev. Basil Rigby took the service. The Rev. Kenneth Stone the Minister at the Wesley Avenue Methodist Church gave a sermon on how people had not yet learned how to gain peace in the world.

The lesson was read by Squadron Leader Cecil Rigby (DFC) the President of the British Legion.

#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGM 9 December 1980 at the United Services Club.

The President Squadron Leader H Cyril Rigby had been made a Judge.

Cheshire Old Comrades turned out for what was the biggest turnout for a Remembrance Day in Sandbach.

PRESIDENT Squadron Leader H Cyril Rigby (*A Solicitor in the town*)  
VICE PRESIDENTS Mr G W Brooks, Mr S Fairhurst, Mr John Gleave, Mr Cyril Taylor.  
CHAIRMAN Mr G Fairhurst (NEW)  
VICE CHAIRMAN W Cope (NEW)  
SECRETARY Mr E Hearl  
TREASURER Mr Geoff Bestall

Benevolent Fund Treasurer Mr Doug E Roycroft  
 COMMITTEE MEMBERS *Mr A Bowe, Mr Frank Emery, Mr H Hassall, Mr T Plant,*  
*Mr Doug E Roycroft, Mr R Russell, Mr S Stretton, (NOT IN MINUTES BOOK)*  
 STANDARD BEARER Mr Geoff Fairhurst.  
 Escorts = Mr T Plant (NEW), Mr S Stratton (NEW).

POPPY DAY COLLECTION (Previous Year) 1980 Raised £783.89  
 (St Mary's Church Collection made £107.75 / Sweatenham Church £15.85  
 Mr Coombs from manning a Market Stall raised £51.10)  
 (Mr S Stretton poppy organiser)

#####

|            |                                                                                                                                         |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|            | UNITED SERVICES CLUB                                                                                                                    |
| 1 Jan 1981 | By 1981 the club registered as the United Services Club (Sandbach) Ltd was incorporated with Company number IP09386R. (Companies House) |

#####  
 NATIONAL NEWS  
 In 1981 Membership was extended to serving members of Her Majesty's Forces as well as the previous Ex Service Personnel. Today anyone can join the Royal British Legion.

#####  
 The Benevolent Fund accounts from 1981 show donations including £35 from the Forces Help Society c/o George Brooks and the outgoings of £210.55 for Christmas Parcels.

#####  
 BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGM 1 December 1981 at the United Services Club.

Armistice Day was the biggest so far according to the Chairman.

PRESIDENT Squadron Leader H Cyril Rigby (*A Solicitor in the town*)  
 VICE PRESIDENTS Mr G W Brooks, Mr S Fairhurst, Mr John Gleave,  
 Mr H Hassall (NEW), Mr Cyril Taylor.  
 CHAIRMAN Mr G Fairhurst  
 VICE CHAIRMAN Mr Doug E Roycroft (NEW)  
 SECRETARY Mr E Hearl  
 TREASURER Mr Geoff Bestall  
 Benevolent Fund Treasurer Mr Doug E Roycroft  
 COMMITTEE MEMBERS Mr A Bowe, Mr Les Coombs (NEW), Mr W Cope (NEW), Mr Frank Emery,  
 Mr J Mallot (NEW), Mr T Plant, Mr George Ribchester (NEW),  
 Mr Doug E Roycroft, Mr S Stretton,  
 STANDARD BEARER Mr Geoff Fairhurst.  
 Escorts = Mr Les Coombs (NEW), Mr T Plant, Mr S Stratton

POPPY DAY COLLECTION (Previous Year) 1981 Raised £771.00 (to AGM)  
 (Mr S Stretton poppy organiser)

#####  
 BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGM 7 December 1982 at the United Services Club.

A letter was sent to Mr Allcock with regard to the Band Not Turning up for the Remembrance Day Parade on the Sunday. (No details as to which band or the connection with the Committee Member)

Mrs Brooks made out the posters for the Poppy Day saving the branch £40 in printing costs.

Mr S Stretton seems to have lost interest in organising the Poppy Boxes as many were collected by other members and it was suggested that he be replaced for next year.

Mr E Hearl is heading off to New Zealand for a period of time and so has resigned from the post of Secretary.

PRESIDENT Squadron Leader H Cyril Rigby (*A Solicitor in the town*)  
 VICE PRESIDENTS Mr G W Brooks, Mr S Fairhurst, Mr John Gleave,

Mr H Hassall, Mr Cyril Taylor.  
 CHAIRMAN Mr Geoff Fairhurst (Died during this year of office)  
 VICE CHAIRMAN Mr H Hassall (NEW)  
 SECRETARY Mr E Hearl (Only while in the UK to be replaced on a temporary basis while he was in New Zealand)  
 TREASURER Mr Geoff Bestall  
 Benevolent Fund Treasurer Mr Les Coombs (NEW)  
 COMMITTEE MEMBERS Mr Les Coombs, Mr Frank Emery, Mr J Mallot, Mr George Ribchester, Mr Doug E Roycroft, Mr S Stretton, Mr W Stroud (NEW).  
 STANDARD BEARER Mr S Stretton (NEW)  
 DEPUTY STANDARD BEARER Mr Les Coombs (NEW / NEW ROLE)  
 Escorts = Mr Les Coombs (NEW), Mr Frank Emery (NEW), Mr George Ribchester.

POPPY DAY COLLECTION (Previous Year) 1982 Raised £1140.00 (to AGM)  
 (Mr George Ribchester (NEW) poppy organiser)

Election of Officers to the Services Committee

Chairman Mr D E Roycroft,  
 Vice Chairman Mr H Hassall,  
 Treasurer See above,  
 Secretary and Pensions Officer Mr Cyril Taylor  
 COMMITTEE Mr L Crooms, Mr Frank Emery, Mr E Hearl, Mr G Mallatt, Mr George Ribchester, Mr S Stretton, Mr W Stroud.  
 Benevolent Fund Tbc,  
 Employment Officer Tbc,

#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGM 6 December 1983 at the United Services Club.

It was announced that the former Standard Bearer (to 1981) and ex Chairman, **Mr Geoffrey Fairhurst (Geoff Fairhurst) had died** during the year. His loss was felt by all on the Committee.

PRESIDENT Squadron Leader H Cyril Rigby (*A Solicitor in the town*)  
 VICE PRESIDENTS Mr G W Brooks, Mr John Gleave, Mr H Hassall, Mr Cyril Taylor.  
 CHAIRMAN Mr H Hassall (NEW)  
 VICE CHAIRMAN Mr Geoff Bestall (NEW)  
 SECRETARY N/A (Not Appointed)  
 TREASURER Mr C Mathews (NEW)  
 Benevolent Fund Treasurer Mr Les Coombs  
 COMMITTEE MEMBERS Mr A Earlam, Mr J Mallot, Mr R Newton (NEW / Roger Newton?), Mr Doug E Roycroft, Mr I Wilson (NEW).  
 STANDARD BEARER Mr Frank Emery  
 DEPUTY STANDARD BEARER Mr Les Coombs  
 Escorts = Mr Les Coombs, Mr A Earlam (NEW), Mr George Ribchester.

POPPY DAY COLLECTION (Previous Year) 1983 Raised £ (to AGM)  
 (Mr George Ribchester (NEW) poppy organiser)

#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGM 4 December 1984 at the United Services Club.

PRESIDENT Squadron Leader H Cyril Rigby (*A Solicitor in the town*)  
 VICE PRESIDENTS Mr G W Brooks, Mr John Gleave, Mr H Hassall, Mr Cyril Taylor.  
 CHAIRMAN Mr Geoff Bestall (NEW)  
 VICE CHAIRMAN Mr Doug E Roycroft (NEW)  
 SECRETARY Mr R Newton (NEW)  
 TREASURER Mr C Mathews  
 Benevolent Fund Treasurer Mr Cyril Taylor  
 COMMITTEE MEMBERS Mr A Earlam, Mr J Mallot, Mr R Newton,

Mr Doug E Roycroft, Mr I Wilson (NEW).  
STANDARD BEARER Mr Frank Emery  
DEPUTY STANDARD BEARER Mr Les Coombs  
Escorts = Mr Les Coombs, Mr R Newton (NEW), Mr I Wilson (NEW).

POPPY DAY COLLECTION (Previous Year)  
(Mr I Wilson (NEW) poppy organiser)

#####

During the year of 1985 the Foden's Band had expressed a wish to purchase the old British Legion Club building in Elworth for rehearsals. This unfortunately was seen as an opportunity to the bands landlords at the Cooperative building in Bold Street to give the band notice to leave allowing them to have a more long term tenant. Plans put forward to move into the Elworth British Legion Club failed to proceed quickly enough to allow the band to continue rehearsing and so Allan Littlemore began talks with the County Grassland Services at the junction of Station Road and Hill Street in Elworth to rehearse in their building.

#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGM (?) December 1985 at the United Services Club.

The Report was incomplete due to the death of Secretary Mr R Newton. (Not to be confused with Roger Newton who joined later)

PRESIDENT Squadron Leader H Cyril Rigby (*A Solicitor in the town*)  
VICE PRESIDENTS Mr G W Brooks, Mr John Gleave, Mr Cyril Taylor.  
CHAIRMAN Mr F Geoff Bestall  
VICE CHAIRMAN Mr Doug E Roycroft  
SECRETARY Mr R Newton  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY Mrs O M Emery (NEW)  
TREASURER Mr C Mathews  
Benevolent Fund Treasurer Mr Cyril Taylor  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS *Mr A Earlam, Mr J Mallot, Mr R Newton,*  
*Mr Doug E Roycroft, Mr I Wilson* (NOT IN THE MINUTES)  
STANDARD BEARER Mr Frank Emery  
DEPUTY STANDARD BEARER Mr Les Coombs  
Escorts = Mr Les Coombs, Mr R Newton, Mr I Wilson.

POPPY DAY COLLECTION (Previous Year)  
POPPY ORGANISER Mr Les Coombs (NEW)  
ASSISTANT POPPY ORGANISER Mrs Wilding (NEW)

Election of Officers to the Services Committee  
Chairman Mr D E Roycroft, (Tbc)  
Vice Chairman Mr H Hassall, (Tbc)  
Treasurer Mr R Newton (NEW)  
Secretary and Pensions Officer Mr R Newton (NEW)  
Assistant Secretary Mrs O M Emery (NEW)  
COMMITTEE Mr G Mallatt, Mr George Ribchester,  
Benevolent Fund Tbc,  
Employment Officer Tbc,

#####

#### DEATH OF PRESIDENT CECIL RIGBY (DFC)

On Thursday the 30 October 1986, Squadron Leader Cecil Rigby (DFC) / Judge Herbert Cecil Rigby, of New Platt Lane, Cranage, Holmes Chapel died at Leighton Hospital nr Crewe. His funeral on the following Friday (7 Nov 1986) at St Mary's Church in Sandbach included the Royal British Legion Standard at the front of the Cortège and the coffin was draped with a Union Jack (2x Union Flags) as he was the President of the Sandbach Branch of the RBL. Hanley Crown Court also closed in respect of the Judge who did most of his cases there. The Service was conducted by the Rural Dean of Middlewich Canon Eric Cox (Also a Chaplain at Leighton Hospital) who was a colleague of Judge Rigby. At Crewe Crematorium Vice President of the Sandbach Branch of the RBL, Mr George Brooke gave the Legion Ode.

Cecil Rigby was twice decorated with the D.F.C. during the Second World War when he was a spitfire pilot. Cecil was also given the Brevet Militair de Pilote de Avion for his association with the French Air Force as a Pilot trainer. He was also associated with many local organisations including the National Health Service and succeeded his father Captain Herbert P. Rigby as Chairman of the Sandbach Branch of the Royal British Legion. In the legal profession he started as a solicitor then became a recorder and finally a Crown Court Judge. A road was later named after the Judge on the corner of Belle View Terrace (Cecil Rigby Close).  
(Funeral feature – 8 November 1986 Staffordshire Sentinel Page 9)

#####

10 November 1986 Staffordshire Sentinel Page 5  
Feature on the Remembrance Day Parade marshalled by Mr Tom Corn.

#####

At the 3 December 1986, AGM a new President was elected to take the place of Cecil Rigby who had died in October. At the Sandbach United Services Club (Bradwall Road) Mr John Gleave was elected the branches third President. John Gleave had served in both the Army and the Royal Navy with a role in a Combined Operations beach assault unit in the Far East was against Japan gaining the Burma Star along the way. After the war John became a journalist with the Cheshire Regiment covering trouble spots all over the world and was appointed a member of the Regimental Officers Association.

Retiring Chairman Mr Geoff Bestall reported the sad death of Branch Secretary Mr Bob Newton and of course Cyril Rigby. It was also reported that Mr Bob Newton's Widow had also died during the year.

He also reported that they had gained new members and had started a "Woman's Section". At this moment of time they were part of the main branch but Doug E Roycroft (Chairman) could see the Women having their own identity within the framework of the branch.

The chairman also reported that some nearby branches had been increased by association with remote political organisations who wanted to promote a new coloured poppy that promoted the gospel of peace according to them. Fortunately the people of Sandbach are behind the Flanders poppy and use this threat as a spur to support the Royal British Legion.

The new committee were as follows.

|                         |                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| President               | John Gleave                                                                                     |
| Vice Presidents         | Mr George Brooks (Re-elected)<br>Mr Cyril Taylor (Re-elected)<br>Mr Harold Hassall (Re-elected) |
| Honorary Vice President | Mrs Gladys Wildin (Elected for her work with the branch)                                        |
| Chairman                | Mr Doug E Roycroft (Retired School Master and Burma Star veteran)                               |

#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGM (?) December 1986 at the United Services Club.

The death of President Squadron Leader H Cyril Rigby and Secretary Mr R Newton was noted in the minutes.

With an increase in Membership the Branch has been awarded a "Certificate of Merit" (Handed over at the Royal British League Club in Middlewich on the 5 December 1987.

The Remembrance Day Service and Parade was led by the South Cheshire Pipe Band in 1986.

|                                        |                                                                                       |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| PRESIDENT                              | Mr John Gleave                                                                        |
| VICE PRESIDENTS                        | Mr G W Brooks, Mr H Hassall, Mr Cyril Taylor.                                         |
| Honouree President                     | Mrs G Wilding                                                                         |
| CHAIRMAN                               | Mr Doug E Roycroft (NEW)                                                              |
| VICE CHAIRMAN                          | Mr George Ribchester (NEW)                                                            |
| SECRETARY                              | Mrs M Edwards                                                                         |
| ASSISTANT SECRETARY                    | n/a                                                                                   |
| TREASURER                              | Mr C Mathews                                                                          |
| Benevolent Fund                        | Miss Elaine Blacow                                                                    |
| COMMITTEE MEMBERS (NOT IN THE MINUTES) |                                                                                       |
| STANDARD BEARER                        | Mr Frank Emery                                                                        |
| DEPUTY STANDARD BEARER                 | Mr Les Coombs                                                                         |
| Escorts =                              | Miss Elaine Blacow (?), Mrs G Wilding                                                 |
| PADRE                                  | Rev David Stoker (NEW)<br>(Appointed soon after joining St Mary's Church 9 Sept 1983) |

POPPY DAY COLLECTION (Previous Year)

POPPY ORGANISER Mr Les Coombs

ASSISTANT POPPY ORGANISER Mrs G Wilding (Not in Minutes)

#####

1986, Vice President Cyril Taylor was to become a Life President of the British Legion. Cyril was born on the 23 July 1918, and during the Second World War he was wounded just three months before the end of the hostilities, spending two months in the Alderhay Hospital. He went on to work for the Sandbach District Council. He was married to Madge and lived in Sweetooth Lane.

#####

23 April 1987 Staffordshire Sentinel Page 10

Charity Concert at Sandbach Leisure Centre took place in aid of the Sandbach British Legion Poppy Day Appeal.

#####

In November 1987, the Sandbach Branch of the British Legion were awarded the 'Certificate of Merit' for notching the second highest percentage increase in membership during 1986-1987 of small branches in Cheshire. (See also 1986 AGM)

(6 November 1987 Staffordshire Sentinel Page 15)

#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGM 1 December 1987 at the United Services Club.

**(Last of the Minutes to Mention the Meeting was held at the United Services Club)**

The Chairman's report mentioned the regular Bingo Nights at the United Services Club, a Car Boot Sale, Christmas Fair and a Magnificent showpiece Entertainment at the Leisure Centre. Mr Doug E Roycroft (Chairman) had been a member of this branch for the last 37 Years and another branch for 4 years previously.

During the year there had been a discussion as to the ways of selling poppies with Geoff warning of mudding for collectors doing door to door sales while Les opted for collections on the M6 which George said no it was too idle but was in favour of collections round the town. Whatever the outcome poppy sales continued in 1987.

- PRESIDENT Mr John Gleave
- VICE PRESIDENTS Mr G W Brooks, Mr H Hassall, Mr Cyril Taylor, Mrs G Wilding
- CHAIRMAN Mr Doug E Roycroft
- VICE CHAIRMAN Mr George Ribchester
- SECRETARY Mrs M Edwards
- ASSISTANT SECRETARY Mrs L Roycroft
- TREASURER Mr C Mathews
- Benevolent Fund Miss Elaine Blacow
- COMMITTEE MEMBERS (NOT IN THE MINUTES)
- STANDARD BEARER Mr S Stretton (NEW)
- DEPUTY STANDARD BEARER Mr Les Coombs
- Escorts = Mrs Stretton, Mrs G Wilding
- PADRE Rev David Stoker

POPPY DAY COLLECTION (Previous Year)

POPPY ORGANISER Mr Les Coombs

ASSISTANT POPPY ORGANISER Mrs G Wilding

#####

|             |                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|             | UNITED SERVICES CLUB                                                                                                                         |
| 26 May 1988 | Mr Andrew John Butcher (20) admitted damaging doors and windows at the United Services Club.<br>(Newspaper Article – Staffordshire Sentinel) |

#####

At the May meeting in 1988 it was decided to commission a new standard at a cost of £300 as the present one was "torn and tatty".

#####

The November 1988 Poppy Appeal in Sandbach won the coveted "Lady Lister Trophy" for the highest Poppy Day collection in Cheshire over three years. The award was presented in December 1988 and the Branch also

decided that this year they would provide about £500 worth of food vouchers to ex-servicemen and their dependents in the town.

#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGM 3 December 1988 (Location not named).

The Minutes were not as complete as possible due to the outgoing Secretary Mrs M Edwards not leaving enough notes. (Mrs D L Roycroft)

PRESIDENT Mr John Gleave  
VICE PRESIDENTS Mr G W Brooks, Mr H Hassall, Mr Cyril Taylor, Mrs G Wilding  
CHAIRMAN Mr Doug E Roycroft  
VICE CHAIRMAN Mr A Johnson (NEW)  
SECRETARY Mrs D L Roycroft (NEW)  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY Mr Goode  
TREASURER Mr C Mathews  
Benevolent Fund / Welfare Miss Elaine Blacow  
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Mr A Johnson (NEW) (NEW ROLE)  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS Mr F Geoff Bestall (NEW), Mrs Goode, Mr Kemp (NEW),  
Mrs Kemp (NEW), Mr George Ribchester (NEW).  
STANDARD BEARER Mr S Stretton  
DEPUTY STANDARD BEARER n/a  
Escorts = Mrs Stretton, Mrs G Wilding  
PADRE Rev David Stoker

POPPY DAY COLLECTION (Previous Year) 1988 = £3,986.20p (to Feb 1989)

POPPY ORGANISER Tbc

ASSISTANT POPPY ORGANISER Tbc

#####

24 February 1989 Staffordshire Sentinel Page 9

The Sandbach Branch of the Legion has won the coveted WI Bennett Trophy for the most improved Poppy Day Collections in the North Western Area over the last three years. This was the second time in five years the branch had won the award.

#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGM 5 December 1989 (Location not named).

In December the "Lady Lister Trophy" was on display for the first time for the increase in Poppy Sales.

There was also a Display in November 1989 for the Poppy Appeal in Peever's shop window.

#### ELWORTH BRANCH CLOSURE

**The Elworth Branch of the Royal British Legion had unfortunately been disbanded. Mr Hellyer Brook requested that he could take on the responsibility of Elworth.**

The Branch took part in the Elizabethan Market with Mrs Stretton taking on the responsibility of arrangements. The event raised £130.60p for the General Fund.

Mr C Mathews resigned as Treasurer with Mr F Geoff Bestall taking over for the rest of the year.

The Standard attended the R.E.'s Drumhead Service in July. Mr S Stretton also received a Cup and Certificate for coming Second in the District Standard Bearers Competition.

In August President Mr John Gleave was awarded a Gold Badge.

Mr Roy Breathen a member of the Elworth Branch was given a certificate, Standard Bearers Badge mounted on a plaque in recognition of his work for Elworth. He has now joined the Sandbach Branch and agreed to lay the wreath at the November 1989 Remembrance Day Service and Parade.

On the morning of Remembrance Sunday a wreath was laid on the grave of former President and Judge Squadron Leader H Cyril Rigby. A proposal was put forward by Mr H Hassall to put a plaque in St Mary's Church for Cyril Rigby in memory of his service.

The Chairman reported that the Remembrance Day was the biggest so far in the area and next year they had arranged for two bands to take part in the Parade and Service with one taking the members into play in the Church.

POPPY APPEAL – Mr and Mrs Stretton manned a stall outside the Market Hall for two weeks in all sorts of bad weather to raise funds.

M6 Total = £1601.72p

Elworth = £316.34p

Market Hall = £340.71p

Wreaths = £08.80p

GRAND TOTAL 1989 = £4,341.60p

#### BRANCH FUNDS

General Fund £272.00

Branch Assets £1,217.00

Members 39 (Branch)

|                             |                                                             |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| PRESIDENT                   | Mr John Gleave                                              |
| VICE PRESIDENTS             | Mr G W Brooks, Mr H Hassall, Mr Cyril Taylor, Mrs G Wilding |
| CHAIRMAN                    | Mr Doug E Roycroft                                          |
| VICE CHAIRMAN               | Mr A Johnson                                                |
| SECRETARY                   | Mrs D L Roycroft                                            |
| ASSISTANT SECRETARY         | Tbc                                                         |
| Welfare Secretary           | Mr R Deney (NEW) (NEW ROLE)                                 |
| Assistant Welfare Secretary | Mrs E Stretton (NEW) (NEW ROLE)                             |
| MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY        | Mr A Johnson                                                |
| TREASURER                   | Mr F Geoff Bestall (NEW)                                    |
| Benevolent Fund / Welfare   | Miss Elaine Blacow                                          |
| COMMITTEE MEMBERS           | Mrs Goode, Mr George Ribchester, Mrs E Steele (NEW).        |
| STANDARD BEARER             | Mr S Stretton                                               |
| DEPUTY STANDARD BEARER      | n/a                                                         |
| Escorts =                   | Mrs Stretton, Mrs G Wilding                                 |
| PADRE                       | Rev David Stoker                                            |

POPPY DAY COLLECTION (Previous Year) 1989 = £4,341.60p (to AGM)

POPPY ORGANISER Mrs D L Roycroft

ASSISTANT POPPY ORGANISER Tbc

#####

EVENT = 18 February 1990 Dedication of a Plaque in St Mary's Church in memory of former President and Judge Squadron Leader H Cyril Rigby.

EVENT = April 1990 Stall at the Elizabethan Market which was a financial success.

EVENT = June 1990 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Parade at Holmes Chapel.

EVENT = June 1990 Sandbach Council Chairman's Parade

EVENT = June 1990 The District Standard Bearers Competition

Mr S Stretton won first place but was unable to take part in the County Competition as he was away on Holiday.

POPPY APPEAL 1990 Trustee Savings Bank accepted the sale of Wreaths with logo.

Lawrence Stubbs (Congleton Road Hardware shop) had a display in his window and Sold Wreaths for the Branch.

**The Cheshire Lions Youth Band played at the Church Service.**

POPPY CHURCH COLLECTIONS TOTALS 1990

St Mary's = £229.18p

Elworth = £20.00p

Wreaths = £386.40p

GRAND POPPY TOTAL 1990 = £3,064.00 To AGM



#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGM 4 December 1990 (Location not named).

Apologies included Mr R Dunning (Reg Dunning)

PRESIDENT Mr John Gleave  
VICE PRESIDENTS Mr G W Brooks, Mr H Hassall, Mr Doug E Roycroft, Mr Cyril Taylor,  
CHAIRMAN Mr A Johnson (NEW)  
VICE CHAIRMAN Mr George Ribchester (NEW)  
SECRETARY Mrs D L Roycroft  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY Mrs E Stretton (NEW)  
*Welfare Secretary Mr R Deney (Not in Minutes)*  
*Assistant Welfare Secretary Mrs E Stretton (Not in Minutes)*  
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Mr A Johnson  
TREASURER Mr F Geoff Bestall  
*Benevolent Fund / Welfare Miss Elaine Blacow (Not in Minutes)*  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS Mrs Goode, Mr George Ribchester, Mrs E Steele (NEW).  
STANDARD BEARER Mr S Stretton  
DEPUTY STANDARD BEARER Mr R Breathena (?)  
Escorts = Mrs Stretton, Mrs G Wilding  
PADRE Rev David Stoker

POPPY DAY COLLECTION (Previous Year) 1990 = £3,064.00 (to AGM)

POPPY ORGANISER Mrs D L Roycroft  
ASSISTANT POPPY ORGANISER Tbc

#####

The 1991 Remembrance Day Parade was made more poignant as the Gulf War (2 Aug 1990 to 28 Feb 1991) was still in the minds of those attending.

The Parade was started at Westfields (Borough Council Headquarters) with the South Cheshire Pipe Band followed by War Veterans bearing the Standards of the Royal British Legion, The Cheshire Regiment Association and the Dunkirk Veterans Association. Mr Stan Stretton carried the District British Legion Standard while the Sandbach Legion Standard was carried by Mrs Denise Sumner.

OTHER STANDARDS - Sandbach and Middlewich branch of the Cheshire Regiment carried by Mr E Williams. Dunkirk Veterans Association carried by Mr J Stanier.

Dignitaries included Deputy Borough Mayor Coun Mrs Shirley Jones and Sandbach Town Council Chairman Coun Richard McMillan and his wife.

Mr John Cartwright played the Last Post and Reveille.

The service was taken by the Rev. David Stocker of St Mary's Sandbach.

WREATH LAYING

1. Deputy Borough Mayor Coun Mrs Shirley Jones.
2. Sandbach Town Council Chairman Coun Richard McMillan.

Others

Sandbach Royal Naval Association

Sandbach Rotary Club

Sandbach and Middlewich branch of the Cheshire Regiment Association

Sandbach Ladies Association

Sandbach Round Table

Sandbach St John Ambulance Brigade

Parochial Church Council and Congregation of St Mary's Church

Sandbach Probus Club

Saxon Cross Probus Club

Sandbach Ladies Circle

Sandbach West District Guides, Brownies and Rainbows

United Services Club

Sandbach School CCF

Sandbach Royal British Legion

Sandbach Fire Brigade

Sandbach Branch of the 1940 Dunkirk Veterans Association

Officers and Cadets of 1873 (Sandbach) Squadron

39<sup>th</sup> Sandbach Scout Group

Sandbach Lions  
 A.C.F.  
 Governors and pupils of Sandbach High School  
 Pupils and staff of Sandbach Primary School  
 Sandbach Chamber of Trade and Commerce  
 W.R.V.S.

A special wreath was laid in 1991 for Royal Marine Kenneth Gurney and all his shipmates who lost their lives when H.M.S. Barham was torpedoed and sunk in 1941.

**(Feature Sandbach Chronicle 15 November 1991 Page 42)**

#####

BRANCH / GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGM 2 December 1991 (Location not named).

PRESIDENT Mr John Gleave  
 VICE PRESIDENTS Mr G W Brooks, Mr H Hassall, Mr Doug E Roycroft, Mr Cyril Taylor,  
 CHAIRMAN Mr George Ribchester (NEW)  
 VICE CHAIRMAN Mr S Stretton (NEW)  
 SECRETARY Mrs D L Roycroft  
 ASSISTANT SECRETARY Mrs E Stretton (Not in Minutes)  
 MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Mr A Johnson (Not in Minutes)  
 TREASURER Mr F Geoff Bestall  
 Benevolent Fund / Welfare Miss Elaine Blacow (Not in Minutes)  
 COMMITTEE MEMBERS Mrs Goode, Mr George Ribchester, Mrs E Steele (Not named in Minutes)  
 STANDARD BEARER Mr S Stretton  
 DEPUTY STANDARD BEARER Mr R Breathena (?) (Not in Minutes)  
 Escorts = Mrs Stretton, Mrs G Wilding (Not in Minutes)  
 PADRE Rev David Stoker

POPPY DAY COLLECTION (Previous Year) 1991 = £ (to AGM)

POPPY ORGANISER Mrs D L Roycroft  
 ASSISTANT POPPY ORGANISER Tbc

#####

End of available minutes.

#####

#####

|            |                                                                                             |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|            | UNITED SERVICES CLUB                                                                        |
| 8 Feb 1992 | Bass Race Night on the Tuesday at 8pm in the United Services Club. (Staffordshire Sentinel) |

#####

14 November 1994 Staffordshire Sentinel Page 31.

Members of the Sandbach Branch of the British Legion Marched from their Headquarters in Bradwall Road to Westfields and then onto St Mary's Church via the Town's War Memorial from the Remembrance Day Parade.

#####

On the 7 May 1995 the day before the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (8 May 1995) of the end of the Second World War the Royal British held a service in commemoration at St Mary's Church with the Rev. Stocker. Mr Vic Schofield the Chairman at the time reflected on his memory of the day in 1945 when he was on his way to a combined operation unit to face the Japanese in the Far East. The Mayor of Congleton represented the Queen at the service and Mr Cyril Taylor a Senior Legion Vice President was also in attendance. Also at the Service was Mr George Brooks (George Brooke), a Senior Sandbach Legion Vice President, who was a Prisoner of War in Japan and witnessed the atomic bomb attack on Nagasaki first hand. George read out from the diary of Sir Harold Nicholson who was a writer and diplomat and wrote an account of the Jubilation in London during VE Day.

COMMITTEE 1995

Chairman Mr Vic Schofield  
 Vice President Mr George Brooke  
 Vice President Mr Cyril Taylor  
 Poppy Appeal Organiser Mrs Margaret Cooper

#####

October 1995

The Poppy Launch in 1995 was started by a dinner with entertainment to commemorate 50 years of peace. The event was organised by Wendy Raffles and George Coles for the Royal British Legion in Sandbach. Attending was President John Gleave who hoped this year's appeal would raise more than the £6,000 raised in the previous year.

(Original feature in the Sandbach Chronicle date unknown and **Archive feature Sandbach Chronicle 29 October 2020 Page 31**)

#####

In 1998, Marjorie Newton joined the Royal British Legion and was asked to organise the Poppy Appeal. In that year the Sandbach Branch raised £8,620.00

#####

EVENT 1998 Social Evening.

#####

EVENT 1998 Social Event at the United Services Club with an Old Time Music Hall show including Cath Jones.

#####

EVENT 1998 First Poppy Ball. Held at the Town Hall it included dancing to the Roy Peters Sound.

#####

8 November 1998 Remembrance Day (Sunday)

#####

EVENT 1999 North West Infantry Band Concert at Sandbach School.

#####

EVENT 1999 North West Infantry Band Concert at Sandbach School.

#####

In 2000, Marjorie Newton was appointed Chairperson of the Sandbach Branch becoming the first lady to take on the role in the town and she is still Chairman today.

#####

EVENT 2000 St George's Day Dance and Easter Bonnet Competition for Ladies and Gentlemen at the United Services Club, Bradwall Road, Sandbach. Dancing was to the "Two J's" (7.30pm to 11pm). Tickets £3.00

#####

EVENT 2000 North West Infantry Band Concert at Sandbach School. (2<sup>nd</sup> Year)

#####

EVENT 2002 Band Concert at Sandbach School. (3<sup>rd</sup> / 4<sup>th</sup> Year)

#####

Remembrance Sunday was on the 9 November 2003 with the launch taking place in the Safeway store. Marjorie Newton thanked all who were being generous so far especially the anonymous donator who put in £63.88p. The Salvation Army Band played on the Cobbles for an hour before the annual parade.

#####

On the 21 November 2003 the Legion held a Poppy Ball at Sandbach Town Hall.

#####

2004 President John Gleave died. He was given a full funeral with Legion standards.

#####

EVENT 2006 Veterans Parade from Westfields

#####

On the 16 January 2008 the last Wednesday Club dance took place at the United Services Club. It is thought that it was at this time that the name changed to the JUNCTION 17 and would continue as such until the building was demolished in 2014.

#####

On the 27 June 2009, the Royal British Legion started "Armed Forces Day", an event that had previously been known as "Veterans Day" and was first held on the 27 June 2006, it was picked because it was the day after the anniversary of the first investiture of the Victoria Cross in Hyde Park, London in 1857.

The Sandbach branch of the British Legion held their first Armed Forces Day on the 27 June 2010 (Sunday) with a parade from Westfields to the War Memorial and a Church Service in St Mary's. The parades lasted until 2016 when the event changed to a fun day in the park alongside stalls run by a Sandbach Town Council. In the future parades will be returning to the town for the event to celebrate the service men and women of the British armed forces.

#####

In November 2010, Marjorie Newton was awarded a Gold Badge for her work with the Legion.

#####

1 Dec 2012 ROYAL BRITISH LEGION (Sandbach)  
Poppy Ball and Buffet

Dancing to the Roy Peters Sound at Sandbach Town Hall.

17 Dec 2012 ROYAL BRITISH LEGION (Sandbach)  
Christmas Dinner and Dancing to the Roy Peters Sound at Sandbach Town Hall.

#####

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|             | UNITED SERVICES CLUB                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 23 Mar 2013 | On the 23 March 2013 the United Services Club (Sandbach) Ltd was officially dissolved by Stephen Consultants Ltd of 36 Hungerford Place, Sandbach CW11 4PP with the request being made on the 15 March 2013. The above company were looking after the assets of the United Services Club after it had closed. (Companies House) |

#####

EVENT 30 June 2013 ARMED FORCES DAY

#####

EVENT 31 October 2013 REFURBISHMENT OF WAR MEMORIAL  
Around the week of the 31 October 2013 the War Memorial in Sandbach was cleaned and refurbished,

#####

EVENT 10 November 2013 REMEMBRANCE DAY  
Band provided by the Cheshire Police Band.

#####

#### BRITISH LEGION CLUB / UNITED SERVICES CLUB DEMOLISHED

In April 2014, the old British Legion Club in Bradwall Road was demolished. Over the years it had been a snooker hall, dance hall and disco club as well as being the venue for a Pantomime, a concert venue for groups and the "Ramsell's Orchestra" who were pictured outside the original building which was at the time a wooden shed like structure. It is not at the moment known when the club was built but the wooden structure was destroyed by fire on the 10<sup>th</sup> October 1932. By 1952 the building had been rebuilt and was run by the United Services Club. Meetings of the Services Committee had been meeting at the Literary Institute and on the 8 November 1952 they held their first meeting in the new club. Minutes from the General Committee of the British Legion from 1954 show them using the club building until the 1987. After the United Services Club closed it became a Night Club as "Junction 17".

#####

In 2014 Marjorie Newton and the British Legion decided to commemorate the fallen of WW1 by placing crosses at the War Memorial in the Market Square with the names of those that had died 100 years previously in 1914. Between 2015 and 2018 they continued to place the crosses, culminating in the most poignant of them all as Foden's Band joined with the RBL to remember one of their star players, Edwin Firth (29) who had died on the 1 June 1918. 100 years later on the 1 June 2018, Grandson, Martyn Firth and Great Grandson also called Edwin laid a wreath along with Marjorie Newton the Chairperson of the RBL at the War Memorial in Elworth where his name appears and later a cross with his name on it was laid at the War Memorial in the Sandbach Town Centre along with crosses for all the other service personnel who had died in 1918. The event was filmed and broadcast on BBC North West Tonight with members of Foden's Band playing for a short service conducted by the Rev. Jeff Cuttall the Chaplain of the Sandbach Branch of the Royal British Legion.

On Armed Forces Day the 29 June 2014, the Mercian Regiment was awarded the Freedom of Sandbach Town by Sandbach Town Council in a stunning ceremony in the town suggested by the Sandbach Branch. Thousands of people turned out to see the Royal British Legion, local Military and Scouting Groups along with troops from the (1 Mercian) First Battalion of the Mercian Regiment who represented the 3 Battalions of the Mercian's who have just been renamed after the Counties they now represent.

Second in Command, Major Rob Prentice from the regiment in his early life grew up in the town of Sandbach, going to St Winifred's Church and he was also educated at Elworth Primary School. He along with many local soldiers from Crewe and Congleton brought with them their families to see them marching through the town from Westfield's to the Market Square and then onto a service at St Mary's before the Regiment made use of their Freedom by marching from the Church to Scotch Common and round the car park to outside the Town Hall car park ready for a reception at the Town Hall to celebrate the occasion.

Organised by the British Legion from an idea suggested by Mrs Marjorie Newton the event was a great success as the 6<sup>th</sup> Armed Forces day marched through Sandbach with the music of the Silk Band from Macclesfield leading the procession and they played the Regimental March on the square as well as providing some of the

music in the church along with Kevin Birch the organist at St Mary's. The Revd. Thomas Shepherd led the service with readings from Lt Col Mark Ellwood of the First Mercian, the High Sheriff of Cheshire Mrs Susan Sellers, Regimental Sergeant-Major WOI Richard Page and Mrs Marjorie Newton the Chairman of the Sandbach Branch of the Royal British Legion.

On the Market Square Sandbach Town Council Mayor Elsie Alcock had handed over the freedom to Lt Col Mark Ellwood MBE of the regiment with the High Sheriff of Cheshire, Mrs Susan Sellers, MP Fiona Bruce and representatives of the Royal British Legion in attendance.

On the 20 September 2014, the Sandbach Branch took part in the Sandbach Today Event (Organised by the Sandbach Partnership) to promote the group along with other societies in the area.

The branch held a Quiz Night and Hot Pot Supper at the Masonic Hall on the 4 October 2014.

Crewe Concert Band and Singing Sensation held a concert at St Mary's Church Hall to raise funds for the Royal British Legion.

The 2014 Poppy Appeal in November raised £24,161.93p with the help of many volunteers including one of 93 years of age.

#####

#### EVENT 28 June 2015 ARMED FORCES DAY

Supporters of serving members of the Armed forces turned out in Sandbach for the town's "Armed Forces Day" parade which first took place on Sunday the 28 June 2015. The event followed on from the success of the Freedom Parade for the Mercian Regiment in 2014 with larger numbers than usual turning out for the parade. The procession was led by the Silk Brass from Macclesfield who played both on the march and at the church service in St Mary's with members of Sandbach Town Council including the Mayor Gill Merry in attendance along with representatives of local organisations and local cadets.

The parade also introduced a new standard for the Royal British Legion, who this year paraded two standards in the march from Westfields in Middlewich Road with the new flag wrapped up until the service at the church when it was officially dedicated and revealed to the public ready for the march back to the Cheshire East offices.

#####

#### EVENT 26 July 2015 CIVIC PARADE

The RBL took part in the Civic parade on a wet Sunday the 26 July 2015.

#####

#### EVENT 8 November 2015 REMEMBRANCE DAY

Standard Bearer Tbc.

The 8 November 2015, Remembrance Day event didn't go as smoothly as it should have done with last minute changes as Glynn Robinson was absent this year after he suffered a stroke about two weeks before the parade. Simon Robinson (His son) stood in at short notice to look after the march with Reg Dunning as usual organising the order of the parade. The procession was led by the Roberts Bakery Band with the Lions Youth Band supplying the music for the event at the War Memorial and in St Mary's.

Reg Dunning of the Sandbach British Legion gave the usual readings as part of the outdoor service along with the Rev. Thomas Shepherd, before a member of the Roberts Bakery Band played the last post just before the two minutes silence, which this year was a little earlier than expected at 10.55am.

The laying of wreaths by local groups including for the first time the Aquarius (Disabled Swimming) group and various regulars including the Guides, Brownies, Scouts, Fire Cadets, Air Training Corps, Sandbach High School, Sandbach School with their Army and Navy CCF, Sandbach U3A, Rotary Club and Inner Wheel with representatives from the Police and Fire Brigades, Sandbach Town Council, Cheshire East, The Cheshire Regiment and the Royal British Legion. Marjorie Newton thanked Peever's in Hightown for storing, distributing and selling the wreaths on behalf of the Legion.

Having stepped in at the last minute it was suggested on local social media pages that Simon Robinson was inappropriately dressed for the occasion in uniform and with medals he was not entitled to. Walter Andrews (RBL) pointed out that it was an offence to wear a uniform if not a serving member of the armed forces while others suggested the badges and medals were not for the same squadron. Glyn Robinson replied to the Sandbach Chronicle about his son. "Simon did in fact serve in the British Army for almost 5 years. He originally joined the Adjutant General's Corps, Military Police, but decided, during training, that he felt more aligned with the Army Air Corps and was allowed to transfer. Simon joined 3 Regiment AAC, served in Canada and saw active service in both Bosnia and Kosovo. This active service resulted in his being awarded the UN/NATO

peacekeeping medal for Bosnia together with the Queen's Golden Jubilee medal. As a result of his experiences in these countries, he continues to suffer from Post -Traumatic Stress Disorder and has done so since leaving the army." Glyn then went on to say; - "There was certainly no intention to cause any offence to anybody in the parade and in this respect, Simon would like to sincerely and profoundly apologise for any offence he may have caused. At no point was there any intention to cause any offence or insult anyone involved in the parade, including any existing or ex-servicemen or to disrespect our fallen heroes, in any way whatsoever. On reflection, Simon realises, and accepts, he should not have worn the uniform together with some of the badges/medals, which may have unintentionally been misleading. His AAC jacket, beret and medals would have been perfectly adequate."

The general public thought he did a good job leading the procession on the day and while he was in the wrong, maybe we shouldn't forget the debt we owe to all Forces personnel especially those suffering from injury and post-traumatic stress.

On Wednesday the 11 November 2015, a larger than usual crowds turned out for the Remembrance Day Service on the Square. This midweek event was attended by classes from the Local Primary School(s) and about 100 people from the area including members of the Cheshire Regiment Association, Council officers and ex Councillors who along with local people were now getting to know that the Sunday event is not the only day to commemorate the fallen from conflicts in wars since 1914 in Sandbach.

Ken Brown Played the cornet for the last post a job he has done at the midweek service since about 2000. With readings by ex-Soldiers from the British Legion and a chaplain conducting the service the 2 minutes silence was observed at 11am. After the dismissal of the parade the participants retired to Williams Delicatessen for warm drinks while others talked of old campaigns and how nice the event was that year.

The discussions after the 2015 parades spilled over to the Royal British Legion Meeting in November and Marjorie Newton who had been Chairperson for many years was deposed with Walter Andrews taking on the role, signalling a change in various ways that the organisation would celebrate events over the next few years.

#####

EVENT 11 November 2015 ARMISTICE DAY  
Standard Bearer Walter Andrews.

#####

EVENT 5 December 2015 CHRISTMAS DINNER DANCE at The Masonic Hall. (Tickets £21.50)

#####

The March 2016 Annual General Meeting of the Sandbach Branch had a number of changes following on from the November meeting with Walter Andrews being appointed Chairman. Elaine Steele stepped down as Membership Secretary and Glynn Robinson stepped down as Secretary and Parade Commander.

The 2016 Appointed Committee was as follows.

|                        |                            |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| President              | Tom Price Jones            |
| Chairman               | Walter Andrews             |
| Vice Chairman          | May Lewis                  |
| Secretary              | Ingrid Victor              |
| Treasurer              | May Lewis                  |
| Membership Secretary   | Meurig Williams            |
| Poppy Appeal Organiser | Marjorie Newton            |
| Publicity Organiser    | Caroline 'Curly' Roughley  |
| Social Secretaries     | Jayne Edge and Helen Riley |
| Parade Organiser       | Marjorie Newton            |
| Parade Commander       | Reg Dunning                |
| Parade Marshall        | John Lynch                 |
| Padre                  | Rev Jeff Cuttall           |

#####

On the 31 May 2016, Walter Andrews arranged for a remembrance service at the War Memorial for those who had died at the Battle of Jutland off the Danish coast. The service was conducted by the Rev. Dr Jeff Cuttall with Daniel Williams of Godfrey Williams and Son providing attendees with refreshments.

#####

EVENT 26 June 2016 ARMED FORCES DAY

Standard Bearer tbc.  
Band = Silk Brass

2016 still had its Armed Forces Day Parade on the 26 June with a march from Westfields and a full house in St Mary's Church for the service.

#####

On the 1 July 2016, members of the Sandbach Branch got up early for a 7.30am meeting at the War Memorial to commemorate the moment that the first man went over the top at the Battle of the Somme. At 11am a usual service was conducted for the same event with a small gathering.

#####

EVENT 3 July 2016 CIVIC PARADE

#####

29 October 2016 an Autumn Ball was held at the Masonic Hall hosted by Brother Robert Turnbull WM of the Saxon Cross Lodge, Sandbach.

#####

EVENT 11 November 2016 ARMISTICE DAY

Buglar / Last Post = Ken Brown

#####

On the 13 November 2016, the ATC (Air Training Corps) and Army Cadets joined together in an 'agreement of affiliation', during a ceremony after the Sunday Service of Remembrance. It was the idea of the Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire, David Briggs and certificates were presented on his behalf by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant Tony Garnett.

#####

EVENT - On Saturday 19 November 2016, a Royal British Legion Dance was held at the Town Hall with music from the Roy Peters Sound. This was the last time Roy played with Drummer Howard Station who retired from drumming.

#####

The 2017 Appointed Committee were as follows. (Tbc)

|                        |                                  |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| President              | Tom Price Jones                  |
| Chairman               | Walter Andrews                   |
| Vice Chairman          | May Lewis                        |
| Secretary              | Ingrid Victor                    |
| Treasurer              | May Lewis                        |
| Welfare Chairman       | n/a                              |
| Standard Bearer        | Jack Burns                       |
| Membership Secretary   | Meurig Williams (tbc)            |
| Poppy Appeal Organiser | Marjorie Newton                  |
| Publicity Organiser    | Caroline 'Curly' Roughley        |
| Social Secretaries     | Jayne Edge and Helen Riley (tbc) |
| Parade Organiser       | Marjorie Newton                  |
| Parade Commander       | Reg Dunning                      |
| Parade Marshall        | John Lynch (tbc)                 |
| Padre                  | Rev Jeff Cuttall                 |

#####

On the 4 March 2017, a Chocolate Demonstration was arranged at the Masonic Hall to raise funds for the Legion. Organised with the help of Island Truffles and singer Andy Lloyd it was a great success.

#####

For various reasons on the 5 March 2017 Walter Andrews and his wife Julia, left the Sandbach British Legion and joined the Crewe Branch, leaving Marjorie Newton to take up the chairmanship again.

#####

On the 6 May 2017, Winterley Methodist Band held a concert for the Royal British Legion at St Mary's Church Hall.

#####

EVENT 24 June 2017 Armed Forces Day

Before leaving, Walter had arranged some changes as to how events were put together. The Armed Forces Day in 2017 would be the first victim of the new management committees' ideas as they had a new idea to take over from the Parade. Along with Sandbach Town Council who had planned a Fun Day in the Park on the weekend of the Armed Forces event the Sandbach Branch used the event held by the Council to commemorate the event. It was proposed that the Royal British Legion join forces to make the Armed Forces Day an event rather than a parade with a service of remembrance being held at the beginning of the day and various activities from local youth organisations connected to the armed forces.

Large crowds enjoyed the sunshine on Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2017 in the Park with the day including members of the local Army Cadets putting on a display and obstacle course for people to try out.

#####

EVENT 25 June 2017 Civic Parade

#####

On the 15 September 2017 Singing Sensation held another concert for the Legion at the Wesley Centre.

#####

EVENT 28 October 2017 Dinner Dance / Poppy Ball at Sandbach Town Hall with the Mayor of Sandbach attending.

#####

EVENT 11 November 2017 ARMISTICE DAY

Held during the Saturday Makers Market the ceremony was crammed into the small space at the roadside in front of the War Memorial. Members of Sandbach High School attended to lay crosses in memory of service personnel who had died.

Vicar = Rev Jeff Cuttell

Standard Bearer =

Buglar / Last post = Ken Brown

#####

EVENT 12 November 2017 REMEMBRANCE DAY

Band for Procession = Roberts Bakery Band

Band playing on the Market Square = Lions Youth Band

Standard Bearer =

#####

Sandbach Chronicle 22 February 2018

The Sandbach Branch held an AWARDS EVENING to hand out certificates to long serving members.

LONG SERVING POPPY SELLERS ARE.

Frances Barker (1998)

Jean Bill (2009)

Carol Heaton (2003)

Bryan Glassonbury (1998)

Sheila Mellin (1998)

OTHER LONG SERVICE POPPY SELLERS

Malcolm Clerc (1980)

Roger Cooper (1980)

Marjorie Newton (1998) and Chairman

Claire Plevin (1993)

#####

EVENT – 26 May 2018 “Poppy Awards, Buffet and Musical Evening with the Jo Hearson’s Trio” at the Masonic Hall, Sandbach.

#####

EVENT 1 June 2018 WREATH LAYING FOR EDWIN FIRTH of Foden’s Band

In conjunction with Foden’s Band the Sandbach Branch of the Royal British Legion held a special ceremony to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of principal Cornet Player with Foden’s Band, Edwin Firth.

Foden Band members played music at Elworth and Sandbach written by Edwin.

Wreath layers at Sandbach and Elworth War Memorials included relatives of E Firth.

Grandson, Martyn Firth and Great Grandson also called Edwin (On behalf of the family)



Alan Littlemore laid the wreath on behalf of Foden's Band as a former manager of the band and biographer of Edwin Firth.

Marjorie Newton (Royal British Legion)

The event was filmed for BBC North West Tonight (Daytime and Evening programmes)

#####

EVENT 16 June 2018 CIVIC PARADE

#####

EVENT 30 June 2018 Family Fun Day (Instead of Armed Forces Day.)

The event on the 30 June 2018 for the Armed Forces Day in the town the Town Council organised a Family Fun Day which included various stalls in the park and Sandbach School pupils arranged to abseil down the tower of St Mary's Church including their Head Teacher Dr Sarah Burns.

There was also a service held in the park with the Rev Jeff Cuttell and the U3A Band.

#####

EVENT 13 July 2018 Armed Forces Day. (see 30 June 2018)

#####

EVENT 7 September 2018, the Sandbach Branch held a "Fish and Chip Quiz Night" at the Masonic Hall.

#####

EVENT 29 October 2018 Poppy Launch at Waitrose.

#####

The 2018 appeal was the largest in the history of the event mainly due to the commemoration of the end of the First World War with the total raised for the Royal British Legion in Sandbach being a grand total of £26,519.27 from the Poppy Appeal with the Cheshire East Area contributing £727,716.63 up by 13% on the previous year (2017) and the national total being over £46,084,263.55p

There were also a number of the Car Poppies attached to various bits of street furniture to brighten up the town during the Remembrance weeks. In 2019 Sandbach Town Council started a sponsored poppy appeal asking for sponsors for the plastic poppies.

The four years of events looking back 100 years from 2014 to 1914 and so on, showed an annual increase in donations as more people have been involved with events and collections all around the country throughout the year and not only on the 11<sup>th</sup> November. An extra 200,000 collection tins were distributed in 2018 from the previous year and "Contactless" donations made on debit cards rose to a staggering £210,000 up from £67,000 in 2017, that's an average donation of £4.67 per transaction. Sandbach itself held an event which was featured on the BBC's North West Tonight to celebrate those who died in 1918 including Edwin Firth from Foden's Band with collections at the Transport Festival and other events in the town. Sandbach certainly gave its support to the work of the Royal British Legion in this year and contributed to the welfare of those who served and serve their country.

#####

EVENT 11 November 2018 Armistice Day / Remembrance Day

Band for Procession = Roberts Bakery Band

Band playing on the Market Square = Lions Youth Band

Standard Bearer = Member of the Army Cadets.

#####

EVENT 30 March 2019 AWARDS NIGHT

30 March 2019 the Sandbach Branch held an AWARDS EVENING to hand out certificates to long serving members with Sandbach Mayor Cllr Richard Hovey in attendance.

Marjorie Newton announced the results of the Sandbach Poppy Appeal 2018 which raised £26,519.27p

East Cheshire raised £727,716.63p (Up 13% on last year)

Nationally £46,084,263.55p

Entertainment was provided by the South Cheshire Concert Band with catering by Beech Tree Catering.

Among those receiving Certificates for long service Poppy Sellers were.

Brian Day (Joined 2014) 5 Years

Joyce Day (Joined 2014) 5 Years

Jane Edge (Joined 2014) 5 Years

Margaret Elwell (Joined 2014) 5 Years

Eileen Jackson (Joined 2009) 10 Years

Max Green (Joined 2014) 5 Years  
Helen Riley (Joined 2014) 5 Years  
Glynn Robinson (Joined 2014) 5 Years  
Ingrid Victor (Joined 2014) 5 Years  
Kay Watts (Joined 2014) 5 Years  
Linda Williams (Joined 2014) 5 Years  
Meurig Williams (Joined 2014) 5 Years  
Howard Yates (Joined 2014) 5 Years

Eileen Jackson (Joined 2009) 10 Years  
Victoria Taylor (Joined 2009) 10 Years  
Margaret Wright (Joined 2009) 10 Years

Robert Birchall (Joined 2004) 15 Years  
Timothy Walmsley (Joined 2004) 15 Years  
Jillian Wheat (Joined 2004) 15 Years

Tony Cullen (Joined 1989) 20 Years  
Bernard Edwards (Joined 1989) 20 Years  
Diane Hasprey (Joined 1989) 20 Years

Margaret Burke (Joined 1994) 25 Years

Jenefer Hassall (Joined 1989) 30 Years

Christine Taylor (Joined 1969) 50 Years

#####

EVENT 23 June 2019 CIVIC PARADE Sandbach Town Council

#####

EVENT 19 October 2019 POPPY BALL at Sandbach Town Hall

#####

EVENT 26 October 2019 POPPY LAUNCH with the Royal British Legion Motor Bike Branch.  
The bikers toured the Cheshire and North Wales are launching the Poppy Appeal over the weekend of the 26-27 Oct 2019.

#####

EVENT 10 November 2019 REMEMBRANCE DAY

#####

EVENT March 2020?

The Sandbach Branch held an AWARDS EVENING at the Masonic Hall Sandbach, to hand out certificates to long serving members.

Entertainment was provided by Joe Hearson's Trio.

Among those receiving Certificates for long service Poppy Sellers were.

Mary Beanand (Joined 2010)

Philip Bland

Ken Brown (2000) 20 Years

Mary Jones (1990) 30 Years

Tom Jones (1990) 30 Years

John Lewis (2005) 15 Years

Joe Wilson (2000) 20 Years

Pat Wilson (2000) 20 Years

There are over 120 people who help the RBL each year in the Sandbach Area.

Also in attendance was Geoff Fisher the Branch Standard Bearer and Marjorie Newton (Chairman)

**(Sandbach Chronicle 5 March 2020)**

#####

EVENT 10 May 2020 VE DAY Wreath laying (See below)

In 2020, the country was shut down due to a worldwide pandemic of Coronavirus or Covid 19. The Government decided it was a good idea to socially isolate the population meaning planned VE Day (75 Years on)

commemorations by the Royal British Legion would not be allowed and many of the events including the national commemorations were cancelled. Sandbach decided that the planned parade and service on the Sunday would be impossible to go ahead so instead it was suggested that a smaller wreath laying ceremony would be held with it being filmed on video and released on You Tube to allow the people of Sandbach to join in the event without actually attending and breaking the two meter distancing rules and stopping large gatherings. Marjorie Newton arranged for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Sandbach, the Chairman of the Cheshire Regiment Association and herself to lay wreaths with Stewart Green and Linda Gibbs filming the event along with taking picture for the paper. Over the first week over 100 people had viewed the video on You Tube and 120 had liked a set of pictures on Facebook of the event showing that Sandbach had celebrated the sacrifice 75 years previously and the town had paid its respects. The town did celebrate the event with some street parties but it was a lot smaller than the planned grand gesture of thanks.

#####

4 July 2020

#### DEATH OF REG DUNNING

It was with great sadness that the death was reported of Reg Dunning on the 4 July 2020 during the lockdown period. Aged 93 he was about to celebrate his 94<sup>th</sup> birthday but fell ill soon after the funeral of his wife and died in a Yorkshire Hospital unable to complete any of the acts of remembrance during 2020 from VE Day to VJ Day and of course the Remembrance Sunday and 11<sup>th</sup> November on the previous Wednesday.

A familiar face at the Royal British Legion Remembrance Day events and other marches in Sandbach, Reginald Dunning was awarded the British Empire Medal for his services to Education and the Community in the January 2019, New Years Honours list and collected the medal from the Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire at Tatton Park at the end of April 2019. Among the community services he had been a part of, include recently helping to appoint the new vicar of St Mary's as part of the Parochial Church Council along with Andrew Wood, Howard Yates, Janet Hides, church warden Anne Birch and others. Reg was also a founder member of the Old Sandbachians Rugby Club (Now Sandbach RUFC) and was made Honorary Secretary until 1972. He was also a driving force as an officer of the Old Sandbachians for over 50 Years (Ex-Pupils from Sandbach School) and was a past member of the Sandbach Round Table and current member of the Sandbach 41 Club (Past Round Table members). Reg was also a Mason, member of Probus and had been the Chairman of the Governors at the Offley Road School and Sandbach School.

Born on the 9 July 1926, Reg went to school in Sandbach where in later life he became a Director of the Sandbach School from the 28 January 2008 until the 8 July 2013 and he continued to have contact with the school events including being involved with the opening of the WWI Memorial Garden at the front of the main entrance arranged by various pupils.

At one time Reg's parents ran the Rookery Tavern in Ettley Heath and his Auntie Florence Harrison (nee Dunning) ran the Military Arms on the Common by 1936, with her husband Herbert Harrison (Solo Cornet player from Stockport with Foden's Band, 1909 to 1935) and was also one of the first female fire-fighters at Sandbach Fire Station and who was also allowed to drive the Dennis Fire Appliance.

Known for leading the processions on Remembrance Day for over 60 years and the Mayor's Civic Parade in June, Reg has become one of the familiar faces of the town but his involvement with military parades goes back well before then when on the 2 November 1944, at the age of 18 he entered National Service in the General Service Corps and became Private 14863464. After initial training Reg was attached to the South Lancashire Regiment and from there volunteered to do glider pilot training for the Glider Pilot Regiment and the Army Corps. In May 1945, Reg was promoted to Corporal in the Glider Pilot Regiment and then started training with Tiger Moths at RAF Booker and then in June 1945 he transferred to RAF Fairoakes, moving in August 1945 to RAF Croughton where he went back to the Hotspur Glider.

In September 1945, Reg gained his second Pilot's wing and had been promoted to Sergeant again with gliders this time moving to RAF Brize Norton and other squadrons.

With the war ending on the 7 May 1945, after Germany surrendered (8 May VE Day) Reg had not completed any wartime missions but continued to fly and in 1946 he gained his Civil Aviation 'A' Licence and a Royal Aero Club certificate.

The end of the war also meant the end of the use of gliders on the front line and Reg decided to apply to the War Office for a job with the Intelligence Corps and was accepted. After attending courses at the School of Military Intelligence at Aldershot Reg then travelled to Palestine in October 1946 with the 317 (Airborne) Field Security of the 6<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division. Reg was posted to Haifa, Nazareth, Eastern Galilee and Nazareth and was on one occasion assigned to HMS Chevron to photograph Jewish illegal immigrant ships that were trying to land on the Palestine coast as part of his duties with Military Intelligence.

In 1948, Reginald Dunning was demobbed and entered Civvy Street to take up a position in the finance and executive departments of various local government departments within the Cheshire Authorities.

In 1956, Reg Dunning started co-ordinating the Sandbach Urban District Council Civic parade for the new Chairman of the Council on Sunday 24 June 1957 at 11am.

At short notice **MR REG DUNNING stepped in to act as PARADE MARSHALL** for the 1966 Remembrance Day Parade and Service and undertook the task with great efficiency.

When local Government changed and Sandbach Town Council was formed in 1974, Reg moved to Congleton Town Council as a Public Relations Officer, a role he held until 1992 when he retired and was one of those involved with the Congleton Twinning Association as Secretary.

**By the 4 December 1990 meeting of the Royal British Legion (Sandbach Branch) Reg had become a member.**

At the age of 92, Reg still organised the parades making sure everyone was in their right place ready for the march through the town. However, the long walk from Westfields was no longer recommended for him to lead the procession and so he decided to meet the participants at the Council Car Park and then was pushed in a wheelchair to the War Memorial where he still read the words of the, Ode to the Fallen, "They shall not grow old..." and ending with the line "we shall remember them". A short work to St Mary's Church and he then put on his other hat ready to take the collection at the end of the service.

In 2019, HM Queen Elizabeth bestowed upon Reginald Dunning the honour of the B.E.M. (Order of the British Empire, Medallist of the Order of the British Empire) for services to education and the community in the New Year's Honours list and he was proudly featured on social media, newspapers and in the Royal British Legion magazine.

During the last few years Reg's wife Jean Ann Dunning, became ill and sadly she died at the St Stephen's Care Home in Elworth on the 16 June 2020, aged 90. Reg visited her as often as he could while she was in the home and her funeral took place at Crewe Crematorium on the 29 June. Because of the Coronavirus outbreak Reg decided to move to Cumbria to be with his family but he became ill at the end of June and was taken to hospital where he passed away peacefully on the 4 July 2020 in the early hours, leaving behind his son's Andrew and David, Grand Children and Great Grandchildren.

Many people on social media do not remember a time when Reg was not at the Remembrance Day parade and at other events in the town including local coffee mornings at the Church Hall, bowling and fundraisers held by the Royal British Legion. When November the 11<sup>th</sup> comes round in 2020 there will be a big gap to fill and the whole of the community will miss Reginald Dunning B.E.M.

#####

At a Meeting in Mrs May Lewis's garden in August 2020, under strict lockdown rules of staying 2 meters apart the committee appointed Miles Devlin to take on the role of Parade Co-ordinator (Parade Marshall). Still under quarantine rules laid down by the Central Office of the Royal British Legion at that time it was not even sure a parade would take place but as with the VE Day wreath laying and the 15-16 Aug VJ remembrance something would be done to keep the tradition alive.

#####

#### November 2020 POPPY APPEAL

Due to the country shutting down for a November Lockdown period it was decided that the Poppy boxes and tins be removed from venues as they couldn't be retrieved until December. So on the 4 November all boxes in Sandbach and the surrounding area were removed. They did however raise £10,176.66 in the short period they were out. Among the totals was a £700 donation from the Town Council who for the second year ran a sponsored Plastic Poppy appeal with car poppies adorning the lampposts around the town for a donation for each one erected.

Another donation was gathered by market trader Julie Shannon who pitched a table outside the Town Hall on the Thursday, Friday and Saturday to give the people of Sandbach a chance to get their last minute poppies along with various other items including the 2020 pin badge. Julie's stall in the inside market before lockdown had raised £180 for the British Legion while the table outside gained £300 on Thursday, £369.73 on Friday and three full tins on Saturday making about £1,000 in total.

#####

In 2020 Covid Restrictions meant that the Annual Remembrance Sunday Event was a restricted event with the Government advising that events should be short and focused on Wreath Laying with event organisers being asked to discourage the public from attending.

The Royal British Legion advised the public to observe the two minutes silence from their doorstep.

On the following Wednesday the 11 November 2020, an impromptu event on the same lines as the Remembrance Sunday took place with the usual readings by Howard Yates and Marjorie Newton along with a recorded Last Post and Reveille supplied by Stewart Green.

|                                         |                                            |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
|                                         | #####                                      |
| 2020 COMMITTEE (Date appointed to role) |                                            |
| President                               | Tom Price Jones                            |
| Chairman                                | Marjorie Newton (2000-2015 / 2017 to Date) |
| Vice Chairman                           | Howard Yates                               |
| Secretary                               | Ingrid Victor                              |
| Treasurer                               | Meurig Williams                            |
| Membership Secretary                    | Alexandra Fiona Newton                     |
| Poppy Appeal Organiser                  | Marjorie Newton                            |
| Publicity Organiser                     | n/a                                        |
| Social Secretaries                      | Jayne Edge and Helen Riley                 |
| Parade Organiser                        | Marjorie Newton                            |
| Parade Marshall                         | Miles Devlin (2020)                        |
| Parade Commander                        | Glyn Robinson                              |
| Padre                                   | n/a                                        |
| Welfare Chairman                        | n/a                                        |
| Standard Bearer                         | David Machin (2020)                        |

#####  
 At the start of 2021 COVID 19 restrictions were still in place with social distancing and minimum personal contact.

The National British Legion / Royal British Legion celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2021 with a very low key set of events. Where possible at 9am wreaths were laid by local branches on the Saturday under the rule of six (Coronavirus restrictions) exactly 100 years since the four separate organisations laid a wreath at the Cenotaph and became the British Legion.

Sandbach, due to various reasons held their ceremony at 2pm on the Saturday at the War Memorial in the town with a wreath bearing the emblem and name of the Comrades of the Great War on it and the current Royal British Legion to commemorate the organisation that Sandbach's Branch was formed out of 100 years previously.

#####  
 26 June 2021 EVENT Armed Forces Day – A brief Service and wreath laying ceremony took place at the War Memorial on the COVID restrictions guidelines with the Rev Bee Boyde from St Marys officiating at her first British Legion event in Sandbach.

#####  
 NICOLA COOK of Sandbach (Assistant Director of Regional Operations)  
 Nicola Kate Cook has lived in the Sandbach Town Ward area since the early 1980s (About 40 Years in 2021) and is the Royal British Legion, Assistant Director of Regional Operations from the Scottish borders to Northern Ireland and from Cornwall to Haig House in London (Pre 2020-21).  
 Nicola has worked in USA Politics, Management of the NHS (Director for specialist services including for Neurosciences including cancer) and Regional Lead for Macmillan Cancer Support.  
 Nicola has undertaken 6,500 hours of voluntary work with the Royal Voluntary Service supporting local people with shopping, prescription collection and a listening ear.  
 Nicola then moved to a job as Charity Director for United Response and then after a couple of years joined the Royal British Legion.  
 Her husband was a Captain in the British Army.  
 Nicola is also a member of the Sandbach Clean Team and a St John's Ambulance Vaccinator as part of the NHS Covid Vaccination programme (2020-2021).  
 Nicola has served as an independent Councillor in Sandbach (2012 Ettley Heath and Wheelock Ward) and in 2021 put her name forward for a second term in the October Elections.  
 As a parent Nicola has a strong interest in local education services and support for children with special educational needs.

#####  
 30 October 2021 POPPY LAUNCH with the Bikers Branch on Market Square by the War Memorial.  
 30 October 2021 POPPY BALL at the Town Hall, Sandbach.

#####  
 10 November 2021 the Sandbach Town Council discussed at their meeting the proposal that the Council should take over the running of the Remembrance Day Parade and the funding of the Event. The Mayor Cllr Geraint Price Jones (Son of the President of the Sandbach branch, Tom Price-Jones) was in favour of allocating money to pay for the event.

Much to the surprise of Marjorie Newton the Supporting statement read “Sandbach British Legion are no longer able to be the principal organisers of the Remembrance Service Parade on the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2021 due to Royal British Legion regulations.

To clarify matters the change in the organiser will not change the format as this is already in place together with the Road Closure that has been put in place by Cheshire East and will be auctioned by Ringway Jacobs.

If Members agree, the Town Council will become the principal organiser, the cost of the road closure (Cost to available for the meeting) and our public liability insurance will cover the event. The Royal British legion will provide volunteers and partner the Town Council.”

As the Town Council failed to provide staff for the 2021 parade to man the sound equipment and had to be asked if they could loan it to the Legion because they had not been informed of the event which is at a set date and time each year, it will prove to be a difficult task if they were to take over the whole running of the parade and service from its present organiser, Marjorie Newton.

The British Legion on their frequently asked page says, “There is no specific legislation outlining who is responsible for the delivery of Remembrance parades of services, unlike the maintenance of War Memorials. It is, however generally accepted that Remembrance parades are important community events. In keeping with other civic occasions, the Legion maintains that local authorities should be responsible for the delivery of Remembrance parades and services, which would require them to assume official ‘event organiser’ status on relevant event documentation. Such a designation brings with it a range of responsibility and liabilities which most charitable organisations, including our own, are not currently covered and which, if we were, would involve the diversion of significant charitable funds away from the direct support of our beneficiary community.”

#####

11 November 2021 Armistice Day at the War Memorial 11am.

The service was conducted by the Rev David Ottley (Ex Goostry) as the Rev. Bee Boyde had caught Covid 19 along with the St Mary’s Church Organist Kevin Birch both of which will be missing from the Sunday Service.

#####

14 November 2021 Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service.

Rev David Ottley (Ex Goostry) and stand in Organist Ken Smith took part in the Service following a parade witnessed by hundreds who lined the streets.

#####

12 March 2022

#### POPPY AWARDS 2022

Each year since 1970 the Sandbach Branch of the Royal British Legion has acknowledged the years of service by members of the public who have helped to sell poppies in November with an awards night at the Masonic Hall. Due to Covid the event was not held last year but in the 100<sup>th</sup> year of the Legion the organisers felt it was time to hold the event again and on the 12 March 2022 members of the Legion, poppy sellers and supporters gathered for an evening of entertainment and good food along with the handing out of awards for long service. Five awards were handed out on the night to Alexandra Newton for 5 years, Caroline Roughley for 10 Years, Valetta Cranmer for 15 Years, Jill Brown and May Lewis for 20 years of poppy selling. Ten other members of the public were also honoured with a mention and an award to be sent out to them for their continued support over the years, these were Pat Boxer for 5 Years, Ivan Birchall and Catherine Birchall, Mrs B M Blaney, Dennis Bell, and Peter Read for 15 Years, Philip Schijndel, Pauline Sedgley, Dennis Robinson and Grant Dinsdale for 20 Years of poppy selling.

Entertainment for the evening was provided by the South Cheshire Concert Band and food by Beech Tree Catering who as usual put on a great spread of food for the guests to enjoy.

#####

#### ROYAL BRITISH LEGION DIARY DATES

|                        |                                                                             |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 26 May (1940)          | Start of the Dunkirk Evacuation.                                            |
| 31 May (1916)          | Battle of Jutland                                                           |
| 4 June (1940)          | End of the Dunkirk Evacuation.                                              |
| 4 June (1942)          | Battle of Midway.                                                           |
| 6 June (1944)          | D Day / Normandy Landings.                                                  |
| Last Saturday in June  | Armed Forces Day (26 June 2021)                                             |
| 1 July (1916) (7.30am) | The moment that the first man went over the top at the Battle of the Somme. |
| 8 May (1945)           | VE Day (Victory in Europe Day)                                              |
| 12 August (1940)       | Battle of Britain                                                           |
| 15 August (1945)       | VJ Day (Victory in Japan Day) Acceptance of surrender.                      |
| 2 September (1945)     | VJ Day (USA) The Date the surrender was signed on USS Missouri.             |

November Remembrance Day (Nearest Sunday to the 11 November / 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in November.  
 If the 11<sup>th</sup> falls on a Wednesday then the Previous Sunday will be Remembrance Sunday)  
 (14 November 2021)  
 11 November Armistice Day  
 18 November (1916) End of the Battle of the Somme.

#####  
**PRESIDENT / CHAIRPERSON OF THE SANDBACH BRANCH.**  
 #####

**PRESIDENT**

1921 to 1952 = Captain Herbert P. Rigby  
 1952 to Oct 1986 = President Squadron Leader Herbert Cecil Rigby (DFC) / Judge and Solicitor  
 (President to October 1986 when he died) (Son of H.P. Rigby)  
 1986 = Vice President Mr George Brooke.  
 1986 to after 1995 = President Mr John Gleave

Tbc = President Tom Price Jones (President 2019)

**BRANCH CHAIRPERSON**

Pre 1954 = Chairman Mr T S Lake (Held the position for about 21 years). (Died Pre Sept 1959)  
 1957 = Chairman Mr L Barraclough (Died in Office June 1960)  
 (Vice Chairman Mr Cyril Taylor took the meetings until the AGM)  
 1960 = Chairman Mr Jack F Edwards (School Teacher and ex Royal Horse Guards)  
 11 Aug 1971 = Chairman Mr Cyril Taylor  
 9 Jan 1973 = Chairman Mr J Williams  
 13 Dec 1973 = Chairman Mr S Stretton  
 6 Dec 1974 = Chairman Mr W H Cope  
 9 Dec 1980 = Chairman Mr Geoffrey Fairhurst (Died in office in 1983)  
 6 Dec 1983 = Chairman Mr H Hassall  
 4 Dec 1984 = Chairman Mr F Geoff Bestall  
 Dec 1986 = Chairman Mr Doug E Roycroft (Retired School Master and Burma Star veteran)  
 4 Dec 1990 = Chairman Mr A Johnson  
 2 Dec 1991 = Chairman Mr G Ribchester  
 (1992 to 1994 Minutes not available)  
 1995 = Chairman Mr Vic Schofield  
  
 Dec 2000 = Chairperson Marjorie Newton  
 2015-5 Mar 2017 = Walter Andrews (Chairperson 2015-17)  
 2017 to date = Chairperson Marjorie Newton

**SERVICE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN**

Pre 1944 to 1964 Mr Cyril Massey  
 1964 to 1973 Mr Cyril Taylor  
 8 Feb 1973 Mr J Williams  
 4 Dec 1973 Mr S A Stretton  
 Jan 1975 Mr W H Cope (To after 1978)

#####  
**FUNDRAISING TOTALS FROM THE SANDBACH BRANCH.**

1940 = £125  
 1941 = £155 (Wheelock Raised £27 2s 10d for their fund)  
 1942  
 1943  
 1944  
 1945  
 1946  
 1947  
 1948  
 1949

1950  
1951  
1952  
1953 = £231.00  
1954 = £242.00  
1955 = £256.00  
1956 = £261.00  
1957 = £248.01d  
1958 = £248.00  
(1958 = £146/19/7d Poppy sales only / Wreaths extra see above)  
1959 = £251/10/ 4d  
(1959 = £150/12/6d Poppy sales only / Wreaths extra see above)  
1960 = £255/8/8d  
(1960 = £172/13/11d Poppy sales only / Wreaths extra see above)  
1961 = £261/17/10d  
1962 =  
(1962 = £189/16/11d Poppy sales only / Wreaths extra see above)  
1963 =  
1964 =  
1965 =  
(1965 = £192/8/10 Poppy sales only / Wreaths extra see above)  
1966 =  
1967 = £283/15/7d (Record Amount So Far for Sandbach)  
1968 = £283/14/0d  
1969 =  
1970 =  
Change to Decimal Currency.  
1971 =  
1972 = £360.14p  
1973 =  
1974 =  
1975 = £386.04p  
1976 = £552.15p  
1977 = £660.38p  
1978 = £840.00p  
1979 =  
1980 = £783.89p  
1981 = £771.00p  
1982 =  
1983 =  
1984 =  
1985 =  
1986 =  
1987 =  
1988 = £3,986.20p  
1989 = £4,341.60p  
1990 = £3,064.00p to AGM  
1991 =  
1992 =  
1993 =  
1994 = £6,000.00p  
1995 =  
1996 =  
1997 =  
1998 = £8,620.00p  
1999 = £10,814.93p  
2000 = £11,305.47p  
2001 = £11,047.33p  
2002 = £11,516.63p  
2003 = £12,632.44p



2004 = £12,847.27p  
 2005 = £12,211.24p  
 2006 = £12,505.25p  
 2007 = £14,967.90p  
 2008 = £14,568.71p  
 2009 = £17,225.84p  
 2010 = £17,892.28p  
 2011 = £19,753.20p  
 2012 = £20,266.02p  
 2013 = £20,743.27p  
 2014 = £24,161.93p  
 2015 = £22,837.79p  
 2016 = £26,686.39p  
 2017 = £24,873.77p  
 2018 = £26,519.27p  
 2019 = £26,515.00p  
 2020 = £10,176.66 (Year of Coronavirus)  
 2021 = £23,534.00p

#####  
**ORGANISATION OF THE POPPY APPEAL**

**(Poppies should be on sale 11 days before the 11 November to honour those affected by war.)**

#####

The Poppy Stock is ordered from the Royal British Legion in June.

On arrival 24,000 poppies are put into 170 small boxes ready for the weeks before the 11 November.

170 Boxes are distributed to schools, shops and businesses in November.

The Boxes in the Sandbach Branch district are taken to Sandbach Town Centre Shops, Wheelock, Elworth, Arclid, Brereton and Smallwood in Mid-October (Thursday about the 24<sup>th</sup> October) to the 11 November or the following Sunday. (Thursday 22 October 2020)

In two-hour shifts, 120 people help to sell poppies and other items in Waitrose and at the M6 Motorway Service Centres on both the North bound and South bound carriageways.

9am to 5pm Waitrose.

10am to 4pm M6 Service stations.

After 11 November (Sunday Service) the boxes are collected and then 16 People volunteer to count the money, make a note of the location of the boxes it comes from ready for a letter of thanks (Card) to be sent out to the collection businesses (Shops, Public Houses, etc.)

Wreaths for Remembrance Day are stored in Peevers Shop for distribution.

Poppy Stock held at Offley House until needed.

#####  
**REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE AND EVENT DETAILS**

#####

**SANDBACH ORDER OF MARCH from Westfields.**

- 1) Roberts Bakery Band
- 2) Royal British Legion Representatives
- 3) Sandbach Town Council / Cheshire East Council representatives
- 4) Wreath Layers
- 5) Sandbach School Army / Navy / Air force
- 6) Army Cadet Force
- 7) Air Training Corps
- 8) Sandbach Fire Brigade
- 9) Sandbach Fire Cadets
- 10) Scouts and Cubs.
- 11) Brownies and Guides.

#####

**ORDER OF SERVICE**

1) HYMN (Vicar's Choice) – Played by Lions Club Band

2) VICAR

“Let us Remember those who have died for their country in war;

And in our own locality the men and woman, including the 120 whose manes are engraved on the town war memorial.

We remember those whom we knew, and whose memory we treasure;  
And all who have lived and died in the service of humanity.”

3) LAST POST played by a Member of Roberts Bakery Band.

4) REG DUNNING (Till 2019) (Ode to the Fallen)

“They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old:

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.”

ALL “We will Remember them.”

5) 2 MINUTES SILENCE

6) THE REVEILLE played by a Member of Roberts Bakery Band.

7) REG DUNNING (Till 2019) (The Kohima Epitaph is Read)

“When you go home tell them of us and say:

For your tomorrow, we gave our today.”

8) WREATH LAYING /

WRATH LAYING ORDER

1) Lord Lieutenant / Representative

2) Sandbach Mayor

3) Cheshire East Representative

4) Royal British Legion Chairman

5) Unknown (Beret)

6) Unknown (Lady)

7) Sandbach School 3x = Army / Navy / Air force

8) Sandbach Fire Brigade / Cadets

9) Rotary Club of Sandbach (1)

10) Inner Wheel (Ladies Rotary)

11) Rotary Club of Sandbach Crosses (2)

12) Unknown Sandbach Organisation (1 of 2)

13) Unknown Sandbach Organisation (2 of 2)

14) Unknown Sandbach Organisation (1 of 2)

15) Unknown Sandbach Organisation (2 of 2)

16) Unknown Sandbach Organisation (1 of 2)

17) Masons (2 of 2)

18) Sandbach / Cheshire Police

19) Unknown Sandbach Organisation

20) Inner Wheel (1 of 3)

21) Round Table (2 of 3)

22) Unknown (3 of 3)

23) Cubs and Scouts

24) Guides and Brownies

25) Any Others

#####

9) VICAR - ACT OF COMMITMENT

“Let us pledge ourselves anew to the service of our fellow men and woman:

That we may help, encourage, and comfort others, and support those working for the relief of the needy and for the peace and welfare of the nations.”

10) ALL SAY TOGETHER

“We pledge ourselves to serve humankind, in the cause of peace, for the relief of want and suffering.

Guide us in wisdom, give us courage;

Give us hope;

And keep us faithful this day and in the future.”

#####  
SERVICE at St Mary's Church.

#####  
**ROYAL BRITISH LEGION MARCH ORDER - ENGLAND**  
#####

Apart from Her Majesty the Queen, the order of Precedence of all others may vary from time to time depending on local traditions with the relationship between host and guests, and the requirements of courtesy and hospitality. Normally, an acceptable compromise can be reached provided there is adequate consultation beforehand and is vital to avoid embarrassment.

The following list is assuming that the Lord Lieutenant or his representative is not present (otherwise he would take precedence as the Sovereign's representative), and subject to prior consultation and agreement, the following sequence is recommended for assembly at a local War Memorial for a Remembrance Service. (From the Royal British Legion Website and E Mail)

**ASSEMBLY AT THE WAR MEMORIAL / PARADE (Local)**

1. Band
2. Clergy and Choir
3. Civic VIP's (Mayor, Chairman of Council)
4. Union Flag (If on Parade)
5. **Royal British Legion and Woman's Section Standards.**
6. Standards of other Ex-Service Associations (Royal Naval Association / RNA, Army, Royal Air Force Association / RAFA)
7. Regular Services (Royal Navy, Army, RAF)
8. Territorial and Reserve Forces
9. Ex Service Contingents (Preferably in one group, but may be in columns by Service and Corps, normally with the **Royal British Legion Members** leading, though there may be variations).
10. Uniformed Public Services (Police, Fire Brigade, Ambulance Services, St John Ambulance, Red Cross etc.)
11. Youth Organisations (Led by Service Cadets, then Uniformed Organisations followed by non-uniformed bodies)

**INCLUDING = School Army Corps / Navy / Air force, Army Cadet Force, Air Training Corps, Cubs, Scouts, Guides, Brownies, Schools.**

12. Members of the Public (Who should be invited to participate in the Public Remembrance Event)
- INCLUDING = Rotary, Probus, Round Table, Inner Wheel, Masons, U3A, Local Clubs etc.**

#####  
**(WREATH LAYING) / ORDER OF PRECEDENCE**  
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**1. CIVIC VIP'S**

- Lord Lieutenant of the County (or Representative)
- The High Sheriff of the County
- The Lord Mayor
- The Elected Mayor (Local Mayor)
- The Chairman of the County or District Council
- The Deputy Mayor
- Aldermen
- Councillors
- Justices of the Peace
- The Clerk of the County Council
- The Town Clerk (Local Borough Council)
- The Chief Constable
- The County Engineer or Borough Engineer

**2. REPRESENTATIVES OF REGULAR FORCES**

- Army
- Navy
- Royal Air Force

**3. REPRESENTATIVES OF TERRITORIAL AND RESERVE FORCES**

Territorial Army etc.

**4. REPRESENTATIVES OF EX-SERVICE ASSOCIATIONS**

Royal British Legion  
Royal British Legion Women's Section  
Help for Heroes

**5. REPRESENTATIVES OF UNIFORMED PUBLIC SERVICES**

Police  
Fire Brigade  
Ambulance Service

**6. REPRESENTATIVES OF UNIFORMED VOLUNTARY SERVICES**

Red Cross  
St John's Ambulance

**7. REPRESENTATIVES OF CADET FORCES**

School Army Corps / Navy / Air force  
Army Cadet Force  
Air Training Corps

**8. REPRESENTATIVES OF YOUTH ORGANISATIONS**

Cubs  
Scouts  
Guides  
Brownies  
Schools

**9. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Both in the Parade and from the crowd.

#####  
**ROYAL BRITISH LEGION LONDON CENOTAPH**

#####  
**ORGANISERS OF THE LONDON MARCH PAST**

Organiser of the whole event = Garrison Sergeant Major – Andrew Stokes (2020)  
Parade Sergeant Major (Shouts the Commands)

**LONDON WREATH LAYING ORDER**

(Information taken from the Broadcast in 2019. **Highlighted** not in the order for 2019 Remembrance Day)

The Queen (Representative / The Prince of Wales)  
Duke of Edinburgh (Representative)  
The Prince of Wales  
Dukes of Cambridge Sussex and York.  
Earl of Wessex, Princess Royal (Ann) and Duke of Kent

**1. Prime Minister / Members of the Cabinet**

2a. Leader of the Opposition  
2b. Scottish National Party (SNP) / Plaid-Cymru (2<sup>nd</sup> Largest Party in the House of Commons)  
2c. Liberal Democrats (3<sup>rd</sup> Largest Party in the House of Commons)  
2d. Democratic Unionist Party (Northern Ireland)

Speaker of the House of Commons

Speaker of the House of Lords

**3. Former Prime Ministers**

**4. Certain Other Ministers**

Home Secretary / Foreign Secretary / On behalf of M15 / MI6 GCHQ (Intelligence Services)

**5. Mayor of London**

**6. Representatives of the Armed Forces, Merchant Air and Merchant Navy and Fishing Fleets**

**7. Members of Faith and Communities.**

**8. High Commissioners from Commonwealth Countries (Who Lay Wreaths)**

Crown Dependences and Independencies (including Isle of Man, Jersey etc.)

Commonwealth Countries

Irish Ambassador

Nepal Ambassador

Service Chiefs – Air, Sea and Army.

Merchant Navy and Fishing Fleets

Civilian Police, Fire and Ambulance.

SERVICE BEGINS

THE QUEEN (National Anthem)

MARCH PAST

Wreath Laid by the President of the RBL

Wreaths laid by Royal Air Force Association, Royal British Legion Scotland, Royal Commonwealth Ex Services League, Royal Naval Association and Transport for London (Who provide taxis free of charge to ex-servicemen on the day)

MARCH PAST BY –

Grenadier Guards Band.

Royal British Legion veterans

Children of People who have been killed in War (Scotties Little Children) 2019 Onwards.

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## THE POPPY APPEAL HISTORY.

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For the latest version see Sandbach History / Royal British Legion

November the 11<sup>th</sup> each year is the day we get out our poppies, place them on our clothing on the same side of the body as the heart and stand for one minute in silence as we show our respect for the fallen of two world wars and numerous conflicts since 1945. But why the poppy?

Many believe the selling of Poppies was started by Madame Anna A. Guérin and Monia Michael but it could have started a lot earlier as Poppy Appeals were around on the 21 August 1915 in Britain when a “Poppy Day” was held in South Shields, England to get funds for the local Ingham Infirmary (Treating Servicemen) and the Poor Children’s Association, raising £191/0/4½d. During 1916, artificial Poppies were distributed as part of fundraising for local charities including in May 1916 for the ‘St Michael’s War Work Party’, in aid of the British and Russian prisoners of war. In August 1916, The Sleights Red Cross Hospital on the Yorkshire Moors held a “Poppy Day” in Whitby when the “Poppy Appeal” was suggested by one of the nurses and ninety two gross of poppies made by the ‘Crippled Girls’ Guild with a “Flower” given to anyone who contributed even the most modest sum of one penny to the collection boxes. The fund raised nearly £238.

In August 1916, Nottingham held a Poppy Day to benefit orphans. The origin of these early events may be the same as the official poppy appeal but we do not know as there is no record of their influence and the early date precedes the “Flanders Field” Poem.

Another suggestion is that Soldiers fighting of the front at Flanders and during other battles sent back poppies they had picked on the battlefield to their loved ones. The oldest known survivor was sent by Frank Cooper in June 1915 from near Flanders to his home in South Croydon. Other examples from the war battlefields also exist and so in 1915 when that nurse was looking for a symbol, she may have received such a token and this sparked her idea.

The Official Poppy Appeal was launched in 1921 when the British Remembrance Poppy was made of silk by Madame Guérin’s widows and orphans in devastated areas of France.

The popular theory of the Poppy being used for remembrance is that it was inspired by the poem, “In Flanders Field” written by Canadian physician John McCrae after witnessing the death of a fellow soldier and friend Lieutenant Alexis Helmer on the 3 May 1915 at the Second Battle of Ypres. The poem was published in the magazine “Punch” in London on the 8 December 1915, and was promoted in the USA by Monia Belle Michael an American professor and humanitarian from Milwaukee, who conceived the idea of using the poppy as a symbol of remembrance for those who served in World War 1 in the United States of America.

### "In Flanders Fields"

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead, short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

–John McCrae

#### JOHN MCCRAE

Born on the 30 November 1872 in Guelph, Ontario, Canada, John was a Canadian poet, physician and artist who was a surgeon during the Second Battle of Ypres in Belgium. His mother was Janet Simpson Eckford and his father, was Lieutenant- Colonel David McCrae who was the grandson of Scottish immigrants. His brother was Dr Thomas McCrae and his sister Geils married a lawyer called Kilgour and moved to Winnipeg.

By 1894 McCrae was studying medicine and published the first of his poems. IN 1894 he graduated and became the resident house-officer at Toronto General Hospital and then in 1899 at the John Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland.

During the Second Boer War between 1899 and 1902 John served as a Lieutenant in the Canadian Field Artillery.

On his return he worked again in hospitals in Canada and taught at the McGill University in Montreal. With Canada being a dominion within the British Empire it was drawn into the Great War when Germany invaded neutral Belgium. John McCrae was appointed Medical Officer and Major of the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Canadian Field Artillery. Serving at the Second Battle of Ypres he had to bury his friend Lieutenant Alexis Helmer on the 3 May 1915 which was the inspiration for the poem “In Flanders Field” which was published in Punch anonymously on the 8 December 1915.

By the beginning of 1918 John McCrae was in command of the No 3 Canadian General Hospital (McGill) at Boulogne in France when he contracted Pneumonia and died on the 28 January 1918 (Aged 45 in Boulogne-sur-Mer, France of Pneumonia). By now the famous poet was given a funeral with full military honours and laid to rest with his coffin on a gun carriage draped in a flag.

In 2015 a statue showing John McCrae writing the poem on a fallen tree branch was unveiled at the Guelph Collegiate Vocational Institute in Canada to celebrate 100 years of “In Flanders Field”.

#### MONICA MICHAEL

In 1918, Monia Michael was a volunteer worker for the American YMCA Overseas War Secretaries Organisation and vowed during the YMCA conference in November 1918 to wear a red poppy as a symbol of remembrance to all those who had fought and helped during the war. Monia turned up with a silk poppy she had made herself and pinned it to her coat. Monia had another 25 poppies which she then distributed to fellow attendees starting a trend in the USA. After the meeting in 1918, Monia campaigned to have the poppy adopted as an official symbol of remembrance by all in America and in 1920 the National American Legion officially adopted the Poppy as its emblem.

But where did the inspiration for Monica Michael’s campaign come from? It probably came from a French speaker called Madame Anna A. Guérin who at this time was touring the world telling her story of the French in the conflict with graphic descriptions mixed in with interpretations of famous French celebrities from history as she dressed as characters like Joan of Arc or Marie Antoinette to illustrate her talks. Her talks were in her native French but were recorded in the National and Local Newspapers in English so everyone could read her stories and find out what was happening on the other side of the Atlantic as she described her experiences in war torn France.

Depending on who to believe one theory is that Madame Guérin was at the YMCA conference in 1918 and was impressed by the poppies given away by Monica Michael while a more plausible version is that she had seen the idea on her trips around the world with appeals in the UK and other parts of the USA not only with red poppies but the local Yellow Poppies of California and it was her use of the poppy that inspired Monica Michael at the YMCA conference.

#### FRANCE STARTS THE POPPY APPEAL / MADAME ANNA GUERIN

During World War 1 Madame Anna A. Guérin started raising funds for French and American soldiers’ charities for the widow’s, orphans, veterans, the Red Cross, Food for France and US Liberty Bonds while she was touring the UK, France and the USA planting the idea of helping those in need during the war.

Born Anna Alix Boule on the 5 February 1878 in Vallon, Ardeche to farm owners Auguste Boule and his wife Anna (Nee Granier). In her early life Anna lived with her parents, her elder brother, three younger sisters (one died after three days) and two younger brothers. On the 6 November 1897, at the age of 19 Anna married Paul

Rabani a 26-year-old Cuban born French Nationalist in 1898 the couple moved to the African Island of Madagascar arriving after a three-week journey by ship. For twelve years she ran a school in the French colony in Madagascar for General Gallieni (Administrator of the Colony) and was determined to teach the indigenous girls of the colony to reach their full potential. Paul and Anna had two daughters, Raymonde Laurestine (b. 23 Feb 1900) and Renée Paule (b. 2 Nov 1901). Unfortunately, her marriage failed and Anna divorced Paul on the 15 April 1907 (He left to become a Gold / Gemstone Prospector), and later remarried a J.P called Constant Charles Eugene Guérin (b. 1 Mar 1870 in Guebwiller, Alsace-Lorraine, France) on the 17 October 1910 and Anna became Madame Anna E. Guérin. (E For Eugene). They probably met in Madagascar during her time as a teacher but actual details are unknown. After a short period of time the couple moved apart. Her husband Eugene continued to be a judge (JP) in Africa and he returned to Sudan while Anna moved to Great Britain with her children, where she continued to teach and lecture, this time under the auspices of the 'Allied Française' and toured many of the large houses in England talking about French history and her days in Africa. In the 2 April 1911 Census Anna's daughters Raymonde and Renée were at the 'Girton House, School for Girls' in Ealing where they continued their education until they were old enough to join their mother on her history tours. Talks by Madame E. Guérin became very popular and were constantly being reported in the newspapers of the time along with publicity postcards which were produced of her in various costumes depicting her as Josephine the wife of Napoleon, Jeanne d'Arc Marie Antoinette. An advert for one of the talks in the Assembly Rooms Bath advertised her as "The Celebrated French Lecturer Mme E. Guerin (Who has already given 100 French Artistic Lectures all over England) will give three French Artistic Lectures (In Costume of the Period) from 3 to 4pm on the following Wednesdays Nov 27<sup>th</sup>, Dec 18<sup>th</sup>, Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> 1912.

On the 23 August 1914, Germany invaded France with French Nationalists fearing for their families and themselves. Anna and her family were in Britain at the outbreak of the Great War and on the 3 October 1914, Anna left Liverpool Docks bound for the USA on the ship the Lusitania to start a tour with her talks arriving at New York Harbour on the 9 October 1914. Anna had left her two daughters at the boarding school in Ealing, London, with her "Aged Mother" looking after them in the holidays. The trip seems to have been planned before the outbreak of war as a lecture tour but things changed once she had reached the other side of the Atlantic. Her tour started as usual with historic lectures on French personalities of the past but in March 1915 they were starting to be used to help raise funds for the Red Cross.

Having read "In Flanders Field" by John McCrae and published in the magazine "Punch" in London on the 8 December 1915, Anna started to quote from the poem at her lectures. 1915 was also the year both Anna's children joined her in America for her tour dates having finished their education at the boarding school.

During the Great War, Anna decided to move her permanent home to the United States where she set up her headquarters in Lincoln, Nebraska to co-ordinate her fundraising activities with 'Patriotic Drives' bringing in thousands of dollars for various war charities.

By 1917, Anna was raising the profile of a scheme set up to adopt a Fatherless French Child for 10c a day and she made collections during her tour as well as holding special events to encourage the adoptions.

In May 1917, Anna and her daughters returned to France to see what the situation was like so she could report the truth of what was happening to her countryfolk in her talks back in the USA. Having seen the results of the war in France Anna returned to America for a lecture on the 25 October 1917, and was now able to report the atrocities of war to her audiences, telling them what she had seen first-hand.

On the 16 December 1917, the San Francisco Examiner alerted its readers about the "seals" that would be used in 1918 to date the registration number plate on a vehicle. The 1917 seal would be Liberty Bells instead of the Yellow Californian poppies that had appeared on vehicle number plates in 1917. The Yellow Poppy was used in the California area instead of the red French and English poppy to commemorate the fallen and it is thought that this is why it had been chosen to appear on the number plates during 1917.

By December 1917, Anna was joined on her tours of the USA by French Veteran M Robert Oliveau (b. 26 June 1890) who gave a series of "Patriotic Lectures", which continued into 1918 telling his experiences of fighting in the war, defending his country. In March 1918, Adjutant Robert Arbour joined Anna on her lecture tour according to adverts but this was actually the pen name of Robert Oliveau who was also doing his own talks on his experiences in the French Army having published his experiences in a book.

On the 5 April 1918, a group of women in Wall Street, New York held a "Poppy Drive" to help raise funds for American Women Doctors who were helping out in small hospitals in France. The artificial poppies made for the event raised \$2,000.

On the 6 June 1918, a USA newspaper described how American Soldiers had decorated their helmets with "Poppies from the fields" before they went into battle at Veully-LA-Poterie, in France. Many US women thought the same way and used the poppy as a symbol of memorial, starting to wear it in support.

On the 7 November 1918, Madame Guérin started on her way back to Bordeaux, France with two trunks of letters and parcels from people in Nebraska to pass onto their American soldiers serving in France. (Landed on the 16-17 Nov)

On the 9 November 1918, Moina Michael read "In Flanders Field" by John McCrae in the 'Ladies Journal' (USA) leading to her revelation as to how to commemorate the sacrifice given by US soldiers at the YMCA conference in 1920.

On the 11 November 1918, Germany surrendered to the Allied troops.

In 1918, after the war had ended the French Government formed the charity 'La Lige des enfants de France et d'Amerique' with the Poppy emblem. Madame Anna E. Guérin started an American branch of the French charity and called it the 'American and French Children's League', bringing the poppy to the USA for her cause.

In 1919, Madame Guérin began holding Poppy Days under the auspices of her charity.

In 1920, Madame Guérin was invited to the USA National American League conference in Cleveland to discuss an 'Inter-Allied Poppy Day' and in May 1921 she organised the first Nationwide Poppy Day using silk poppies made in France by her charity. That year Madame Guérin also travelled to Canada and sent representatives to Australia and New Zealand to spread the word about her Poppy Appeal.

However, at their conference in 1921 the American Legion decided to adopt the daisy as their symbol of remembrance with the charity 'Veterans of Foreign Wars' sticking with Monia Michael and Madame Guérin's idea of using red poppies.

### BRITISH LEGION TAKE ON THE POPPY APPEAL

In 1919, the London Cenotaph was erected as a temporary structure and was followed by a Peace Parade in the City to celebrate the end of the Great War of 1914-18. It was the idea of Prime Minister David Lloyd George who had heard about a French Parade to celebrate the end of its war with Germany and like the one planned for London on the 19 July 1919 it involved troops parading through the streets. However, the French version has a saluting point and the PM thought that the London version should have one as well. Architect Edwin Lutyens met with Sir Frank Baines the Chief Architect of the Office of Works to sketch out a Cenotaph which would be built out of wood and plaster. On the 18 July 1919, the day before the Victory Parade the new structure was unveiled and looked remarkably like it does today only it was a temporary build for what was planned as a one-off parade. 15,000 soldiers and 1,500 officers took part in the march past, saluting the new cenotaph or "saluting point", as they passed.

Soon members of the public were laying flowers at the base of the monument and by the end of the week an estimated 1.2 million people had paid their respects at the temporary Cenotaph.

Four days after the Victory Parade the Memorial was discussed in the Houses of Parliament. William Ormsby-Gore a Conservative MP for Stafford questioned Mond about a permanent replacement and along with an editorial in the Times calling for its replacement the cabinet agreed to the idea on the 30 July 1919 and work on amending the plans started.

Made of Portland Stone in a rectangular shape with gradually diminishing tiers, culminating in a sculpted tomb chest (The Empty Tomb that makes this a Cenotaph rather than a War Memorial), it was a plain but effective memorial to the fallen of the Great War.

With the first celebration event on the 18 July 1919 it was soon thought that a formal date be adopted so we would not forget the sacrifice given by so many. Some say the date of the 11 November was chosen by Field Marshal Haig but this was untrue as it was only his promotion of the date that secured it in the minds of the public and was possibly a group decision to set the date as the day the war officially ended in 1918.

In 1919, H.M. The King George V had suggested that the whole country should hold a two minutes silence to remember the dead, "I believe that my people in every part of the Empire fervently wish to perpetuate the memory of the great deliverance, and those who laid down their lives to achieve it". It is said that the King also suggested the time of the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> Day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month when there may be a brief space of two minutes for a complete suspension of all normal activities followed by the Last Post. The 'Last Post' had played an important part in the Great War as a bugler would play it at the start and end of the day over every grave on the battlefield. Soon it became part of the daily routine that the dead would be buried at the start and end of the day with the bugler again playing at the ceremony.

On the 11 November 1919, Prime Minister David Lloyd George walked from Downing Street to the temporary Cenotaph to lay a wreath on behalf of the Nation. A representative of the French President also laid a wreath with soldiers and sailors providing a guard of honour and the veterans association arranged a march past.

After an outpouring of national sentiment, the permanent replacement was erected in 1920 to the design of Edwin Lutyens and was made of Portland Stone between 1919 and 1920 by Holland, Hannen and Cubitts. Since then it has become the centre of our National Commemorations on Remembrance Sunday.

On the 11 November 1920, the New Cenotaph was officially unveiled by H.M. The King as part of a larger procession which was organised to bring the body of the Unknown Soldier to Westminster Abbey where he would be interned. As the Unknown Soldier's coffin passed the Cenotaph on the back of a gun carriage the King laid a wreath on the coffin and then unveiled the memorial which had until then been draped with a large Union Flag.



The British Legion had been formed on the 15 May 1921, by Field Marshal Earl Haig and Tom Lister (of the FODADSS) out of four separate charities the “National Association of Discharged Sailors and Soldiers”, The “British National Federation of Discharged and Demobilised Sailors and Soldiers”, “The Comrades of the Great War” and “The Officers’ Association”.

Having started the Poppy Appeal in the USA, Madame Guérin then travelled to Britain where she met with Field Marshal Douglas Haig who was leading the UK remembrance movement in September 1921, along with representatives of the newly formed British Legion (Later given the title of Royal British Legion). They decided to take up the idea of a poppy appeal in November 1921 and asked Madame Guérin if she was able to supply the poppies for that year from her workers in France. As the fund had very little money, Madame Guérin agreed to pay for 1 million poppies to be made for the UK with the British Legion reimbursing her after their first British Remembrance Day Poppy Appeal on the 11 November 1921 had raised enough money to pay her back.

The 1921 Poppy Appeal raised a total of £106,000 towards helping WW1 veterans with employment and housing with money from a total of nine million poppies that they had ordered for that year. One Million Poppies had been ordered from Madame Guérin in France at a retail cost of 3d (Mercerised Cotton) and 1/- (Silk). These poppies were made by women and children from devastated areas of France and were exported to the USA as well as Britain. Due to the amount of Silk Poppies needed for the appeal, the British Legion also ordered more from a company in Coventry and other parts of the UK to meet the demand. Made from red ribbon the first poppies were a great success but were not the only ones used in 1921 as ‘Fake’ poppies were being made to cash in on the fund. However, one report from Kent told of paper poppies being made and then given away for people to take part in the Remembrance Day event.

Field Marshal Earl Haig is credited with coining the phrase “Remembrance Day” according to a newspaper at the time.

The original UK Poppy had five segments and a white leaf on a stem with a black centre. These were also laid in a wreath at the new permanent London Cenotaph on the 11 November 1921.

In the USA the ‘Veterans of Foreign Wars’ decided to patent the “Buddy Poppy” a similar idea to the English appeal but for US soldiers and in May 1922 it was adopted officially with a US Patent on the design being taken out in February 1924.

In 1922, the British Legion started the “Haig Fund” (Named after Field Marshal Haig), which formally started the poppy appeal using the slogan “Wear a Flanders Poppy”. The 1922 appeal was totally British with the British Legion setting up its own factory to produce the Poppies in Richmond, London to replace the French poppies and those made in Coventry.

Soon poppies were appearing all over Great Britain with official street sellers appearing in various towns with collectors having a special licence and a round cloth badge with the words “British Legion Remembrance Day” on the front alongside a unique Registration Number on the badge so fraudsters could be identified. On the back were the words “Earl Haig’s Appeal for Ex Service Men of All Ranks” and it was pinned onto the seller with a pin.

1922, was also the year the first UK Poppy had a small garland attached to the poppy stem and a paper label with the words “British Legion Remembrance Day” on it.

In 1923, thirty million imitation Flanders poppies were on sale in Britain with the material from the flowers being made in Manchester and a green metal centre with the words “Earl Haig’s Appeal” on it made in Birmingham. In 1923, a cheaper version was made available to the public to run alongside a more expensive version depending on how much a wearer could afford. The cheaper version was a basic 3d cloth poppy with a pin through the middle. In all four different versions were available in 1923 with the large silk poppy costing 1/- (1 Shilling), Silk Poppies at 6d, Small muslin (cheap cloth) at 3d and a penny cardboard poppy which was only sold to children.

The record sales for one area in 1923 went to Portsmouth Red Cross who were supplied 1,237 poppies of various prices.

Started in 1923 as a “Festival Commemoration Performance” a concert was staged at the Royal Albert Hall in London on the 11 November. This was another fundraising activity for the appeal with a service of remembrance that was not dissimilar to the concert held today at the same venue in front of the Queen. In 1927 the concert was renamed “The British Legion Festival of Remembrance” and was recorded for a His Master’s Voice (HMV) gramophone record set (78’s). Today the concert is televised with celebrity guests and is seen by millions.

In 1924 a choice of Green or Black centre was offered to the customers of the Poppy Appeal.

In 1925 the British Legion was granted Royal status and became the Royal British Legion.

We all think of the BBC Broadcasting the Remembrance Day Service from the Cenotaph in London but it was not the first venue for this annual event. On the 5 July 1925 experimental Local BBC Station 5SC Glasgow broadcast from the Cenotaph in George Square in Glasgow followed on the 11 November 1925 by the Remembrance Day Service. BBC Station 5WA Cardiff also broadcast from its Cenotaph on the 11 November 1925 and in 1926 Hull's 6KH Hull joined the list. It was not until the 5 June 1927 that BBC 2LO London broadcast from the Cenotaph in Whitehall.

In 1925, demand in England and Wales had been so great that very few poppies had reached Scotland and so in March 1926, Dorothy Haig the wife of Earl Haig set up the "Lady Haig Poppy Factory" in the Royal Miles in Edinburgh to cater for their demand. From its start the Edinburgh factory made a slightly different poppy for the Scottish Appeal and introduced a new crepe paper version which was available with a black button and green stem including the words Haig's Fund.

Between 1926 and 1930 a more robust poppy was produced with a thicker "lawn" stem and two layers of petals.

On Friday the 11 November 1927, 5XX Daventry and 2LO London (BBC Experimental Local Radio Stations for London) broadcast the first "The British Legion Festival of Remembrance" in conjunction with the Daily Express who had organised the event followed in 1928 with the same stations covering the concert.

In 1928, the first "Field of Remembrance" was planted outside Westminster Abbey in London. It was started after Major Howson (The Poppies Chairman) had taken a number of disabled soldiers and his wife to St Margaret's church in Westminster to sell poppies. When they were there some of the soldiers started planting poppies next to some wooden crosses in the lawn. Passers-by asked what they were doing and soon the public were buying extra poppies to do the same, creating the field of poppies in the grass field or lawn to commemorate a life lost during the war.

In 1929 "The British Legion Festival of Remembrance", was taken over by the Royal British Legion and this was also the first year that 1,060,825 poppy leaves were released from above the hall to float down into the auditorium. There was one petal for each man who had lost their lives for the Empire.

In 1930, two new poppies were introduced to the collection the first of which was a "Waxed Poppy" for the front of motor cars and secondly a small five poppy button-hole (Bouquet) set was issued. Unlike the flat poppy for a button hole the car poppy was more like a bulb or 3D poppy similar to the "Shirley Poppy" rather than the opium poppy found in many gardens.

On Tuesday the 11 November 1930 the National Programme of the BBC broadcast "The British Legion Festival of Remembrance", at 8pm taking up the broadcast for the nation.

The following Sunday in 1930, the National Programme broadcast the 11am Remembrance Service from London to the whole nation for the first time joining many of the regional stations to commemorate this event.

By 1931 the Poppy wreath was available and a catalogue from this year showed the prices ranged from £2/2/6 to 5/2/6 (Poppy Cross) with an average price of 21/- (21 Shillings).

In 1932 a wooden cross with a poppy in the centre was produced for the "Field's" and Gardens of remembrance. It was also the year the first "Field of Remembrance" was planted in Scotland at St John's Church in Princes Street, Edinburgh.

In 1933 the British "Co-operative Women's Guild" introduced the White Poppy which is now produced by the Peace Pledge Union who say it symbolises all casualties of war including civilian and non-British Casualties and promotes peace. Some people find the white poppy disrespectful to those who fought for their country and in the 1930's some of the women who wore them lost their jobs for doing so. Today with more understanding of its meaning there is a more tolerant attitude to the White Poppy but it is still felt that the "Red" version should be worn by servicemen.

In 1933, H.R.H Prince of Wales read "To the Fallen" by Laurence Binyon during the broadcast.

In 1935 the modern look poppy was issued for the first time with five silk, cotton or red crepe paper petals and a black centre with the letters H F (Haig Fund) written on it along with a green leaf and a green wire stem.

In 1936, the British poppies were sold in yellow instead of red in an attempt to resemble real yellow poppies but this didn't last and soon the poppy became red again.

On the 11 November 1937, BBC Television broadcast live from the Cenotaph in Whitehall with the Bands of the Grenadier Guards, Coldstream Guards, Scots Guards and Welsh Guards playing at 10.30am followed by the minutes silence at 11am and the short service by the Right Rev. and Right Hon. The Lord Bishop of London with commentary by Thomas Woodroffe. Like many other events the war stopped the commemoration from 1940 until 1945 (BBC TV Stopped broadcasting the event in 1938).

The same day the Annual Remembrance Festival of the British Legion (Scotland) was broadcast from the Ulster Hall in Edinburgh with H.R.H. The Princess Royal in attendance instead of "The British Legion Festival of Remembrance".

In 1938 the "The British Legion Festival of Remembrance" at the Albert Hall, was renamed "A Festival of Empire and Remembrance" but was cut in 1939 until 1943 due to the war.

At the 1939 Remembrance Day on the 11 November, King George VI asked for French Cornflowers to be added to the Haig Red Poppies in his wreath as cardboard cornflowers were being sold in France for the first time as their symbol of remembrance.

With World War 2 starting the number of different poppies available to the public were cut in case the factory was bombed in 1940.

Prices in 1941 were as follows, Silk 2/6 (2 shillings and sixpence), Motor waxed sprays and poppies 1/6 and a cheaper type of poppy made from lawn (Cheap Cloth) was available.

In 1942 the wire stalk was replaced in the expensive poppies by a cardboard version with a reduced size poppy made across the range and these became known as the "Austerity Poppy".

At the end of WW2 1,000,000 poppy emblems for motorists were sold with the design changing from a three-poppy display to a single large poppy. Smaller waxed poppies intended for cycles were also available and many people used them to make a spray (Three Poppies) for their car instead of the single poppy issued for the vehicles.

The war's end also gave us the shape we know of today for the poppy with a thin felt like material being used to make the poppy and a new look green leaf with a bitumen button in the middle, still with the words "Haig Fund" on them.

On the 11 November 1943 the BBC again broadcast the "A Festival of Empire and Remembrance", this time on the BBC Home Service and in 1946 Wynford Vaughan Thomas described the muster of the Legion Standards and of the Service held in-front of the King and Queen.

In 1946, on the 10<sup>th</sup> November H.H. The King unveiled a new inscription on the Cenotaph in Whitehall before a Television audience and those gathered in the street.

In 1947, both BBC Radio and TV were again broadcasting the service of Remembrance from Whitehall to the whole of Britain and continue to this day to do so.

The 1947 "A Festival of Empire and Remembrance", moved to the Saturday before the 11<sup>th</sup> November with the King and Queen in attendance along with the BBC's Richard Dimbleby describing the event to the listeners of the Home Service.

In 1948, the British Legion stopped making the Silk Poppies and replaced them with a newer material of sateen, an artificial silk with a black centre and sawdust outer ring to depict stamens.

In 1948 the "A Festival of Empire and Remembrance", was renamed back to the "British Legion Festival of Remembrance".

1950 was the year the BBC Television station joined the Light Programme to broadcast the event with the TV broadcast starting at 6.55pm and a recording of the concert broadcast on the Light Programme at 9pm. Both

their Majesties, The King and Queen attended along with Queen Mary (Mother of the King) and their Royal Highnesses Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret.

In 1958, the British Legion was asked to introduce a colour scheme to stop people using last year's poppy. The centre button traditionally black would now alternate from blue one year to yellow the following year. This didn't last (If at all) as the black button was seen on poppies from the 1960's onwards.

In the early days a leaf had been added to the English Poppy as people wanted to make poppy sprays which were made up of five silk poppies attached to 7 pieces of green fern. Unfortunately, in 1959 the leaf was dropped as it was considered to be too expensive to include in the price.

In 1967 a "New Look" poppy was introduced consisting of a plastic stem and button with a one-piece petal with the plastic centre bearing the words "Haig Fund" and no leaf. This new poppy would replace all the previous types of poppy and would now be a one stop poppy that was available between 1967 and 1987 with the same basic look as the one found today.

A different wreath poppy was available with a wire stem and black outer centre.

In 1968 the "British Legion Festival of Remembrance", producer was Ralph Reader, the organiser of the Scout Concerts. He would look after the shows for many years. In 1980 for Ralph Reader's last show as producer he persuaded Ann Shelton a wartime singer to lead the community singing part of the concert and in 1981 Robert Reader took on the role of Producer inviting Cheerful Charlie Chester to lead the community singing that year and in 1982. Between 1983 and 1987 Moira Anderson was asked to lead the community singing. In 1988 Richard Baker was brought in to be the shows narrator a job he would continue for many years until 2003 while on radio in 1991 Angela Rippon was given the job of presenting the live commentary of the concert for BBC Radio 2 having followed on from Cliff Morgan. After 60 years of Broadcasts on the 8 November 2003, the 'Festival of Remembrance' took another twist with the introduction of the Celebrity turns (Acts). The celebrities joined new Festival presenter Hew Edwards on stage at the Royal Albert Hall for this new format production and he has presented the show ever since. In 2003 the following acts entertained the audience, Amichi Forever (Classical Singing Group), Michael Cormick, The Millennium Youth Choir, Jim Davidson (Comedian), Hayley Westenra (New Zealand Singer) and Will Young (Pop Singer).

Up until now collecting tins had been made of metal but in 1969, they were replaced by a carrier bag slung over the shoulder of the seller which would hold a new blue torch-shaped collecting box. Initially a trial in some areas in 1968 the "New Look" was rolled out over the whole country.

In 1969, the waxed car poppy was dropped in preference to a car sticker mainly because of manpower shortages and production costs at the factories.

By 1984, the leaf had become an optional extra but 12 million leaves a year were still being demanded. At the 1987 British Legion Conference the leaf debate was brought up and it was asked if the leaf could make a comeback with the Poppies in future, as so many people were asking for its return and so in 1987 (1995 according to some websites) poppies were again issued with leaves for the first time since 1959.

In 1994, the centre words of the poppy changed from Haig's Fund (or Haig Fund) to "Poppy Appeal" in England, Wales and Northern Ireland with Scotland continuing to use Haig's Fund on the poppy and they kept the Scottish organisation name as the "Earl Haig Fund Scotland" until 2006 when it became "Poppy Scotland"(Poppyscotland).

In 1995, the Car Poppy returned but this time it was not made of a waxed cloth but of plastic and had the words "Poppy Appeal" on its black centre and was similar in shape, only larger than the buttonhole poppy.

In 2000, the poppy collection tin changed again to a red plastic cone shaped bottom with a Cylinder-shaped top to the "PolyboxHandbox 3" design which was made by Angal Ltd of London.

In 2006, a Purple Poppy was introduced to remember the Animal Victims of war.

In 2007, "Poppy Scotland" (Poppyscotland) adopted the Poppy Appeal words on its poppies, falling in line with the rest of the country.

In 2010, the collection box again changed to a squashed (Sides) version of the 2000 box along with various poppy shaped boxes that were designed for leaving in shops and businesses.

In 2011, 6,000 poppies were dropped from a Second World War plane over Yeovil in Somerset.

100 years on from the start of the First World War and a whole new era of celebrations took place with the poppy appeal. Between 2014 and 2018 a series of metal pin badges were produced to celebrate the 100 years anniversaries with the numbers on the badges showing the 100-year divide from 1914 to 2014 etc.

In 2014, as the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the First World War approached many people started knitting or crochet their own Poppies with many of the profits of these private sales going to the Royal British Legion, but it was not part of the official collection. There had been versions of these over the years but their popularity increased as more people wanted to do something special for the anniversary and so they appeared everywhere. In Crewe they decorated the trees next to the War Memorial with woollen poppies.

Why 2014? The answer is that BBC Radio Nottingham started an appeal for knitted or crochet versions of the poppy for an exhibition to celebrate the 11,000 soldiers lost during the First World War from the Nottingham area. In all 66,000 poppies were donated to the exhibition which was held at the Nottingham Contemporary Centre. News of the event went around the BBC and soon the patterns were being passed to thousands of people to do it yourself.

2014 was the start of the biggest Poppy celebration held so far when the dry moat at the Tower of London was covered in 888,246 ceramic poppies commemorating each person who died fighting for the British Empire between 1914 and 1918 (1919). Made mainly in Derbyshire and Stoke on Trent, each poppy was sponsored at a cost of £25, with the poppy being sent to the sponsor at the end of the event. Parts of the exhibition were also broken up into smaller parts and sent to places all over the country for display as they spilled out over town centre steps, museum buildings and anywhere it was thought would take the message to the people.

The Poppy itself was designed by Paul Cummings who unfortunately lost a finger and damaged another in a machine while he was making the poppies and they were arranged by Tom Piper a theatre designer. Called "Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red" it was named after a poem written into a will by a Derbyshire Soldier who had died in Flanders Field the site of the inspiration for the Poppy Poem by John McCrae. With the poppies made initially at Paul Cummings factory in Derbyshire production was increased by workers at the Johnson Tile Factory in Stoke on Trent. On the 17 July 2014 the longest serving Yeoman Warder, Crawford Butler planted the first poppy followed by volunteers planting the poppies in the grounds of the Tower of London and it was officially opened on the 4 August 2014 with Prince's William and Harry along with the Duchess of Cambridge viewing the display. Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were given a tour of the poppies on the 16 October 2014. Each day between the 1 September and 10 November 2014, a Yeoman Warder or guest would read out 180 names of soldiers and servicemen who had died as the sun set on the poppy field, followed by the 'Last Post'.

The instillation also inspired a story in 2019 for the BBC Radio 2's "500 Words" competition written by Dulcie Cooper aged 9 who described the journey of a piece of clay from ground to poppy.

On the 11 November 2014, the poppy display ended with 13 year old Combined Cadet Force of Reading Blue Coat school, Harry Hayes planting the last poppy in the display that had been seen by thousands of people from all over the world and after the final days ceremony the poppies were taken up until the end of November. Some of the poppies were sent onto their sponsors while the rest were split into two blocks, "Weeping Window" and "Wave". They would then be sent to a number of locations on tour for each venue to display the poppies how they wanted.

#### WEEPING WINDOW

Woodhorn Museum, Ashington (12 Sept 2015)

St George's Hall, Liverpool

St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall, Orkney

Black Watch Museum, Perth, Scotland

Caernarfon Castle, Wales

Hull Maritime Museum

The Silk Mill, Derby

Senedd in Cardiff

Ulster Museum in Belfast, Northern Ireland

Hereford Cathedral

Carlisle Castle

Middleport Pottery, Stoke on Trent (Last minute addition due to the work put in  
by Staffordshire Potters)

Imperial War Museum, London (18 Nov 2018)

(Temporary Exhibition and then into their main display and archive)

WAVE

Yorkshire Sculpture Park (5 Sept 2015)

Lincoln Cathedral

Barge Pier, Shoeburyness

Plymouth Navel Memorial

Royal Armouries at Fort Nelson, Hampshire

Imperial War Museum North at Salford Near Manchester (28 Nov 2018)

(Temporary Exhibition and then into their main display and archive)

POEM

The blood swept lands and seas of red,  
Where angels dare to tread.  
As I put my hand to reach,  
As God cried a tear of pain as the angels fell,  
Again, and again.  
As the tears of mine fell to the ground,  
To sleep with the flowers of red,  
As any be dead.  
My children see and work through fields  
of my own with corn and wheat,  
Blessed by love so far from pain of my resting  
Fields so far from my love.  
It be time to put my hand up and end this pain  
Of living hell, to see the people around me  
Fall someone angel as the mist falls around,  
And the rain so thick with black  
thunder I hear  
Over the clouds, to sleep forever and kiss  
The flower of my people gone before time  
To sleep and cry no more.  
I put my hand up and see the land of red,  
This is my time to go over,  
I may not come back So sleep, kiss the boys for me.

Between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018, Tom Piper was again designing an installation for the Tower of London with his "Beyond the Deepest Shadow" which had 10,000 flames being lit one at a time from 5pm to 9pm each day as the sun sets the tower becomes illuminated by the flames.

In 2018, the last of the 14-18 metal pin badge poppies were produced alongside two special edition standard poppies that were introduced, an English Gold Leaf poppy with 1918-2018 printed on the leaf while in Scotland the 1918-2018 was printed on the petals as they don't have a leaf on the Scottish poppy. 40,000 limited edition "Khadi" poppies (Made of Paper) were also produced to pay tribute to the 74,000 Hindu, Muslim and Sikh men who fought with the Indian Expeditionary Force in WW1.

2018 was also the year of the Lamp-post Poppy a large 16-inch flat floppy poppy which could be attached to street furniture. However, they were not as available as many would have liked and so some towns used car poppies to display on their lampposts which made a much better display.

In 2018 over 40,000 volunteers distributed 40 million poppies along with other items to raise funds with the oldest poppy seller being Walter "Wally" Randell who was born on the 8 September 1915 and had sold poppies in Leighton Buzzard since the 1950's making him 103 years old at the time.

The 2018 appeal was the largest in the history of the event mainly due to the commemoration of the end of the First World War with the total raised for the Royal British Legion in Sandbach being a grand total of £26,519.27 from the Poppy Appeal with the Cheshire East Area contributing £727,716.63 up by 13% on the previous year (2017) and the national total being over £46,084,263.55p

The four years of events looking back 100 years from 2014 to 1914 and so on, showed an annual increase in donations as more people have been involved with events and collections all around the country throughout the year and not only on the 11<sup>th</sup> November. An extra 200,000 collection tins were distributed in 2018 from the

previous year and “Contactless” donations made on debit cards rose to a staggering £210,000 up from £67,000 in 2017, that’s an average donation of £4.67 per transaction. Sandbach itself held an event which was featured on the BBC’s North West Tonight to celebrate those who died in 1918 including Edwin Firth from Foden’s Band with collections at the Transport Festival and other events in the town. Sandbach certainly gave its support to the work of the Royal British Legion this year and contributed to the welfare of those who served and serve their country.

In 2019 the Poppy Appeal items available for sale has reached over 194 with lapel badges, cufflinks, animal items, broaches, pencils, shopping bags, watches, a 2019 metal badge and the humble poppy.

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## POPPY FACTS

Wearing a poppy has always been the source of some mystery as to the correct way to display the flower. If you are a civilian man then you wear it on the left hand side next to your heart with the poppy stem pointing down (Never at an Angle) and the leaf pointed towards the North West (Viewed from front), with the correct times to wear it from the end of October to the 11 November or Remembrance Sunday whichever is the latter. It is said that women wear the poppy on the right-hand side as they would a broach but this seems to have fallen out of favour as everyone seems to wear the poppy on the left including Her Majesty, The Queen.

The leaf direction on the poppy is not that important as it seems to move as you wear it but it is supposed to represent either 11am on the 11<sup>th</sup> the day being the end of World War 1 or the direction home to the United Kingdom from Europe and Germany in a Northwest direction.

Poppy days are held in the UK, Canada (Since 1921 and are worn on the Left lapel as near the heart as possible), Australia (Since 1921), the United States of America and New Zealand (Since 1922 because the ship carrying the poppies from France was delayed in 1921 and so the poppy was first worn in 1922). In New Zealand and Australia, the poppies are also worn on Anzac Day (25 April).

CANADA = 1921 to 1980 Black Centre / 1980 to 2002 Green Centre / 2002 to date Black Centre.

2007 sticker versions made for children to wear

1921 to 1996 made by veterans in Canada / 1996 to date made by private contract.

For many years the poppy has also been controversial with people in the public eye being forced to wear the poppy at all times, with the BBC in particular handing out poppies to all its presenters and guests who are broadcasting during the remembrance period even if they do not support the appeal. As a voluntary scheme to raise funds for the Royal British Legion many see this as an attack against their human rights to decide what to wear and to support. In the 2018 World Cup football the England team asked FIFA if they could wear poppies on their shirts during a match between themselves and Spain only to be turned down. Prince William attacked the decision and FIFA relented by letting England, Scotland and Wales to wear a poppy on a black armband. In 2018 for the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers England, Scotland and Northern Ireland were all fined for wearing the poppy as it was considered a religious symbol which is banned under FIFA Rules.

In a twist of irony, the French have not adopted the Poppy as their symbol of remembrance, instead they have the “Bleuer de France” which is based on the Cornflower. The “Bleuets” also referred to French Soldiers born in 1895 and were conscripted to serve at the Second Battle of the Aisne. They were called this after the blue tunics they wore in preference to the red trousers of the older soldiers which had been the standard uniform before 1914. Like the Poppy the cornflower continued to grow in fields that had been devastated by shelling and soldiers’ footprints, so it became a symbol of the French fighters. In 1916 Suzanne Lenhart the head nurse at Les Invalides and Charlotte Malleterre designed the Corn Flower badge and organised workshops where the badges were made of tissue paper. In the following years since 1918 disabled soldiers and veterans were seen selling the flowers. On the 15 September 1920, the President of Mutilés de France, Louis Fontenaille proposed making the Bleuets the eternal symbol for those who died for France and in 1928 French President Gaston Doumergue gave his patronage to the idea. By the 11 November 1934 128,000 flowers were being sold and in 1935 the French Government made it official for the sale of the Corn Flowers to remember the fallen on the 11 November. In 1957 after the Second World War, France added the 8 May to their calendar to commemorate VE Day and the Freedom of France from German Occupation.

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## A CONCERT OF REMEMBRANCE

Responsible for organising many of the Remembrance Days Events the Royal British Legion also hold a "Festival of Remembrance" at the Royal Albert Hall in London on the Saturday before Remembrance Sunday. Started in 1923 as a "Festival Commemoration Performance" a concert which was staged at the Royal Albert Hall in London on the 11 November.

In 1927 the concert was renamed "The British Legion Festival of Remembrance" and was recorded for a His Master's Voice (HMV) gramophone record set (78's).

There are now two performances each year of "The British Legion Festival of Remembrance" with the first show for members of the public and the evening performance in-front of members of Royalty (The Queen) and of the Royal British Legion.

On Friday the 11 November 1927, 5XX Daventry and 2LO London (BBC Experimental Local Radio Stations for London) broadcast the first Festival in conjunction with the Daily Express who had organised the event followed in 1928 with the same stations covering the concert. The 1929 performance and show were taken over by the Royal British Legion and was the first year that 1,060,825 poppy leaves were released from above the hall to float down into the auditorium. There was one petal for each man who had lost their lives for the Empire.

On Tuesday the 11 November 1930 the National Programme of the BBC broadcast the event at 8pm taking up the broadcast for the nation.

In 1933, H.R.H Prince of Wales read "To the Fallen" by Laurence Binyon during the broadcast.

On the 11 November 1937 the Annual Remembrance Festival of the British Legion (Scotland) was broadcast from the Ulster Hall in Edinburgh with H.R.H. The Princess Royal in attendance.

In 1938 the concert was renamed "A Festival of Empire and Remembrance" but was cut in 1939 until 1943 due to the war.

On the 11 November 1943 the BBC again broadcast the Concert this time on the BBC Home Service and in 1946 Wynford Vaughan Thomas described the muster of the Legion Standards and of the Service held in-front of the King and Queen.

In 1947, the concert moved to the Saturday before the 11<sup>th</sup> November with the King and Queen in attendance along with the BBC's Richard Dimbleby describing the event to the listeners of the Home Service.

In 1948 the "A Festival of Empire and Remembrance", was renamed back to the "British Legion Festival of Remembrance".

1950 was the year the BBC Television station joined the Light Programme to broadcast the event with the TV broadcast starting at 6.55pm and a recording of the concert broadcast on the Light Programme at 9pm. Both their Majesties, The King and Queen attended along with Queen Mary (Mother of the King) and their Royal Highnesses Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret.

In 1968 the Festival producer was Ralph Reader the organiser of the Scout Concerts. He would look after the shows for many years. In 1980 for Ralph Reader's last show as producer he persuaded Ann Shelton a wartime singer to lead the community singing part of the concert and in 1981 Robert Reader took on the role of Producer inviting Cheerful Charlie Chester to lead the community singing that year and in 1982.

1983 and 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987 Moira Anderson

In 1988 Richard Baker was brought in to be the shows narrator a job he would continue to do for many years.

In 1991 Angela Rippon was given the job of presenting the live commentary of the concert for BBC Radio 2 having followed on from Cliff Morgan.

After 60 years of Broadcasts on the 8 November 2003, the 'Festival of Remembrance' took another twist with the introduction of the Celebrity turns (Acts). The celebrities joined new Festival presenter Hew Edwards on stage at the Royal Albert Hall for this new format production and he has presented the show ever since.

The following acts headlined these concerts; -

2003 = Amichi Forever (Classical Singing Group), Michael Cormick, The Millennium Youth Choir, Jim Davidson (Comedian), Hayley Westenra (New Zealand Singer) and Will Young (Pop Singer)

2004 = Katherine Jenkins (Welsh Opera Singer), James Fox (Actor) and Russell Watson. (13 November 2004)

2005 = Katherine Jenkins was joined by Bryn Terfel



- 2006 = Katherine Jenkins, James Fox and Chris De Burgh (Lady in Red).
- 2007 = Katherine Jenkins, Simon Williams (Actor), Alfie Boe (Les Misérables / Opera Singer)
- 2008 = Katherine Jenkins, Jonathan Ansell (Ex G4 Singer), Hayley Westenra
- 2009 = Hayley Westenra, Jamie Cullum (Jazz Singer and Pianist), Faryl Smith (14-Year-old Mezzo) and the Fron Male Voice Choir.
- 2010 = Brian May, Kerry Ellis, Hayley Westenra, The Soldiers (Service men who made a Best-selling CD)
- 2011 = Sir Cliff Richard, Alfie Boe, Katherine Jenkins, Joe McElderry
- 2012 = Rod Stewart, Alexandra Burke, Russell Watson, The Overtones, Amore, Jon Joe Kerr and the Military Wives (Formed from wives of serving personnel for this event)
- 2013 = James Blunt, Alfie Boe, Katie Melua, Poppy Girls (Formed for the occasion)
- 2014 = Joss Stone, Stars of War Horse (Play), Jim Radford (D Day Veteran)
- 2015 = Andrea Bocelli, Rod Stewart, Gregory Porter, Pixie Lott
- 2016 = Michael Ball and Alfie Boe, Laura Mvula, Birdy, Alexander Armstrong.
- 2017 = Emeli Sande, Tom Odell, Melanie C, Alfie Boe, Lesley Garrett.
- 2018 = Sir Tom Jones, Sheridan Smith, Sir Bryn Terfel, Tom Fletcher and Danny Jones, ShekuKanneh-Mason, The Kingdom Choir.
- 2019 = James Blunt, Leona Lewis and Jeff Goldblum (9 Nov 2019 at 2pm and 7pm (Finish at 8.45pm)
- 2020 = Samantha Morton, Kara-Leah Fernandes (Eastenders), Julian Ovenden (West end star), Captain Tom Moore, Micia Paris, Sophie Ellis Bexter, Michael Ball and Alfie Boe with recorded Vera Lynn who had died earlier in the year.  
This was a Socially Distanced event with no Audience and specially recorded segments including HRH The Prince of Wales.
- 2021 = Gregory Porter, Jenny Agutter, Alfie Boe, Cynthia Erivo, Alexandra Burke and Ramin Karimloo.

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**REMEMBRANCE DAY BROADCASTS ON THE BBC**

We all think of the BBC Broadcasting the Remembrance Day Service from the Cenotaph in London but it was not the first venue for this annual event. On the 5 July 1925 experimental Local BBC Station 5SC Glasgow broadcast from the Cenotaph in George Square in Glasgow followed on the 11 November 1925 by the Remembrance Day Service. BBC Station 5WA Cardiff also broadcast from its Cenotaph on the 11 November 1925 and in 1926 Hull's 6KH Hull joined the list. It was not until the 5 June 1927 that BBC 2LO London broadcast from the Cenotaph in Whitehall. In 1930 the National Programme broadcast the service from London to the whole nation for the first time joining many of the regional stations to commemorate this event. On the 11 November 1937, BBC Television broadcast live from the Cenotaph in Whitehall with the Bands of the Grenadier Guards, Coldstream Guards, Scots Guards and Welsh Guards playing at 10.30am followed by the minutes silence at 11am and the short service by the Right Rev. and Right Hon. The Lord Bishop of London with commentary by Thomas Woodrooffe. Like other events the war stopped the commemoration from 1940 until 1945 (BBC TV Stopped broadcasting the event in 1938). In 1946, on the 10<sup>th</sup> November H.H. The King unveiled a new inscription on the Cenotaph in Whitehall before a Television audience and those gathered in the street. In 1947, both BBC Radio and TV were again broadcasting the service of Remembrance from Whitehall to the whole of Britain and continue to this day to do so.

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**THE SCOTTISH POPPY**

The standard poppy is sold in England, Wales and Northern Ireland but Scotland has its own version with four petals and no leaf. UK poppies are made in the Poppy factory in Richmond (Opened in 1922), London and for Scotland at the Lady Haig's Poppy Factory in Edinburgh all with volunteers making about 30 million each year. The Poppy factory in Aylesford, London was set up by Major George Howson to employ ex-servicemen to make the poppies for each year's appeal. With such demand in England and Wales very few managed to reach Scotland and so in 1926 Dorothy Haig the wife of Earl Haig set up the "Lady Haig Poppy Factory" in Edinburgh to cater for the Scottish appeal with over 5 million being produced and distributed by "Poppy Scotland".

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**AVAILABLE IN 2019**

OTHER ITEMS

Standard Lapel Poppy (Donation), Pencils, Erasers, Pin Badges, Plastic Car Poppies, Plastic Lorry Poppies, Poppy Wreath (£18.50), Ties (£12.99), Scarf (£12.99), 2019 Lapel Pin Gold Tone (£6.99), Poppy Cenotaph Brooch (£14.99), Royal Army Corps Service Pin (£7.99), Shopping Bags (£3.99 to £9.99), Wrist Bands (Black £1.99), Bracelets (£12.99 to 14.99), Friendship Bracelets (£7.99), Poppy Wristband (Poppy on White £1.99), Poppy Cufflinks (£12.99), Spitfire Cufflinks (£14.99), HMS Albion Cufflinks (£14.99), RAF Roundel Cufflinks (£12.99), Battleship / Tank / Typhoon / Harrier / HMS Dauntless / HMS Astute / Queen Elizabeth Ship Cufflinks (£14.99), Poppy Silver / Poppy Gold Cufflinks (£12.99), Silver Poppy Cufflinks (£199.99), Patina Silver / Gold Cufflinks (£12.99), Poppy Rose Gold / Petal Cufflinks (£749.99), Watches (£39.99), Key Rings (£2.99 to £5.99), 2019 Gold Lapel Badge, 2019 Silver Lapel Badge (£6.99)

ORDINARY – Poppy Lapel Pin Small (£2.99 Standard Size), Poppy Lapel Pin Medium (£3.99), Ridge Poppy Lapel Pin (£3.99), Small Metallic Poppy Lapel Pin (£4.99), Ridge Poppy Badge (£9.99), Clip on Poppy (£3.99), 2019 Silver Tone Crystal Centre Poppy Pin (£7.99), 2019 Gold Tone Crystal Centre Poppy Pin (£7.99), 2019 Enamel and Stone Poppy Lapel Pin (£6.99), 2019 Heart Poppy with Leaf Pin (£6.99), Poppy Collection Enamel Lapel Pin (£6.99), The Poppy Collection Vintage Lapel Pin Silver Tone (£6.99), The Poppy Collection Vintage Lapel Pin Gold Tone (£6.99), The Poppy Collection Vintage Crystal Lapel Pin (£6.99), The Poppy Collection Enamel Lapel Pin Gold Tone (£6.99), Poppy Collection Lapel Pin Badge with Leaf (£4.99), Round Poppy Badge (£4.99), Poppy Lapel Stick Pin (£12.99), Ridge Poppy Stick Pin (£9.99), Patina Silver Tone Badge (£6.99), Patina Gold Tone Badge (£6.99), Magnetic Ridge Poppy Lapel badge, Thank You Leather Lapel Pin (£29.99),

MODEL BADGES - Battleship Lapel Badge (£4.99), Spitfire Lapel Pin (Aircraft £5.99), Queen Elizabeth Silver Tone 3d Lapel Badge, HMS Astute Silver Tone Lapel Badge (Submarine £5.99), HMS Dauntless Silver Tone Lapel Badge, HMS Albion Silver Tone Lapel Badge.

2019 D DAY ANNIVERSARY 75 Years – D Day 75 Lapel Badge, D Day 75 Army Lapel Badge, D Day 75 Navy Lapel Badge, D Day 75 RAF Lapel Badge (All £2.99),

ANNIVERSARY BADGES – 2019 Burma Campaign Pin (£2.99), 2019 Operation Banner Pin (£2.99), 2019 Battle of Monte Cassino (£2.99), 2019 Battle of Kohima Poppy (£2.99), 2019 Battle of Imphal Poppy Pin (£2.99), 2019 Battle of Arnhem Pin (£2.99), 2019 Battle of the Bulge Pin (£2.99), 2019 Berlin Airlift Pin (£2.99), WW1 Centenary Leather Pin (£19.99)

#### SERVICE POPPY PINS

1<sup>st</sup> Queen's Dragoon Guards (£7.99)  
17/21<sup>st</sup> Lancers (Or Glory) (£7.99)  
Adjutant Generals Corps (£7.99)  
Adjutant Generals Corps (ETS Branch) (£7.99)  
Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (£7.99)  
Army (£7.99)  
Army Air Corps (£7.99)  
Army Catering Corps (£7.99)  
Auxiliary Territorial Service (£7.99)  
Black Watch (£7.99)  
Blues and Royals (£7.99)  
Cheshire Regiment (£7.99)  
Coldstream Guards (£7.99)  
Commonwealth Pin Badge (£7.99)  
Corps of Army Music (£7.99)  
Duke of Lancaster's (£7.99)  
East Surrey Regiment (£7.99)  
Fleet Air Arm (£7.99)  
Gloucester Regiment (£7.99)  
Gordon Highlanders (£7.99)  
Grenadier Guards (£7.99)  
Intelligence Corps (£7.99)  
Household Cavalry (£7.99)  
Infantry (£7.99)  
Irish Guards (£7.99)  
Kings Own Scottish Borderers (£7.99)

Kings Royal Rifle Corps (£7.99)  
Lancashire Fusiliers (£7.99)  
Light Infantry (£7.99)  
Merchant Navy (£7.99)  
Mercian Regiment (£7.99)  
Metropolitan Police Service (£7.99)  
Military Provost Guard Service (£7.99)  
National Memorial Arboretum Pin (Not a poppy) (£1.99)  
Northumberland Fusiliers (£7.99)  
Parachute Regiment (£7.99)  
Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service (£7.99)  
Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (£7.99)  
Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps (QARANC) (£7.99)  
Queen Alexandra's Royal Navy Nursing Service (£7.99)  
Queen's Own Buffs (£7.99)  
Queen's Royal Hussars (£7.99)  
Queen's Royal Regiment (£7.99)  
Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment (£7.99)  
R.E.M.E. (£7.99)  
Royal Air Force (£7.99)  
Royal Air Force Regiment (£7.99)  
Royal Anglians (£7.99)  
Royal Armoured Corps (£7.99)  
Royal Army Medical Corps (£7.99)  
Royal Army Ordnance Corps (£7.99)  
Royal Army Physical Training Corps (£7.99)  
Royal Army Veterinary Corps (£7.99)  
Royal Corps of Transport (£7.99)  
Royal Dragoon Guards (£7.99)  
Royal Green Jackets (£7.99)  
Royal Gurkha Rifles (£7.99)  
Royal Horse Artillery (£7.99)  
Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers (£7.99)  
Royal Irish Regiment (£7.99)  
Royal Lancers (£7.99)  
Royal Logistic Corps (£7.99)  
Royal Marines (£7.99)  
Royal Military Police (£7.99)  
Royal Navy (£7.99)  
Royal Navy Surface Fleet (£7.99)  
Royal Norfolk Regiment (£7.99)  
Royal Regiment of Fusiliers (£7.99)  
Royal Regiment of Scotland (£7.99)  
Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (£7.99)  
Royal Sussex Regiment (£7.99)  
Royal Tank Regiment (£7.99)  
Royal Ulster Rifles (£7.99)  
Royal Warwickshire Regiment (£7.99)  
Royal Welsh (£7.99)  
Scots Guards (£7.99)  
Sherwood Foresters (£7.99)  
Small Arms School Corps (£7.99)  
Staffordshire Regiment (£7.99)  
Submarine Service (£7.99)  
Suffolk Regiment (£7.99)  
The Life Guards (£7.99)  
The Light Dragoons (£7.99)  
The Middlesex Regiment (£7.99)  
The Rifles (£7.99)  
Ulster Defence Regiment (£7.99)

Welch Regiment (£7.99)  
Welsh Guards (£7.99)  
Women's Royal Army Corps (£7.99)  
WRNS (£7.99)  
Yorkshire Regiment (£7.99)  
**(91 REGIMENTAL BADGES)**

DOG ITEMS - Doggie Bandana (£6.99 Small / Medium / £7.99 Large / Extra Large), Blue poppy Dog Coat (Small £19.99 / Medium £24.99), Ridged Poppy Pet Tag (£2.99 Small / £3.99 Medium / £4.99 Large), Dog Poppy Collar (£6.99 Small / £7.99 Large), Poppy Paws High Sided Dog Bed (£39.99), Poppy Paws Dog Blanket (£19.99), Short Poppy Dog Lead (£7.99), Rigby the Dog (£14.99) and Poppy Collection Pet tag (£6.99)

[www.poppysshop.org.uk](http://www.poppysshop.org.uk)

(16)

## The History of the War Memorial.

There are two types of Memorials to the fallen of the First and Second World Wars. A War Memorial which is found in most towns and cities and a Cenotaph which by its nature is only found in a few cities.

CENOTAPH – A Cenotaph is an empty Tomb or a monument erected in honour of a person or group of people whose remains are elsewhere.

WAR MEMORIAL – A War Memorial is a building, monument, statue or other edifice to celebrate a war or victory or to commemorate those who died or were injured in a war.

### LONDON CENOTAPH

In 1919 the London Cenotaph was erected as a temporary structure and was followed by a Peace Parade in the City to celebrate the end of the Great War of 1914-18. It was the idea of Prime Minister David Lloyd George who had heard about a French Parade to celebrate the end of its war with Germany and like the one planned for London on the 19 July 1919 it involved troops parading through the streets. However, the French version has a saluting point and the PM thought the London version should have one as well. Architect Edwin Lutyens met with Sir Frank Baines the Chief Architect of the Office of Works to sketch out a Cenotaph which would be built out of wood and plaster. On the 18 July 1919, the day before the Victory Parade the new structure was unveiled and looked remarkably like it does today only it was a temporary build for what was planned as a one-off parade. 15,000 soldiers and 1,500 officers took part in the march past, saluting the new cenotaph or “saluting point”, as they passed.

Soon members of the public were laying flowers at the base of the monument and by the end of the week an estimated 1.2 million people had paid their respects at the temporary Cenotaph.

Four days after the Victory Parade the Memorial was discussed in the Houses of Parliament. William Ormsby-Gore a Conservative MP for Stafford questioned Mond about a permanent replacement and along with an editorial in the Times calling for its replacement the cabinet agreed to the idea on the 30 July 1919 and work on amending the plans started.

Made of Portland Stone in a rectangular shape with gradually diminishing tiers, culminating in a sculpted tomb chest (The Empty Tomb that makes this a Cenotaph rather than a War Memorial) it was a plain but effective memorial to the fallen of the Great War.

In 1919, H.M. The King George V suggested that the whole country should hold a two minutes silence to remember the dead “I believe that my people in every part of the Empire fervently wish to perpetuate the memory of the great deliverance, and those who laid down their lives to achieve it”. The King also suggested the time of the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> Day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month when there may be a brief space of two minutes when a complete suspension of all normal activities would be followed by the Last Post. The ‘Last Post’ played an important part in the Great War as a bugler would play the last post at the start and end of the day over every grave on the battlefield. Soon it became part of the daily routine that the dead would be buried at the start and end of the day with the bugler again playing at the ceremony.

On the 11 November 1919, Prime Minister David Lloyd George walked from Downing Street to the temporary Cenotaph to lay a wreath on behalf of the Nation. A representative of the French President also laid a wreath with soldiers and sailors providing a guard of honour and the veterans association arranged a march past.

On the 11 November 1920, the New Cenotaph was unveiled by H.M. The King as part of a larger procession to bring the body of the Unknown Soldier to Westminster Abbey to be interred there. As the Unknown Soldier's coffin passed the Cenotaph on the back of a gun carriage the King laid a wreath on the coffin and then unveiled the memorial which had been draped with a large Union Flag.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> November 1946, H.H. The King unveiled a new inscription on the Cenotaph in Whitehall to commemorate those from WW2.

## **SANDBACH MEMORIALS**

### **ELWORTH**

16 May 1920 Elworth War Memorial (Made of Portland Stone / York Stone Base)

### **BRUNNER MOND**

1921 (Relocated in 1934) Sandbach Cemetery – Brunner Mond  
(Relocated by Darcy Braddell for Brunner Mond)

After the first world war many companies took the decision to honour their workers who had laid down their lives during the conflict. Foden's in Sandbach put up a named plaque on its wall and Sandbach School did likewise but the most impressive was Brunner Mond who did its workers proud but for a different reason. In 1872 John Tomlinson Brunner and Ludwig Mond a German Chemist met while working for the Hutchinson's Alkali Works in Widnes. They set out to find a site for an ammonia works of their own in the Cheshire Salt district and discovered a site in Winnington near Northwich where they built the first of three plants in the area. By the start of the First World War the company had expanded and had acquired a site in London which was tasked with making ammunition for the war effort. Being German, Ludwig Mond was supplying bullets to kill his own countrymen but as he considered the war against the Keiser more important, he supported the British Army.

Unfortunately, on the 19 January 1917 at 6.52am a blast occurred at the Brunner Mond munitions factory at Silvertown in West Ham, Essex (Now London Borough of Newham) killing 73 workers and injuring 400. The company was making explosives for the First World War and this made the national news headlines as well as destroying parts of the surrounding area. It was possibly this event that caused the owners of the company to think about commemorating the debt owed to those who lost their lives in the explosion and a monument was positioned outside where the works used to be.

At the end of the war the company decided to repeat the tribute at all their works with memorials to the individual workers of each factory being commemorated outside their own place of employment as was the case in Sandbach (Now at Sandbach Cemetery).

### **SANDBACH WAR MEMORIAL (See War Memorial)**

16 Apr 1922 The War Memorial was unveiled on the 16 April 1922 at 3pm by  
Lieut Colonel John Kennedy, C.M.G., D.S.O., of the Black Watch  
on the Market Square.

He was the son of Colonel and Mrs Kennedy of Brookside, Arclid.

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## **#HS. SALT WORKS**

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There were built before 1696 two salt works, in Malkins Bank, Sandbach which were eventually owned by the Salt Union Ltd.

There was also a Salt works in Wheelock, established in about 1868.

### **PALMER, MANN AND CO. LTD Rookery Bridge Salt Works (1919).**

Founded by John Alexander Palmer who moved from Liverpool to Sandbach in 1913 the firm started to sell Salt from the area having purchased land at Ettley Heath in 1919. However to make it more cost efficient it needed to manufacture its own salt and in 1923 it started to do this with a factory on the site.

The first Bore Holes were drilled and yielded brine of rare density and exceptional strength.

Following the first permanent hole they drilled another two each giving exceptional output.

In 1932 the company decided to expand its processing works with a new up-to-date "Vacuum Salt Plant" which they estimated would cost between £20,000 and £30,000.

By 1933 the company had a frontage of 3,000 feet facing the main London, Midland and Scottish Company on the main line from Crewe to Manchester. The company have agreed to have a private siding to the main line to transport its output to all parts of the country.

The new building had the trade name SIFTA on the side of a building along with a 120 foot chimney.

The name SIFTA was invented by John Palmer's wife and in 1935 they produced a book called "Reasonable Recipes by Sifta Sam" a sea captain like character used on its packets and advertising.

In 1956 Mr John Palmer a keen cricket fan issued a series of 24 collector's cards of famous English and Australian cricketers rather like the cigarette cards of the time. (2016 they fetched £6 each)

The company not only traded under the name SIFTA but also produced table salt under the names A1 and POPULAR.

Another product for Palmer and Mann was "Velvasel" a salt used for softening water (A Poster on the Web dates from 1934).

In 1965 the company was taken over and after a few owners became part of the "British Salt Company" and later Rank Hovis McDougal (RHM) who built their own factory next door.

### **THE BRITISH SODA CO. LTD Elworth (1923).**

Formed in 1923 they acquired the Salt Works at Elworth in 1923. Previously owned by Palmer Mann and Co Ltd to produce salt in the area, a tradition that goes back to the days of the Romans.

By the 20<sup>th</sup> Century not much had changed in the process of extracting salt from the ground until a Vacuum Process was introduced to revolutionise the industry we know today.

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## **SAND QUARRY (Arclid Quarry, Congleton Road)**

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These seems to have been a sand quarry opposite Brookside Hall (Owned in 1908 by Colonel John Kennedy) on the Congleton Road since ancient times with Commercial mining taking place from the 1950's (Or Previous) to date.

Evidence of an older mine is in the middle of the wood (Taxmere near Arclid) where a pond had been found to have a deep side to the hole and on one side of it the mere has straight sides pointing to the fact that sand was dug out of the pit well before the trees were grown. It was possible the sand was used to supply the Roman Road at Arclid but so far evidence for this has not been found.

In the 1970's Ken Dodd opened the ERF Club at Brookside Hall for the benefit of employees. However, with the loss of the company the building was taken over by the sand quarry owners as an administration building and by 2015 it housed Bathgate Sand, Sibelco UK and Sibelco Europe (Sand Company), Sibelco Mineral and Chemicals (Holdings) Ltd, Fordath Ltd, Ilamian Ltd, Rufford Soil Technology, Vallant Holdings Ltd, Viaton Industries Ltd. By November 2013 the company decided to test the water and put the building up for sale but with not buyers it was kept by the original company.

### **OWNERS OF THE QUARRY**

Pre 1995 = HEPWORTH MINERALS AND CHEMICALS LTD (Symbol a Camel)  
Suppliers to the Glass and Ceramic industry, Foundries and Construction.  
1996 = BATHGATE SILICA SAND LTD / Hepworth Minerals and Chemicals Ltd.  
2002 = WBB MINERALS (Symbol a Camel)  
New owners of Hepworth Chemicals.  
2014 = BATHGATE SAND / SIBELCO MINERALS

### **SAND QUARRYING IN THE AREA.**

There is evidence of Sand Quarrying in the area for over 100 years with quarries in Brereton Heath and Chelford. The Silica sand found in Sandbach and the area is a fine sand used in the foundry industry to make moulds for metal castings. It was probably wind borne rather than deposited by glaciers and was shaped by running water depositing it on the Cheshire plain from the Pennines. An average of 100ft the sand starts in the Congleton area and disappears as it reaches Ettley Heath and Middlewich which then has deposits of Salt.

ACRE NOOK (Chelford 300 Acres)

ASTBURY MERE (Hinckley's Silica Sand) – On the outside of Congleton

BRERETON HEATH PARK (Somerford 83 acres) Now a Nature Reserve.

During its time as a Quarry over 500 tons of sand was extracted per day for 10 years until 1972 when it closed. In 1976 the plant (machinery) had been removed leaving just the buildings in situ. Between 1975 and 1981 the Alsager Sub Aqua Club used the pool for its activities but unauthorised use of the waters made it a dangerous place for locals and so when planning permission was needed to continue using the pool and felling the trees the site was put up for sale. In 1981 Congleton Borough Council acquired the pool and with help from the Cheshire County Council the pool was partly drained and the surrounding area was landscaped into a nature reserve.

CATCHPENNY POOL (Chelford)  
 FARMWOOD POOL (Chelford 80 Acres)  
 GAWSWORTH COMMON (Disused)  
 LOWER HEATH (Congleton)  
 MARSH FARM (Congleton 102.4 Acres)  
 MOUNT (The Mount Sand Quarry. South of Congleton before Astbury)  
 SANDBACH / BRICKHOUSE FARM (Near Sandbach Heath / Chimney House Hotel)  
 SHAKERLEY MERE / WOODLAND FARM (Allostock 104 Acres)  
 WESTLOW MERE (Congleton 58.7 Acres)  
 WITHINGTON HALL (Northwest of the Hall)  
 WYBUNBURY – (South of Shavington / Crewe)

#####  
**SAVINGS BANK (Now Lloyds - Next to Literary Institute)**  
 #####

Dates back to 1854 it was designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott, R.A. of London and was built by Thomas Stringer.

The TSB expanded into the next door shop which was built at a later date.

GRADE 2 Building

(See TSB / Banks)



(19 May 2004)

#####  
**SAXON CROSSES**  
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No one knows the real reason why the crosses were built in Sandbach but the most popular version is that they were built c 653 A.D. to celebrate the marriage of Peada, Son of Penda, King of Mercia to his bride (Aichfled or) Aichfleda, the daughter of King Oswy the Christian King of Northumbria and brother of Alchfrid. As a condition of the marriage Penda permitted four Christian Priests to accompany Peada on his return journey to Mercia.

As they rested on their journey home from Northumbria they stopped off at Sandbach to listen to four priests who were teaching in the square, one of which was St Chad. They were so impressed that they were baptised on the spot. The Crosses were erected by Peada to celebrate this event.

This story was probably first quoted in Earwaker's History of Sandbach 1890 and is the story most children in the area grew up with. He probably got his information from the Venerable Bede's Ecclesiastical History of England Chapter XXI "How the province of the Midland Angles became Christian under King Penda -653AD". In Bede's account he says that Penda was baptised a place called "At the Wall" which is possibly Walton or Walbottle near Newcastle in 653AD.

*(See #22. Venerable Bede's account of his time in the Midlands).*

In recent years another theory has been that they were erected as a monument to King Egbert who lived some 200 years later.

Some record books also date the Crosses at between 800 to 850 AD, the reason was still to commemorate the marriage / baptism, but as a posthumous monument to the event.

In 1585 William Smith a herald, documented the crosses for the first time, describing them as being in the market place.

Between 1585 and 1621 (Or possibly 1649) they were demolished by the Iconoclasts. They knocked down the larger cross with a hammer and chisel and in its fall, it carried away the head of the smaller cross. The fragments were scattered far and wide.

The central portion of the larger cross and some parts of the lesser cross were carried off to Utkinton by Sir John Crewe, who had the figure of Christ on the cross concealed with a layer of clay or mortar as an unedifying

spectacle for Protestant eyes. From there they were moved to Tarporley Rectory and then to a grotto at Oulton Park, seat of Sir John Grey Edgerton, Bart.

Other parts of the crosses were recovered from the churchyard walls foundations and the market place in Sandbach. More pieces were recovered from local doorsteps and roadside corners. One piece is said to have been used as part of the foundations to a house and so were lost beyond recovery.

Still standing by 1810 were the platform, base stones and a large part of the lesser Cross shaft.

Between 1815 - 16 the pieces were collected and pieced together at a cost of £37 / 5s / 4d. They were then re-erected on its original site. Dr George Ormerod the historian of Cheshire supervised its restoration at this time, with the architect Mr John Palmer of Manchester.

In 1816 the square and surrounding streets were also cobbled at the same time as the reconstruction of the crosses.

The Crosses can be used as a compass as they point to each of the four points of the compass with the circle at the base of the larger cross pointing to the East.

During the course of renovations by the Ministry of Works they removed the Spur Stones from the site to a position outside the main doors of St Marys. Undoubtedly ancient and of extreme archaeological interest and value they do not seem to be a part of the original structure. Bishop Browne of Bristol believed that one of them was covered in a basket work body with its neck encircled with a heavy collar like similar figures in Staffordshire and Derbyshire.

There doesn't seem to be an inscription on the crosses to tell its story or purpose. There is however a story that during the time of Queen Elizabeth 1<sup>st</sup> there was indeed an inscription. William Smith, born at Old Hough four miles away describes "certain writings and images thereon graven which a man cannot read except he beholden with his head downwards and this verse (as they hold opinion) is graven thereon,

"In Sandbach, in the Sandy Ford,  
Lieth the ninth part of Dublin's hord.  
Nine to or nine fro,  
Take me down or else I fall."

The lines have puzzled many a scholar but if authentic may possibly mean that the cost of the monument was defrayed with booty captured from the Irish or the Norse settlers in that island.

A Ministry of Works publication on the Crosses stated that there were so many monuments in the town built around the eighth or ninth century that they suggested that Sandbach was the site of an old Saxon Minster, served by a community of priests who were responsible for the conversion of those who entered the district. There are similar crosses at Bewcastle in Cumberland and at Ruthwekk in Dumfriesshire which both date from the late eighth century. In AD 684 Egfrid the King of Northumbria sent an expedition to Ireland and laid waste the country far and wide. Churches and Monasteries were not spared and many of the citizens were carried off into slavery. Their presence in Northern England may be responsible for the peculiar decoration of the Northumbrian crosses.

The larger cross may have stood 25 feet above the pavement and was possibly surmounted by a circular stone four feet in diameter. The smaller cross is said to be the story of Penda's return to Mercia.

Sandbach had its own newspaper "The Saxon Crosses" which was edited by Mrs Annette Bowland. "Volume 3 Number 8" from November 1976 has the headline "Saxon Crosses Restoration" and goes into depth about a new process seen on "Tomorrows World" about a preservative that could be added to the stones to allow the stone to "breathe" yet hold its fabric and design thereon for many decades.

After writing to Raymond Baxter (Presenter of "Tomorrows World") for the company that produced this magic liquid it was then down to David Carrington-Brown who was the Chairman of the Sandbach Chamber of Trade to persuade the Inspector of Ancient Monuments to allow this process to be used. On the 1 April 1976 Mr Carrington-Brown, Mrs Pauline Taylor, Mr Arthur Holliday and President of the Chamber of Trade, Mr John Gleaver met with a trio of representatives from the Ancient Monuments, Mr Weaver (Inspector), Mr Clark (Architect) and Mr Whayman. After a long discussion the meeting agreed to the use of the new covering and after a delay of seven months scaffolding was erected and the job was done in November 1976.

In 1977 the Department of the Environment put forward a plan to move the Saxon Crosses from the Market Square to a controlled environment to halt erosion of the old Sandstone. The D of E had been given control of the Crosses by Congleton Borough Council because it was thought that they knew how to protect the ancient monument but Cllr Mrs Henshall said she could hardly contain her outrage against the suggestion to move the Crosses and the people of the town were absolutely adamant they should not be removed. (Crewe Chronicle article 15 Dec 1977)



In 1986 the Town Council funded a scheme to put floodlighting and protection for the crosses. At this time eight stone columns were erected round the base of the crosses and a brief history of the crosses was donated by the Sandbach Chamber of trade to commemorate the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

According to a theory by Dr Jane Hawkes in her book "The Sandbach Crosses" she concludes that the larger of the two crosses was carved in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century with the smaller cross being carved in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and would probably have been painted with bright colours and decorated with Jewels and metal inserts. This theory however doesn't match the long felt theory that the crosses were built about 800 AD.

In 2009 a plaque telling the history of the Crosses was removed from the Market Square while the cobbles were being refurbished.

In 2014 the Sandbach Town Council funded a project to erect a display about the history of the crosses both around the base and also near the Post Box and Post Office collection point. Led by Cllr Graham Bell (2007 to 2015) the information was based on Dr Jane Hawkins (Author "The Sandbach Crosses: Signage and Significance in Anglo-Saxon Sculpture"), Joe Savage (Interpretation Manager at EH) and an English Heritage history and not previous records in books from the 1800's onwards.



(Saxon Crosses April 2004)

#### EXTRA INFO

St Augusta (Augustine of Canterbury) who was born in the 6<sup>th</sup> Century (.D. Possibly 26 May 604) and was sent to Britain by Pope Gregory the Great to Britain where he landed at the Isle of Thanet in 597 with 40 men (According to the Venerable Bede) at Ebbsfleet (In the Parish of Minster-in-Thamet) before going to Canterbury where he founded Britain's Second Christian Monastery and become the First Archbishop of Canterbury (in 597).

A Cross was placed at the site of the landing in Ebbsfleet and was carved by J Roddis of Birmingham and erected by Granville George Levenson-Gower, the second Earl of Granville and Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports in 1884. It has been said that the design for the Cross was based on the smaller of the two crosses that make up the Sandbach Saxon Crosses and when you look at them you can see why.



Ebbsfleet Cross (Based on Saxon Crosses at Sandbach)

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## #SC00      **SCHOOLS IN SANDBACH - HISTORY**

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- #SC01 Schools in Date Order
- #SC02 Schools in Name Order A to S
- #SC03 Sandbach High School / Sandbach Secondary School
- #SC04 Sandbach School / Sandbach Grammar School
- #SC05 Schools in Name Order S to Z

| <b>SANDBACH SCHOOLS</b>                                         | <b>SANDBACH SCHOOLS<br/>(See Below for History Details)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>SANDBACH SCHOOLS</b>                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| NAME                                                            | ADDRESS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | NUMBER OF PUPILS                                                          |
| ELWORTH C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL                                   | School Lane, Elworth, CW11 3HU<br>01270-762787<br>Mr Richard Jerman (Headmaster 1985)<br>Mr Tom Edgley (Headmaster 2005)<br>Mrs Samples (Headmaster 2010)<br>Mr Rob Whittle (Executive Head teacher 2014)<br>Mr Neil Garrett (2014 to date) | 285 (2005) – First Year Admissions 40                                     |
| ELWORTH HALL PRIMARY SCHOOL                                     | Lawton Way, Elworth CW11 1TE<br>01270-764669<br>Mrs Margaret Blease-Bourne (Head 2005)                                                                                                                                                      | 189 (2005) – First Year Admissions 30                                     |
| OFFLEY INFANT SCHOOL (1960's to Date)                           | Offley Road, Sandbach CW11 1GY<br>01270-763956<br>Mrs Brenda Hughes (Head 2005)<br>Mrs Jenny Davies (Head 2013)                                                                                                                             | 164 (2005) – First Year Admissions 60                                     |
| OFFLEY JUNIOR SCHOOL (1970's to Date)                           | Offley Road, Sandbach CW11 1GY<br>01270-764894<br>Mr Mark Avis (Headmaster 2005)<br>Mrs Jenny Davies (Head 2013)                                                                                                                            | 239 (2005) – First Year Admissions 60                                     |
| SANDBACH COMMUNITY PRIMARY (1911 to Date)                       | Crewe Road, Sandbach CW11 4NS<br>01270-763701<br>Mrs Janet Broadley (Head 2005)<br>Lynn Treadway (Head 2013)                                                                                                                                | 232 (2005) – First Year Admissions 40                                     |
| SANDBACH HEATH ST JOHN'S CE PRIMARY (1867 to Date)              | Heath Road, Sandbach CW11 2LE<br>01270-762859<br>Mr Graham Stephens (Headmaster 2005)<br>Mr Rob Whittle (Headmaster 2014)                                                                                                                   | 157 (2005) – First Year Admissions 35                                     |
| WHEELOCK PRIMARY (1871 Old Building / 19 Nov 1973 New Building) | Crewe Road, Wheelock, CW11 3RT<br>01270-759447<br>Ms S Tomlinson (Head 2005)<br>Joanne Dyson (Head 2013)                                                                                                                                    | 223 (2005) – First Year Admissions 30                                     |
| "Norfolk House School" (Private)                                | 120 Congleton Rd, Sandbach CW11 1HF<br>01270-759257<br>(Headmaster 2005)                                                                                                                                                                    | Unknown (2005) – First Year Admissions Became "Kids Corner Nursery" 2000. |
|                                                                 | #####                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | #####                                                                     |
| SANDBACH SECONDARY SCHOOL (Boys School) (1677 to Date)          | Crewe Road, Sandbach CW11 3NS<br>01270-758870<br>Mr Peter Wiles (Headmaster 2005)<br>Mrs Sarah Burns (Headmaster 2013)                                                                                                                      | 1,164 (2005) – First Year Admissions 195                                  |

|                                                                       |                                                                                       |                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| SANDBACH HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS (old Secondary School) (1960? To Date) | Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 3NT<br>01270-765031<br>Mr John Leigh (Headmaster 2005) | 1,259 (2005) – First Year Admissions 210 |
|                                                                       |                                                                                       |                                          |
|                                                                       |                                                                                       |                                          |

#####  
**#SC01 SCHOOLS IN DATE ORDER.**  
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**1677 SCHOOLS**

Sandbach School (1677 to Date) Middlewich Road, Sandbach

**1809 SCHOOLS**

Sandbach Congregational Sunday School opened 1809.  
 Sandbach School (1677 to Date)

**1834 SCHOOLS**

Sandbach School (1677 to Date) Grammar School – (Wheelock Road) Crewe Road, Principal Rev Robert Batty (Master)  
 Wheelock – Richard Caulton

**1857 SCHOOLS**

Sandbach School (1677 to Date) Grammar School – (Wheelock Road) Crewe Road, Principal Rev Lewis Evans M.A. (Master) / Mr Christopher Herring (Second Master)  
 National School – Market Place, Mr James Bailey (Master), Mrs Bailey (Mistress).  
 British School – Scotch Common, Mrs Bayley (Mistress)

**1867 SCHOOLS**

Sandbach Heath-St John’s Primary School opened on the 21 January 1867 as a school for infants.  
 Sandbach School (1677 to Date)

**1871 SCHOOLS**

Sandbach School (1677 to Date)  
 Wheelock Primary (1871 Old Building / 19 Nov 1973 New Building)

**1894 SCHOOLS**

Collegiate School for Girls (Conducted by Mrs H J Mann) Bridge House, Sandbach (Next to the Old Hall)  
 Sandbach Heath-St John’s Primary School (1867 to Date)  
 Sandbach School (1677 to Date)  
 Wheelock Primary (1871 Old Building / 19 Nov 1973 New Building)

**1896 SCHOOLS (Kelly’s Directory)**

Temperance Hall on Scotch Common (Plain red brick building holding 300 Persons) used as an Infant School in connection with the National School.

**1897 SCHOOLS**

In 1897 the Marriott family donated land (Now the Park) and their house (Marriott House, now the library) to the town.  
 It was described as a “Technical School, Public Gardens and Pleasure Gardens”.  
 Sandbach Heath-St John’s Primary School (1867 to Date)  
 Sandbach School (1677 to Date)

Wheelock Primary (1871 Old Building / 19 Nov 1973 New Building)

## 1902 SCHOOLS

Miss Sarah Bull (Ladies School) - Wheelock Road, Sandbach  
Mrs Marian E Mann (Ladies School) – (Bridge House) Bridge Street, Sandbach (Next to the Old Hall)  
William Nock (Master of National School) - Congleton Road, Sandbach  
Thomas Steele (School Attendance Officer) Bradwall Street, Sandbach  
Sandbach Heath-St John's Primary School (1867 to Date)  
Sandbach School (1677 to Date)  
Wheelock Primary (1871 Old Building / 19 Nov 1973 New Building)

## 1911 SCHOOLS

Crewe Road - Secondary School / Primary School (1911 to Date)  
Sandbach Heath-St John's Primary School (1867 to Date)  
Sandbach School (1677 to Date)  
Wheelock Primary (1871 Old Building / 19 Nov 1973 New Building)

## 1914 SCHOOLS

George William Braddock (School Attendance Officer) at Park Lane, Sandbach  
Miss A Henrietta Harris (Private School) at 59 High Street, Sandbach  
Crewe Road - Secondary School / Primary School (1911 to Date)  
Grammar School (Headmaster S.W. Finn MA) at Wheelock Road  
Sandbach Heath-St John's Primary School (1867 to Date)  
Sandbach School (1677 to Date)  
Wheelock Primary (1871 Old Building / 19 Nov 1973 New Building)

### SCHOOLS

|                                                 |                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Grammar School                                  | S.W. Finn M.A. (Headmaster)             |
| The Square (Built 1841)                         | William Nock (Master)                   |
|                                                 | Miss Annie Robbins (Mistress)           |
| Sandbach Heath (erected 1866 and enlarged 1891) | Arthur William Allen (Master)           |
|                                                 | Miss Maude Newall (Mistress)            |
|                                                 | Miss Annie Hoole (Infants Mistress)     |
| Council – Chapel Street (erected 1874)          | Miss Jane Cheetham (Mistress)           |
|                                                 | Miss Mary Ann Wood (Assistant Mistress) |
| Council Senior School, Crewe Road (Built 1911)  | Arthur Maskelyne (Master)               |

## 1933 SCHOOLS

“Bridge House School for Girls” with Principal Miss Harris.  
Crewe Road - Secondary School / Primary School (1911 to Date)  
Grammar School – Crewe Road.  
Sandbach Heath-St John's Primary School (1867 to Date)  
Sandbach School (1677 to Date)  
Wheelock Primary (1871 Old Building / 19 Nov 1973 New Building)

## 1948 SCHOOLS

“Bridge House School for Girls” with Principal Miss Harris.  
Crewe Road - Secondary School / Primary School (1911 to Date)  
Grammar School – Crewe Road.  
Sandbach Heath-St John's Primary School (1867 to Date)  
Sandbach Heath– Opposite the Methodist Church (On 1948 Map)  
Sandbach School (1677 to Date)  
“Technical School, Public Gardens and Pleasure Gardens” (1897 Marriott House and land)  
Temperance Hall on Scotch Common (On 1948 Map)  
Wheelock Primary (1871 Old Building / 19 Nov 1973 New Building)

## 1966 SCHOOLS

Chapel Street (Infants only)

Crewe Road - Secondary School / Primary School (1911 to Date)  
(was Secondary School Now in 1966 an Infant school)  
The Square  
Elworth  
Sandbach Heath-St John's Primary School (1867 to Date)  
Grammar School (Boys only – Girls went to Congleton County Grammar School for Girls)  
County Secondary School, Middlewich Road.  
Sandbach School (1677 to Date)  
Wheelock Primary (1871 Old Building / 19 Nov 1973 New Building)  
Wheelock (Church of England)  
Wheelock (Methodist)

## 1973 SCHOOLS

Crewe Road - Secondary School / Primary School (1911 to Date)  
Elworth Church of England (to Date)  
Elworth Hall Primary School (to Date)  
Norfolk House – Private School (to Date)  
Offley Road Infant (1960's) Junior (1970's)  
Sandbach Heath-St John's Primary School (1867 to Date)  
Sandbach High School (1960's Secondary School / 1980 High School)  
Sandbach School (1677 to Date)  
Wheelock Primary (1871 Old Building / 19 Nov 1973 New Building)

## 2015 SCHOOLS

Crewe Road - Secondary School / Primary School (1911 to Date)  
Elworth Church of England (to Date)  
Elworth Hall Primary School (to Date)  
Norfolk House – Private School (to Date)  
Offley Road Infant (1960's) Junior (1970's)  
Sandbach Heath-St John's Primary School (1867 to Date)  
Sandbach High School (1960's Secondary School / 1980 High School)  
Sandbach School (1677 to Date)  
Wheelock Primary (1871 Old Building / 19 Nov 1973 New Building)

#####

## #SC02 SCHOOLS IN NAME ORDER.

#####

#####

### **BRIDGE HOUSE SCHOOL.** (Next to the Old Hall)

Established about 1863 the private day and boarding school for girls from the ages of eight to seventeen was run by Mrs Mann (Principal) and then in the 1930's by Miss Harris.

#####

### **CHAPEL STREET SCHOOL.**

Back of the Wesley Avenue Chapel. (Now the Wesley Centre Building) the Sunday School building was added in 1870 (Now the Scout Hall).

In 1933 the School was an Infant School only.

#####

### **CREWE ROAD JUNIOR SCHOOL**

Designed by A Price and Son it was constructed by John Huxley of Malpas in 1911.

In 1933 the school had room for 450 students.

By 2013 it was the Sandbach Community Primary School.

#####

### **ELWORTH C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL**

20 Nov 2015 a new extension was opened at the school by MP Fiona Bruce and the Bishop of Chester the Rt Rev Peter Forster with Sandbach Mayor Gill Merry in attendance. The new build included two classrooms for the reception classes and a head teacher's office and stands on the spot used previously as an early years play area.

In April 2016, Diane Harrison stepped down as the school's Crossing Patrol Lady (Lollipop person) after 22 years crossing children and as a Midday assistant (Dinner Lady) at the school for the last 31 years starting in 1986 when her son joined the school as a pupil.

| <b>DATE</b>                                                          | <b>HEADTEACHER</b>                           | <b>DEPUTY HEAD TEACHER</b>                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>(Dates Known = If you have more accurate dates please E Mail)</i> |                                              |                                                                                           |
| 1985                                                                 | Mr Richard Jerman                            |                                                                                           |
| 2005                                                                 | Mr Tom Edgley                                |                                                                                           |
| 2010                                                                 | Mrs Samples                                  |                                                                                           |
| To 2014                                                              | Mr Rob Whittle (Executive Head teacher 2014) |                                                                                           |
| 2014 to date                                                         | Neil Garrett                                 | Alison Steele (Assistant Head Teacher 1)<br>Sally Mace (Assistant Head Teacher from 1991) |

### **TEACHERS**

Sally Mace (Started in September 1991. In 2016 she had been Assistant Head Teacher for 25 years)  
 Meryl-Jane Miller (Started in 1995 and by 2016 was Senior Teaching Assistant)  
 Alison Steele (Started in September 1989 moved from Alderley Edge. In 2016 Assistant Head Teacher)

### **OTHER STAFF**

Diane Harrison (Midday Assistant since 1986 / Crossing Patrol Lady since 1994 / Retired 2016)  
 Pauline Rawlinson (Midday Assistant since 1986)  
 Jackie Spurr (Catering Supervisor since 1988)

#####

## **OFFLEY ROAD (Infant and Primary School)**

E MAIL [admin@offley.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:admin@offley.cheshire.sch.uk)

Built in the 1960's The original Infant and Junior School catered for the pupils of the Queen's Drive and Congleton Road estates. As the population grew a new building was needed and it was decided to split the Infants into the existing School building while the Juniors were to be housed in a new purpose built school next door. Built in the 1970's the Junior School was one of a number of schools built to the open plan system where pupils were allowed to roam from one area to another to do studies with occasional lessons in a class format. This was soon dropped as no work was done and a more formal class was set up within area's surrounded by blinds.

The School has produced a number of well-known pupils including BBC Presenter and ITN Newsreader **Katie Derham** (Also Classic FM / The Proms and Strictly Come Dancing). Katie went to Offley Road School and was taught by Mrs Bennion. She lived with her family in Bradwall Road.

Katie (.b. Catherine Beatrice Margaret Derham) was born in Canterbury, Kent on the 18 June 1970 to John Derham a Chemist at Fisons and Margaret a teacher and has a brother called Richard. In 1971 the family moved to the north west and she was educated at Offley Road Sandbach and then Cheadle Hulme School where she took O Levels.

Between 1995-1998 Katie worked for BBC Radio 4's "Money Box" and Radio 5 Live's "Moneycheck". In 1996 she moved to BBC TV as a consumer affairs correspondent and "Film 1996" reporter.

1998-2010 Katie joined ITN as a media and arts editor and in 2004 became the 1.30pm Newsreader progressing to 6.30pm and a main news presenter before moving on with her last news on ITV1 on the 25 June 2010. Since then she has presented a number of Arts programmes for the BBC and Classic FM and in 2015 was a contestant on BBC's "Strictly Come Dancing".

### **HEADMASTERS / HEAD**

#### **OPENING STAFF**

Mr Lea (Headmaster)

#### **TEACHERS INCLUDED**

Mr Brian Stutard

Mr Hassel

Mr Gower

Mrs Astrid Jennings

**OFFLEY ROAD INFANT SCHOOL**

Pre 2005 Mrs Brenda Hughes (Head 2005)  
Pre 2008 Mrs Jenny Davies (Head 2013)

**OFFLEY ROAD JUNIOR SCHOOL**

Pre 2005 Mr Mark Avis (Headmaster 2005)  
Pre 2008 Mrs Jenny Davies (Head 2013)

**OFFLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL (Both Schools)**

| DATE             | HEADTEACHER        | DEPUTY HEAD TEACHER |
|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Pre 2013 to 2014 | Mrs Jenny Davies   | Unkn.               |
| 2014 to date     | Mrs Jill Robertson | Mrs Emma McLoughlin |

#####

**SANDBACH HEATH (St John’s Primary School)**

The School was built in memory of the Rev. John Armitstead M.A. a former Vicar of Sandbach (20 Feb 1828 to 20 Oct 1865) and opened on the 21 January 1867 as a school for infants. It was provided by parishioners and friends of the outstanding cleric.

In 1891 the school received £72/5s in education grants when Free Education was brought in by the Government with the headmaster Mr A.F Carter being paid £80 a year. The Sewing mistress was paid £1 /5s and rates, insurance and taxes cost the school 15s 7d.

In 1933 the school provided places for 80 mixed and 45 infant pupils.

| DATE    | HEADTEACHER        | DEPUTY HEAD TEACHER |
|---------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1867    | Eliza Matthews     |                     |
| 1884    | Mr A.F. Carter     |                     |
| 1903    | Mr A.W. Allen      |                     |
| 1922    | F W Edwards        |                     |
| 1948    | J Austin           |                     |
| 1952    | Mr W P Llewelyn    |                     |
| Missing |                    |                     |
| 2005    | Mr Graham Stephens |                     |
| 2014    | Mr Rob Whittle     |                     |

#####

**#SC03**

**SANDBACH HIGH SCHOOL / Sandbach Secondary School**

#####

The School opened as Sandbach Secondary School in Middlewich Road.

The original Secondary School was the building opposite Sandbach School on Crewe Road and is now the Crewe Road Primary School and was in operation as a Modern Secondary School in 1948.

In (June / July) 1960 the Sandbach County Secondary School held its first Sports Day at Crewe Road.

In 1960 one of its longest serving members of staff joined the school. Mr Harry Monkhouse was parts of the PE staff until the late 1970’s when he was appointed Deputy Headmaster. He continued at the school until the end of the summer term in 1994.

By 1966 a New School had been built on Middlewich Road to house the increasing number of pupils.

By the 1970’s the forms were named as follows.

- Avon
- Forest
- Lincoln ?
- Royal
- York

On the 17 January 1976 the LEISURE CENTRE attached to the School was officially opened.

The Leisure Centre was built next to the Sandbach Secondary School (Now Sandbach High School) during the previous year. During the building one of the workmen was from Scotland and knew how to play the bagpipes. Once the roof had been finished he decided to play the bagpipes from the top of the building. Instead of being told off for his stunt he played them so well that he was invited to play at the school’s assembly for the pupils.

In September 1979 the School started to become a single sex Secondary School or High School as it was now to be known with the first full intake of all girls in a single year.

In 2010 the School became an Academy and has a dedicated Six Form building and now has closer ties to Sandbach School for various academic and musical activities.

Mrs Heather Davies (Nee Macfarlane) died of cancer on the 27 October 2019 an Art, Photography and Design and Technology teacher who joined in 2012 having just qualified.

Mr Geoff Pike had worked at the school since 1999 and died in November 2020 having taught Business and IT.

By 2021 the forms we split into 8 with a support person.

FORMS Year 7, 8, 9.

S, O, N, D, I, B, A, C, H, E and support

FORMS Year 10

S, O, N, D, B, A, C, H, E and support

FORMS Year 10

S, A, N, D, B, E, C, H and support

FORMS Year 12

Gawsworth

Foden

Kennilworth

Lincoln

Oldfield

Royal

Windsor

York

FORMS Year 13

Astins

Avon

Berrington

Capesthorne

Forest

Henshall

Herald

Moreton

## 2021 TEACHERS

Mr R Abbotson (English)

Mrs N Abson (English, Drama)

Miss N Arora (Business, Computing, Economics)

Miss C Ayers (Maths)

Miss K Bailey (Psychology, Sociology, Child Development, Vocational Studies)

Mr A Barlow (Science)

Mr G Bashford (Curriculum Leader IT / Computing)

Mr C Batty (Curriculum Leader English)

Mrs J Bell (Librarian)

Mrs J Bernardi (MFL)

Mrs N Betts (Assistant Headteacher / Curriculum Leader MFL)

Mr C Broom (Curriculum Leader Science)

Miss A Chambers (Psychology)

Mrs L Clark (Business Studies, Achievement Coordinator Y13)

Mrs R Clarke (Curriculum Leader PE)

Mrs N Conway (Mathematics)

Mrs S Cornwall (Art)

Mrs B Cummins (English)



Miss R Darlington (Deputy Headteacher, Vocational Studies)  
Mrs S Davies (Achievement Coordinator Y9, PE)  
Miss J Dickson (English)  
Mr D Evans (Lead Teacher Mathematics)  
Miss K Fairclough (Drama)  
Mrs F Fishburne (Curriculum Leader Mathematics)  
Mr A Ford (Assistant Headteacher, Computing, ICT)  
Mr D Fowler (Geography, Professional Mentor)  
Mrs K Fowler (Science)  
Miss S Friend (PE, Assistant D of E Coordinator)  
Miss S Frost (Assistant Headteacher, Lead Teacher, History, Classical Civilisations, Government and Politics)  
Mrs F Frost (Maths)  
Mr P Goodwin (IT Computing, iMedia, Careers Coordinator)  
Mrs K Gornall (Technology)  
Mrs A Greenland (Science)  
Mr J Greenland (Maths)  
Ms S Gregory (Science, Achievement Coordinator Y7)  
Miss E Griffiths (MFL)  
Mrs J Gunay (Psychology / Sociology, Vocational Studies)  
Mr D Halstead (PE, Maths, Achievement Coordinator Y10)  
Mrs S Halstead (Senior Achievement Coordinator Y10 and Y11, Design and Technology)  
Mrs K Heywood (Curriculum Leader, Dance)  
Mr P Hilton (Assistant Curriculum Leader Science, D and E Coordinator)  
Mrs J Hooper (Health and Social Care, Child Development)  
Mrs D Hughes (Design and Technology)  
Mrs E Hughes (Aspiring Lead Teacher, Maths, Science)  
Mr R Hughes (Assistant Curriculum Leader, Design and Technology)  
Mrs Z Hughes (Dance)  
Mr C Hunt (Lead Teacher, Mathematics)  
Mrs E Hutchinson (Music, Achievement Coordinator Y8)  
Miss A Jackson (PE, Geography)  
Mrs J Jackson (Travel and Tourism, Event Planning)  
Miss C Jenkins (Religious Studies, ASDAN)  
Mr I Jepson (Maths, Economics)  
Miss F Jones (Design and Technology)  
Mr G Jones (Design and Technology)  
Miss K Jones (Maths)  
Mr T Kilkenny (English)  
Mr S Lonstaff (Assistant Curriculum Leader, Drama)  
Miss K Lawless (Science)  
Mr A Leonard (Geography, Environmental Studies, Travel and Tourism)  
Mr D Luther (Computing, IT)  
Miss S Maile (Religious Education, Citizenship, PSHCE)  
Miss A Markwell (History, Government and Politics)  
Mrs E Martin (Curriculum Leader, Music)  
Mr S Mason (History, Politics)  
Mr D Massey (Curriculum Leader, Technology)  
Mrs C Milnes (Curriculum Leader RE, Classical Civilisation)  
Miss A Misra (English, Whole School Literacy Coordinator)  
Mrs H Morgan-Evans (Science)  
Mr B Mitchell (Social Sciences)  
Mrs Mooney (Art, Photography)  
Miss H Morris (Drama)  
Mr C Murray (Drama)  
Miss K Nicholson (PE)  
Miss K Norcliffe (English)  
Miss N Oyler (Assistant Headteacher, PE)  
Miss H O'Rourke (MFL)  
Mrs S Parsons (Maths)  
Miss S Poneskis (MFL)

Miss R Ralphs (Art)  
 Mr T Reardon-Davies (English, Film Studies Coordinator, Assistant AC Y12 and Y 13, EPQ)  
 Miss S Rigby (Science)  
 Mrs B Salisbury (Curriculum Leader Maths)  
 Mrs T Sellers (Assistant Curriculum Leader, Science)  
 Mr P Sharman (Lead Teacher, Assistant Curriculum Leader, Science)  
 Mrs A Sharp (Geography)  
 Mr D Shaw (Curriculum Leader Social and Applied Learning)  
 Miss S Sheen (English)  
 Mr S Sherman (Maths)  
 Miss L Smith (Assistant Curriculum Leader, English)  
 Miss J Squires (History)  
 Miss B Stone (Design and Technology)  
 Miss L Thompson (Law, Careers / Religious Studies, Criminology, Achievement Coordinator)  
 Mrs V Thomson (Psychology, Health and Social Care)  
 Mrs C Thornhill (Science)  
 Mr R Troth (Deputy Headteacher, Head of Sixth Form, MFL)  
 Miss J Unwin (Design and Technology)  
 Mr D Valentine (Curriculum Leader Art and Photography)  
 Miss E Valentine (Assistant Curriculum Leader, English)  
 Miss R Walker (MFL)  
 Mr A Waring (Science)  
 Miss A Whalley (Assistant Headteacher, PE, Senior Achievement Coordinator)  
 Miss C Wildman Curriculum Leader Geography, T and T)  
 Mrs K Wilson (Science)

#####  
 DATE HEADTEACHER DEPUTY HEAD TEACHER  
 1970's to = Mr David Clarke (Headmaster) Mr Jackson (to 1979)  
 Mr Fisher - Department Head under Mr Jackson  
 Mr Jack Evans - after Mr Jackson 1980

**(OTHER TEACHERS =**

Mr Steve Austin (RE / MATHS),  
 Mr Harry Monkhouse (SPORT),  
 Mr Betley (TECHNICAL DRAWING),  
 Mr Bragg (SPORT / GEOLOGY etc.),  
 Mrs Twemlow,  
 Mrs Sue Wyatt (FRENCH),  
 Miss Davies (FRENCH),  
 Mrs Anne Macaulay (MUSIC),  
 Mr Ravenscroft (MATHS),  
 Miss Wynne (PE / SPORT),  
 Mrs Proudlove (COOKERY),  
 Mr Les Jackson (Jnr),  
 Mrs Proudlove.  
 1980's Mr Jack Evans (Headmaster) Mr Harry Monkhouse (Late 1970's to 1994)  
 Mr Les Jackson - Deputy Head  
 Sept 1993 to July 2020 Mr John Leigh (.b. Aug 1959, Headmaster Joined as Deputy Head in 1990)  
 To 2013 = Les Jackson -Deputy Head.  
 2013 = Mrs Carol Cooke and  
 Miss Rebecca Darlington (2013)

#####  
**#SC04 SANDBACH SCHOOL History.**  
 #####

There has been reference to a school in Sandbach as early as 1606 when John Shaw the son of the Vicar of Sandbach was described in the parish register as "Schoolmaster".

The Sandbach School celebrates its anniversary each October with a service at St Mary's Church in the first week of October when old and current pupils get together for a special service.

We know that Sandbach School was founded on the 28<sup>th</sup> September 1677 by Richard Lea and Francis Welles. It was what they called an "Endiwed School" for children between the ages of eight and eighteen. This first building seems to have been built at the cost of Mr Francis Welles, of Sandbach along with contributions from collections made in the parish.

The first building (Possibly called Egerton Lodge) was at 33 Middlewich Road, Sandbach (now the site of Butcher and Barlow Solicitors) and was demolished after the new building was erected over the road (In 1849). The first indenture of the 28 Sept 1677 was assigned to William Hayes (Vicar of Sandbach), Charles Mainwaring, John Aston, Francis Welles, John Furnival, Richard Loundes, John Stonier, Randle Rode and George Twemlow.

Due to donations given to the school there were certain people who could nominate children for the Indenture scheme.

| PERSON                       | NOMINATE |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Sir John Crewe and his Heirs | 2 Pupils |
| Roger Wilbraham              | 2 Pupils |
| Francis Welles               | 4 Pupils |
| Randle Rode                  | 1 Pupil  |
| Robert Hulme                 | 1 Pupil  |
| Thomas Moore                 | 1 Pupil  |
| Trustees                     | 9 Pupils |

On the 10 December 1718, a second indenture was made between Thomas Welles, Clerk, Vicar of Sandbach, Richard Loundes of Hassall, Thomas Stephens of Wheelock, Randle Wilbraham of Rose, John Amson of Lees, Lawrence Booth of Twemlow, William Oldfield of Bradwall, Charles ward of Shrewsbury, Richard Vernon, Samuel Watkis, William Furnival and William Rode. The school was built on land donated by the late Mr Francis Welles who had also paid for the original school. As with the previous school it was designed to teach 20 poor boys belonging to the parish and was run by clerk and Schoolmaster Thomas Hall.

Between 1718 and 1729 Charles Ward Esq. of Bradwall left £200 in his will which was invested and the interest was paid to the school.

In 1731 a sum of £420 was donated to the school. This was invested in land at Smallwood and the rent from this was used to pay for a Schoolmaster. In 1836 a Charity Commission report noted that the rent raised £67/ 14s /0d which was passed on to the Rev. Robert Batty who was schoolmaster for 20 years.

#### THE SCHOOL BECAME A GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

In 1848 a new Private Act of Parliament allowed the school to become a Grammar School with a new headmaster (1848 to 28 March 1869) the Rev. Lewis Evans M.A. (Died 28 March 1869 in office.) taking it into a new era.

The school moved onto its present site in 1849 and was surrounded in 18 acres of land on the Crewe Road.

In 1850 a Gate House had been built at the Sandbach School site and was designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott who was also asked to design a new School Building which was finished and officially opened in 1851.

Between February 1882 and 1898 the Headmaster at the school was Mr G.H. Heslop M.A. who had inherited a very badly run school and it was through his efforts that the school started to gain its reputation. By 1898 the school was now one of the leading establishments in the area with Mr Heslop installing a new Laboratory and new classrooms as well as an open air swimming bath. He also added a Gymnasium and a large attached playing field to the facilities of the school before he left in 1898 to go to Sevenoakes School in Kent as Headmaster.

In 1911 a new wing was added to the original building consisting of extra classrooms, woodwork room, library and Masters' common room. Work was done by Mr John Stringer of Sandbach under the designs of architects Messrs A. Price and Sons.

In 1912 Ernest Craig was elected to the Crewe Constituency as an MP. He had been a pupil at Sandbach School as a boarder in Mr Imrie's House in the Headmastership of Mr Evans and Mr Chambers and was the first of its pupils to become a Member of Parliament.

#### SANDBACHSCHOOL1914-18.

At Sandbach School they published "The Sandbachian" which included a list of those who had joined up to fight in the war. The magazine was published a couple of times a year and was then dropped to one edition per year until after the war.

More than 200 students signed up with 35 students and one Master being killed.

After the war the names of the fallen were put on a memorial in the school chapel with the first ex pupil to be killed in action being Second Lieutenant Alfred John Haughton who had been at the school between 1892 and 1898. He was in the Cricket XI of 1896 and 1898 and the Football XI in 1897. A.J. Haughton was a member of the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion Durham Light Infantry and was killed on 24 July 1915 at Flanders (Arrived in France and Flanders 17 April 1915).

In late May 1915 the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Battalions were part of a force that was sent to slow the German assault on the Bellwaarde Ridge the last battle of the Second Battle of Ypres.

Keiser Wilhelm II inspired a branch of the “Miniature Rifle Association” that included 16 year old William George Upton who won many rifle shooting competitions and was also a keen pilot. The School’s Rifle Club for many years featured in the Sandbachian (School Magazine published three times a year before the war and once a year between 1915 and 1918. It was at this time printed by Eachus and Son, The Square, Sandbach) over many editions. William Upton took part in class debates and was able to pinpoint British Troops on a Map of France during Geography lessons. However on the 4 October 1918 at the age of 20 William George Upton died when his plane a Sopwith Camel was shot down five miles over enemy lines during a fire-fight over Roulers in Belgium. He is buried at Dadizelle Cemetery in Belgium and commemorated with a plaque in St Mary’s Church (On the Right when looking at the altar).



Miniature Rifle Association.

Between 1914 and 1918 the “Old Boys” from the School who had fought and died in the Great War (and subsequently in the Second World War) are featured on a memorial “Roll of Honour” has been placed in the School Chapel. A plaque also appears on the Cricket Pavilion dedicated to those who died in the First World War.

1918 also saw the official formation of the School’s Cadet Corps when it received official recognition from the Cheshire Territorial Association on the 11 February 1918 and affiliation to the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Cheshire Volunteer Regiment. It had 49 N.C.O.’s and Cadets with a Captain (Captain Wright) and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant (2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut Boffy) and used dummy rifles loaned to them by the Sandbach and Middlewich Volunteer Corps while waiting for the arrival of D.P. rifles promised by the War Office.

In 1927 the school celebrated its 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with the building of a Cricket Pavilion in memory of the “Old Sandbachians” who fell in the Great War. In the August 1914 Sandbachian it mentioned that Mr Ernest Craig (MP) had donated a cheque for £100 to the school to use as it wished, however he was set on them building a Cricket Pavilion and at this time he felt it would be a fitting commemoration of the restoration of peace a date that wouldn’t come for another 4 years (November 1918).

## WAR DIARY 1914-1918

Headmaster Sidney Wallace Finn MA

- 19 Nov 1915 Measles in the school with 14 pupils away with the illness with the Attendance Officer being called on Thursday 18 November to make sure they were indeed sick with the illness.  
The Headmaster was on recruiting duties on Tuesday afternoon as part of Lord Derby’s Scheme to register the names of able bodied men who wished to be called up. He had been constantly interrupted all week by callers wishing to be registered. The Sandbach School Log Book described the activities of the Head as “The Work is So Immense”.  
The Head was out at 1.45pm and 3.30pm on Tuesday and 2.30pm (16 November 1915) and 3.30pm on Friday (19 November 1915).
- 3 Dec 1915 The school still had a lot of sickness but not as much as last week.
- 10 Dec 1915 Still more sickness at the school with attendance again very low.  
On Wednesday the 8 December 1915 the Headmaster was officially appointed “Attesting Officer” under Lord Derby’s Scheme.  
On the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> December (Thursday and Friday) men flocked to the school to be attested and classroom A was turned into a recruiting room.
- 19 Dec 1915 The Headmaster was absent practically all Monday and Thursday (13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Dec 1915) on work connected with Lord Derby’s Scheme.
- Dec 2015 At the TOWN HALL possibly on the 15<sup>th</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup> of December the Headmaster Was involved in the last recruitment drive under the Lord Derby Scheme.  
The Sandbach Chronicle reported the event;-  
Khaki Armlets were distributed to the men of Sandbach who had attested under

Lord Derby's Scheme in the Town Hall on Wednesday evening.  
 The Town Hall was full of those who waited their turn to receive the symbol of Patriotism.  
 The first wave of recruits under the Derby scheme were encouraged to join up in December 1915 and had until the 29<sup>th</sup> January to report to their unit.  
 If they needed more time before joining up they had until the 30 December 1915 to lodge an appeal to be placed in a later group of recruits.

**1916**

- 19 May 1916 A large Circus was due to appear in the town on the 23 May 1916 (Tuesday) and it was decided that the school should have an extra holiday in the afternoon to allow the pupils to attend the entertainment.
- 26 May 1916 On the 24 May 1916 (Wednesday) the whole school had a lesson on the British Empire and then sang the National Anthem along with a number of Patriotic songs.

**1917**

- 2 Feb 1917 The Headmaster arranged to visit soldiers and sailors at the Nantwich Hospital, leaving school at about 3pm on Friday the 2<sup>nd</sup> February.
- 9 Feb 1917 On Tuesday the 6<sup>th</sup> February 1917 the Headmaster was called out to attend a meeting connected to "War Savings Work". (Savings Bond)
- 24 Mar 1917 The School collected 100 eggs for the "Red Cross" to take to the front.
- 2 April 1917 Only 70 students out of 150 on the register turned up to school this week. Another 41 were sent straight home after their feet were found to be wet.

**1918**

- 18 Jan 1918 The year didn't get off to a good start as the school had to be closed on Tuesday the 15<sup>th</sup> January 1918 due to a failure in the coal supply.  
 On Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> January 1918 the Children were taken by their teachers to a lecture and picture show in the afternoon by Mr Mock at the Town Hall on "War in the Air".
- 11 Mar 1918 The compiler of the Sandbach School Log Book reported that her Daughter had died and she was of no use to the school.
- 15 Mar 1918 In the 15<sup>th</sup> March entry it was reported that the Headmaster was absent all day on Tuesday to attend his daughter's funeral.
- 15 Mar 1918 (2) Mrs Hobbs left on Friday 15 March 1918 at 11.30am to assist at the Food Control Office with Miss Egerton helping out at the same place at 3pm.  
**FOOD CONTROL OFFICE**  
 Between April and June 1917 over 2 million tons of Allied shipping was lost and along with it large supplies of food leading to high prices and profiteering leaving the Board of Trade with a problem as many items had doubled in price. In July 1917 when Lord Rhondda became Food Controller he aimed to fix the price of essential food and monitor the supply of such items. This work was decentralised to local Food Committees who had powers under the Food Controllers Orders and were able to register local retailers for various foodstuffs and recommend what they stocked and the price they could charge. The first committees met in August 1917 with sub committees set up for Sugar, Meat, Flower and Bread, Potatoes and Milk (Which already had Food Orders). In October 1917 Sugar Ration Cards were issued to every household in the country. In November the Committee was given £1 per thousand members of the population to spend on posters and food economy campaigns by the Ministry of Food. By Christmas 1917 the country had a shortage of Butter, Margarine and Tea with queues outside the shops trying to get what little they could for the festive season. In February 1918 the Ministry of Food finally started issuing ration books / cards for butter and margarine.  
 Wednesdays became meatless days when butchers closed their shops hoping that the public would eat less meat as it was becoming in short supply and in March 1918 it too was added to the ration cards.
- 3 May 1918 The Headmaster left the school at 2pm to fulfil his job with the War Saving's Committee after he was requested by the County Organising Secretary to interview Farmers and to take the chair at a meeting among the Market Traders.
- 28 June 1918 New Ration Cards were to be issued and the school was asked if it could

- close for three days to allow teachers to assist at the Food Control Office to get the new cards issued. (New cards after the February issue had run out).
- 12 July 1918 School Closed again to allow the teachers to assist the Food Control Office.
- 13 Sept 1918 On Tuesday and Friday (10<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Sept) the teachers organised for the pupils to go Blackberry picking as the fruit was not on ration and a good option for the healthy growth of the children and their families.
- 4 Oct 1918 More Blackberry picking with a total gathered to date of 6cwt (1 x hundredweight from the Latin Centum = 100 (C) / 112 Pounds) or 112lb of fruit (UK Measurement) (100lb in USA measurements).
- 25 Oct 1918 On Wednesday afternoon (23<sup>rd</sup> October 1918) all the boys from the school and all other students from the town were taken to a Lantern Lecture at the Town Hall given by Mr Mock on the subject of "War on the Land".  
EXTRA INFO.  
This would have been like a slide show with a narrative given by the lecturer and possibly as it was a lantern show some of the glass slides may have had animated parts to them allowing a moving illustration to the lecture rather like an early form of animation.

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WAR DEATHS Pupils from Sandbach School. (in date order)

- 1915 1) The first ex pupil to be killed in action was **Second Lieutenant Alfred John Haughton** who had been at the school between 1892 and 1898. He was in the Cricket XI of 1896 and 1898 and the Football XI in 1897. A.J. Haughton was a member of the 9th Battalion Durham Light Infantry and was killed on 24 July 1915 at Flanders (Arrived in France and Flanders 17 April 1915).
BURIED At Kemmel Chateau Military Cemetery, Heuvelland in West Vlaanderen, Belgium.
FAMILY Born at Bank House, Sandbach in 1881.
He was educated at Sandbach School between 1892 and 1895.
Also on a **Plaque in St Mary's Church.**
- 2) **Private Harold Bradley** (School 1907-08)
2/10th Manchester Regiment died on the 19 August 1915 aged 22 on board the Hospital Ship "Galika" from wounds received at Gallipoli.
- 3) **Private Richard William Eachus** (School 1909-12)
7th Cheshire's he was killed at Suvia Bay on the 19 August 1915.
- 4) **Private Tom Hall** (School 1908-09)
17th Anzacs was killed at Gallipoli on the 27th August 1915 aged 20.
He had moved prior to the war to Australia for the sake of his health.
- 5) **Sergeant Frank Lunt** (School 1902-07)
1/7th was killed at Sulvia Bay on the (19th or) 18th September 1915 while dressing the wounds of a fellow comrade.
- 6) **Leonard Gibson** (School 1906-8)
Pioneer with the Cheshire Regiment died at the age of 22 on the 20 December 1915 at Home after he went to France in January 1915 until his health failed and he was invalided home.
- 1916 7) **Private Frank Taylor** (School 1910-12)
Public Schools 21st Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers was killed by a German Sniper In France on the 16 January 1916 aged 19.
- 8) **Mr Harry Latham** Son of the late Dr Charles Latham (Died 18 Jan) (1916 Sandbachian)
- 9) **Mr Peter Hall** (Died 10 Feb) (1916 Sandbachian)
- 10) **Sergeant Major Bevan** previously the Drill Instructor at the School. (1916 Sandbachian)
- 11) **Mr J.M. Yates** KC Manchester County Stipendiary and Chairman of the Salford Quarter Sessions (Died 16 April)(1916 Sandbachian)
- 12) **Dr Arnold W.W. Lea** MD FRCS (Died 7 May)(1916 Sandbachian)
- 13) **Sergeant John Brocklehurst** (School 1904-09)
16th Battalion Manchester Regiment was killed on the 2 July 1916 aged 25 in France. Early in the attack he was wounded in the forearm but after being treated he returned to his men and was killed.
- 14) **Second Lieutenant Cyril Richard Ward** (School 1895-1900)

Royal Engineers (East Lancs.) was killed at the age of 32 in France on the 14th July 1916. He was the youngest son of the Director of Education for Cheshire and after leaving school went to the School of Technology in Manchester and was a Member of the Institute of Civil Engineers.

1917

15) **Second Lieutenant William Clarke Wheatley** (School 1908-09)

City of London (also listed as W. I. Wheatley) Died on the 3 May 1917.

16) **Captain G.H. Heslop**

Middlesex Regiment only son of a former Headmaster of the School (1888-1898)

Killed in action on the 21 July aged 21. (1916 Sandbachian)

17) **Second Lieutenant Alfred Stanhope O'Dwyer** (School 1912-14)

Killed in action on the 30 July 1916 aged 19. (1916 Sandbachian)

18) **Gunner James Twemlow Cooper** (School 1893-1895)

R.F.A. Died on the 7 October 1917.

19) **Second Lieutenant William Frederick Allen** (School 1907-08)

East Lancashire. Died on the 9 October 1917.

20) **Second Lieutenant Gerald Pearson** (School 1908-13)

R.A.F. (Royal Air Force / Was RFC Royal Flying Corps) Died on the 29 October 1917.

1918

21) **William George Upton** who won many school rifle shooting competitions and was also a keen pilot. William Upton took part in class debates and was able to pinpoint British Troops on a Map of France during Geography lessons.

However on the 4 October 1918 at the age of 20 William George Upton died when his plane a Sopwith Camel was shot down five miles over enemy lines during a fire-fight over Roulers in Belgium.

He is buried at Dadizelle Cemetery in Belgium and commemorated with a plaque in St Mary's Church (On the Right when looking at the altar).

22) **Private H.J.P. Howard** (School 1909-10) (.D. 1918?)

23) **Private Seymour Jackson** (School 1906-11)

Manchester Regiment died on the 22 November 1918.

24) **Second Lieutenant Rutland Villiers Wheatley** (School 1900-05)

East Yorkshires died on the 29 November 1917.

25) **Lieutenant T Boffey** (School 1912-16)

Died on the 1 March (?) he was a member of the School Cadet Corps while at the School.

ON THE SCHOOL MEMORIAL AND NOT LISTED ABOVE (A to Z)

26) Harry Barker (1898-1900) (.D. 25 Jan 1918)

27) Edwin Booth (1897 -1901) (.D. 5 June 1916)

28) Ben Fletcher Chapman (1900-1906) (.D. 19 Apr 1917)

29) Edward Mosely Cope (1909-1912) (.D. 3 June 1919)

30) W. H. Fortnam (1908-1910) (.D. 31 July 1916)

31) Sydney Hall (1896-1899) (.D. 28 June 1917)

32) Tom Whitfield Houghton (1909-1913) (.D. 21 Apr 1919)

33) Frank Moss (1910-1911) (.D. 24 March 1918)

34) Alfred Stanhope O'Dwyer (1912- 1914)

35) F Parker (1903- 1906) (.D. Unkn)

36) Gerald Pearson (1908 – 1913) (.D. 29 Oct 1917)

37) G. E. S. Poole (1899-1903) (.D. Unkn)

38) Frank Molineux Reaney (1904-1910) (.D. 7 Oct 1916)

39) Frederick William Redfern (1902-1904) (.D. 26 Oct 1917)

40) C Shaw (1906-1907) (.D. Unkn)

41) Frederick Alvin Sproston (1910-1912) (.D. 30 July 1918)

42) Alan Stevenson (1909-1912) (.D. 26 Sept 1916) **SCHOOLMASTER**

43) John Frederick Tanner (1902-1904) (.D. 21 Feb 1919)

44) Oliver Wakefield (1909-1913) (.D. 21 Feb 1921)

WAR HEROS (Not mentioned above)

1) **Sergeant-Major Joseph Watson** of the 2nd Battalion Durham Light Infantry who was Mentioned three times in despatches and was awarded the D.C.M. and was wounded at Ypres. (.D. 30 April 1918)

2) **Lieutenant J.S. Middleton** of the Kings Liverpool who was awarded the Military Cross. Since then he was captured by the enemy. (1917 Sandbachian)

- 3) **Lieutenant Frank Latham** of the 3rd attd 1st Battalion Cheshire Regiment won the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry and resource when he led his platoon in an attack against intense machine gun fire.
- 4) **Lieutenant C James** of the 2/6th Battalion Liverpool Regiment R., T, F. for Conspicuous Gallantry and devotion to duty. On the 26 September 1918 he commanded a company in the advance on Anneux. On the way he was wounded in the face and leg by a shell but carried on for 18 hours in great pain only leaving when ordered by his Commanding Officer.
- 5) **Lieutenant Colonel Moir** who gained the D.S.O. distinction in October 1918.
- 6) **Major H.L. Moir** of the Cheshire Regiment who under trying circumstances handled his Battalion. On one occasion he was wounded in the side but still commanded his unit under heavy fire encouraging his men.

FUNDRAISING

The School also raised funds for the war effort and charities connected to it.

The Belgian Relief Fund (Local)
 St John's Ambulance Society
 The 'King George' Hospital Fund
 The Public Schools Base Hospital (Boulogne)
 The Public Schools Base Hospital (Rouen)
 The Public Schools London Hospital
 "Our Day"
 The Local Sewing Society for Sandbach Soldiers
 Y.M.C.A. Hut
 Relief of Belgian Children
 Jack Cornwell Ward (1917 Collection)
 Public Schools Hospital (1917 Collection)
 Cheshire Prisoners Fund (1917 Collection)
 Dunstan's Hostel for Blinded Soldiers and Sailors (1918 Collection)
 The Kings Fund (1918 Collection – 1919 Sandbachian)
 TOTALS up to 1914-16 = £20/9/-
 1917 = £29/15/ 11
 1918 = £38/1/6
 1919 = £41/6/3

The 1919 Sandbachian gave a list of special days in the school year.

11 November Armistice Day
 18 November Influenza Day
 19 July 1920 Prize Day
 29 July 1920 Prize Day

SCHOOL HISTORY 1919 to date.

In 1927 the school celebrated its 250th Anniversary with the building of a Cricket Pavilion in memory of the "Old Sandbachians" who fell in the Great War. In the August 1914 Sandbachian it mentioned that Mr Ernest Craig (MP) had donated a cheque for £100 to the school to use as it wished, however he was set on them building a Cricket Pavilion and at this time he felt it would be a fitting commemoration of the restoration of peace a date that wouldn't come for another 4 years (November 1918).

In 1932 due to increased numbers of pupils the buildings were again extended and opened by the Marquess of Crewe, K.G., P.C.. This provided the accommodation for another 100 pupils as well as commodious chemical and physics laboratories. A science lecture hall was also provided as well as a preparation room and store room, a specially equipped geography room, one large classroom, a cloak room and lavatory accommodation. The Architects for the project were again Messrs A. Price and Sons with Messrs H. Hilditch and Sons of Winterly providing the labour.

By 1933 the school had a camera club and dark room and had an annual cross country race for a challenge cup for the best "House" of which there were four. The school also produced its own annual magazine "The Sandbachian" which is still published on a yearly basis.

Between 1851 and 1955 the school had operated as a Charitable boarding and day school with the last boarder being taken in during 1954-5.

However in 1955 its unique legal status was established and it became an Independent School admitting boys only in the comprehensive system being funded by the Cheshire Local Education Authority and the Learning Skills Council.

On the 24th May 1958 a new extension was opened at the school.

In 1969 a new Sports Hall and Swimming Pool were added to Sandbach School complex.

The school had previously had an open air swimming pool (Lido Type) in roughly the same position as the new pool.

With the introduction of Secondary and Grammar Schools the “Sandbach School” kept its policy of boys only and became the Sandbach Grammar School with girls being shipped out to Congleton or the town’s Secondary School on the Middlewich Road.

In 1979 changed to the education system meant the introduction of Comprehensive Schools and the “Sandbach School” was required to take on boys of all abilities while the Secondary School became the Girls only school in Sandbach.

On the 7 October 1987 Foden’s Band played at a Private Concert at Sandbach School when they opened its new music centre called the MAXWELL DAVIES CENTRE at a cost of £200,000. Sir Maxwell Davies was invited to officially open the building and an inaugural concert was arranged featuring Foden’s Band who played “Peat Cutters” which was premiered by the band at the event. It was a piece written for School Choir and Brass Band and had been commissioned by the Carnegie Trust in 1985 to celebrate 150 Years of the birth of Andrew Carnegie and was about a fire on the island of Hoy which had been the home of the composer. Harry Mortimer travelled to Sandbach to conduct the Britannia Building Society Foden Band (As the band was called at the time) in the first half of the concert and the English premier of “Peat Cutters”.

In 2003 John Barber formed the Sandbach School Big Band which has toured Boston, USA and Berlin (Oct 2005). They have also performed concert at the school with Georgie Fame and Derek Watkins the trumpet player on most of the James Bond Soundtracks (Dr No to Casino Royale)

In 2006 the school was awarded Specialist Arts College Status which was won by the School’s Theatrical director John Lonsdale (2014 awarded an MBE in the New Year’s Honours).

2006 also saw the drama group at the Edinburgh Festival with the play Oedipus. They have also performed “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” and toured Edinburgh with “Amadeus” (Also in 2006).

In 2008 a second tour of the Edinburgh Fringe costing £20,000 took place with the production of “Oh What a Lovely War”.

In 2011 the School became a “Free School” one of the first to be established in England.

An article in 2013 gave the following statistics – Staff 170, Students 1167 (Male aged 11 to 18), Houses – Craig, Lea, Ward and Welles with colours Green, Red, Yellow and Blue.

In 2014 School boy Connor Reeves (Year 12) had been preparing a tribute to the fallen of World War One at the school for the last few years after a visit to some war graves and his efforts have been wonderfully put together outside the main entrance to the building. Designed by Stuart Bloor and with a team of helpers they put together a tribute garden that the school can be very proud of consisting of a headstone and flowers.

The garden was officially opened on Saturday the 18 October with a march past by local army cadets, followed by speeches from the School Head, Connor Reeves and Fiona Bruce MP who unveiled a plaque to celebrate the event.

In September 2014 Girls had been able to enrol in the sixth form at the school rather than at the High School (Girl’s School) or Collages. In July 2015, Izzy Montgomery and Alice Mountford were given awards for Psychology and Performing arts respectively for High Achievers at the school’s annual ceremony at the end of year, becoming the first girls to be given awards in the 338 years of Sandbach School.

WELL KNOWN EX-PUPILS

Will Cliff - Rugby Player Sale Sharks

James Collins – Footballer

Prof. David Eastwood – Vice Chancellor of the University of Birmingham.

James Gaskell - Rugby Player Sale Sharks

Tom Holmes - Rugby Player Sale Sharks

Nick Powell - Footballer Manchester United

Nigel Stonier – Record Producer / Married to Thea Gilmore (Well-known Singer)

William Tempest – Fashion Designer

John Waite – Broadcaster BBC Radio 4.

HEADMASTERS / HEAD

1606 to 1614 John Shaw

1614 to Unkn Thomas Bailey

1718 Thomas Hall. (Schoolmaster)

Unkn Ottiwell Kent

Unkn Thomas Kent

Unkn Thomas Addenbrooke

Unkn Randle Haslehurst

Unkn Richard Holder

Unkn William Dickin
 1741 John Davies
 1741 to 1796 Unknown
 Unkn Rev John Sibson (Curate in Charge)
 1796 Rev Charles Lockett B.A.
 1836 Rev. Robert Batty
 THE SCHOOL BECAME A GRAMMAR SCHOOL.
 1848 to 28 March 1869 Rev. Lewis Evans M.A. (Died 28 March 1869)
 1857 (Post Office Directory) Principal Rev Lewis Evans M.A. (Master) /
 Mr Christopher Herring (Second Master)
 1869 to 1871 Rev John Chambers M.A.
 1871 to Dec 1881 Rev W. H. Maddock M.A.
 Dec 1881 to Feb 1882 Mr R. C. Imrie (Acting Head / he had been the Deputy Head)
 Feb 1882 to 1898 Mr G. H. Heslop M.A. (went to Sevenoakes School in Kent as Headmaster)
 1898 to 1926 Mr Sidney Wallace Finn M.A. (1902 = Headmaster S.W. Finn MA with
 W Booth-Tyrer as second master) in Wheelock Road
 1926 to after 1933 H.L. Crockett MA (Appointed 1926 he was a Mathematical Scholar of
 Jesus College, Oxford)
 Appointed 1946 (1948) W Ross Cubbon MA (Cantab)
 #####MISSING #####
 1964 to 1980 Mr John H Bowles BA (London .D. May 2003) + 43 members of staff.
 1980 to / Mr Brian Hooton / Deputy Head Mr Banks
 2005+ Mr Peter Wiles (Headmaster 2005)
 2013+ Mrs Sarah Burns (Head teacher 2013)

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#SC05 Schools S to Z

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SANDBACH TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Crewe Road, Sandbach
 1938 William Hancock (Headmaster)

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THE SQUARE (Market Square, Sandbach)

Now no longer a school. In the 1930's there was an elementary school on the square providing accommodation for 350 pupils both boys and girls.

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WHEELOCK Primary School

Education in Wheelock started in 1871 at the Church of England School on Crewe Road. The School soon became too small and a second building was opened behind the Methodist Church and includes Hancock Hall which is still used as a pre-school. The original school didn't have catering facilities and so the pupils had to walk down to the Methodist Church to have their meals and later for Television Lessons. By the 1970's the number of pupils had reached 320 in the two schools as was growing so it was decided to build a new school further up the road. There was also dry rot in the buildings, cold damp conditions, outside toilets which flooded when it rained and half of the main hall in the Methodist site had to be used as a classroom so it became difficult to do dinners, hold assembly's and PE. In 1960 funding for a new school had been promised but not materialised until a local government and parents campaign got the go ahead.

Building started on a new school in Wheelock during 1972-3 with a completion date of the 19 November 1973 when the building was opened for staff and pupils to start working. Originally built for 280 students but 320 moved into the new school along with a number of temporary mobile classrooms.

The first head teacher at the new school was Janet Hodgson (Now Janet Field). Janet also started a woodland area at the bottom of the field with chickens, sheep and ducks.

On the 19 November 2013 the school celebrated an exhibition of the school's history compiled by Sue who has provided the basis for the above history.

By September 2014 the school hoped to extended to cater for an increasing number of new students to the area. In June 2014 work had already started at the site to increase its capacity from 210 to 315 or should that be decrease from its original intake of 320 (with Prefabs).

DATE	HEADTEACHER	DEPUTY HEAD TEACHER
Unkn	Mrs Atherton	
Pre 1973	Mr Brewster (1960's)	Mr Shorton (1963 to 1969 + -)
1973	Janet Hodgson (Now Janet Field)	
2003 (Pre)	Mrs M A Patrick	
2007 (Pre)	Ms Susan Tomlinson (to After 2011)	
2015 (Pre)	Mr D Thomas (Acting Headmaster)	
2015	Richard Walker (Site Manager)	

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SCOTCH COMMON

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The first reference to the area being known as "Scotch Common was in October 1583 in the time of Good Queen Bess 32 local land owners and gentlemen were indicted (Indict - *vt* Abuse *esp.* by legal process) for bowling upon the common green or commons, contrary of the statute. They were fined 3/4. Many of those who took part in this incident were also fined in April 1583 for the same offence, that of "Playing the unlawful game for long periods in any open place where everyone that will may see him". The men concerned were William Liversage (High Sheriff of Cheshire, of Wheelock Hall, Richard and Thomas Liversage (His Brothers), William John Shaw (The Vicar of Sandbach), William Lingart (Curate of Sandbach), Ralph Hassall (of Hassell, the son in law of William Liversage). The above men actually had the right to bowl on the common but were fined as the Lord of the Manor's steward thought that playing in public was illegal.

Bowling had been played in Sandbach on the common before the time of Sir Francis Drake playing on Plymouth Hoe after seeing the Spanish Armada (29 July 1588).

The name SCOTCH COMMON came from an incident on the 3rd September 1651 whilst the September Fair was in full swing. A skirmish took place when a party of about 1,000 of the King's Cavalry, a bunch of Scotsmen, after their defeat at the Battle of Worcester on the 3 September 1651 (Cromwell's final victory), were travelling through the town of Sandbach who were at the time loyal to the Parliamentarians and seeing the poor state of the Kings army the town's folk set upon the army with poles from the Market stalls and killed many of them. The bodies of the dead were laid to rest in a plot of land near Sandbach Heath, later called 'Pipers Hollow', on the occasion of the burial a lone piper, who it was thought to be dead, recovered enough to play a lament while the bodies of his comrades were being buried. On completion of this task he was also killed and buried along with his kinsfolk.

With the sale of the Manor in 1917 the supervision of the Common moved from the control of the Lord of the Manor of Sandbach, Lord Crewe to the town of Sandbach for the benefit of the inhabitants. The rights were to any timber on the site, Mineral's found under it and to hold any sporting events. The Rights do not include the right to change to nature of the Common or to enclose it.

In 1978 the rights of the people of Sandbach were disputed by Congleton Borough Council to the ownership of the Common. The Council's Solicitor Mr Horace Lawton said that as they paid a rent of 13p for the use of the land it was not technically "Common Land" as the payments were an acknowledgement of ownership. The Council did agree to pay £5,000 to the Earl of Crewe's Estate for future use.

The common was changed into a car park and in 2004 parts of the common were enclosed with walk ways to make it a bit more user friendly.



(Car Park 19 May 2004)



(Military Arms Scotch Common April 2004)

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SCOUTS in Sandbach.

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In September 1968 Les Bassnett, Jim Hampson, Stuart Hurst and the Rev R Warner (Wesley Avenue Church) held a meeting to form the 3rd Sandbach (39 South West Cheshire) Group. It was the idea of Reg Shallcross whose son wanted to join the scouts but found that there wasn't a group in the area so he decided to form one and became Chairman of the Scouts in Sandbach. They were soon joined by Tony Harrison who was a leader in Chelford but lived in Sandbach and had been thinking of joining a group nearer his home.

Tuesday evenings were set aside in the Wesley Avenue Schoolroom (Now the Wesley Centre) for the Cubs to meet while Scouts met on a Thursday. Demand for the Cubs was so high that soon a second group met on a Monday with a waiting list for both groups.

In 1969 the Sandbach Scout Group held its first Scuba-Do which was a different name for a fundraising fete held at the Wesley Avenue Schoolrooms. In 1974 however on the 20 April the venue was changed to St Mary's Church Hall as renovations were taking place at Wesley Avenue. Starting at 2.30pm the Scuba-Do-74 was opened by Mrs Eileen Henshall MBE, BA (Sandbach Council / Mayor) and included a lucky programme competition with prizes from the Cheshire and Northwich Building Society at 23 High Street, Sandbach Freezer Centre in Queen's Drive, the Sandbach Garden Centre in Green Street, Martins Newsagents at 8 Hightown and Carousel Sports in 1 Bold Street, Sandbach. Other attractions included a White Elephant stall, Tombola, Bottle Stall, Crockery Stall and the Egg and Bacon Game. The evening of the 20 April 1974 included a Scuba-Do Disco with music supplied by the Amplificoustics and like the money raising fete was an annual event for the group.

With such demand for new places in the cubs and scouts the leaders decided that a new meeting hall was needed and in 1971 they looked at the Old Providence Sunday School in Chapel Street (1859 Boys / Girls) which was at the time in a derelict state. As it was owned by the Wesley Avenue Church and one of the Founders of the scouts in Sandbach the Rev R Warner was in charge it was a simple matter of sorting out contracts and in December 1973 the purchase went through. There was however a new problem as the cost of the building had bankrupted the account of the scouts so there was no money to add new toilets, windows or even make basic repairs to the structure including the repair of the roof and installing electricity, water and drains. An appeal was launched and £800 was raised by the generosity of the people of Sandbach which went a long way towards the £7,000.00 cost of the building and the work needed to make it fit for holding meetings.

The scouts also purchased the two cottages next door which at the time housed Chickens in the back yard and were to be turned into storage spaces for the money making venture of collecting newspapers. In the 1970's this was before recycling became a necessity for Councils and private companies paid a good amount for old newspapers which they could then turn into newsprint etc. Many Scout groups used this as a money making scheme and the Cubs, Scouts, Guides and Venture Scouts all took their turn to collect the papers which until 1976 were stored at Offley House in Congleton Road (Home of Ken Beresford) in their barn.

In 1976 the Scouts opened up their new Scout Hall at the back of the Wesley Avenue Church with space for a stage, a fitted kitchen, Hobbies room, large Committee room and library as well as the main meeting hall. By now there were 2 Cub Packs, 1 Scout troop and one Venture unit using the hall along with local MP Gwyneth Dunwoody (Crewe District which at the time included Sandbach) who held her surgeries there on a Saturday afternoon.

In the 1970's the group purchased an old Crosville Single Decker Coach which they used to transport the Cubs etc to various places and one of its original outings was a tour round Derbyshire and included Mow Cop. Driver at the time was Jim Thompson who managed to knock over a wall at the top of Mow Cop. The following day the scouts returned to the scene of the accident with wheelbarrows and cement and set upon repairing the damage they had caused to the wall. The Crosville Bus was built in 1951 and used in the North Wales routes and is now owned by a Society in the South who hopes to bring it back to Sandbach for the Transport festival. The Bus was a Bristol LL68 registration number NFM46 and entered service in Chester in May 1952 working on the Bangor route and continued with them until 1970 when it was sold to Martin and Sons Limited of

Weaverham (Dealer) who sold it to the 39th South West Cheshire Scout Group in June 1971. By November 1979 the cost of repairs and running made it a costly investment and so the scouts sold it to S Cheetham, Billinge of Black and White Motorways, Winchester. By February 1988 it entered service with Classic Buses Limited, Four Mark and then continued to run trips with the Crosville Motor Services Limited, Weston-Super-Mare until April 1991 when it was taken out of service and was still in the Crosville Motor Services Limited depot in Weston-Super-Mare in August 2012.

Eventually the stage area of the building was demolished and underneath were a couple of Chamber Pots which were sold for £400 by the antique shop on the corner of Chapel Street which was split between the Scouts and the Wesleyan Church who had sold the building to the scouts and who must have had something to do with the pots origins.

Original Scout leader Les Bassnett decided the colours of the neck scarf for the Sandbach Scouts as originally the group wanted a blue scarf but Les was a Liverpool supporter and was having nothing to do with the Everton colours on his scouts and so it was Red with a White trim that was adopted, the Liverpool colours.

The building in 2016 is used by the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, the Sandbach U3A and a Guinea Pig group who hold their National Show at the Scout Hall.

On the 23 April 2016 Sandbach Scouts celebrated the anniversary of the building they have occupied for the last 40 years. They gathered together past and present scouts and leaders for a look back at the building and activities and even had a cake made for the occasion. Dennis Fricker, Jim Thompson, Reg Shallcross and Tony Harrison were guests of honour as founders of the group in Sandbach. It was also a chance to meet old friends and those involved in making the building what it is today. Unfortunately the building is looking as though it could do with a 40 year face lift and Dennis Fricker was keen to find out if any local people could help the group with renovations including a plasterer for some of the holes in the walls and painters for the rest of the building.

Scouts Leaders included;-

Les Bassnett =

Jim Hampson =

Stuart Hurst =

Jim Thompson = Having been a Scout in the 10th Crosby / Liverpool Group in his younger days before National service Jim was interested in the Scout movement. In 1965 Jim and his family moved to Sandbach and about 1967 he started to become involved with the formation of the group in the town after he had let it be known he had been a scout to one of his friends who was connected to the formation of the Sandbach Group. In 1971 he became the assistant Scout Leader with Stuart Hurst.

Tony Harrison = Tony was a leader with Chelford Scouts but lived in Sandbach and on one day while travelling home he was followed by some lads on a Friday evening. They had noticed that he was wearing a scout uniform and told Tony that the Sandbach Scouts would fold unless they could find a new scout leader. Thinking about the distance he was travelling each week to Chelford, Tony decided to switch to Sandbach and helped to keep the Sandbach Scouts going.

Dennis Fricker =

Alan Darlington (Group Chairman 2016)

Brian Jones (Acting Group Scout Leader 2016)

#####

SCRAP MERCHANTS

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1902 / 1914	John Beech (Metal Broker / Scrap Yard) – 18 Church Street, Sandbach.
1938	WILLIAM BEECH Chapel Street / Bradwall Road (See below)
1960's – 70's	Dougie Beech (Scrap Yard) – Bath Street (Nr Dingle Lake)
7 Mar 1966	J and HAROLD COPPENHALL LTD Scrap Metal Merchants and later a Bus company
	The Beeches, Bradwall Rd, Sandbach Tel; 269

TILLEY AND PRYOR

Run in Sandbach for 40 years Bill Tilley (Aged 65 of Sweettooth Lane) became the last of three generations of Tilley's to be in the Scrap Metal business in the town.

Among the family there is something called the Tilley Whistle which was used at Malcolm Tilley's (Lawrence Tilley's Son) funeral by Bill Tilley as it had been handed down through the family and probably came from Grandma Tilley who it was said would ring up the Swan (Public House) when Granddad Tilley was due home or if someone wanted to see him and tell them that she would get him from the office. She would then give the "Tilley Whistle" down the phone line to tell him to come home saving a long conversation. Unfortunately by the time of Bill's funeral no one remembered what the "Tilley Whistle" was and so it has been lost to time.

The family at one time owned 10 Well Bank (Built in 1570) a house that was next to their scrap metal business which was behind the house on what is now Dingle Bank of Dingle Lane.

The company also used the old Co-op Stable yard off Hawk Street opposite and the land by the side of and at the back of the Lower Chequer for (Lol Tilley) Lawrence's scrap metal business as a storage area a piece of land that was compulsory purchased to build the shopping precinct and houses that are now Penda Way and Hawk Street.

At the age of 14 Bill Tilley had worked for his Grandmother's business before moving on to his Uncle Lawrence's Yard. He then purchased a wagon and started his own business at the age of 25 in 1966 in Norton Way, Elworth which he ran on his own for 10 years before joining with Peter Pryor and forming "Tilley and Pryor" in 1976.

Around 1974, the company had moved to Cooper's Opening off Bradwall Road (Next to J and Harold Coppenhall's Coaches) taking over the Coppenhall Scrap Yard. Tilley and Pryor moved to Norton Way in Sandbach where they stayed until Bill retired.

In the 1960's and 70's Jock Hilditch a local auctioneer would use the name of Charlie Tilley if an item of metal failed to reach its required price and so it would be knocked down to "Charlie Tilley" for scrap.

Peter Pryor died in 2002, three years before Bill was of retirement age at 65 leaving him in charge again of his own company and thoughts of retiring with his wife Joyce in 2004. In 2004 Bill sold the business to Peter Pryor Jnr and his brother Darren Pryor who kept the name "Tilley and Prior".

Bill's own son William Jnr (Real Name = James William Jnr) worked briefly for the company but moved on the same day as his father from the company to work for (And Own) Saxon Mini Skips with Martin Skellern (Business Partner) going down this direction rather than Scrap Metal and so Bill decided to close down the scrap yard and retire.

By 2007, the company now run on his own by Billy Tilley (Jnr) was dealing in skip hire doing industrial and domestic work along with scrap metal collection and demolition removal and were based at Unit 3a Norton way, Moss Lane Industrial Estate, Sandbach CW11 3WL.

In 2011 Billy Tilley (Snr) passed away.

OTHER SCRAP YARDS

Sandbach Car and Commercial Dismantlers Ltd based at Ettley Heath.



Ettley Heath Scrap dealer 2013 picture.

(A 1965 Hawker Siddeley Andover E3A ex RAF Aeroplane one of only 31 built. It was brought to the yard in December 2005. In 2017 the Aircraft had gone from the scrap-yard rumour has it that it was used in a film).

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SHACKLETON TOYS

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When you think of Model Toy Cars and Lorries you think of Matchbox or Dinky Toys well you can also add to the list Shackleton Toys of Sandbach who made scale models of Foden Commercial Vehicles at their Wheat sheaf works at Malkins Bank, Sandbach. This was on the site of the old Brunner Mond works club. Formed in 1939 by Maurice Shackleton (an ex Foden worker) they were originally called James Shackleton and Sons Ltd and produced a range of Wooden Toys from dolls to lorries. The lorries were a simple design based on the local Foden trucks and had a wooden chassis and body with a metal radiator and Foden name badge along with the Shackleton green name badge attached to the rear of the cab (2015 on sale for £100). In 1948 the company went into the manufacture of Diecast models employing 40 staff with each toy using separate parts that could be taken apart and reassembled using a basic tool kit supplied with each model. The first of these was based on the Foden FG 6 Wheel Lorry and was housed in a lift off lidded cardboard box and included a clockwork motor situated inside the cab which was connected to the back drive wheels by a drive shaft. These models were not cheap, retailing at £2 / 19 / 6d (About £3 in new money) compared to its rival Dinky toy at 10/- (50p). High costs and low sales meant that the company was forced to close its doors in 1952. In the 1990's however when Foden's introduced the S21 Lightweight glass reinforced plastic cab with a split widescreen (Nicknamed the Spaceship or Sputnik by the Commercial press and Micky Mouse by possibly the drivers -Actual origin of the nickname not known to the author) the Shackleton Model company was resurrected to manufacture the model in a limited edition by Frank Hardern using original tooling and dies and instead of clockwork had an electric motor to drive the back wheels.

MODELS IN THE RANGE Included.

- Foden FG 6 Wheel Lorry
- Foden FG 6 Wheel Tipper 2 (Green) (2015 on sale for £300 - £400)
- Foden FG 6 Wheel Tipper 3 (Grey)
- Foden FG 6 Tipper (Red)
- Foden Wooden Chain Lorry (Blue and Red)
- Foden FG 6 Platform Lorry (Yellow, Silver and Red))
- Shackleton 8 Ton Dyson Trailer (Green) (2015 on sale for £145)
- David Brown Trackmaster 30 (Red Crawler Tractor with Caterpillar Tracks)
- Foden S218 Wheeler (Limited edition produced in the 1990's)

<http://roddersantiques.co.uk/?p=1276>

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SIMCOX PRINTERS (Sandbach)

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Hidden on the Middlewich Road it was next to one of the openings for the old ERF Factory. At 46 Middlewich Road, Sandbach it started before 1925 and has been printing posters, Stationary etc. since pre 1925. Posters for the 1925 “Crewe District Congregational Union 3rd Annual Musical Festival” had the name of Arthur Simcox written on the bottom with its founders name Arthur Simcox.

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STREET NAMES AND WHEN THEY WERE BUILT

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If anyone has a date for these and other roads please contact author.

- Abbey Road
- Acacia Drive
- Adlington Drive
- Alderley Close
- Alpine Echoes Close (2013 to 2016 Named after Foden's Band)
- Angelina Close (Elworth)
- Armistead Road
- Bagmere Close
- Bailey Crescent (After WW 2 the road had Prefabs)
- Barlow Way
- Bath Street
- Beech Grove
- Belle Vue Terrace
- Belmont Avenue

Betchton Road
Birch Gardens
Birtles Close
Blackacres Close
Blakemere Way
Bold Street
Bollin Close
Booth Avenue
Boothmere Close
Boulton Close
Boyd Close (2017 by Taylor Wimpey = off Booth Street, Elworth, Named after Elworth Cricket Club Members)
Bradwall Road
Bradwall Street
Bramall Close
Brereton Close
Bridgemere Close
Brook Hollow
Brook Terrace
Brookhouse Road
Brookland Drive
Brookmere Close
Budworth Close
Capesthorne Close
Cedar Close
Cestria Close (Elworth)
Chapel Street, Sandbach
Chapel Street, Wheelock
Chapelmere Close
Charlesworth Close
Chartwell Park
Church Lane
Church Street
Claymore Road (Off Congleton Road)
Clifton Road
Clumbermere Drive
Coldmoss Drive
Colley Lane
Comma Road (Off Old Mill Road)
Commons Mill
Condcliffe Close
Congleton Road
Congleton Road off Tatton Drive (1960's)
Cokesmere Lane
Corbett Road (2017 by Taylor Wimpey = off Booth Street, Elworth, Named after Elworth Cricket Club Members)
Coronation Crescent
Cottons Lane
Crabmill Drive
Crewe Road
Cross Lane
Cross Street
Crown Bank
Cumbermere Drive
Daisybank Drive
Dane Close
Davenport Close
Dean Close
Dee Close
Delambre Close
Dingle Bank

Dingle Lane
Doddington Drive
Dorfold Close
Dove Close
Drovers Way
Dukes Crescent
Eaton Close
Elanor Road (Elworth)
Elizabeth Close (Elworth)
Ellesmere Close
Elm Tree Lane
Elton Crossings Road
Elton Road
Elworth Road
Elworth Street
Eric Drive
Etherow Close
Ettley Avenue
Eva Street
Fairfield Avenue (Some at the top of Price Ave at the top of Fairfield Ave were built for Jennings' Workers, Pre ERF)
Fallows Close (Off Congleton Road)
Ferndale Close
Fields Drive
Filter Bed Way (Off Old Mill Road)
First Avenue
Flat Lane
Foden Terrace
Forge Fields
Foundry Lane
Front Street
Game Street
Gatekeeper Close (Off Old Mill Road)
Gawsworth Drive
George Street
Gibson Crescent
Gowy Close
Grange Close
Grange Way
Grayling Road (Off Old Mill Road)
Green Acres
Green Street
Halliwell Court (2013 to 2016 Named after Foden's Band)
Hartford Close
Hassell Lane
Hatchmere Close
Hawk Street (Old)
Hawk Street (New)
Hawthorn Drive
Heath Avenue
Heath Close
Heath Road
Henshall Ave (Named after a Councillor Eileen Henshall?)
High Street
Hightown
Hill Street
Hind Heath Lane
Hind Heath Road
Holland Close
Holly Blue Road (Off Old Mill Road)

Holly Heath Close
Hope Street
Houndings Lane
Hunderford Place
Lodge Road Industrial Estate
King Street
Langley Close
Latham Road
Laurel Close
Lawton Way
Lea Close
Lee Place (2017 by Taylor Wimpey = off Booth Street, Elworth, Named after Elworth Cricket Club Members)
Lightley Close
Lime Close
Littlemore Road (2017 by Taylor Wimpey = off Booth Street, Elworth, Named after Elworth Cricket Club Members / Alan Littlemore)
Lodge Road Industrial Estate
London Road
Manifold Close
Manor Road
Manor Way
Maple Close
Marriott Road
Marsh Green Road
Mellors Field Close (Off Congleton Road)
Middlewich Road
Mill Hill Drive
Mill Hill Lane
Mill Lane
Mill Row
Millbrookway
Moreton Close
Morgan Road (2017 by Taylor Wimpey = off Booth Street, Elworth, Named after Elworth Cricket Club Members)
Mornington Close (Elworth)
Mortimer Drive
Moss Lane
Moston Lane
New Street
Newall Avenue
Newfield Street
Norton Way
Oak Street
Oakley Close
Oakmere Close
Oakwood Crescent
Offley Avenue
Offley Road
Old Mill Road
Oldfield Road
Ordsall Close
Ormerod Close
Ossmere Close
Palmer Close (2017 by Taylor Wimpey = off Booth Street, Elworth, Named after Elworth Cricket Club Members)
Palmer Road
Park House Drive
Park Lane
Pasture Close (Off Congleton Road)
Patrons Drive (2013 to 2016 Named after Foden's Band)

Pear Tree Close
Peckforton Close
Pender Way (Shops)
Pickmere Close
Pickwick Close
Pine Grove
Pipers Hollow (Off Congleton Road)
Plant Street
Platt Avenue
Price Avenue (built in 1933 by Wells and Son)
Price Close (2017 by Taylor Wimpey = off Booth Street, Elworth, Named after Elworth Cricket Club Members)
Price Drive
Princess Drive
Pring Close (Elworth)
Proctors Road
Queens Drive
Radbroke Close
Radcliffe Road
Radnor Close
Randle Bennett Close
Raven Close
Ravenscroft Close
Redesmere Close
Reynolds Lane
Richmond Close
Riley Close
Rimmer Grove (2013 to 2016 Named after Foden's Band)
Robin Close
Roman Way
Rostherne Way
Rowan Close
Ruscoe Ave
St Johns Way
St Peters Rise
Salt Lane Way (Elworth)
Sanbec Way
Sandy Lane
Saxon Way
School Lane, Elworth
School Lane, Sandbach Heath
Second Avenue (Mid 1920's)
Silver Terrace
Skeath Close
Smithfield Lane
Sommerford Close
Stannerhouse Lane
Station Road
Station View
Stringer Avenue
Sutton Place (Off Congleton Road)
Swallow Drive
Sweettooth Lane
Swettenham Close
Tabley Close
Tame Close
Tatton Drive
Taxmere Close
The Avenue
The Commons
The Coppice

The Hill
 Third Avenue (1953) (No 5 built by Goodwins in 1955)
 Town Fields
 Tuerton Close
 Twemlow Avenue
 Union Street
 Vicarage Gardens
 Vicarage Lane
 Victoria Street
 Waterside Mews
 Weaver Close
 Well Bank
 Welles Street
 Wesley Avenue
 West Way
 Williams Drive (2017 by Taylor Wimpey = off Booth Street, Elworth, Named after Elworth Cricket Club Members)
 Willow Drive
 William Foden Close
 Withington Close
 Woodside Drive
 Wrenmere Close
 Wrights Lane
 Zan Drive

Details include information from the Right Move Website.

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SWAN HOTEL (Swan and Chequers Hotel)

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The site originally extended towards Wells Street as the "Old Swan ", a thatches building.
 In 1895 it was rebuilt by Mr John Stringer along with Manchester Architects "Bird and Whittenbury".

PUBLICANS

- 1834 = Jas Hilditch
- 1902 = Samuel Bullock (Swan Hotel)
- 1914 = Percy Bumby (Swan Hotel)
- 1938 = Mrs Jane Slack
- Unkn = Douglas Webb (Phone 109)
- 1960's = Mr Bitner
- 1987 = Ian and Barbara
- 2005 = Simon and Jayne Proudlove (to date)



Swan and Chequer 2004

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SWEET SHOP (Market Square)

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From my childhood in the 1960's and 1970's there was only one sweet shop in Sandbach. It was owned by Mrs Timmins and is now occupied by an Italian restaurant. It is just to the left of the Market Tavern and was built in 1767.

The white shop on the corner was in the 1970's a Model and Toy shop. It, like Mrs Timmins sweet shop became part of the Italian Restaurant and then after a row within the family the building was split again and then the White shop became a café owned by a completely different business.

END
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