

# **Tilehurst Royal British Legion Branch History**

## **The Tilehurst Branch was formed on the 16th April 1934**

### **Branch History**

The Royal British Legion is the major voice for Service and ex-Service people throughout the year. We campaign and lobby on a wide range of issues, including mental and physical health, housing and homelessness, employment, community and adult care, disability, skills development and debt. Our aim is to continuously improve the welfare and support provided for veterans, serving personnel and their dependants of all ages.

The Royal British Legion commenced with its formation on Sunday 15 May 1921 by the amalgamation of four associations:

- 1. National Association of Discharged Sailors and Soldiers (1916)**
- 2. British National Federation of Discharged and Demobilized Sailors and Soldiers (1917)**
- 3. Comrades of The Great War (1917)**
- 4. Officers' Association (1920)**

### **The Royal British Legion**

The Legion is the major voice for Service and ex-Service people throughout the year. We campaign and lobby on a wide range of issues, including mental and physical health, housing and homelessness, employment, community and adult care, disability, skills development and debt. Our aim is to continuously improve the welfare and support provided for veterans, serving personnel and their dependants of all ages.

The Royal British Legion commenced with its formation on Sunday 15 May 1921 by the amalgamation of four associations:

- 1. National Association of Discharged Sailors and Soldiers (1916)**
- 2. British National Federation of Discharged and Demobilized Sailors and Soldiers (1917)**
- 3. Comrades of the Great War (1917)**
- 4. Officers' Association (1920)**

## **Tilehurst Branch**

During 1939-45 war remained active; Branch has always carried out primary function Legion i.e. to look after welfare of the ex-service men women and their dependants. During the 1930's the Branch adopted the Cumberland depressed area, sending over 2,000 gifts of clothing and other articles. The Service Committee during this time was very active and members such as the late Dicky Dormer and John Hall well known Officers of the Committee.



The first President was Lt. Col. J. F. Hawiring and the committee used the Tilehurst Village Hall for its meetings.



From the beginning the Branch planned to have a Club of their own where members could meet in comfort for Legion business and relaxation. With that end in view a separate fund was started, but then came the war, after which it was decided to

press forward with the plan. By this time an anonymous donor had given over £100.00 specifically for the Building Fund.

A plot of land was bought in Downing Road and through the good offices of Mr Dormer and Hill & Sherwin a Building Committee was formed, and with assistance from the builder Mr A Francis an early start was made on the original building (which is now the Park Lane School Annex) which was based on a Ministry of Works "24" Hut from plans prepared and adapted by the Chairman to provide the accommodation required. This building had the usual offices for committee meetings and the club facilities for billiards etc. The cost of this project was £3,000. Gen. Sir. Miles Christopher Dempsey KGB KBE DSO MC opened the building in July 1952. (He was also the Col. of The Royal Berkshire Regt.)

***Further details of the General can be found by Copy and paste the link below into your Internet Explorer.***

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miles\\_Dempsey](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miles_Dempsey)