

Dear Members

With the two major functions of the year successfully achieved and enjoyed by all those members able to attend, and here I must record my grateful thanks to those most involved in both the Annual Dinner and the Regatta Party, their hard work, crisis management and general sunny demeanour has been of enormous support. Now it is perhaps time to reflect on our other function in WORC life.

Last year and with not too much notice we managed to field some volunteers for the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal. I am pleased to report that Wivenhoe's response to the Poppy Appeal increased donations by 20% to nearly £7,900 which added to the Nation's response of over £30m. I believe that the Wivenhoe Ocean Racing Club played some small part in the local increase. Now I am asking for more help. RBL Wivenhoe have asked for an extra day's collecting at Tesco giving us Wednesday, 5th to Saturday, 8th November and I am sure that WORC can fill the extra slots to make it a great success. I did my stint at Tesco's last year and I have to say it was one of the most heart-warming couple of hours I have spent - there really are many lovely people out there!

Until now this collection has been achieved by the stalwarts of the Legion for many of whom standing for two hours outside Tesco or the Co-op seriously is a labour of love. For the next Drinks Party on 28th September, we are inviting Wivenhoe's Poppy Appeal Co-ordinator and RBL Branch President, Roger Belsham, to invite you to take part in this worthwhile and, as I say, heart-warming experience. Roger will be undertaking this role for the last time this year and understudying him is none other than our very own Martyn Carrick. I very much look forward to your support.

While the Regatta has taught us a thing or two about balmy August evenings and we could truly wonder at Global Warming I want to leave you all with a little thought for the shorter days ahead; our membership is now so full that it will soon be dead men's shoes - be careful going home alone on the darker nights if you are WORC identifiable!!

Laurence Knox
Commodore