

I feel it is important to thank all who contributed to the Elm Park RBL Parade and Poppy Appeal. Sadly the Romford Recorder did not print my letter this year, so here it is:



Well what can one say? Pre-Covid the Elm Park Royal British Legion had a fantastic parade and raised over £40,000 for the Poppy Appeal in 2019, then the pandemic hit us, so no parade in 2020 and we only raised £19,500 for the Poppy Appeal.

So how did 2021 pan out? Yes the amazing residents of Elm Park turned out in their hundreds for the parade and we thank Mike Brace CBE DL for attending our parade with Mrs Brace. We raised over £2,800 for the Poppy Appeal on Remembrance Sunday afternoon and we couldn't have done this without the generosity of local businesses and residents who gave so generously. That money and all the money collected over the two weeks will see the Elm Park team back to raising over £40,000 for the appeal, brilliant news. This is on top of what the Elm Park community achieved on Saturday at the Assembly Hall. It's amazing how good Elm Park is, but yes we do have people who want to knock Elm Park but that's only the minority.

Sadly the Haverettes All Girls' Marching Band was not present this year at the parade, but we did have Sophie Doyle the drummer girl from the Haverettes to give the parade a great beat to march to and I am sure the Haverettes will be back next year. Well done to our parade marshals Gary and Trevor who kept us in line. Thanks to Jeff Brown who played the last post outside the branch and inside the Church, also thank you to Father Tom and Rev David and the team at Saint Nicholas Church for hosting the Remembrance Church Service.

Well done also to Joanne White and the Poppy Fundraising team for another successful year raising funds for our Service personnel and ex-service personnel and their dependents. Thanks also to the Met Police for marshalling the parade for us and keeping us safe especially considering what happened in Liverpool on Remembrance Sunday. Elm Park you are amazing.

Councillor Barry Mugglestone
Chairman
Elm Park Branch Royal British Legion