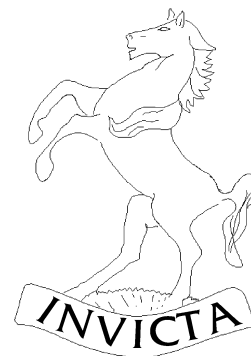




KENT COUNTY NEWS

County Secretary
Kent County Headquarters
RBL Village, Aylesford, ME20 7NY
Tel: 01622 717088 Fax: 01622 715332
Email: twest@britishlegion.org.uk



JUNE 2010

LEST WE FORGET

The following members have passed on since our last Newsletter

Mr Peter Cruse

Cheriton and Morehall Branch

BRANCH SECRETARIES: PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ITEMS IN THIS MONTHLY CIRCULAR SHOULD FORM PART OF YOUR REPORT

COUNTY CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

As there were only a few delegates from the County at Annual Conference I am including a copy of the Director General's speech. Some of the contents are quite revealing and, although it's quite a long speech, it's well worth reading and making available to your members.

Any Branch holding a parade may ask for the County Standard, always accompanied by the County Chairman, and other Branch Standards to join them on parade but there is no requirement to request the full County Ceremonial Party.

Aussie Walker

COUNTY SECRETARY

Two branches have had their applications recently approved by the Membership Council:

Staplehurst is now a sub-Branch of Goudhurst Branch and thanks must go to the latter for taking on a second sub-Branch.

Horton Kirby and South Darenth applied for a change of name and are now the South Darenth and District Branch.

For those Branches that are waiting desperately for information concerning tickets for the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall, I am still waiting for information myself from Head Office. However, I understand that everything you need to know will be included in the next edition of Legionletter.

DONATIONS TO COUNTY FUNDS

The following donations have been gratefully received:

Maidstone Branch - £200

TRAINING COURSES

Attached is the current list of National Training Courses for the remainder of the year. Applications to attend are available through the County Office.

MS4 APPLICATIONS

All Branch Secretaries and Membership Secretaries should be aware by now that the earliest version of the MS4 that is legally acceptable is MS4/06a. Head Office has been pushing this information since the Data Protection Act changed in 2006 but old forms are still being completed. Since then we have had /07, /08 and the current version /09. Because of Data Protection issues we cannot accept MS4/06 or earlier and any received will be returned to the Branch. If you are holding any old stock - get rid of it! The latest forms can be requested, free of charge, from the Poppy Appeal on 01622 793195.

I must add that all MS2, MS4 and MS7 forms should be submitted to the County Secretary - not to Head Office nor the Central Data Input Centre (CDI). If they are sent to either they will either be returned to the Branch or sent to the County Office. Either way it causes delay in processing.

Could I remind all Branches, and Clubs where applicable, that the 1st July is fast approaching when all new members are entitled to up to three months free membership if they sign their applications on or after that date. There are many who, with some justification, feel aggrieved that they are only getting a few months membership for a full year's subscription. Now is the time when new members should be advised that it may be beneficial to them to either wait until after 1st July, or to post-date their applications which you should then send to me towards the end of June.

LETTER HEADINGS

I am informed that there are a great number of Branches around the country that have created their own letter headings which, in many cases, are in contravention of their own Branch Bye Laws. I am therefore required to remind Branch Secretaries of the requirements for letter headings.

The legal bit says "Every registered charity with a gross income of over £10k must state its full name and that it is a registered charity on all letterheads, cheques, order forms, notices, receipts, advertisements, promissory notes and on all documents soliciting money. Failure to do so is an offence which incurs financial penalty."

The Legion provides pre-printed stock to which Branches should add their own address and Branch details when producing letters. A copy of the sheet is attached. Headed paper can be ordered from the Poppy Appeal, free of charge, depending on the number of members as follows:

Members	Sheets
Less than 25	50
25 - 100	150
100 - 250	450
250 - 500	750
500 - 1,000	1,250
1,000 - 2,000	2,500
More than 2,000	3,000

To order stocks of headed paper please contact Wendy Shone at washone@britishlegion.org.uk or on 01622 793195.

FUNDRAISING IN KENT AND THE SOUTHEAST

As can be seen from the attached flyer from Bernard Bibby, his 'Electric Voice' service can provide funds for his two chosen charities, the Royal British Legion and Help for Heroes.

POPPY WALK - 1

I would like to thank all the 28 walkers that turned up for the Poppy Walk on Sunday 16th May. It was a very good turnout and the weather was very good to us. The Mayor of Broadstairs, Mrs Saunders, and her escort attended and started the walk off. They both walked with us all and said it was a privilege to be with us as it was her last function as mayor. The Kent Marine Cadets, all the way from Folkestone, turned up and it was very nice to see them with us. I am hoping for a figure of £2,000 and although some money has come in there is still more to come.

It would be nice to see walkers from more branches next year. I have said before that if just one member from each branch turns up we would raise much needed monies for the welfare work that needs to be dealt with in Kent alone. *Anne Hill*

POPPY WALK - 2

The Downs Branch held its 7th Annual Poppy Walk on Sunday 23rd May. 27 members took part. At a lunchtime social after the walk a cheque for £1,948.01, which had been raised by the walkers, was presented to County Fundraiser Jane Taylor. The Club Secretary also presented her with a cheque for £1,086, the proceeds of meat raffles held at weekends over the past year. The seven walks the Branch has undertaken so far have raised a total of £10,290.01 for the Poppy Appeal.

POPPY SUPPORTERS DAY

This year the Poppy Supporters Day will be held at the magnificent Chilham Castle on 9th July with registration commencing at 12.30. There will be a full programme of activities for all those involved in welfare and fundraising within the County. Letters have been sent out but should there be anyone not in receipt of a letter who would be interested in attending this event then they should contact either Clare Saunders (Fundraising) on 01634 724845 or Cathy Ash (Welfare) on 01622 791269.

COUNTY CASEWORKERS UPDATE

Just a reminder that a one day update for all County Caseworkers takes place at the Capel Morris Centre, RBL Village on Saturday 12th June with registration commencing at 9 am.

BIRCHINGTON BRANCH

The Branch are pleased to report that they raised the sum of £303 at their boot fair on 17th April, recently advertised in County News. Their next event is a band concert being held on Sunday 13th June - please see the attached flyer for information.

ARMED FORCES DAY - CHATHAM

Following the success of the National Armed Forces Day event held in Chatham last year, the Historic Dockyard will once again host an Armed Forces Day event on Sunday 27th June, although at a very much more local level. Please see the attached letter and ticket application form for more information.

ARMED FORCES DAY - DEAL

The Deal and Walmer Branch and the Downs Branch, along with other ex-Service organisations in Deal, are holding a Parade and Service on Sunday 27th June. The parade will start at Deal Castle at 10.30am and march along the seafront to Deal Pier where a Drumhead Service will be held at 11.00. The salute will be taken by the Town Mayor of Deal. The County Standard will be in attendance and any other Branch Standards and members are welcome to attend. Those wishing to march should muster at Deal Castle by 10.15.

DOVER PATROL SERVICE

There will be a Dover Patrol Service at St Margarets at Cliffe at 11.00am on Sunday 25th July. Branch Standards and members will be more than welcome to attend. Standards are required to muster at 10.30 at the Monument. Branches may also lay wreaths if they wish and should contact the wreath laying organiser on the day.

SHEPPEY AIR DISPLAY

The Aviation Centenary Committee, Muswell Manor, supported by Rolls-Royce PLC and Leysdown Parish Council, are pleased to announce a free, community air display to be held over the Leysdown coastline on Saturday July 24th 2010. Please see the attached letter and flyer for further information.

THE NICK ROSS ORCHESTRA

The Nick Ross Orchestra specialises in 'Sounds of the Glenn Miller Era' and is putting on a special concert at Her Majesty's Theatre in London's Haymarket at 5.30 pm on Sunday 3rd October to mark the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain. Ticket availability is as shown on the attached flyer, which also includes their diary dates for the year, but they will be delighted to organise a special discount for Legion members. If you would like to arrange a group visit please call the orchestra's office on 020 7619 0220.

SAILING FOR HEROES

On the 8th July 2010 a member of the Otter Valley Rotary Club and the 41 Club of Ottery St Mary, Chris Highnam, intends sailing from Sutton Harbour, Plymouth to HMS President which is permanently moored on the Thames in London and where a promissory note will be handed over to a celebrity recipient on behalf of the Royal British Legion and Help for Heroes. The journey will follow the South Coast of England and will take in all of our major naval ports as well as passing the home bases of many of our armed forces. On that journey he will be accompanied each day by another sailor plus at least one injured service person. There will also be room on the boat for two further sponsored places for people who pay a sponsorship fee to join a day on the sail.

The intention is to fund the whole trip from sponsored support. Every penny collected will go to the Royal British Legion and Help for Heroes. However, assistance is most urgently needed in finding injured service personnel able and willing to accompany the vessel on each of the various voyage legs.

A look at the website www.sail4h.org and following the links for each day will illustrate the leg options available.

KENT COUNTY NEWS

If anyone has any information they wish to share with the rest of the County please send it to me, preferably by e-mail so that I can 'cut and paste', and I'll do my best to include it in these pages.

Tony West
County Secretary