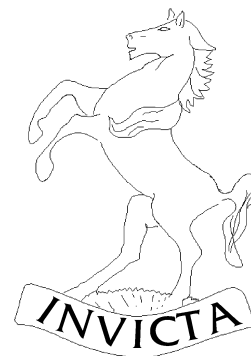




KENT COUNTY NEWS

**Kent County Office, Royal British Legion,
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JULY 2010

LEST WE FORGET

The following members have passed on since our last Newsletter

Mr Derek Smith	Greenhithe Branch
Deputy County Parade Marshal	
Mr William Robinson	Borstal Branch
Mr Steven Danton MM	Canterbury Branch
Mr John Davies	Downs Branch
Mr David Mullan	Downs Branch
Mr Raymond Casson	Dymchurch Branch
Mr Tony Potter	Fordcombe Branch
Mrs Elizabeth Underwood	Hawkhurst Branch

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

COUNTY CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

With regret we announce the death of Derek Smith, the Deputy County Parade Marshal. Details of his funeral are given below and I would request a good turn out at his funeral.

County Office will be moving at the end of the month so there will be disruption to our service while this takes place. Please be patient - the staff will try to keep the inconvenience to a minimum.

We are now entering the Carnival season. Please remember that this NOT an event for the Branch Standard to be paraded. Standards are to be treated with due reverence - not as a piece of bunting.

It is with concern I see that some Branches are misusing their funds. The use of Branch Funds is governed by charity law and they are not to be used for having a knees up - even if those funds were raised by the members. If in doubt as to what you can and can't spend money on please check with the County Secretary.

Aussie Walker

THE LATE DEREK SMITH

Derek Smith, the Deputy County Parade Marshal, sadly passed away on 15th June. His funeral will take place at 12.30pm on Friday 9th July at St Mary's Church, Church Road, Stone, near Greenhithe DA9 9BE. This will be followed by a short service at 2pm at Medway

Crematorium and a reception at Greenhithe & Swanscombe Club. Derek's partner, Pauline Slevin, has requested Standards to be on parade if any are available.

COUNTY SECRETARY

At last, after having been stuck in our cramped accommodation in the Royal British Legion Village, the County Office is now in the process of moving to more spacious premises. The new office will have, downstairs, an open plan area for the Field Staff and upstairs there is a dedicated County Office and meeting / training room. Visitors on Legion business are more than welcome but please phone or e-mail to make an appointment. The new address is shown on the first page and telephone numbers for the staff are:

01622 791269	Geoff Simpson	County Manager
	Emily Asseter	County Manager's Assistant
	Cathy Ash	County Welfare Officer
01622 790566	Karen Small	County Welfare Officer
01622 717088	Tony West	County Secretary
07899 065555	Clare Saunders	County Fundraiser (W)
07909 002686	Jane Taylor	County Fundraiser (E)

Please note that the two Fundraisers usually work from home and come to the office just once or twice a week.

With the move comes a change in name. Since time began this office has always been Kent County Headquarters. Now, in line with Legion Head Office, we are breaking from military terminology and will be officially known as Kent County Office.

I'm sorry to say that despite my comments in the last two editions of County News, I am still getting MS4 application forms for members that are dated mid to late June. Unless the members concerned are quite happy to pay a year's subscription for just three months before they have to pay again, the branches responsible are doing a disservice to their members.

COUNTY PARADE MARSHAL

Due to the recent resignation of Mr Bill Couchman as County Parade Marshal we have been fortunate to regain the services of Mr Doug Pursglove who held this appointment prior to Bill. Our thanks go to Bill for his hard work and his services over the past few years. Doug can be contacted on 01435 860635.

BRANCH CONTACTS

Attached is a list of all the Branch contacts within the County. Please let me know if there are any amendments to be made.

I have a number of e-mail contacts for Branches but communication would be so much easier and quicker if I had at least one e-mail address for every branch. I would be grateful if all Branches could confirm a single point of e-mail contact. If you have no contact within the Branch then I would be grateful for that information as well.

I would also like to have e-mail addresses for Standard Bearers as these are often required at very short notice. Obviously the earlier they are notified the better. If your Standard Bearer does not a personal address then perhaps there is an alternative point of contact who could pass on a message. Again, if there is no e-mail contact then I would like to know.

IN MEMORIUM

A donation has been received in memory of:

Mr Dennis Frederick Baigent

CONTACTING NATIONAL OFFICERS

As we have a new National Chairman and National Vice Chairman it is felt by Head Office that this is a good time to remind everyone of the procedure for contacting any of the National Officers. Despite many having their home addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses, in the interest of better coordination and improved efficiency, contact with the National Officers should only be made via their Secretary, Andrea Forder.

Although Andrea only works part time she is in London each Wednesday and Thursday. She can be contacted by e-mail at aforder@britishlegion.org.uk, on her London number at 020 3207 2369 or her home number at 01634 671293. If you are unable to contact her and you have an urgent query then call John Myerscough on 020 3207 2369.

The value of this procedure is that Andrea is better able to keep track of all matters coming in, particularly invitations. Direct contact with the National Officers will most likely result in delays as they will invariably be forwarded to Andrea by the recipients.

BRANCH OFFICERS SEMINAR

Two seminars are to be held at 11am on Saturday 7th August at the Capel Morris Centre and on Saturday 25th September at the Minster & Monkton RBL Club. Each will last 3-4 hours and the aim is to give Branch Chairmen, Secretaries and Treasurers a clearer understanding of their respective roles. It is felt that all will benefit from attending one of these seminars and the County Chairman hopes that every Branch will send at least one of these officers. The seminars are also open to prospective Branch officers. Please complete the attached notice and return to the County Secretary at the new address please by 23rd July.

PARADES - STREET CLOSURES

A message has been received from Kent Police Headquarters to say that all pre-planned events that take place on a road, such as Remembrance Sunday Parades, should have a Road Closure Notice. An 'Order' is applied for under the Town Police Clauses Act 1847, Section 21 and is available from your local council. All police stations should have an Events Planning Officer who is there to assist with the application and policing if required. You are advised to contact these officers for guidance.

COUNTY PARADE

This year's County Parade takes place on 1st August at Paddock Wood. A good turn out of Standards and Members would be appreciated. We could also use the Service to Remember Gordon Seal.

1ST CINQUE PORTS RIFLE VOLUNTEERS CORPS OF DRUMS

The music for this year's County Parade at Paddock Wood will be provided by the 1st Cinque Ports R.V. Corps of Drums. The Corps is a group of enthusiasts, many from the Kent and Sussex area, keen to promote and preserve the traditions and music of the drum, flute and bugle Corps of Drums.

Dressed in the scarlet tunics of the pre-1908 Rifle Volunteer uniform, the Corps looks very like a modern British Army Corps of Drums except for one thing – a blue slouch hat, turned up Australian-style, worn with a blue hackle. They wear this strange headgear because, while many Army units adopted the slouch hat for a brief period after the Boer War, uniquely, the

Cinque Ports Rifle Volunteers, several of whom had served in South Africa, had theirs in their facing colour of blue.

If anyone is interested in learning more about the Corps they have a website at <http://www.cinqueportsdrums.co.uk/>. They're always looking for new members, so if you're an ex-Drummer and want to play again have a word with Drum Major Geoff Fairfax at Paddock Wood or contact him at geoff.fairfax@virgin.net.

BIRCHINGTON BRANCH

The Birchington Silver Band performed a Veterans Day Concert on Sunday 13th June and the Branch raised a total of £240.86. Their next event is a Summer Fayre on Saturday 10th July. Please see the attached flyer for further information.

FAVERSHAM BRANCH

Members of the Faversham Branch, accompanied with a few members of the Canterbury Branch, recently visited Vimy Ridge and the WW1 battlefield and cemeteries around the town of Arras in Northern France. A branch report on the visit is attached.

HERNE BAY BRANCH

The Branch held a Barnes Wallis Memorial event at their premises on Saturday 19th June. It was organised by the Herne Bay Town Management in conjunction with the branch and was attended by several other associations. Everybody enjoyed the singer and the buffet but the highlight was when everyone congregated outside to watch the fly past of a Lancaster Bomber.



Their next function is to be held on 31st July for VJ Day. They are holding a small parade and service from 2pm onwards, again with entertainment and food to be supplied. Please contact the Branch for further details.

ISLE OF OXNEY BRANCH

The Branch recently organised a sponsored cycle race and, at the same time, one of their members was competing in a "Four Peaks Challenge" in the Peak District. In all, over one weekend, the Branch raised over £600. Congratulations and well done to all.

3RD BATTALION THE RIFLES

As many people have supported The Rifles during their recent operational tours in Afghanistan, you may be interested in a presentation by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Nick Kitson. It will be held at The Rifles' London Headquarters at 56 Davies Street, London W1K 5HR on Thursday 15th July starting at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £25 per person. Please see the attached flyer for further information.

NATIONAL BOWLS FINALS

The results of the 2010 National Bowls Finals which took place on 19th & 20th June are:

Singles

Winner: Phillip Payne (Burry Port & Pembrey, Wales)

Runner-up: Len Smith (Ystalyfera, Wales)

Pairs

Winners: Phillip Payne, Oliver Stephens (Burry Port & Pembrey, Wales)

Runners-up: Adrian Payne, Idwal Roberts (Burry Port & Pembrey, Wales)

Mixed Pairs

Winners: Margaret Fielder, Kevin Tapley (Seale & Sands, South East)

Runners-up: Jane Witts, Martin Witts (Greenford, Metropolitan)

Rinks of Four

Winners: Adrian Payne, Idwal Roberts, Oliver Stephens, Byron Wilkins (Burry Port & Pembrey, Wales)

Runners-up: Dennis Boulter, George Krueder, Peter McCall, William White (Pitsea & Vange, East)

All the competitors taking part in the Sports Finals next year should be aware that they will be allowed to compete in no more than two disciplines (for example Singles and Pairs, or Mixed Pairs and Rinks). This will also apply to the previous year winners who come back to defend their title.

TONBRIDGE SCOUT & GUIDE BAND TATTOO

The 17th Tonbridge Scout and Guide Band, which leads the Remembrance Day parade every year, is celebrating its 40th Anniversary with a marching and music spectacle at Tonbridge Castle on Saturday 17th July. The tattoo includes, amongst others, the Romford RBL Band. Timings are 3.15pm to 6pm and admission is free. Please see the attached flyer for further information.

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.

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.

TUNES OF GLORY

A Tunes of Glory Event will be held at the South of England Showground, Ardingley, Sussex on Saturday 4th September. The event stars Hayley Westenra and Blake and includes the Band of the Royal Marines as well as several other military bands. Prices for Legion members start at £28. Please see the attached flyer for further information.

UTOPIAN OPERATIC SOCIETY

The Utopians are performing a wartime show "**When the lights go on again**" at the Broadway Theatre Studio, Catford from Tuesday 7th to Saturday 11th September 2010 commencing at 7.30 each evening with a 2.30 matinee on the Saturday. The audience is encouraged to wear clothing of the era. Hand waving Union Flags will be sold to the audience and proceeds of these will go to the Royal British Legion. Tickets cost £8.00 to Legion members and are available now at the Box Office on 020 8690 0002 and any enquiries should be directed to diane.ash@hotmail.co.uk.

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.

THE BRITISH MILITARY TOURNAMENT

After an absence of more than 10 years the Royal Tournament, under a new name, is returning. The Army Benevolent Fund has put this event together and, although it is only a two day event, it could lead to bigger and better things. The BMT 2010 takes place at Earls Court on Saturday 4th December at 2.30 and 7.30pm and on Sunday 5th at 1.30 and 6.30pm. Adult ticket prices range from £29 to £65. Please see the attached flyer for further details.

VISITS TO THE SOMME

The Somme Tourist Board (STB) is looking at ways to establish closer links with the Royal British Legion and to encourage its members, particularly those from Kent, to visit the region. The region has much to offer visitors in its villages, towns and cities and includes on its western coast the Bay of Somme which is a member of the "club of the most beautiful bays in the world" but, in view of the number of battlefield sites and war cemeteries, those who have served in the armed forces and those with an interest in military history will have their own reasons for visiting. Hence their approach to the Legion. Discussions are taking place between STB, Remembrance Travel and this office to see if we can set up a means of helping individuals and groups to visit the Somme in a way that will benefit all.

STB will be able to recommend suitable itineraries for visits of one to three nights that would take in all aspects of the region, and provide the details of suitable accommodation bearing in mind the cost to many of our lower income members. They would not be able to provide transport but would, of course, be able to advise on rail and air fares and the best routes to take around their area. Midway between the Channel ports and Paris, the journey by road from Calais takes about 1½ to 2 hours along either the A16 or the A26 motorways.

The Somme Region includes the cathedral city of Amiens (listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site), the Museum of the Great War at Peronne, the Somme 1916 Museum at Albert, the Lochnagar Crater at La Boisselle and of course the Thiepval Memorial. The Somme suffered severely in the war with the 'race to the sea' in September 1914, the battle of the Somme July to November 1916 and the battle of Picardy March to September 1918 and this area also includes the Circuit of Remembrance, an itinerary linking two symbolic towns of the Great War, Albert and Peronne, which helps visitors to more fully understand this period in history.

Although this joint venture is still in the planning stages should anyone want further information I have a number of leaflets and brochures at County Office. As an example I have

attached a flyer from the Museum of the Great War that includes a discounted admission price. Information can also be sought from Phil Jenkins of Remembrance Travel on 01622 795818 (pjenkins@britishlegion.org.uk) and also direct from SRTB at the following websites: www.visit-somme.com, www.somme-battlefields.com and www.weekend-picardy.co.uk

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