



Issue 5.  
September  
2010

Welcome to the fifth issue of *Legion Knots* - the magazine about the branches and for the branches of Nottinghamshire.

I am receiving some great articles for inclusion in *Legion Knots* but please keep them coming. Do you have a story to tell? I recently spoke to a lady who just happened to say that she had worked at Bletchley Park during the war. When I suggested she come to talk to our branch she said, 'They wouldn't be interested would they?'.... Our lead story is the service history of Mansfield Bellamy Branch President David Kirkpatrick. In our next issue we have the sad tale of a member's relative who was 'Shot at Dawn'.

### Join The Navy And See The World . . .



At the age of sixteen I decided that I wanted to join the Royal Navy. On being accepted in October 1957 I was instructed to report to HMS *VICTORY BARRACKS* at Portsmouth.

On arrival I met up with other recruits where we spent the next two weeks being kitted out with our uniforms etc. then we were sent to HMS *RALEIGH* for our basic training in seamanship and the usual square bashing and kit inspections. On passing out from HMS *RALEIGH* I was sent on a Gunnery Course at HMS *CAMBRIDGE*.

On completion I was drafted to my first seagoing ship the fast minelayer HMS *APOLLO* the Flag ship of C in C Home Fleets so we managed some excellent visits to foreign ports. UK ports included the Pool of London where we also acted

as guard ship to the Royal Yacht *BRITANNIA* during Cowes Regatta week whilst the Duke of Edinburgh was onboard.

At sea on a warship, most of the time it is naval exercises with other warships, or goodwill visits and self maintenance in home ports. HMS *APOLLO* was an old

wartime  
ship so

Continued on page three



## Poppy Collectors Rewarded After 30 Years

Poppy collectors in Collingham were rewarded for their efforts towards the work that the Royal British Legion undertakes in the County.

The County Chairman of The Royal British Legion, Mr John Jackson presented certificates to collectors in Collingham, two ladies have been involved for more than 30 years, Mrs **Ros Akril (93) from South Clifton** and Mrs **Connie Noble (in her 80's) from South Scarle** were the stars of the evening. Mrs Noble whose father was in the First World War said that was the reason she got involved in the Poppy appeal. Mrs Akril whose late husband was a farmer met Mrs Joan Baston(84) who came to work on her farm as a Land Girl during the war.

The Royal British legion spends over 80 million pounds every year on the welfare of service and ex service members including their dependants.

Anyone wishing to help with fundraising can Contact Mr Bob Privett, Royal British Legion Community Fundraiser, Nottinghamshire (01476 594333/07920786364)

## Jacksdale Remember



On the 14th June 2009 the War Memorial at Jacksdale had the missing 'Soldier' replaced after being many years without one. The Jacksdale & District Branch attended the unveiling of the 'Soldier' and took part in the parade and other activities.

It was decided by the Soldier Group to have a Soldier Day each year. This year was the first anniversary of the reinstatement and a forties weekend took place on the 5th June, with various activities arranged. The Community Centre was made available for displays relating to the forties.

Jacksdale Branch provided a display of WWII items with a display from Mr Doug Munson an 82 year old Z Reservist, ex-2nd Lincolns M.E.L.F.

*Adrian Bingley*

Continued from page one there were no home comforts. Onboard washing of clothes was done by hand in a bucket and finding a space to sling your hammock for sleeping was not easy. I managed to find a space on the mining deck passageway. All meals had to be collected from the galley and taken to the mess deck for eating and there was only one choice of meal; milk for tea was condensed milk.

In July 1958 we got a change from our normal routine when we were despatched to protect our fishing trawlers in the dispute between Britain and Iceland over fishing known as the Cod War. We had a few close encounters with the Icelandic Gun Boats **THOR** and **ODIN!!!** Icelandic weather could be a bit rough but we were well supplied with fish from the trawlers to compensate.

In January 1960 after eighteen months onboard I left HMS **APOLLO** and went back to RN Barracks at Portsmouth.

In March 1960 I joined HMS **CAMPERDOWN** a Battle Class Destroyer under refit in Devonport Dockyard. On 26<sup>th</sup> April the ship was commissioned into service and after a period of sea trials we joined other ships from various NATO countries on exercises in UK waters and also visited various ports around the UK. On one of these exercises we were acting as plane-guard



to HMS **ARK ROYAL** when one of her planes crashed on landing and went over the side with the loss of pilot and observer. On this exercise we crossed the Arctic Circle earning our Bluenose Certificate at the end of the exercise; we steamed through a force eight gale in the North Sea back to Devonport for some home leave and preparation for our deployment to the Mediterranean.

On 21<sup>st</sup> October 1960 we sailed in company with our sister ships HMS **SAINTEs** and HMS **SOLEBAY** to Gibraltar for the start of our Mediterranean deployment. Meeting up with the Aircraft Carrier HMS **VICTORIOUS** the next day we sailed through some very unpleasant weather in the Bay of Biscay. On arrival at Gibraltar we spent the next ten days on self maintenance and loading stores etc.

On 4<sup>th</sup> November 1960 we set sail for Malta calling at Toulon and Malaga on the way arriving at Malta on 26<sup>th</sup> November where Christmas and New Year was spent. Our time in the Mediterranean was spent on exercises self maintenance and visits to foreign ports. In June 1961 we joined a NATO fleet in Naples Bay for Fleet Review by the C-in-C Mediterranean. I was one of the unlucky ones detailed for guard, parading ashore where we endured a long march in sweltering heat with a .303 rifle on the shoulder which became quite heavy after a while. We also got sent to Kuwait in the Persian Gulf when General Kassan threatened the independence of Kuwait over oil where we spent the next few weeks before returning to Malta. After ten months away we returned to Devonport on 14<sup>th</sup> September and home leave was granted.

Continued on page four

Continued from page four After returning from leave the next few months was spent in home waters until we de-commissioned on 9<sup>th</sup> April 1962. During the commission we steamed 65,000 miles visiting numerous foreign countries including France, Spain, Italy, Malta, Canary Isles, Corfu, Aden, Kuwait, Gibraltar, and transit through Suez Canal.

On leaving HMS **CAMPERDOWN** I spent the next eighteen months at HMS **COCHRANE** at Rosyth in Scotland living onboard the accommodation ship **DUNCANSBY HEAD**.



In October 1964 I joined the Aircraft Carrier HMS **ARK ROYAL** which was under refit in Devonport Dockyard and on 12<sup>th</sup> November we officially re-commissioned. On 24<sup>th</sup> November we sailed for sea trials and two days later we were called upon to conduct a search for a Sea Vixen aircraft that had come out to inspect our new flight deck lighting but had failed to return to Yeovilton. Sadly the search was unsuccessful. After deck landing trials were completed we embarked our squadrons of Sea Vixen and Scimitar aircraft onboard where flying exercises were carried out in the North Sea. On completion of flying trials we sailed to Brest for a visit but came

across the fishing vessel **ALDERSEA** which had been in distress for two days in a storm lashed North Sea with engine failure and her radio out of action. A message was passed to Grimsby and we stood by the **ALDERSEA** for five hours until a tug arrived then we continued to Brest where we spent the next four days.

For the next two months it was self maintenance and exercises. A visit to Bergen for five days then it was back to flying trials with the new Buccaneer II aircraft from Boscombe Down; on completion of exercises and flying trials we returned to Devonport on 2<sup>nd</sup> April for Easter leave.

On 17<sup>th</sup> June 1965 we departed Devonport on our way to Far East Station calling at Gibraltar for two days. On 29<sup>th</sup> June we transitted the Suez Canal arriving at Aden on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. On the 8<sup>th</sup> July we relieved the Aircraft Carrier HMS **VICTORIOUS** arriving in Singapore on 19<sup>th</sup> July for a period of self maintenance. After that three months it was back to normal exercises self maintenance and visits to Subic Bay in the Philippines and Hong Kong which was delayed for a day because of tropical storm Agnes. October saw us back in Singapore and Captain Fell relieved Captain Griffin who was to be promoted to Rear Admiral. During our stay in Singapore a fire broke out in B boiler room and because of this we missed a visit to Japan and Sydney, Australia. However we managed to get to Freemantle for Christmas where the festivities were enjoyed by all. On the way there we crossed the equator where the usual crossing-the-line ceremony was held onboard.

On 27<sup>th</sup> December we left Freemantle for Singapore where flying exercises were conducted off the Cocos Islands. On New Year's Eve one of the seamen was found to be missing and after an unsuccessful search of the ship it was presumed that he

was lost overboard so we finally arrived back in Singapore on 8<sup>th</sup> January 1966 for self maintenance for three weeks. This was followed by more exercises and a visit to Mombasa after which we were despatched to the Mozambique Channel where we relieved HMS **EAGLE** on surveillance for oil tankers taking oil to Rhodesia. We were eventually relieved by HMS **EAGLE** so returned to Singapore.

On 26<sup>th</sup> April we departed Singapore for Devonport. On the way we again relieved HMS **EAGLE** in the Mozambique Channel where we spent another three weeks finally arriving back at Devonport on June 13<sup>th</sup> 1966 where leave was **granted to the ship's company**.

During our two year commission we lost some aircraft and five aircrew including pilots and observers.

My last year of service was at HMS **COCHRANE** at Rosyth in Scotland and in December 1967 I returned to RN Barracks Portsmouth and finally back into Civvy Street in January 1968.



*DAVID KIRKPATRICK ex able-seaman  
President Mansfield Bellamy Branch*

**KNOTTY WORD no.4**

**B  
RTN  
OEDAL**

How many words can you make from these 9 letters ? Each word must have 4 or more letters and contain the first letter (B); all 9 letters

make the name of a county village where grapes grew in 1578. Its name derives from the 2nd. son of the Norse God of beauty

**30 Granny 45 Turks Head 55 +Topknot**  
Answers to the right

**Bronze Certificate for The Newark Show**



Val Dodge of the County Committee proudly points out the Certificate awarded for the display on the County Stand at the 2010 Newark Show. It is the first time the County Stand has received such an award from the Show Organisers.

**For Sale**

Originally £10, we have a limited number of copies of The Buccaneer Songbook available at a cost of £5 plus p&p. Includes some superb photographs of Buccaneers together with the words of the mess songs sung over the years in the RAF.

**(Please Note** - if easily offended this book is not for you!)  
Phone 01623 843944 for a copy.



Abbed able abler abode abort aborted adobe al-  
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## Riders Branch Ramblings

The Riders Branch have been busy out and about in the County of late.



June - Southwell Annual Parade



July - 'Monty' Moncaster (Midlands representative) presents Affiliation Certificates to Warsop ACF and Warsop Branch



July - Keyworth Show



Legion Marquee and Minibus at Gringley on the Hill

## Gringley on the Hill Flower Festival

The picture below shows the display by Retford Branch on Saturday 15th May 2010.

The old Gringley Branch Standard was found some years after the Branch closed, and is now to be laid up in the Church.



What is your Branch up to?  
What have you got planned?  
Future events can appear both in our Diary section (page 8) and on the new County website, but only if **YOU** tell us!

The new county website can be found at  
[www.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/nottinghamshire](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/nottinghamshire)

Or from the National site at  
[www.britishlegion.org.uk](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk)

And navigating to Counties on the left, then Nottinghamshire.

## Bingham Fair & Annual Dinner



*Bingham Fair was fortunate to choose a sunny day, the 12<sup>th</sup> of June for their annual event and the Bingham Branch ran a popular "Tombola" stall.*

On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April the annual dinner was held at the new "Archbishop Cranmer Centre". Attendance was maximum capacity of 75. Members and friends from Bingham, Orston and Granby, Barnstone & District branches attended and shared a very convivial evening. A successful "raffle" was organised which was generously supported. Success at these two events has enabled a cheque for £400 to be sent to support the County Welfare fund.

*Tim Chamberlin Social Sec.*



### County News

County now has a Training Officer, yes, yours truly. Having been involved in training job-wise for over 20 years I figured I have something to offer.

Two successful Branch Management Courses (Phase 1) have been run and the intention is to rotate between Phase 1 and Phase 2. Members can attend either phase first and then attend the other to complete the training.

Do you know what your obligations are as a member of your Branch Committee? Attend a course and you will! If I have at least four people to train I can come to your Branch and deliver it.

Each Branch can now have a website under the national site. I would like to deliver training on using this facility.

I have also been asked about delivering some PowerPoint/presentation skills training with more people wanting to spread the word about what the RBL charity is really about. Please let me know if you are interested and it will be arranged.

### School Talks

County hope to build up a list of names of members who are willing to speak to schools. County receives many requests especially during Remembrance for speakers for assemblies, etc. Training/guidance is available if anyone who can offer their services. Please ring Richard Dodge at County Office on 0115 927 3715 if you would like to be involved.

### Membership

A series of Membership Road Shows will take place around the county later this year to cover Membership Review, Affiliation fees, etc.



### Swedish Pudding

(serves 2)



Grate apple into dish which will hold at least 1/2 pint of custard and add 1-2 tablespoons of sultanas or raisins. Pour on 1/2 pint of custard and gently spoon fruit through.

The sultanas provide sweetness so sugar can be omitted from custard especially if eating apples are used - suitable for diabetics.

## Future Events

### 2010

#### September

**18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup>** - *Get Some In* weekend Great Central Railway, Leicestershire (RAF Chinoon and crew will be in attendance at Quorn)

**17<sup>th</sup>** - Arnhem Day

**19<sup>th</sup>** - Harrogate Flower Show. Coach costs £12 and entry is £10 in advance and £12 on the gate. Coach departs from outside the Red Lion Public House, Main Street, Farnsfield at 8am. Anyone requiring tickets should contact Cynthia and Derek Carr on 01623 792332 by 1st September.

**25<sup>th</sup>** - Southwell Ploughing Match (being held at Farnsfield) A great country event with the chance to 'Meet the Legion'. Contact Nigel on 01623 883368.

Opportunity for other Branches to be involved and share the proceeds!

#### October

**9<sup>th</sup>** - Balderton, Last Night of the Proms.

**10<sup>th</sup>** - Balderton, Drum Head Service

**10<sup>th</sup>** - TA Centre Bulwell, Standard Bearers Competition

**16<sup>th</sup>** - **Palace Theatre, Newark, RAF Regiment Band. Launch of County 90<sup>th</sup> year celebration**

**22<sup>nd</sup>** - 10.30am County Poppy Launch, Trent Embankment,

**24<sup>th</sup>** - 2.30pm Mansfield & Mansfield Bellamy Festival of Remembrance. Tickets £5.50 (01623 633133)

**30<sup>th</sup>** - 7.30pm, Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham. The Band of the Blues and Royals together with 7 local male voice choirs. Proceeds to the RBL and Cancer Research.

#### November

**9<sup>th</sup>** - Farnsfield Race Night, The Old Reindeer Public House, Edingley. Tickets £10 (includes carvery meal). Proceeds to Poppy Appeal. Contact Cynthia/Derek Carr on 01623 792332

**11<sup>th</sup>** - Armistice Day

**13<sup>th</sup>** - The Royal Albert Hall, London, Festival of Remembrance.

**13<sup>th</sup>** - 7.00pm Warsop Parish Church, Concert of Remembrance, Notts Police Band (01623 843944)

**14<sup>th</sup>** - Remembrance Sunday, Cenotaph, London

**26<sup>th</sup>** - 7.00pm Warsop Branch Christmas meal, South Forest Leisure Centre, Edwinstowe. (01623 843944)

**27<sup>th</sup>** - 10am Edwinstowe Village Hall, Branch Coffee Morning

#### December

**4<sup>th</sup>** - Farnsfield & District Branch Christmas Dinner - Farnsfield Cricket Club, Station Lane. A four course meal and wine is included in the ticket price which is £25 per head. This is a popular event and it will be a case of first come first served by contacting Cynthia and Derek Carr on 01623 792332. Dress is Smart Casual

### 2011

#### April

**30<sup>th</sup>** - Southwell Minster, Concert in the Cathedral

#### October

**15<sup>th</sup>** - Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham. Concert with Magdala Trust and Faryl Smith.

**21<sup>st</sup>** - Britannia Hotel, Nottingham, Black Tie Poppy Ball and Dinner.

