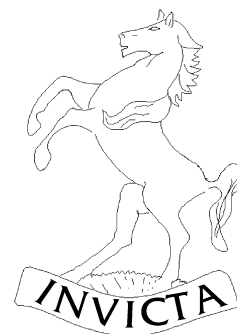




KENT COUNTY NEWS

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Welfare: 01622 722 292
Fundraising: 01622 722 296
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April 2011

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

COUNTY CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

I have received word that a number of Branch Officers are not being informed of the contents of these newsletters. One copy goes to each Branch, usually to the Secretary, and the recipient is to ensure that the three main officers of the Branch, the Chairman, the Treasurer and the Secretary, is to see each issue of County News. In one instance a Branch Chairman and his Treasurer both claimed to be unaware of this newsletter and therefore did not know that County Office had moved almost a year ago. It is essential that the information is passed on.

I held the first of two *The Way Forward* seminars on 12th March at Minister & Monkton RBL Club. This was well attended and I think worked very well. I thank the Branches that attended and special thanks to Keith Pritchard and Tony West for giving up their time. The other Seminar is on Saturday 2nd April at Tonbridge RBL Club. This will mean that all Branches have had the chance to attend a seminar or been at a Group meeting when *The Way Forward* has been on the Agenda.

Aussie Walker

DONATIONS TO COUNTY FUNDS

The following donations have been gratefully received:

Chartham Branch - £100
Elham Valley Branch - £200
West Kingsdown Branch - £50
Sevenoaks Branch - £200
Kent County Group 6 - 25
Brenchley Parish Council - £10
All Saints Church, Biddenden - £149.45

IN MEMORIUM

Donations have been received in memory of:

Mr Alfred William Osborne - £357.76
Mr Robert Stanley Bridgen - £430

COUNTY DIRECTORY

One copy of the County Directory is included with this Newsletter (not to all). Please be aware that those Branches that have not submitted an MS1 (see item below) are not included as committees may have changed and the details would be incorrect. If there are any changes to your Branch entry at any time please let me know and replacement pages will be sent out with future issues of County News.

MS1 & BRANCH ACCOUNTS FORMS

The following forms, indicated by an x, are still outstanding:

Branch	MS1	R&P
Borstal	x	
Cranbrook	x	
Deal & Walmer		x
Gravesend	x	
Hildenborough	x	
Rochester & Strood	x	
Whitstable	x	
Woodchurch	x	

ANNUAL CONFERENCE - TELFORD 21-22 MAY

To date delegate ticket applications have been received from the following twelve Branches:

Birchington	Ramsgate
Canterbury	Royal Tunbridge Wells
Cheriton & Morehall	Smarden
Gillingham	Southborough & High Brooms
Orpington & District	Tenterden
Paddock Wood & District	Tonbridge

Could applications be forwarded to me as soon as possible rather than waiting until the cut off date of 15th April.

ANNUAL COUNTY CONFERENCE - 21ST JANUARY 2012

It was apparent from the comments of the membership that many were not happy with the venue of the 2011 Conference at County Hall. Therefore it has been decided to hold the 2012 Conference at the popular venue of Headcorn Village Hall. The Conference will also have a new start time of 1-00pm, so please make sure your members are aware of these details.

We are also returning to the practice of using green paper in all correspondence concerning the Conference sent to branch secretaries. As many of these documents are time sensitive we are hoping that branch secretaries will be able to extract these items and give them prompt attention, thus avoiding any problems. Your cooperation is vital to the smooth running of the Conference.

Branch secretaries please make your Standard Bearer aware of these details, so that the date and time can be put in their diaries. Thank you for your cooperation.

Steve Woolford
Conference Secretary

90TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT - CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL

Tickets are going very quickly for the Canterbury Cathedral concert on 7th May so don't wait too long before you order yours. It promises to be a great evening and should be echoed by the concert at Rochester Cathedral on 1st October. Timings for Canterbury are 7 for 7.30pm and tickets at £15 (or £10 with restricted view) are available from the Marlowe Theatre box office on 01227 787787 or www.newmarlowetheatre.org.uk.

90TH ANNIVERSARY - CHAIRMAN'S CHALLENGE

43 Branches have sent details of the activities they have planned for the 90th Anniversary - an excellent response for which we thank you all. We are planning to promote what the Legion is doing across the County for the 90th Anniversary via a press release, and the plan is to mention all of these Branch activities, encouraging the public to support them locally. We may be contacting some people for more details of their events and would welcome any late submissions from Branches if they still wish to participate in the Chairman's Challenge - the Award for which will be given at County Conference next year.

Clare Saunders
Community Fund Raiser

90TH ANIVERSARY - SMALL CHANGE COLLECTING PYRAMIDS

Some of you will have received 90th Anniversary pyramids from RBL Head Office encouraging you to collect your loose change and send the total (by cheque) direct to Head Office where your contributions will be added to the Welfare Fund.

Admirable though this scheme is, may I suggest that any such loose change is not sent direct to Head Office but is given to your Branch PAO. By so doing, your contribution will count towards your Branch PAO's total, the County's contribution to the 90th target and the County's annual Poppy Appeal total. It all ends up in the welfare fund which is entirely correct but, by the means suggested, you are helping both your Branch and this County to achieve their own targets for the year.

THANET FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE

This year's Festival takes place at the Winter Gardens on Friday 28th October and the application form for tickets is attached.

CEREMONIAL HANDBOOK

Further to the Chairman's comments in the January issue concerning badges, the Ceremonial Working Group has now authorised the wearing of the Veterans Badge, with one exception, and the Ceremonial Handbook has been updated to reflect this. A further amendment has been approved concerning the dipping of Standards. A copy of these amendments is attached to this newsletter.

CEREMONIAL INFORMATION NOW AVAILABLE ON RBL WEBSITE

Due to large number of ceremonial queries received from members and the general public, there is now a special section on the RBL website called 'Ceremonies and Services' where visitors can download documents containing:

1. Orders of service
2. Answers to FAQ on members' etiquette
3. Orders of precedence
4. Answers to FAQ on Standards
5. Answers to FAQ on Standard Bearers

The full web address is:

<http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/membership/information-for-members/ceremonies--services>

HONOUR WALK 2011

This year's Poppy Walk - renamed the Honour Walk - will be held at Maurice House, Broadstairs on Sunday 5th June. Please see the attached flyer for further information.

POPPY SHOP

I have been informed that the Poppy Shop (formerly SupplyLines) is closed at the moment. Its website, www.poppysshop.org.uk, is currently being rebuilt and there is only limited information on it. I know many of you want to order items, particularly those for the 90th Anniversary. You can still call their number - 0300 123 9110 - and, if busy, leave a message but please remember to leave your own telephone number so they can back to you. You can also e-mail them at popyorders@britishlegion.org.uk. A copy of their latest price list is enclosed with this newsletter.

BRANCH OFFICERS JEWELS

A number of Officers have been reported as wearing their Jewels of Office at inappropriate times. The correct times to wear these Jewels are contained in the Ceremonial Handbook but are reproduced here:

The wearing of 'Jewels' (i.e. badges of office) by many officers attending Legion parades and functions causes confusion in the public eye, so that some people mistakenly think that a 'Jewel' is standard dress for all Legion members. The consensus rule is that:

- National Officers (President, Chairman or Vice-Chairman (if in attendance) will wear their 'Jewels' at all Legion National County/District or Branch occasions.
- Only County/District Officers will wear their 'Jewels' when attending a County/District organized event, parade or service.
- At a Branch function, only the organizing Branch Officers will wear their 'Jewels' as will the County/District Officers if invited to attend in their Official capacity.

Legion Officers attending non-Legion events in their capacity as a Legion Officer may wear their 'Jewels'. If invited to a non-Legion event in any other capacity Jewels of Office WILL NOT be worn.

POPPY AWARDS

Since December I have had many phone calls from branches to do with the Poppy Awards. Officially the awards start at 5 years and are then awarded at the 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 year points. Rules for awards come with the poppy pack which gets sent to all PAOs who must make sure that their volunteer collectors get these awards as they so deserve them. They should ensure their lists are kept up to date. If a PAO thinks that they qualify for an award please do get in touch with the coordinator who will then follow this up. If a person has to retire before their 5 years are up, perhaps through ill health or they might be moving away then a certificate of appreciation will be given. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need any more details.

Anne Hill
CPAC

RALLY FOR REMEMBRANCE CHALLENGE

Simon Angel MBE, a former Royal Engineer from Pembury, is tackling the 874 miles from John O'Groats to Land's End on a mobility scooter in aid of The Royal British Legion and Help for Heroes. Please see the attached flyer for his itinerary and further information on this incredible challenge.

WELFARE COURSES AT COUNTY OFFICE

A National Caseworker course (5th-6th March) and a Housebound & Hospital Visitor course (7th March) took place at County Office.



VETERANS OUTREACH SERVICE

Last month saw the launch of our Veterans Outreach Service. What was initially planned as a run through with the agencies involved, culminated in a full on VOS with veterans in attendance, making full use of the services available.

Agencies in attendance included Combat Stress, SPVA (Service Personnel & Veterans Agency), SSAFA, The Royal British Legion Pensions & Tribunal Office, Royal British Legion Industries, Regular Forces Employment Agency and TRBL Benefits & Money Advice Service. Volunteer Caseworkers were asked to come in and be available for anyone requesting assistance and these were well utilised on the day.

The official launch of this service is planned for 20 April 2011 at the Capel Morris Centre in Aylesford. Dates and locations for future outreach days can be found at the County Website or by contacting Emily Asseter on 01622 722292.

In addition to the VOS days, War Pensions Clinics are held at the County Office on alternative months, the next one being May 2011. If you would like more information about these clinics or know someone who would like an appointment, please contact Jane Waring on 01622 718573.

RBL LINE ON NATIONAL DEFENCE MEDAL

In case you are asked about the call for a National Defence Medal here is the official RBL view:

“The Royal British Legion has deliberated on this matter in Campaigns Committee, and we are not backing the call for a National Defence Medal for the following reasons:

- We feel that the Veterans' Badge serves the same purpose
- It would be very expensive to implement at a time of financial constraint,
- It would be very difficult to identify and contact correct recipients

We are aware that there is an active campaign to have this medal issued, but our official line is that we are not backing the campaign and that our priorities lie elsewhere.”

SANDGATE BRANCH

The Branch is laying-up its old and dedicating its new Branch Standard on Sunday 10th April. Please see the attached flyer for further information.

DYMCHURCH BRANCH

The photograph below shows the presentation which took place at the Dymchurch Branch on Thursday 3rd March. The occasion was the 90th Birthday of John Baker, ex-Royal Marine and Branch President who was presented with a commemorative commando knife by the Branch Chairman, Peter Dalton.

Ron Dean
Branch PAO



SWANLEY, CROCKENHILL & HEXTABLE BRANCH

On Monday 14th March we held our annual “Get Together and Awards” evening for our Poppy Appeal Volunteers at the Clockhouse Suite in Swanley. Some 80 attended, including Colonel Godfrey Linnett, Deputy Lieutenant of Kent, the Mayor of Swanley Mrs Janet Sargeant and her escort Brian Sargeant (both members of the Branch), together with Mrs Ann Hill, County Poppy Appeal Co-ordinator. Youth groups were represented by the Sea Cadets and the Guides. The event was organised by Jacky Allen the Branch PAO. Colonel Linnett presented 40 Poppy Appeal Awards to volunteers for their support to the appeal in the branch’s area. The youngest recipient was a member of the Sea Cadets and the oldest, at 98, Mrs Charter-Smith. Jacky Allen concluded the proceedings by announcing that to date the Branch had collected £28,762, which was £1,000 more than the total for the whole of last year. She then went on to invite everyone to have refreshments, but before that could happen the Secretary announced that Ann Hill had a particular reason for being at the meeting. Ann then presented Jacky with a Certificate for 20 years service as a Poppy Appeal Organiser. Jacky had not got over that surprise when the Chairman, Miss Jackie Best MBE, came forward and presented her with an award for 25 years service as a Poppy Appeal Volunteer. A happy end, to a very happy evening.

Harry Chapman
Branch Secretary



MARGATE BRANCH

The Branch 90th Anniversary Parade takes place on Sunday 24th July forming up in Cecil Square at 2.30pm. The parade will move on to our Service of Commemoration at the 900-year-old parish church, St. Johns. Any visitors not parading who wish to join us at the Church should make their way there by 2.30. The really important thing is that we would like to have as many contingents and standards as possible come and join us from across the county. The weather on the day is expected to be fabulous, and we are looking to making this a celebration for one and all to remember with pleasure! To help us make our plans for our reception afterwards we'd like to know in advance detail about who may be able to attend: RSVP to me by e-mail at rjohnpritchard@hotmail.com, write to me at 6 Cherry Tree Gardens, Ramsgate CT12 6QS or ring our Branch Chairman, Patrick Wakerell, at 01843 596680.

John Pritchard
Branch Secretary

COUNTY NEWS

The cost of sending out copies of this newsletter can be reduced if it can be sent by e-mail. Please let me know if you would like to receive your News by this method rather than by snail mail and at the same time confirm the e-mail address it is to be sent to. If individual members of your branch would like e-mailed copies then I can add them to the list.

Tony West
County Secretary

Email: twest@britishlegion.org.uk

Overleaf - **Lest We Forget**

Attachments - Kent County Directory (not to all)
Events 2011
Amendments to the Ceremonial Handbook
Sandgate Branch Standard Dedication
'Rally for Remembrance' press release
Veterans Outreach Centre flyer
Honour Walk 2011 flyer
Thanet Festival of Remembrance tickets application
Poppy Shop price list



LEST WE FORGET

Notification has been received that the following members have passed on:

Mr William Gosden	Birchington Branch
Lt Cdr Walter Maynard	Downs Branch
Mrs Susan Lewis	Fordcombe Branch
Mr Gordon Hallam	Frittenden Branch
Mr Terry McCarthy	Greenhithe & Swanscombe Branch - President
Mr Barry Watson	Minster & Monkton Branch
Mr Arthur Hogben	“
Mr Leonard Hill	Ramsgate Branch
Mrs Noreen Brown	Royal Tunbridge Wells Branch
Mrs Alice Sharpe	Swanley, Crockenhill & Hextable Branch
Mr Edward Dowle	“
Mr Derek Coppin	West Kingsdown Branch
Mr Ray Grantham	Whitstable Branch



Our deepest sympathies go to their families and friends

