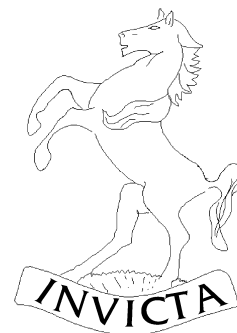




KENT COUNTY NEWS

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September 2011

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

COUNTY CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The County Service on Sunday 7th August at Maidstone was, to say the least, a disappointment. Only 20 Branches were represented out of a total of 83 Branches in Kent and only 18 Standards were on Parade including the County Colour Party, so only 15 Branch Standards which included two Women's Section Standards. There were about 60-70 in the congregation despite having 10,170 members in the County. Only 37 Branches bothered to reply to the letter sent to all Branches. Please Secretaries, reply to all letters that require an answer. I sincerely thank those Branches that supported the event.

It is now getting close to the end of the Legion Year, and AGM time. Look at all the paperwork concerning County Conference that is attached to this newsletter. We need more people on the County Committee so if you have a member interested please nominate them.

We need nominations for Chairman and Vice Chairman who will then be elected by postal ballot. This is all explained in the paperwork you have already received from Head Office. If you are not sure about how it will work then please don't hesitate to contact the County Secretary.

Over the year we get a lot of moans and groans about what is wrong with the Legion. Now is the time to put a motion to conference for discussion and if passed it will go to National Conference. However, to do that you need to send a delegate to County Conference to propose the motion as well as debating others put forward. Your Branch has a vote - use it.

I regret that two branches - Gravesend & Northfleet and Woodnesborough & Ash - have now closed.

We now have a new County Parade Marshal and Deputy Parade Marshal in Richard Purton (Margate Branch) and Mike Kirkham-Ingram (Gillingham Branch). Please give them your full support. Standard Bearer training is top of their agenda.

We also have a County Training Officer, Richard Cast (Sittingbourne Branch). Recently retired, I have tasked him with being the point of contact for member's training needs and also to coordinate speakers who are willing to give talks to schools and various clubs and groups.

There are still quite a few events for the 90th Anniversary taking place so please support them if you are able. We also have the Concert at Rochester Cathedral on the 1st October details of which you already have. I can assure you a good evening's entertainment

Aussie Walker

DONATIONS TO COUNTY FUNDS

The following donations have been gratefully received:

The Civil Service Retirement Fellowship - £30

IN MEMORIUM

Donations have been received in memory of:

Mr Geoffrey Pass - £20

COUNTY DIRECTORY

Attached are replacement pages for the County Directory. The changes concern the County Training Officer and County Parade Marshals, plus Gravesend & Northfleet, Queenborough and Woodnesborough & Ash Branches.

ANNUAL COUNTY CONFERENCE

Next year's County Conference will take place at Headcorn Village Hall on Saturday 21st January. Enclosed with this newsletter are the papers branches will need (not to all). All paperwork concerning Conference will be printed on green paper to make it immediately identifiable. Please remember, if you wish to send a delegate to County Conference or to Annual Conference in May, **your MS1 and the R&P / Branch Accounts form must be received at County Office by 31st December**. There were some disappointed branches last year.

MEMBERSHIP FORMS

A number of the new MEM20 application forms have been sent to County Office. These should be sealed and dropped in a post box - no stamp required - and they will go straight to Head Office. MS4s may still be used, and are in fact preferred by the majority of branches, and these, plus MS2s and MS7s, should continue to come to County Office. Please ensure that Membership Secretaries are aware of this.

The Branch Information form (MS1) is not being sent from Head Office this year and copies are enclosed with this newsletter. Should any branch want a copy e-mailed please let me know. The form can be completed electronically then printed out for it to be signed by the Branch Secretary, Welfare Secretary/Representative and Branch Officers and Committee.

Branch Secretaries will have recently received a package of inserts for the Branch Management Handbook. These are several sections to insert in different parts of the handbook as follows:

SECTION 1 (the first inserts received for this section)

- Terms of Reference for the RBL Membership Council
- Conduct of Elections for the Membership Council
- Job Description and person Spec for Membership Council members

SECTION 2 COUNTIES

- 2.1.2.1 - Election Process for County Chairmen and Vice Chairman
- 2.1.2.2 - Example Branch Nomination for County Chairman
- 2.1.2.3 - Example Branch Nomination for County Vice Chairman
- 2.1.2.4 - Example Ballot Paper County Chairman
- 2.1.2.5 - Example Ballot Paper County Vice Chairman

SECTION 4 BRANCHES

- 4.1.3.1 - Branch Membership Guide

Please be aware that the small “Branch Membership Guide” booklet is no longer produced in this format and is included in the inserts for the Management Handbook. Please make sure your Membership Secretary is given a copy. Reference is made to the Local Membership Officer (LMO) who is your County Secretary at County Office.

The renewal cards will be slightly different this year; they will be incorporated into the carrier sheet instead of a separate card glued onto the sheet. The whole sheet must be given to the member.

Replacement cards – please check your renewal pack carefully and inform the County Secretary immediately if any cash membership cards are missing. Membership cards are issued on the basis of **one card per member per Legion year**. Replacement cards costing £2.50 may be requested through the County Secretary on submission of Form MS13 which will be sent out shortly. The fee must be paid to the Branch before a replacement card can be ordered and the charge will be added to the Branch account. Alternatively **Free “Proof of Membership”** may be requested, again through the County Secretary using the same Form MS13.

Payment of bulk Membership Fee – Branches who would like to pay this from their BFI account need to register with Tom Cantwell if they have not already done so. Branches can e-mail or write to Tom directly - email: branchfunds@britishlegion.org.uk or write to Branch Accounts Finance Dept, Royal British Legion, Haig House, 199 Borough High Street, London SE1 1AA.

BRANCH FUNDS INITIATIVE (BFI)

My apologies but I did not include the rules of the BFI last month. I am therefore repeating the whole paragraph and this time will include the rules.

For the information of Branch Chairmen and Treasurers I am attaching the rules of the BFI for those that may be interested. I hold copies of the necessary forms. Please note the first three paragraphs contain information that is relevant to all branches, whether they have funds with the BFI or not.

DOUG PURSGLOVE

Eve and Julien would like to thank all family and friends who attended the funeral for Doug, and for all the messages of sympathy and the donations to the British Heart Foundation. We would like to thank the staff of Coopers and Sons at Cross-In-Hand and the Reverend Ronald Chatwin. Also to the paramedics who initially attended for the quick response. Special thanks to the members of the Royal British Legion who attended and for all their help and assistance at a very difficult time. We were pleased to see the Standard Bearers and the Colour Party and are grateful for the tribute from John Partridge.

Eve Pursglove

ISLE OF THANET FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE

Tickets for this prestigious event, which takes place at the Margate Winter Gardens on Friday 28th October, are now available from the Winter Gardens Box Office. The numbers are 01843 296111 and 292795. Branch Standards are most welcome, the more the better, so to book a place for your Standard please phone the County Chairman on 01843 224805.

VETERANS OUTREACH SUPPORT

The Drop In Centre will be open between 2pm and 7pm on Wednesday 21st September at the Capel Morris Centre.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL CONCERT

After the highly successful concert at Canterbury Cathedral in May our second concert will be held at Rochester Cathedral on Saturday 1st October commencing at 7.30pm. The second half will include a repeat performance of the 'Last Night at the Proms' type finale that proved to be so popular at Canterbury. Tickets at just £10 each will go on sale shortly and can be obtained either from County Office or from the Visitor Centre in Rochester High Street. See the attached flyer for details.

Your help is requested in publicising the concert as widely as possible to ensure we get a 'full house' so that we can boost the 90th Anniversary funds to the full. Further copies of the flyer, in A3, A4 and A5 sizes, are available from County Office.

STANDARD BEARER TRAINING

There will be a training session for Standard Bearers of all levels and experience at the Capel Morris Centre in the RBL Village on Saturday 17th September. The session starts at 1000hrs and will continue until 1400hrs but SBs are welcome to turn up at their convenience. Although this is an informal session SBs should wear their uniform shoes - no trainers please. This is also an opportunity to meet the new County Parade Marshal and other SBs and discuss ceremonial issues. Branch Secretaries are requested to bring this to the attention of their Standard Bearers.

CONCERTS IN AID OF THE POPPY APPEAL

There are two concerts at the Kings Hall, Herne Bay. The Swindon Male Voice Choir and the Snowdown Colliery Male Voice Choir are appearing on Saturday 24th September at 7.30 pm and Britain's Got Talent finalist Jean Martyn will be there on Sunday 20th November at 2.30 pm. Tickets for both concerts are £9.00. Please see the attached flyers for further information. Concessionary tickets are available at £6.00 each for Legion members by phoning Richard More on 01424 444058.

This year's Maidstone Winds Concert for Remembrance will take place at All Saints Church, Maidstone on Sunday 6th November commencing at 4 pm.

FOLKESTONE HALF MARATHON

On the 24th September, Brad Russell, a young ex-soldier will be running the Folkestone Half Marathon in aid of the Royal British Legion. He has never run a half marathon before and is showing his appreciation for the help he has received from the Legion after two difficult years. The Legion provided a Poppy Break for him and his children which helped enormously when he most needed it. If you would like to sponsor him, please contact Jane Taylor at County Office on 01622 722296 or email jtaylor@britishlegion.org.uk.

FOLKESTONE YOUTH FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE

After the success of this event last year, this year's Festival will take place on Saturday 12th November at the Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone. Tickets are £7.50 and are available from the box office on 01303 228600. Please see attached poster for more details.

The organiser of the event has requested as many Standards as possible to attend. We do understand this is a very busy time but we would appreciate your participation if at all possible to encourage the Youth of Folkestone to continue to support the Poppy Appeal. If you are available please let Jane Taylor know on 01622 722296 or email jtaylor@britishlegion.org.uk.

BRANCH ACTIVITIES

Birchington Branch will be holding an indoor boot fair on Saturday 10th September at Church House, Kent Gardens, Birchington.

Orpington Branch is holding a sponsored Walk for Honour at Goddington Park, Orpington on Sunday 11th September.

Please see the attached flyers for further information on the above.

CHARTHAM BRANCH

Chartham Branch is holding a 90th Anniversary Parade on 11th September 2011. Muster at the Branch building Bolts Hill, Chartham, Canterbury CT4 7JX at 12.45 for 13.15. We will have the Rochester Pipe Band to march to St. Mary's Church and to march back to the Legion building after the service. There will be a buffet and refreshments afterwards. All Standards are welcome to attend (as are Branch officers and members) and that includes Women's Section Standards so please pass this on. For further information, please contact the Branch Secretary, Ann Austen at annjaneausten@aol.com or on 01227 731385.

DEAL & WALMER BRANCH

It is with sadness that we announce that the Deal, Walmer & District Branch (founded 1924), is closing its doors for the last time at the end of September 2011. The Branch is Laying Up its Standard on Sunday 25th September at 1800hrs. at St Andrews Church, Deal. The Rev. Peggy Fishlock, whose father was one of the original members, will be officiating. We would like to make this ceremony an occasion of celebration of those former members who served so loyally in the past as well as a reconciliation. We would like **ALL** who are able to attend, along with as many **Standard Bearers** as possible. Please help us make this ceremony one of Military Honour, Respect and Celebration. We also feel that it is time for the remaining members to support our other local and growing Branch.

Sally Moat

ELHAM VALLEY BRANCH

On Friday 8th July the Elham Valley Branch held a very successful evening to celebrate the 90th Anniversary with the 1st Royal Gurkha Rifles, who are based nearby in Shorncliffe. Visitors to the occasion, amongst whom were Aussie Walker and Anne Hill, were piped into Elham Village Hall by the Regiment's Pipe Major and then were able to chat to 15 riflemen who had brought along guns, sniper rifles and other equipment. Major David Jones and Lieutenant Charlie Russell gave an excellent presentation with photos about the Regiment's recent tour to Afghanistan and we learned about the challenges of living with the local people and the local authorities. All the service personnel present have served at least once in Afghanistan and it was fascinating to hear of their experiences. The evening concluded with a very comprehensive raffle with the proceeds - £524 -being split between the Poppy Appeal and the Gurkha Welfare Fund.

ISLE OF OXNEY BRANCH

On 22nd June we held a Charity Golf Day at London Beach Golf Club in Tenterden which was run for the benefit of the Legions' 90th Anniversary and also for Wittersham Church, in equal shares, and our members actively participated in promoting and organising the big day. The Legion share to date (there may be a small amount more depending on Gift Aided donations) is £2,584.70. *(My apologies for attributing this to the Birchington Branch last month - CSec).*

SWANLEY CROCKENHILL & HEXTABLE BRANCH

The Branch is pleased to announce that, for the first time, they have broken through the £30,000 barrier for their Poppy Appeal.

HYTHER & SALTWOOD BRANCH

The Club and Branch joined together to build a float for the Venetian Fete in Hythe (a carnival on water). We did this to celebrate the 90th Anniversary, and the float was all hand made by myself, Wayne Jeffrey and Roy Brunsdon. We then dressed children who use the Club in Top Gun outfits. We were very surprised that in our first year of ever entering we came third in the large organisations category. I thought it might be of interest for others to see that Clubs and Branches can work together and include the kids of members. *Sarah Egan*



ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH

The Officers, Committee and members of the Branch wish to express appreciation of the support from the County Chairman, the Womens Section Chairman, the Parade Marshal, the County Colour Party and those Branches who attended our 90th Anniversary Parade and Service on 31st July. Thank you all.

DOVER PATROL

The Dover Patrol parade and service was held on Sunday 24th July at Leathercote Point, St Margaret's Bay. The service also commemorated the 90th Anniversary of the unveiling of the memorial by the Prince of Wales on 27th July 1921. The Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, Admiral the Lord Boyce was in attendance with Mr John Moir DL representing the Lord Warden of Kent. Also in attendance were the Mayors of Dover, Deal and Sandwich. 17 Standards were on parade with participants from ex-Service organisations in the Dover District plus the Dover Sea Cadets and Air Training Corps. The Parade Marshal was Mr Malcolm Wells of the Downs Branch. There are two other Dover Patrol memorials at Cap Blanc Nez near Calais and in Fort Hamilton Park, New York.

FLOWER ARRANGING AT IGHTHAM

A flower arranging demonstration was held in two sessions on 11th June in the hall of St. Peter's Church, Ightham, as a Poppy Party Weekend fund raising event. The ladies were shown how to create a table decoration by our demonstrator, Pat Milne. It was a very enjoyable day with everyone taking home a lovely arrangement. Each lady taking part paid £20 and provided her own flowers and, after expenses, £338.33 was sent off to the Royal British Legion.

The ladies are l to r Janet Rootes (organiser), Phyl Willingham, Pat Milne (demonstrator), Jill Sawyer, Victoria Oakley, Dee Samways, Sandra Barlass, Sylvia Watkins, Mary Allwood and Lucy Mead.



LMS LOCOMOTIVE "THE UNKNOWN WARRIOR"

Please find attached a flyer giving details of a presentation organised by the Gravesend Railway Enthusiasts Society on a new locomotive project which has been endorsed by the Royal British Legion. The presentation is scheduled to take place on the 1st November 2011, which is very appropriate as it is the season of Remembrance. More information can be found at www.lms-patriot.org.uk or by contacting Mr David Ward on 01474 323693 or at david46201@live.co.uk. The Gravesend Railway Enthusiasts Society have a Web-Site at www.gres.org.co.uk.



LEST WE FORGET

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

Lt Col John Talbot	Brabourne & Smeeth Branch
Mrs Denise Bailey	“
Mr Percy Hedges	Cheriton & Morehall Branch
Mr Cliff Simpson	Dymchurch Branch
Mr George Cocks	Gillingham Branch
Mr Charles Moss	Halstead Branch
Mr Herbert Kitchener	Kemsing Branch
Mr Ronald Stokes	Queenborough Branch - Chairman
Mr Anthony Bird	Ramsgate Branch
Mr Brian Lorking	“
Mr Trevor Richardson	Royal Tunbridge Wells Branch
Mr George Jewell	Southborough & High Brooms Branch
Mr Roy Brown	Sutton Valence Branch
Mr Terence Brazier	Whitstable Branch



Our deepest sympathies go to their families and friends



Tony West

County Secretary

Email: twest@britishlegion.org.uk

KENT COUNTY EVENTS - 2011

SEPTEMBER

Sat 10th	South East Region Bowls Final - Westerham Bowls Club
Sun 11th	Chartham Branch - 90th Anniversary Service & Parade
Sat 17th	Standard Bearer Training Session - Capel Office Centre
Wed 21st	Veterans Outreach Support Kent - Capel Morris Centre
23rd - 24th	County Chairmen's Seminar - Staverton
Sat 24th	County Bowls Finals - Westerham Bowls Club
Sat 24th	Tonbridge Branch - 90th Anniversary Service & Parade
Sun 25th	Kent Bowls Final - Westerham Bowls Club
Sun 25th	Deal Branch - Laying Up of Branch Standard
Thu 29th	90th Anniversary Event - Whitstable Castle

OCTOBER

Sat 1st	90th Anniversary Concert - Rochester Cathedral
Sun 9th	County Standard Bearer Competition - Ditton TA Centre
Wed 19th	Veterans Outreach Support Kent - Capel Morris Centre
Thu 27th	Poppy Launch - County Hall
Fri 28th	Isle of Thanet Festival of Remembrance - Margate

NOVEMBER

Sun 6th	Maidstone Winds Orchestra Concert - All Saints Church Maidstone
Fri 11th	Remembrance Day - 11.11.11
Sat 12th	Festival of Remembrance - Royal Albert Hall
Sat 12th	Folkestone Youth Festival of Remembrance - Leas Cliffe Hall
Sun 13th	Remembrance Sunday
Wed 16th	Veterans Outreach Support Kent - Capel Morris Centre
Sat 19th	Womens's Section County Conference - Headcorn Village Hall
Sun 20th	Jean Martyn in Concert - Kings Hall, Herne Bay

DECEMBER

Sat 10th	Carol Service - Capel Morris Centre (15:00)
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JANUARY 2012

Sat 21st	County Conference - Headcorn Village Hall
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