

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



SOMERSET AND BRISTOL

POPPY NEWS

Hello and welcome to my first newsletter for Poppy Appeal Organisers throughout Somerset and Bristol. I aim to produce 3 per year, in February, August and December. I hope to keep you up to date with news from Head Office and Aylesford, together with information about local initiatives and dates for your diaries. Please do suggest subjects for the newsletter and I would also welcome details of your own forthcoming events for this and the county website.



**ANNUAL POPPY FORUM AND THANK YOU
FOR ALL POPPY APPEAL ORGANISERS**

**MONDAY APRIL 2nd
BRISTOL ZOO,
CLIFTON, BRISTOL BS8 3HA**

Please arrive by 9.30am for refreshments, ready for a start at 10.00 am. Mr Nick Buckley, Head of The Poppy Appeal, will give a presentation and if you would like to forward any questions to me beforehand, I will pass them on in advance so he is not inundated! All the County Staff and David Lowe, the County Manager will also be in attendance, together with an invited guest who will talk about the help he has personally received from our Welfare Team.

Lunch will be served at 12.30 and then you have free entrance to enjoy an amazing world of animals, all within the spectacular, award-winning, 12-acre gardens. There are over 400 species – including nine animal houses under cover. Bristol Zoo is located in the Clifton area of Bristol close to the Clifton Suspension Bridge and is easily accessible by bus, train, bicycle or car and parking is available on site. Do ask if you require directions.

Please contact me by e-mail, phone or letter to book your place!



The Poppy Appeal 2011/12

As of the 13th February 2012, the national total for the Poppy Appeal stands at £ 36.5 million pounds! The Somerset and Bristol figure is currently £929,738.22, which is fantastic, everyone has worked so hard and we have already overtaken the 2010/11 final total of £910,952.13!!

We do have a few vacancies for Poppy Appeal Organisers, so please let me know if you know of anyone who might take on the role or could help out in the following areas:

Lydford and Meare
Stratton-on-the-Fosse
Leigh on Mendip
Bishops Lydeard
Yatton
Weston-super-Mare Central
Uphill and Weston-super-Mare seafront
Bristol

We are now able to offer training for new Poppy Appeal Organisers and ongoing support from Chris Norrish, who has recently retired from a long and successful stint as PAO for Clevedon and has kindly agreed to pass on his knowledge and experience. Even if you have already done a Poppy Appeal but would like the opportunity to come into Bridgwater and join a very informal training session, do please let me know, you will be very welcome.

Deputy Poppy Appeal Organisers

I have been asked to request that all Poppy Appeal Organisers nominate a Deputy Organiser, who will be able to “step in” should there be an emergency and the PAO is unable for some reason, to run the appeal. Could you please therefore consider this request and perhaps let me know at the forum or by e-mail, the name and contact details of the person you are nominating? I will have some Deputy badges to issue at Bristol Zoo or will post them to you if you wish.

Contact Details

I am in the process of updating all the records for Poppy Appeal Organisers and would be very grateful if those of you, who use e-mail, could send me a message so I will have your e-mail address and also advise me if you would prefer to have the newsletter on-line so that we can save on postage costs.

My e-mail is spotepa@britishlegion.org.uk

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



SOMERSET AND BRISTOL RBL CHARITY GOLF DAY WORLEBURY GOLF CLUB WESTON-SUPER-MARE FRIDAY 4TH MAY

ENTRY FOR TEAM OF 4 - £150
TO INCLUDE REFRESHMENTS ON ARRIVAL
18 HOLES OF GOLF AND SUPERB 2 COURSE BUFFET
TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL PRIZES TO BE WON

PLEASE CONTACT SUE FOR MORE DETAILS AND ENTRY FORM



"A Race for Recognition"

The Rally for Heroes is a major fund raising project in aid of The Royal British Legion and Help for Heroes, hoping to raise £100,000. It will take place between the 18th and 25th August and will cover five countries, taking in the Top Gear test track, Monaco, Stelvio National Park in Italy and the challenging Nurburgring Circuit in Germany. The route includes a five mile drive for every serving soldier who has lost his or her life on duty in Afghanistan.

On Sunday 6th May there will be a promotional rally from Dunkirk Memorial House to Somerset Legion House. The cars will then be displayed on the Beach Lawns at Weston-super-Mare with exhibits from sports and classic car clubs, such as TVR, Lotus, Aston Martin, Jaguar and Caterham.

Do come along and meet the drivers, see the cars and say hello to members of the local RBL and Riders branches and County staff.



Finally ...

Once again, a HUGE thank you for all your hard work, it is nothing short of outstanding and very much appreciated.

I am looking forward to meeting up with you all, but with almost 160 Poppy Appeal Organisers across Somerset and Bristol it may take a while!

An idea may be to have a coffee morning in group areas, so please do get in touch if you would like to do this, also individually if there is anything I can help with. I am particularly interested to know which areas need to recruit some new collectors.

In the meantime I hope to meet as many of you as possible at The Forum at Bristol Zoo, please do remember to book your place!

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