



County Honour for Eric



A member of Surfleet Branch, Eric Booth, served in the Parachute Regiment and in the Second World War and took part in the campaigns in North Africa, Sicily, Italy and the famous battle at Arnhem. He was part of that elite group who actually fought on the bridge where he was eventually taken prisoner and not released until the end of the war. Eric is a staunch member of the Royal British Legion but understandably is not as active as he once was. However he is very much in favour of progress and encourages the Branch to move forward.

At a ceremony held in Lincoln, Eric Booth received an award from the High Sheriff of Lincolnshire in recognition of his service to the community. The ceremony was held in the Crown Court within Lincoln Castle grounds and in addition to the High Sheriff, Mr John Godfrey, the Lord Lieutenant Mr Tony Worth and many other senior figures from a wide background within the County

were also present. The award of an illuminated scroll and a inscribed lapel badge is presented annually to those who are judged to have made a significant contribution to the welfare of their local community over a period of time.

Narrated by the Deputy Sheriff the citation for the award highlighted not only Eric's wartime service but his total commitment to the Parachute Regiment Association. In particular tribute was paid to his work in establishing and maintaining the Memorial to his fallen colleagues in Donington Church. His long service in the Special Constabulary, time spent serving on the Parish Council and his association with his local church were all duly noted. His long membership and service with the Royal British Legion, where he has carried out welfare work to the benefit of those less fortunate, was also praised and commented upon.

The historic surroundings of Lincoln Castle and in particular the Crown Courts added that touch of dignity and glamour to the presentation ceremony and Eric Booth is deserving of the honour bestowed upon him.

Afterwards at the reception in the Judges Lodgings, Eric and Nina were the centre of attention and enjoyed conversations with many of the dignitaries. There was no doubt that they held Eric in high regard and in his own style he enhanced the reputation and standing of the Parachute Regiment, The Royal British Legion and every other organisation to which he belongs. An award well made.

Stalwart Fred gets fitting birthday honour

Fred Richardson, a stalwart member of the Legion's Gainsborough & District Branch, had an early present two days before his 90th birthday when a street of new houses was named Richardson Rise in his honour.

Fred was honoured for more than 50 years of service to The Royal British Legion in the town, following on from his father, who was a founder member of the Branch in Fred's year of birth, 1921.

A well-known figure in the town, Fred has been directly involved both in the Poppy Appeal and in service work for the last 44 years, and last year completed 35 years as Branch Chairman.

Still active and now Branch vice-chairman, Mr Richardson was nominated by the local council. "It truly is an honour and a privilege to have a road named after you," he said.

Fred was presented with a crystal decanter and birthday cake by the developers, whose chairman said "Mr Richardson richly deserves this recognition."



CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

Along with millions of people I watched the Royal Wedding on television and was treated to a great spectacle of pageantry and organisation. There was a great feeling of enjoyment, well being and goodwill toward others which throughout the country can only benefit us all and hopefully improve community relationships for everyone. If only we can harness some of those feelings and encourage our members to show the same passion and willingness to work together for the benefit of their local Legion members then it would ensure the success of our Branches and raise their profile in the community.

Our County Service of Rededication will be held at Alford on 15 May and I hope that many of you will support this event. I was disappointed a few days ago when a member told me that they would not be attending because it was only for Standard Bearers. This certainly is not the case and everyone is welcome to attend. Clearly the correct information is not being made available at Branch meetings. It is essential that information passed from County Office to Branch Secretaries is made available to as many members as possible.

National Conference also takes place this month and we have a good representation from our Branches.

This conference will be important and not only for the debate regarding Affiliation fees. Other important matters will be discussed and in some ways this conference will mark a new beginning for our organisation. The challenge to all members is to be aware of the changes that will come to the Legion in the near future, work together to meet those challenges and create an organisation in which all members can feel that they are contributing and that their efforts are appreciated. Delegates have a responsibility to report back to their respective Branches on the debates and voting that takes place to make members aware of how decisions were reached. Later in the year we will hold a seminar for Branch Chairmen and Secretaries when the results will undoubtedly be discussed and debated. Our 90th Anniversary Concert will take place in Lincoln Cathedral and is advertised elsewhere in this newsletter. The Central Band of the Royal British Legion are always good value for entertainment and the well known singing group "Blake" are also planned to appear so it promises to be excellent entertainment. Please support this event if you can.

Kind Regards

Tony Goodwin

For Attention of All Standard Bearers, including Cadets Lincolnshire Standard Bearers School 12th June 2011 (not 19th)

Standard bearers and friends are invited to the June Standard Bearers' School held at The Crowland British Legion Hall.

There will be a short committee meeting at 2pm followed by approx 2 hrs of tuition and practice.

Dress is informal but anyone wishing to attend in full uniform is welcome. The practice is open to all, new, experienced and anyone who may be thinking of becoming a standard bearer. The school is not just for standard bearers who want to enter competitions, so why not come along and see what we can offer.

It is a relaxed atmosphere and all are welcome for a chat, meet other standard bearers and find out about future events.

After the school, we will be having a "bring and share" American style buffet with free tea and coffee to celebrate the Legion's Party Weekend. For a small charge there will also be wine or soft drinks and a slice of cake to celebrate 90 years of The Royal British Legion.

Lastly we don't aim to make a profit but we do have a raffle to cover hall hire costs.

For more information call Alan Canham (School Vice Chairman) on 01406 330295 or email alancanham351@btinternet.com.

Dress for Legion Occasions

A number of amendments have issued recently to update the *Ceremonial Handbook* on the wearing of the Veterans Badge by Members at Legion events. This may be worn by those who qualify.

This includes Standard Bearers and Parade Marshals on all occasions except Standard Bearers' Competitions.



They may wear only this and the Membership Badge, and it should be worn just below and slightly left of the Membership Badge, as shown here.

Schools Poetry

As promised in the last issue, I have pleasure in printing four more poems by our children on the theme of Remembrance and the Poppy:

Soldiers

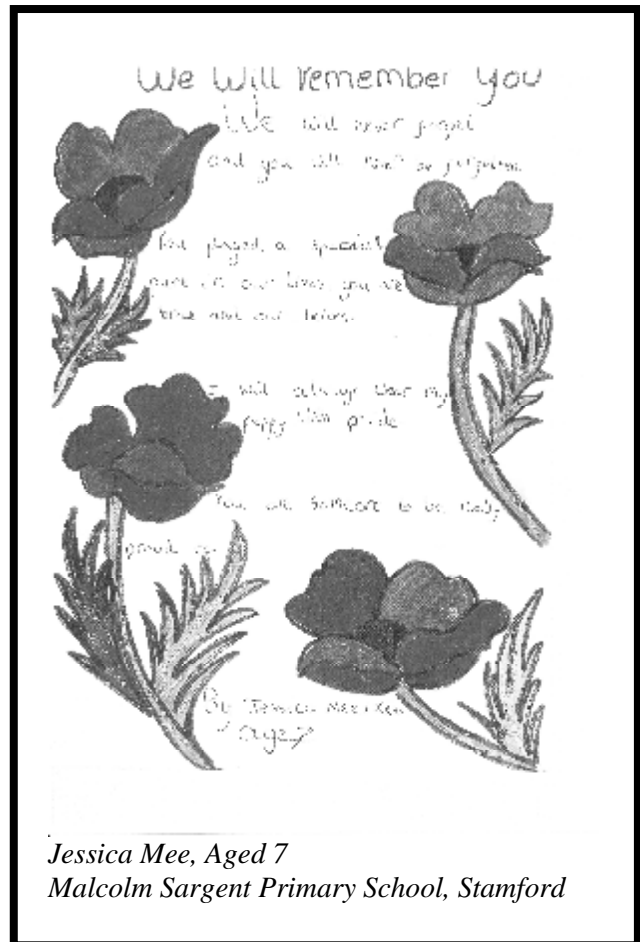
The young soldiers wave their sweethearts
goodbye,
Little do they know that many will die.
Most of them sacrificing their precious blood,
After sleeping sleeplessly in trenches of mud.

Staying in the trenches for almost a year,
Thinking about those who are sweet and dear.
Every day you hear BOOM, BOOM, BOOM,
And you know another person is falling to their
doom.

The people around you are all dead,
These numbers spin round and round in your head.
You pray to God every day,
So that on this Earth, you may stay.

You feel and know that you're injured and mucky,
But compared to those gone, you're extremely lucky.
Soldiers fought, and they still fight,
For peace and for justice and for human rights.

William Brandon & Rayna Koshy
St Mary's RC Primary School, Boston



Jessica Mee, Aged 7
Malcolm Sargent Primary School, Stamford

WAR

In the trenches long ago
Stood men and boys all full of woe
As the tears ran down their cheeks
Days and nights turned into weeks

As they waited for zero hour
Ready to give all their power
Listening to the whistling of the shells
The smell of death and the story tells

Men marched forth through no-mans land
Reloading their guns with shaking hand
As the Artillery began to fire
Me and my comrades started to tire

Looking forward with new ideas
Remembering those who have died over
the years
We all know the answer is not war
Due to what the soldiers saw
Tyler Featherstone, age 11years
Swineshead Primary School. Boston.

Remembrance Day

We use the Poppy to remember those who died for
Their country in past and present wars.
The Poppy is like blood running through the world
Representing the thankfulness that we show to the soldiers.

We thank those who are still alive and those that are dead.
We thank them for helping us to win the wars
By fighting in those terrible times.
Some soldiers may never show their gold and silver
medals or anything to do with the army.
But the war will be with them forever.
The Poppy brings a tear to our eyes
But at least it helps us remember the soldiers who died.

Hannah Bayliss
Magdalen Primary School, Wainfleet

ATC Citizenship Cup



Gordon and the Cadets of 2071 (Stamford) Squadron ATC

Stamford Branch has had the honour of presenting a *Citizenship Cup* to the Stamford unit of 2071 Squadron ATC. The Cup will be awarded each October to the Cadet who *has taken part in or organized charity collections, suggested new ideas or new ways for the Squadron to be involved with the local or wider communities.*



The Royal British Legion Citizenship Cup

Gordon Williams, Branch Vice Chairman, presented the

Cup to FO Helen Gibson, OC of the unit, on Wednesday, 10 March. As Gordon said to the Cadets, "We and the unit have been affiliated for almost four years during which we have enjoyed much fruitful collaboration together. Stamford hope that this Cup will help to develop even closer ties in the future with the Cadets.



The Astor Challenge

One cold morning in January, some members of 5 (AC) Squadron decided to row, run or cycle the 7,391km from RAF Waddington through the deployed Sentinel R1 detachment and finish at Camp BASTION in Helmand Province. This was of course a charity challenge and required a team of twenty Squadron personnel, each to complete 13.2km every day during February. Missing a day would mean over 26km the following day. Fifty members of ASTOR and SHADOW came forward and, split into two teams, made the challenge into a race.

The challenge began on 1 February and both teams racked up some incredible distances. But as calves began to tighten, blisters formed from rowing, stress fractures were suffered by

some and copious amounts of Ibuprofen were being consumed, the bike - scorned at first by all as a sign of weakness - became a vital tool for participants to complete the distance. Even All Arms Commando qualified OC GS Eng, Capt Dusty Miller, had to use the bike once or twice.

In the first two weeks the leadership swapped from one team to the other. But, by mid February Team B took the lead and kept it to the end of the challenge. As the end of the month approached everyone stepped up a gear and, fearful that they might not make the total, completed more and more kms with both teams finishing their distance on 28 Feb. Some of the participants finished their distance early but kept going to support their team in completing the distance as quickly as possible. Special mention must go to Flt Lt Sarah Hazell who completed a huge 671km during the challenge; and also to LCpl Baston who rowed a massive 100km over a two day period! The two teams had completed a staggering distance of 16,699km which was almost 2,000km over their target distance.

During the month of February, fifty personnel from 5(AC) Sqn ran, rowed and cycled from RAF Waddington all the way to Afghanistan and back again – quite an achievement. As well as being a hard physical challenge, it was also a testament to their commitment and dedication in supporting the work of the Royal British Legion. The challenge was supported by many kind donations by Squadron personnel, friends and family and also in particular by Raytheon UK. In total, the two teams raised over £2600 for the Royal British Legion.



Lincolnshire – A Winning Team

Branch Snippets

Woodhall Spa branch will be holding an Anniversary party on Sunday 12 Jun in the gardens of the Woodhall Spa Hotel, event will start at 1100hrs and there will be BBQ, games stalls etc.

Coningsby, Tattershall & District Branch have a very busy year with:

- 1 April - Bingo
- 25 June - Clear Cut (country duo) at Coningsby Community Hall
- 20 August - Johnny Marks
- 29 October - Country Contrast
- 25 November - Xmas Bingo.

They will also be holding Quizzes during the year. Any further information from Branch Secretary, Mrs Ann Wilkes (01526 342459). They are also into their fifth year of The Pendragon Handwriting competition with 8 schools taking part. The top three children go forward to represent their schools at an inter schools competition, which they judge in May with a presentation of The Wyvern Trophy and certificates for winning school and pupil.

Woodhall Spa & District Branch will be holding an Anniversary Party on Sunday, 12 June in the gardens of the Woodhall Spa Hotel. The event will start at 11 am and there will be a BBQ, games (Branch Vice Chairman Phil Avery will be Chef), stalls etc and other organizations will also stage their promotions. The Branch will hold its Grand Summer Draw in the afternoon and Bridget Wilcox, County Principal Recruiting Officer, will be there with her sale of RBL memorabilia. Entry will be free but there will be a small charge for food and the Branch hope to raise donations. Branch Chairman, John Egleton will visit visitors and everyone will be more than welcome.

Gainsborough & District Branch are taking part, with a stall, in the Riverside Festival on Saturday, 11 June. All are welcome to attend. They will also celebrate their 90th Year with a Parade and Church Service on Sunday, 26 June starting in the Market place at 1345hrs.

Grimsby Town RBL Club have changed their telephone number 01472 232857.

Boston Branch will host their 90th Anniversary Event at Fydel House, South Square, Boston on Sunday, 12 June - 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. 1920's dress IS optional, but there will be a prize for the "Best Dressed". There will also be a Raffle, 'Guess the Porcelain "Poppy Lady"'s name competition, a 1920's quiz, and a guess the weight competition - Boston RBL 90th Birthday cake and a Celebration Cake. Music will be supplied by the Boston Grammar School Jazz Band. Buffet served at 4 p.m. with wine & soft drinks to buy in garden gazebo £14.50 a ticket. Contacts Mike Creek - 01205 369502, or Diana Walker - 01205 350542.

East Halton & District Branch have three new Standard Bearers. They are Rowan Turner, training for the Women's Section, Simon Winfield and Liam Smith who all attended the Louth Standard Bearers School in April. They are all young new members who joined the Branch with quite a number of new young members just over a year ago. The Branch already had two Standard Bearers but it is good to have these young people in reserve to take over when needed.

Great Grimsby Branch Secretary has a new name, Mrs Jess Worsfold. She married the Branch Chairman on 12 February.

Stamford Branch are holding a 90th Anniversary Gala Midsummer Ball in the Stamford Arts Centre on Friday, 24 June. The Ball will start at 7.30 for 8.00pm and will include dancing to the music of **Jazz Not Jazz**, a buffet and charity auction. Tickets cost £20, available from Steve Bonde on 10780 757041. Dress: Black tie.

Welton Branch are holding a 90th Anniversary party on 11th June at Welton Sports and Social Club this will be a pyjama party - for more information contact Tony Davis 01673 860363

Gosberton & District Branch will mount a display in this year's Gosberton Flower Festival, 30 April - 8 May in St Peter & St Paul's Church. The theme this year is *Let's go to the Movies*, so the Branch display will depict 'The Dam Busters'. They will be one of forty different flower displays based on different films, including the WI entry of 'Calendar Girls' (naturally-what else?)

Stamford Branch are planning a coach trip on 15 September to Ironbridge., near Telford. Apart from the tin bridge, Telford has many other attractions, not least 10 museums of Coalport china, 'Engineuity', tiles, coal, Blist Hills Victorian town, the Gorge, a tile museum, a pipeworks, the Darby Houses, and a Tar Tunnel - everything for little boys of all ages, and their wives.

A party from **Kirton-in-Lindsey Branch** will visit the National Memorial Arboretum on Sunday, 8 May. All their Members are keen to see this national tribute to our Armed Forces, especially their ex-Service veterans who are looking forward to seeing the memorials to their former units and comrades. The Branch plan to take lunch at the Alrewas RBL Club on their way back to Lincolnshire.

They also plan to hold an RBL 90th Anniversary Dinner

Coningsby branch are having a Poppy Tea on Sunday 15th May with entertainment by The Norfolk Shepherd at Coningsby Community Hall tickets £7.50 available from Ann Wilkes 01526 342459.

Surfleet Branch held a very successful art boot sale and tombola on Saturday, 30 April, as part of their local Flower Festival. They collected a very useful £100 +.

Lincolnshire – A Winning Team

Mablethorpe Royal British Legion Awareness Day



from left to right are: -Jack Quinn, Neil Bodle (Store Manager), Mark Reddin, Mayor & Mayoress of Mablethorpe (Mr & Mrs Prince), Buster & friends

The Mablethorpe PAO, Mark Reddin and his wife Jane, organised a Royal British Legion awareness weekend in their Co-op over Easter, from Saturday, 23 April through Easter Monday, 25 April. The event featured a tombola and raffle and was attended by the County Chairman and the Lord Mayor and his Mayoress. In addition, Buster the highly decorated bomb disposal dog also came along for a couple of hours with his bucket and a couple of fellow squaddies Buster and Daggo and their handlers Sgt Will and Cpl Tracy Barrow..

The event was not only well received by the local population but also by the many tourists who were visiting the town. Lots of literature was handed out about the Royal British Legion and hundreds of people queued up to talk to the veterans and Buster and Co who, quite simply, stole the show!

All in all it was a fantastic weekend which was all down to the hard work of the PAO and Janet, the continued support of Neil Bodle, the local Co-op manager, and all the volunteers, including the County Chairman and his wife who all did a turn. They all managed to raise a fabulous £1869.28 for the Poppy Appeal and inform several hundreds of visitors about the work of the Royal British Legion. Hats off to them all! A great example of how hard work really pays off!

MARY LEITCH

It was with some sadness that Immingham Branch said goodbye to Mary Leitch as she is moving to Somerset to be near her daughter. Mary was one of the group of members who restarted the Immingham Branch in 1975 She is especially remembered for organising events ranging from jumble sales to dances and day trips to places such as Blackpool and Whitby. But she has worked hard for the Branch in many different offices within the Branch over the years and since 2000 she has been Branch Secretary, the post from which she retired last November.

The Chairman of the Branch, John Scally, presented her with a framed Certificate of Appreciation and the Treasurer, John Warr, gave her a ceramic poppy plaque in recognition of her work. All our good wishes go with her to Somerset.

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ALDERSON HOUSE GARDEN PARTY

Saturday 11th June 2011
2.00 – 5.00 pm
70 South Marine Drive, Bridlington
held as part of the
“Great Poppy Party Weekend “
In celebration of 90 years of
The Royal British Legion

With a 40's to present day theme,
there will be events throughout the
day including live music,
refreshments, stalls and raffles

Anna Roseby – 01262 408010 – aroseby@britishlegion.org.uk
for more information.

We look forward to seeing you!
All Proceeds will go to Alderson House,
Poppy Break Centre, Bridlington and towards the Legion's overall
target of raising £90 million in its 90th Anniversary year.

1921 **Shoulder to shoulder with all who serve** **2011**

Registered Charity: The Royal British Legion, 105 Through High Street, London SE1 1AA
Registered Charity Number: 219279





Standing:- Morris Prior, Sandy Campbell, John Warr, John Scally
Seated:- Lynn Campbell, Mary Leitch, Maisie Warr

Lincolnshire – A Winning Team

Safeguarding the welfare, interests and memory of those who are serving or who have served in H. M. Armed Forces
Registered Charity No: 219279

Wainfleet dedicate and lay up their Standards



Wainfleet & District Branch held a dedication of new and laying up of old Standards on Sunday, 10 April at All Saint's Church. The Service was attended by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, County Chairman, County Chaplain, Branch Chairperson, the Mayor of Wainfleet and Councillors, Members and Standards of other RBL Branches, members of the P.C.C. and members of the public. Fr Bryant Bechtold led the Service, Joshua Wilkinson played the

'Last Post' and 'Reveille' on the bugle. A March through Wainfleet followed, led by the drum of Lewis Knight, and the Salute was taken at the Clock Tower, before returning to All Saints Church.

Wainfleet Branch would like to thank all those involved, church helpers, choir, Wainfleet PCSO's and of course all those who so kindly donated to enable the event to happen.



Metal Frame Stall

Wrangle & District Branch have a metal frame stall to sell. Its dimensions are:

Length 20' (extending to 23')
Height to eaves 6' 6"

Width 10'
Height to ridges 7' 6"



All sections are colour-coded and it takes three people just 15 minutes to erect. Clips are included with a frame for holding the sheet (not supplied). Price £75.



Please contact Frank Byrne, Branch Secretary, on 01205 870926 or 07834 724600.

The Great Poppy Party
On **Saturday 11th June**
Shoulder to Shoulder with all who Serve
At **Immingham Civic Centre**
From **7.30 to 11.30**
Featuring **Bruce Taylor and The Bands of Immingham Sea Cadets and Air Cadets**
Activities: **Disco, Refreshments, Raffle, Stall, Tombola, Bar**
Tickets £3 from Immingham Library, Sheen's and Rand's. Or phone 01469 575896

Service Ties

Stamford Branch have a quantity of brand new ties, six RAF and nine Royal Lincs Regiment, as shown here. They are polyester, made by the reputable tie maker, D.L.Sells, and were, until recently retailing in a high street store in Lincoln for almost £15. They have been given to us to raise funds for our local welfare work. Please ring Steve Bonde (01780 757041) to let him know if you would like one - £10 each.



Lincolnshire – A Winning Team

More Paws to Celebrate

Retired Army Springer (*cf LegionLincs January 2011*) is not the County's only canine star. Air Dog Buster enlisted in September 2005 for extensive training as an Armaments & Explosives Search (AES) Dog. His first posting was Rosyth where his duties included high profile anti-terrorism searches of venues, such as Edinburgh Castle. He then deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina in September 2006 where he sniffed out a significant amount of illegal weapons and explosives among the local populous.

In September 2007, Buster and handler Sgt Michael Barrow deployed to Afghanistan. On their way into the Gereshk Valley their Viking armoured vehicle was hit by small arms fire - a taste of things to come. During one foot patrol in which Buster was leading the search for IEDs, they came under short lived but extremely noisy attack. Buster remained calm, totally unfazed by the actions going on around him and, when the patrol continued, Buster carried on his work wondering what the fuss was about. This happened several times. Even at night, when sleep was constantly interrupted with the loud boom of mortars, Buster rarely batted an eyelid. During periods of inactivity, Buster would wander around the camp making as many friends as possible. He was also a great source of moral for the many servicemen that had left pets behind.

After Gereshk, Buster transferred to Kabul where one of his tasks was to search the Jalalabad road, often described as 'the most bombed road in the world' and where the threat of suicide bombs is very real. Although a very tense situation for soldiers, Buster once again carried out his tasks with great professionalism.

Buster then deployed to Iraq in March 2009 where he helped to ensure that the convoys withdrawing British troops had a safe passage. Once again he was required to step up to the mark, when he returned to Afghanistan, with another handler, Corporal Simon Pound, RAF Police, and spent five months searching the thousands of vehicles entering Camp Bastion, ensuring that insurgents could not place a large explosive device amongst the thousands of troops and mission critical equipment that are housed there.

Buster finally arrived back on home soil in June 2010 and has submitted his papers to leave the mob. Last month he started his celebrity career by launching the Inside Right project at Lincoln City football club. He is already booked for Easter and Remembrance Sunday and will host his own Dog Show/Party during the Poppy Party Weekend. He enjoys the fuss and is open for future events, depending on his work schedule. All requests for Buster's help are to be directed through Jo Ticehurst, County Community Fundraiser (Tel: 01522 813922 or E-mail: j.ticehurst@britishlegion.org.uk).



Can your Members help an older person to eat?

Age UK in Lincoln are appealing for volunteers to help at Lincoln County Hospital with meal time assistance. If any of your Members can give upto two hours once a week, they will be helping older people receive the nutrition they need to aid their recovery during a hospital stay and keeping them company at the same time! No medical intervention or experience is necessary, the only requirement is an interest in helping older people.

It is important that older patients get the help and encouragement they need to eat and drink in hospital because good nutrition will help them to recover more quickly. Whether a member of the hospital staff, a relative, friend, carer or volunteer, there is a lot we can do to make mealtimes a lot more pleasant and comfortable for an older patient. Some patients will be able to eat on their own with a little assistance, while others will need you physically to help them, if they cannot manage by themselves. If they are feeling poorly, they will not want to eat much or anything at all, so they would really benefit from the extra support and encouragement that we can give.

By sitting down with an older patient at mealtimes, we can also identify and report any difficulties they have with eating and drinking and be on hand to assess whether the food they are being served is suitable for their needs, well presented and appetizing.

If any of your Members think they can help, or would like more information, they should call Susan Cook at Age UK Lincoln on 01522 527694 or 07508 345466



LINCOLN CATHEDRAL

SATURDAY 25TH JUNE 2011
7.30PM

Tickets are available at £20, £15 & £10
from Lincoln Minster Shop. Tel: 01522 561644
www.lincolnminstershop.com/events/

Lincoln Cathedral 90th Anniversary Concert

Tickets went on sale in February for the Royal British Legion 90th Anniversary Cathedral at 7.30pm on Saturday, 25 June. This is one of the *Concerts in the Cathedrals* series and its theme will be "Peace and Reconciliation". It will feature the Central Band of the Royal British Legion and the classical singing group Blake. Tickets, £10, £15 and £20, are available on 01522 561644 or by e-mail at www.lincolnminstershop.com

90th Anniversary Choral Concert, Peterborough Cathedral

Stamford Branch are collaborating with Stamford Choral Society to mount a 90th Anniversary Choral Concert in Peterborough Cathedral. It will take place at 7.30pm on Saturday, 4 June 2011. The concert will consist of two main works – Fauré's sublime *Requiem* and Elgar's *Spirit of England*. In this piece Elgar, in 1916/17, set three of John Binyon's poems to music – *The Fourth of August*, *To Women*, and *For the Fallen*. These poems depict the men going off to war at the beginning of WWI, a tribute to the women they left behind, and the latter is the poem which contains our Homage of Remembrance *They shall grow not old ...* Elgar dedicated the whole piece to "The memory of our Glorious men, with a special thought for the Worcesters".

We plan to get as many Legion, other Ex-Service and Cadet Standards as possible to muster and to march through the Cathedral to take up position on either side of the Choir. When the Choir starts to sing *They shall grow not old ...*, the Standards will dip in respect.

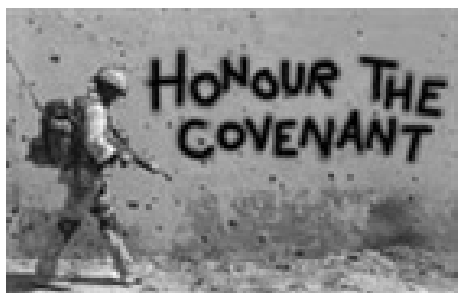
Stamford Choral Society is a major choral organization in the music world with an illustrious history. Their presidents have included Sir Malcolm Sargent and Sir Michael Tippett, and is currently Colin Dexter OBE. This will be one of our biggest events in our 2011 calendar. We need a good turnout of members for what will be a wonderful concert, full of great music and emotion. Tickets are on sale at Stamford Arts Centre (Tel: 763203), as follows:

Nave	£15.00 (Concessions £12.00)
Side Aisles:	£8.00 (Concessions £6.00)
	£1 for children accompanied by an adult.

Lincolnshire – A Winning Team

Safeguarding the welfare, interests and memory of those who are serving or who have served in H. M. Armed Forces
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No Place in Law for the Military Covenant



The Government has committed to rewrite the Covenant as a new tri-Service document which will set the enduring, general principles that will govern the relationship between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces community, and set the tone for Government policy aimed at improving the support available for serving and former members of the Armed Forces and their families. So far, so good.

But the Government is backing off from [its previous commitment](#) to write the Military Covenant into law. [The Armed Forces Bill](#), which is now at the Select Committee stage in the Commons, instead contains a requirement for the Government to report on the Covenant. This will outline how current or former

membership of the Armed Forces impacts on issues such as housing and healthcare. The Legion through our Director General, Chris Simpkins, has been very [vocal in insisting](#) that the Government sticks to its earlier promise.

Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) Review

The MOD last year committed itself to implementing within 12 months all of Lord Boyce's recommendations for the AFCS. With a number of changes made during the summer and that deadline approaching, the Government put forward the last of the legislative changes on the 28 February. The MOD has also published, '[The Review of the AFCS – one year on](#)'. The summary provides a good outline of the many improvements, including increased payments, for claimants. Over the next twelve months or so the MOD will be reviewing all previous claims in light of the new rules. Full details can be seen on www.mod.uk/.../ArmedForcesCompensationSchemeafcs.htm

Veterans Advisory and Pensions Committees (VAPC)

The latest edition of the 'Legion' magazine carries a report on page 36 that the MoD has launched a regional network of 13 VAPCs primarily aimed at supporting veterans, serving personnel and their families by advising them on the support and welfare services available to them locally and helping them to access those services.. What it does not tell you is that the VAPC for Lincolnshire can be contacted on 01562-825527

Dunkirk Commemorations – 2011

WPL Television are producing a factual documentary on the Dunkirk evacuation for Pen and Sword publishing. They are looking to film at various locations throughout the year, interviewing veterans and serving members of the forces on the subject, as well as filming the 'little ships' in action. The producers, (being far from experts on the subject!), have asked us to alert them to any events we may be aware of or could recommend, or someone they should speak to on the subject in order that they do not end up missing something important.

Alec Webb, the TV producer, can be reached at WPL Television, 16 Treglenwith Road, Camborne TR14 7JA, also at 01209 613 282, or on alec@wpltv.co.uk.

Legion Clothing

Stamford Branch have negotiated a deal with a local company, Precision Sports & Leisure Ltd for the production of clothing embroidered with the Poppy logo and a Branch name. The samples shown here are just a few items from a 432 page catalogue, covering all sports and leisure clothing.

This is an excellent range of clothing at really good prices and, now that they have the Poppy logo, they can embroider any Branch (or County) name underneath. The Company donate £1 for every item sold to Stamford Branch but, just as important, the more our Members wear this clothing, the higher and more



Airline shirt £12.50



Sweatshirt £17.50



Fleece £17.50

modern the Legion profile appears in our towns and villages and when we are representing the Legion. Orders should be placed direct with the company (not through Stamford Branch) at:

Precision Sports & Leisure Ltd,
North Street, Stamford;
Tel: 01780 757818;
e-mail: tonylother@precision-sports.co.uk

Lincolnshire – A Winning Team

County Welfare Statistics

Branches may find the following statistics useful when talking to the press and other media:
 Over the past 5 years, from 1 Jan 2006 to 31 Dec 10, the Wellingore office has investigated 6,196 cases. Of these, a total of 3,841 individuals and families required immediate financial help, and the Legion spent a total of £5,245,794 providing practical assistance - an average spend of £1,366 per case. Of this, £2,267,700 (or 43% of the total) was used to buy mobility aids such as electric scooters, stairlifts, riser-recliner chairs, electrical profiling beds and other mobility aids and equipment. The rest bought replacement brown and white goods, clothing and food and funded funeral and removal expenses, accommodation charges, household debts, property repairs and education fees for dependent children.
 Those that were not assisted directly with local funds were referred to other RBL schemes for assistance such as Residential Care Homes, Poppy Break Centres, or for Benefits and Money Advice, Poppy Calls, Poppy Travel or the Civvy Street Website for enhanced employment opportunities

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Used Postage Stamps

The Legion collects stamps – not to stick in albums but to turn into cash for the Poppy Appeal. Could Branches please ask their members to collect all used stamps – British and foreign – which come their way and send them to: Poppy Appeal Stamps, P.O Box 6198, Leighton Buzzard, Beds LU7 9XT or to Brian Mahoney, County Secretary, who will act as the County coordinator.
 Please cut or tear the stamps from the envelope leaving approximately 1/2 cm of paper around the stamp. Foreign stamps can be sent separately and marked clearly on the front of the package ‘Foreign Stamps Only’ as these generate a greater amount of revenue.

Acting Rank - Changes to Pension And Compensation Packages

Members may recall the criticism late last year about the Government's refusal to pay a Service widow the full sergeant's pension and compensation package because he was only an *acting* sergeant when he was killed in Afghanistan. A petition was set up on the 10 Downing Street website to protest. It may all have worked as the Government has now announced changes to enhance the pension and compensation packages for dependants of Service personnel who die as a result of service while holding an acting rank.

There are two parts to the change:
Armed Forces Pension Scheme 1975 (AFPS 75)
 Currently, under the AFPS 75, death benefits (a survivor's pension and lump sum) are calculated on the substantive rank held at the date of death, unless the individual held an acting rank for at least a year. In future, death benefits will be paid on the basis of the acting rank if the individual's death has occurred due to service, regardless of how long the individual has been in the acting rank. These changes will come into force on 3 January 2011.

Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS)
 The dependants of those individuals holding an acting rank who have died as a result of service since the AFCS came into force in April 2005, and whose pension benefits did not provide recognition of this acting rank, will receive a single payment of £20,000. This is to compensate for the difference in both the lump sum and income stream that the dependants have received. The changes to the AFCS will be incorporated into legislation to be laid in February 2011 in order to implement the Boyce Review.

Changes to Campaign Medals Criteria

Up to now personnel had to serve in-theatre for 30 continuous days in order to qualify for the Operational Service Medals for Iraq and Afghanistan. Following a review the criteria has changed and personnel who have served an aggregate period of 45 days will now qualify. This change will be backdated to the start of both operations – 11th September 2001 for Afghanistan and 20th January 2003 for Iraq. Ex-service personnel who believe they may be eligible should contact the MoD Medal Office by calling the JPAC Enquiry Centre on 0800 085 3600 or e-mail Medals@SPVA.mod.uk

COUNTY CALENDAR OF EVENTS: 2011

DATE	EVENT	VENUE
15 May	Annual County Service of Rededication	Alford
21/22 May	National Annual Conference	Telford
31 May	County Welfare Committee Meeting	Wellingore
4 June	<i>County Committee Meeting</i>	<i>Wellingore</i>
4/5 June	Deeping Show	Deeping
11/12 June	Poppy Parties Weekend	Countrywide
19 June	Standard Bearers School	Crowland
22/23 June	Lincolnshire County Show	Lincoln
25 June	Armed Force Day	Countrywide
25 June	90 th Anniversary Cathedral Concert	Lincoln
2/3 July	Waddington International Air Show	RAF Waddington
10 July	Spilsby Show	Spilsby
19 July	County Welfare Committee Meeting	Wellingore
23 July	<i>County Committee Meeting</i>	<i>Wellingore</i>
30/31 July	Heckington Show	Heckington
28 August	90 th Parachute Jump	Hibaldstow Airfield
16/17 September	2-day Basic Caseworker Course	Wellingore
23/24 September	County Chairman's Seminar	Staverton
25 September	Standard Bearers School – AGM	Louth
1 October	Branch Chairmen/Secretaries' Seminar	TBD
4 October	County Welfare Committee Meeting	Wellingore
8 October	<i>County Committee Meeting</i>	<i>Wellingore</i>
16 October	Presidents' Fund Raising Lunch	Petwood Hotel, Woodhall Spa
23 October	County Standard Bearer Competition	Horncastle
29 October	Poppy Appeal Launch	East Kirkby
6 November	Festival of Remembrance	Cranwell
11 November	Armistice Day	Countywide
11 November	Poppy Golf	Woodall Spa
12 November	Festival of Remembrance	Royal Albert Hall
29 November	County Welfare Committee Meeting	Wellingore
3 December	<i>County Committee Meeting</i>	<i>Wellingore</i>
14 January 2012	Annual Meeting of County Conference	Horncastle

NB: This calendar of events is subject to amendment depending upon National events etc.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Mr G. Carter, Long Sutton Branch	Mr H. Palmer, Gosberton & District
Mr K. Cook, Pinchbeck Branch	Mrs E. Richards, Wrangle & District Branch
Mr A. Morrell, Woodhall Spa	Mr B. Nadin BEM, Sleaford & District Branch
Mr C. Kettle, Stamford Branch	Mr G. Kisby, Sleaford & District Branch
Mr W.G. Waumsley, Stamford Branch	Mr G. Hobbs, Tealby & Market Rasen Branch
Mr R C Senior, Holbeach Branch	Mr K. Thompson, Bourne & District Branch
Sqn Ldr J. Bangay, Stamford Branch	Mrs O. Harrison, Immingham & District Branch
Mr K. Leesty, Stamford Branch	Mr H J Burchett, Boston & District Branch

During the next three months Lincolnshire Branches will be organizing a huge and exciting programme of events to celebrate the Great Poppy Party Weekend and Armed Forces Week, both in June. The next **LEGION Lincs** will issue about late July. Could contributors, and especially Branches, please let me have their material and photographs by, say, 15/18-ish July-ish.

Lincolnshire – A Winning Team

Safeguarding the welfare, interests and memory of those who are serving or who have served in H. M. Armed Forces

Registered Charity No: 219279

Steve Bonde
Editor, **LEGION Lincs**