



OCTOBER 2011

## THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE HERTFORDSHIRE & HUNTINGDONSHIRE

---

### FOUR COUNTIES NEWS LETTER

---

**EDITORS NOTE:** *Apologies to all, it was originally planned to have the Newsletter published by late September. However, other events both at work and at home have prevented me having the time to complete this issue until now.*

---

#### 90th Anniversary Band Tattoo Cambridgeshire

A spectacular band tattoo featuring The Minden Band of the Queen's Division wowed the audience at Ramsey Camp in Cambridgeshire on 25 September, including guests of honour the Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire and the Legion's National Chairman John Farmer.

The former militia camp, built in 1939 as a training centre, echoed once again with rousing marches and the skirl of pipes for the event.

The main attraction was The Minden Band of the Queen's Division, who are based at nearby Bassingbourn Barracks and, operations allowing, are always supportive of events throughout Cambridgeshire. The weather was extremely kind and the audience very appreciative of the faultless performance of marches, classics and modern-day music.



Supporting them were the Peterborough Highland Pipe Band, the Sutherland Pipes & Drums and the Romford Drum & Trumpet Corp. Other entertainment included a rifles re-enactment display and Scottish country dancing; along with a licensed bar, food stalls and trade stands.



An inspection of Legion and other Association Standards was taken by the guests of honour the Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, Hugh Duberly, and the Legion's National Chairman Mr John Farmer. John said afterwards: "It was really good, a great celebration of our 90th Anniversary. I really enjoyed the day."

The County Committee were very ably supported at this event by the 'Ramsey 1940's Weekend' Committee and their volunteers, to whom The Camp is leased by Lord de Ramsey

**FLG. OFFICER KENNETH CAMPBELL VC** Kenneth Campbell was



from Ayrshire and he gained a chemistry degree at Cambridge, where he was a member of the Cambridge University Air Squadron. In September 1939 he was mobilised for RAF service, Flying Officer Campbell joining No.22 squadron in September 1940, with the Bristol Beaufort torpedo bomber.



During early 1941 the German battleship Gneisenau was sheltering in Brest Harbour. The battle cruiser was secured alongside the wall on the north shore of the harbour, protected by a stone mole bending around it from the west. On rising ground behind the ship stood protective batteries of guns; other batteries were clustered thickly round the two arms of land which encircle the outer harbour. In this outer harbour near the mole were moored three heavily-armed anti-aircraft ships, guarding the battle cruiser.

On 6 April 1941 Flying Officer Campbell attacked the German battleship; he flew his Bristol Beaufort through the gauntlet of concentrated anti-aircraft fire from about 1000 weapons of all calibers and launched a torpedo at a height of 50 feet (15 m). The attack had to be made with absolute precision for the attack to be effective. Campbell managed to launch his torpedo accurately testament to his courage and determination. The ship was severely damaged below the waterline and was obliged to return to the dock whence she had come only the day before. She was out of action for 6 months, which thus allowed allied shipping to cross the Atlantic without any threat.

Generally, once a torpedo was dropped an escape was made by low-level jinking at full throttle. Because of rising ground surrounding the harbour Flying Officer Campbell's Beaufort was forced into a steep banking turn, revealing its full silhouette to the gunners. The aircraft met a withering wall of flak and crashed into the harbour. The Germans buried Campbell and his other three crew mates, Sgts'. J P Scott DFM RCAF (navigator), R W Hillman (wireless operator) and W Mallis (air gunner) with full military honours. His valour was only recognised when the French Resistance managed to leak news of his brave deeds to England.



**QUIZ TIME: AROUND THE UK**

1. Which county has the longest coastline in Britain?	6. The Great Orme overlooks which Welsh resort?
2. Whose books made Swaledale, Wensleydale and Coverdale famous?	7. Where is Princetown prison?
3. Where is the home of the National Railway Museum?	8. Where are the villages with Slaughters in their title to be found?
4. If you were on the Backs, where would you be?	9. Where did Billy Butlin open his first holiday camp in 1935?
5. Which city lies at the Northern end of the A1?	10. Where are the Heights of Abraham?

**ANSWERS ON PAGE 5**

## 90th Anniversary Concert in Hertfordshire

On Saturday 1st October, Hertford Theatre in Hertfordshire came alive to the sound of one of the UK's finest big bands; The Royal Air Force Squadronaires, to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the Legion and raise funds for the Poppy Appeal.



250 audience members enjoyed the event, which has raised £2,000 for the Poppy Appeal.

Under the direction of Sergeant Kevin Miles, the band entertained the audience with a programme of music from original dance band classics to the latest big band hits. The Hertfordshire County Committee were pleased to be joined by Mr Bill Gibb and members of his family. Bill (90), who now lives in North London, was one of the instigators for the formation of the RAF Squadronaires in the 1940s. Hertford Sea Cadets were also on hand to help with programme sales and collections.

Bryan Jones, Hertfordshire County Secretary, said: "It was an excellent event, thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. We are very grateful to the Royal Air Force Squadronaires and Hertford Theatre for their unstinting support for the concert and the work of the Legion.

As with all members of the Royal Air Force, RAF Music Services' personnel are required to support British Forces on operations overseas. Musicians have been deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan, Turkey and The Falkland Islands. Roles have included force protection, guarding installations, driving, liaison officers and supporting helicopter and air transportation squadrons.

---

### CHARITY FOOTBALL MATCH – 90<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

A football match has been organised in aid of the Royal British Legion and Whitwell FC. The teams will play initially in 1940's/50's strip using a 1940/1950 leather football before changing into modern strip and modern football to reflect the years that the Royal British Legion has been supporting people who have been injured in all wars including modern day conflicts.

From 1230hrs, free admission, BBQ, mulled wine, bar, refreshments inside if weather is inclement.

The event is taking place at King George V Recreation Ground, St Georges Way, Whitwell, Herts SG4 8AT Hertfordshire SG4 8AT on Saturday 12 November 2011.

For more information, please contact Barrie Pheasant on [pheasant74@btinternet.com](mailto:pheasant74@btinternet.com) or 07909 088940.

---

## **HITCHIN BRANCH 90<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**



On Saturday 23rd July in Hitchin Market Square the Branch were joined by 4 cheeky Chelsea Pensioners who enjoyed all the ladies sitting on their laps. 3 members of the Riders Branch were also in attendance and allowed some of the ladies to sit on their motorbikes. The Legion Poppy Man was there and children made poppies and sticking on a Mannequin to make their own Poppy Man. Sea and Air Cadet Units competed against each other and challenging the Legion Ladies. The T.A. Medical Unit and Ambulance and the Fire Service put in a brief appearance.

Hitchin, TV Star Adam Astill from Holby City cut the cake at 1.00pm after which over 200 pieces of cake were handed out to the public, while cutting the cake we even had a Piper who happened to be nearby and was kind enough to play "Happy Birthday" for us.

On Sunday evening some 50 members and supporters attended Evensong at St. Mary's Church with our Padre the Rev. Charmaine Sabey-Corkingdale taking the Service.

Then to finish the celebrations on Wednesday 27th July (actual day Hitchin Branch of the RBL was founded) the Branch members held a Birthday Social in the local Club where 90 members and guests enjoyed an accordion band "All in Accord" followed by a Fish and Chip Supper and Quiz. During the evening the Branch Treasurer presented to the Branch Poppy Appeal Organiser a cheque for a further £4,000 to the Branch Poppy Appeal; in all a successful 90th celebration.



## **Best foot forward for Royal British Legion**



Peterborough residents have put their best foot forward in support of servicemen and women. Completing a sponsored lap of Overton Lake in Ferry Meadows Country Park. This was the fifth year that the Peterborough Branch of the Royal British had held this Poppy Walk event.

The event was officially opened by Mayor of Peterborough Cllr Paula Thacker, who also completed the walk.

She said: "They are always there to help people."

It is not yet known how much money has been raised from the event, but Poppy Appeal Organiser George Bennett is hoping to surpass last year's total of about £500.

This year Peterborough Branch of the RBL is within touching distance of a significant fundraising milestone. The Branch has so far this year raised more than £87,000, but is hoping to hit £90,000 to reflect this being the RBL's 90th year. It has until the end of September to collect the outstanding sum. George Bennett said: "It would be a real statement that the Poppy Appeal is alive and well."

### **1940's Charity Dance**

On behalf of Fulbourn & Teversham RBL and Cambridge MIND.

### **Ouse Valley Jazz Band.**

**Saturday 5 November 2011, 7:30pm**

**The Fulbourn Centre, Home End, Fulbourn.**

Tickets £10, contact:: Lorna Woore 01223 880450/ Lucy Woore 07931 192989

**1940's dress optional.**

#### **QUIZ ANSWERS:**

**1. Cornwall 2. James Herriot 3. York 4. Cambridge 5. Edinburgh 6. Llandudno  
7. Dartmoor 8. The Cotswolds 9. Skegness 10. Matlock Derbyshire**

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2010**

**Turvey & District Branch**

**ANNUAL SAUSAGE & MASH SUPPER + BRASS BAND CONCERT**

**Start Time 6:30pm - Turvey Village Hall**

**Tickets all inclusive £11:00**

**Call 01234 881334**

Editor's Note: This is an extremely popular event – get your tickets early

### Marston Moreteyne RBL Branch



Marston Moreteyne invited Bedfordshire members of the Riders Branch along to there 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations at the village fete.

Mrs Joyce Shrubbs MBE, Branch President and County Vice President, decided to try out the two wheeled machines for herself

Commenting "where there's a will there a way, not bad for an \*\* year old".

## **Poppy Appeal Initiative – Alec Beach North Bushey**



**North Bushey Branch** has launched a new initiative which is intended to project a youthful image of the RBL. The children and Grandchildren of our poppy collectors usually love helping, so we've introduced a small band of

"Young 'elpers" - see attached photographs of young Chloe wearing her badge of office.

We will operate the scheme so that each young person will receive the T-shirt and a Birthday Card, just like (for those that can remember) the Saturday Morning Pictures.

At present the "Young 'elpers" have helped us on Armed Forces Day and they have also laid wreaths as escorts to our service Old Codgers.

Comments from the public have been quite complimentary and have already landed us at least one new collector. We intend to provide the group a Newsletter to keep them informed of our work. At present we have 5 "Young 'elpers" and aim to increase this number in time for Remembrance Ceremonies and various fundraising activities.

---

## **Leighton Buzzard 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

The Royal British Legion Leighton Buzzard Branch celebrated its 90th Anniversary on Sunday 10th July with a Parade through the town and a Service at All Saints Church. The Parade was led by the Royal British Legion Youth Band Brentwood.

The service was conducted by Rev Grant Fellows, Leighton Buzzard Branch Chaplain, and Rev Stephen Nuth, Bedfordshire RBL County Chaplain. The choir from Leighton Middle School sang a song specially written for the occasion by their Head of Music, Miss Theresa Short. One of the most memorable parts of the service was when the Fanfare of Trumpets played The Last Post and Reveille, resonating throughout the Church magnificently.

The Legions National Vice Chairman, Mr John Crisford and the Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, Sir Samuel Whitbread took the Salute, as the band led the parade along the High Street.

This was an emotional day for Mr Kevin Davies, Leighton Buzzard Branch Standard Bearer, as it was his last parade after many years of dedicated service to the branch. The National Vice Chairman presented Kevin Davies with The Royal British Legion National Life Membership, for Meritorious Service.

## Sandy and District Branch News

**Turkey & Tinsel 21 to 25 November 2011 – Torquay - Cost £159.00 – Deposit £30.00. Insurance if required £10.** - There are still a few twin rooms available on the Turkey & Tinsel holiday to Torquay. Unfortunately, there are no single or double rooms left. Please contact Mary 01767 225278 if you would like to join us on this fun trip.

**Friday 9 December 2011 – Christmas Dinner at Sandy Conservative Club** - Bookings through Mary (Social Secretary/Welfare Officer) Tel: 01767 225278



## Cherry Hinton Branch

“Laying Up of the Old Standard” of the Cherry Hinton Branch on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2011

Photograph by: Chris Farrington

## Barrington Branch Barbeque

Barrington Branch of The Royal British Legion held a barbeque on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August 2011 at Foxton with the kind permission of Phil and Karen Cox.

A wet weather programme was in place with a Tent supplied by 39 Engineering Regiment stationed at Waterbeach. Knowing the weather was going to be much of a mixed bag the Lads erected the tent on Friday so the ground underneath would remain dry.



Tom Dymond very kindly cooked the food and it was very tasty indeed, well done Tom!

## Kimpton Branch



As part of the 90th Anniversary celebrations marking the formation of the RBL and to commemorate members past and present, Kimpton Branch presented the village with a seat overlooking the sports field and village. This was achieved by donations from Members and Friends. The village 'Bench Working Party', who maintain the village benches, assisted in the selection and site of the bench which was unveiled to coincide with the Village May Festival

---

## **Music at St Mary's - Poppy Prom**

*Saturday 12 November - 7.30pm at St Mary's, Luton*  
Tickets: £7.50 & £10; The Box Office for tickets; 01525 222283

This highlight of the autumn season will feature South Beds Concert Band, Dagnall Community and St Mary's Choirs with Stephen Axford on organ. Proceeds will be shared with The RBL so come along and wave the flag!



## Swavesey & District Branch

### **POPPY DANCE**

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2011

Buffet - Dancing to Tony Jacks  
For more information or to book tickets  
contact

David Ouzman on 01954 230773

## Baldock Branch

Proposed **COACH TRIP** to Normandy  
1st - 5th April '11

Bed, Breakfast, Evening Meal - Luxury  
Standard Coach - Visits to D-Day Beaches  
& local area

Estimated cost - £480 per person  
(depending on numbers)

More details from Paul Middleton  
paul.middleton600@ntlworld.com

## Barrington Branch

### **RBL 90th ANNIVERSARY Candle Light Supper**

Friday 4th November 2010 – 1800 hrs. for 1830 hrs.

Venue: The Little Rose Haslingfield  
Cost £21.00 per head

**Dress Formal Black Tie, Regimental Blazer or Lounge Suit  
Medals to be worn**

*Places still available – Interested for full details*

**Contact:**

Freddie Lawes (01223) 872397 or [hemlocks42@btinternet.com](mailto:hemlocks42@btinternet.com)

## **Cambridgeshire County - Festival of Remembrance**

The Guildhall, Cambridge  
Sunday, 6th November 2011  
Doors open at 2.00pm – Start at 3pm

### **City of Cambridge Brass Band**

Tickets £8 available from: G. Diplock -Tel 01954 210662  
B. Benstead - Tel 01954 719798

## **Cpl J M (John) Barry**

Barrington Branch have received a request from the family of Cpl JM (John) Barry, A Coy 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment, who died on 25 Sep 72 having been wounded in action whilst on patrol in the Lower Falls area of West Belfast . The Family do not have a photograph of Cpl Barry and have asked if The Regiment might be able to assist in finding one.

Cpl Barry enlisted in Lincoln in Oct 1966 and trained at the Regimental Depot in Bury St Edmunds. He joined the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion in Cyprus in Mar 1967 and served as a rifleman before joining the Officers' Mess in Felixstowe. He served 2 years in the Mess, travelling to Gibraltar and Malaya. In Oct 70 he joined A Coy and over the next 2 years was promoted to L/Cpl and then Cpl. He was leading his Section when he was wounded on 23 Sep 72.

If there is anyone out there that knew Cpl. Barry and also has a photograph could they please contact.

*Lt Col (Retd) K Hodgson OBE, Regimental Secretary, the Royal Anglian Regiment*  
Tel: (01284) 752394 Fax: (01284) 752026

---

## **Editors Story**

I recently attended a presentation on the future of the Royal Air Force at RAF Wyton. After the presentation there was the normal general chat with serving personnel and local dignitaries.

Whilst talking with one of the Squadron Leaders we were discussing the new role of RAF Wyton and the re-building project on base, accommodation for the troops was one of the items mentioned and how the new accommodation would be 21<sup>st</sup> century rather than what we had both experience during our time as junior ranks.

The Squadron Leader re-counted a story of when he was a Senior Aircraftman (SAC) and his Squadron was moved to RAF Lossiemouth in Scotland. The accommodation they were moved into was infested with cockroaches.

One night whilst he was trying to get off to sleep, he could hear this metal tinkling noise, when he switched on the room light there were about 10 cockroaches rolling an empty coke tin down the centre of the room.

Next morning he complained to the Squadron Warrant Officer about the infestation. The response from the Warrant Officer was for the SAC to provide some evidence and in the meantime he ordered the troops to carry out a 'Bull Night' (which didn't go down well with the rest of lads).

That night they cleaned up the accommodation, whilst doing so they caught every cockroach they could find. Next morning whilst standing by the beds for inspection, the SAC presented the Warrant Officer a large jar full of cockroaches as evidence.

Needless to say the problem was rectified quite quickly.

---

## **Hitchin Branch - Cadet Affiliation**



Recently, 1066 Squadron Air Cadet Unit in Hitchin held a welcome barbecue, it was planned as a 'get together type evening' to get to know the new cadets and their parents. A while ago, the Air Cadets had signed Affiliation Forms with Hitchin Branch of the RBL. As this event was planned as a social evening, it was decided that it would be an ideal evening for the official signing of the Affiliation Certificates.

Photo - courtesy of Wing Commander Mimpres

## **St Albans Branch – Cadet Affiliation**

St Albans Branch recently signed Affiliation Certificates with their Army Cadet Unit, again a very successful evening. Speeches were made by the Mayor, Col Fitzgerald - Hertfordshire County President for the RBL, Don Dell - Branch Chairman and Lesley Starr - County Youth Officer. My thanks to members of St Albans Branch for the superb buffet they laid on after the event.

## **Somersham Branch**

At a gathering of members on 10th August 2011 the retiring Treasurer Mr Ernie Nugent was presented with a 'Certificate of Appreciation' from the committee and members of the Somersham Branch. for his 38 years of dedication to the branch.



**Certificate of Appreciation** - The Somersham Branch of the Royal British Legion, wish me to convey the sincere thanks of the committee and the Branch for your numerous years as Treasurer. You have been a stalwart since November 1973 in ensuring the branch continued in the face of adversity and almost certain closure. It is thanks to you and a few supporters that we have the club available for current members.

## **REMEMBRANCE SERVICE - Sunday, 6 November 2011**



Chapel and Garden of Remembrance,  
Fosterhill Road Cemetery, Bedford

Please come and support our annual Service of Remembrance as we remember the young Scotsmen (The Bedford Highlanders) who died in 1914/15 and all who have given their lives for our freedom  
The wearing of tartan and medals is appreciated

**For further information contact Bob Buchanan (01234 302761)**

## St Mary's – Ware, Hertfordshire

**Cantate Youth Choir**, is an internationally acclaimed youth choir based in Bishop's Stortford

**Tickets - £11.00 for adults. £9.00 for Concessions, £5.00 for children**

Available from – 01376 331160 or online at [www.cantate.co.uk](http://www.cantate.co.uk)



Two Mexicans are stuck in the desert after crossing into the United States, wandering aimlessly and starving. They are about to just lie down and wait for death, when all of a sudden Luis says.....

"Hey Pepe, do you smell what I smell. Ees bacon, I theenk."

"Si, Luis, eet sure smells like bacon. "

With renewed hope they struggle up the next sand dune, and there, in the distance, is a tree loaded with bacon. There's raw bacon, there's fried bacon, back bacon, double smoked bacon .... Every imaginable kind of cured pork.

"Pepe, Pepe, we ees saved. Ees a bacon tree."

"Luis, maybe ees a meerage? We ees in the desert don't forget."

"Pepe, since when deed you ever hear of a meerage that smell like bacon...ees no meerage, ees a bacon tree."

And with that, Luis staggers towards the tree. He gets to within 5 metres, Pepe crawling close behind, when suddenly a machine gun opens up, and Luis drops like a wet sock. Mortally wounded, he warns Pepe with his dying breath,

"Pepe... Go back man, you was right, ees not a bacon tree!"

"Luis, Luis MI amigo... What ees it? "

"Pepe.. Ees not a bacon tree. Ees . . .

Ees a ham bush...."



## **HUNTINGDONSHIRE – 90<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE**

On Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2011, Huntingdonshire District of the Royal British Legion held a 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemorative service at St Thomas a' Becket Church Ramsey.



A full congregation, which included the Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire Hugh Duberly, the RBL National Chairman John Farmer and dignitaries from the local area, enjoyed a moving service lead by the Rector of Ramsey Canon Richard Darmody who was ably supported by Reverend Ivan Weston MBE (District Padre) and Reverend Gita Bond.



After the Service the RBL Standards were inspected by the Lord Lieutenant and a march past of Standards led by the Peterborough Highland Pipe Band was performed, with the Lord Lieutenant taking the salute.

RBL members and local town's people enjoyed the warm summer's afternoon with tea's and cakes on Ramsey Abbey Green.

### **Four Counties Website**

The local website for Legion information in

### **Beds, Herts, Cambs & Hunts**

Please send any news, events and information you wish published to Paul Harding, the website co-ordinator: Tel - 07877 805111 or email - [paul-harding@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:paul-harding@hotmail.co.uk)

**[www.fourcounties.britishlegion.org.uk](http://www.fourcounties.britishlegion.org.uk)**

**IF YOU HAVE ITEMS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWSLETTER.**

**Please send to:**

**County Secretary, Keppel House, Alington Road, Little Barford, St Neots PE19 6YH  
Telephone: 01480 478523 E-mail: [bjones@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:bjones@britishlegion.org.uk)**