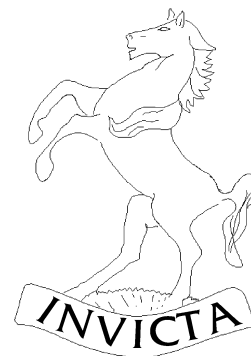




# KENT COUNTY NEWS

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## MAY 2010

### LEST WE FORGET

The following members have passed on since our last Newsletter

Mr Frank Fisher	President, Minster in Sheppey Branch (1995-2010)
Mr Albert Roberts	Life Vice-President, Margate Branch
Rev Eric Alder	Vice President and former Chaplain, Staple Branch
Mrs Joyce Fisher	Minster in Sheppey Branch
Mr Peter Grant	Minster in Sheppey Branch
Mr Michael Piper	Isle of Oxney Branch
Mr Brian Lyons	Sheerness Branch

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

### **COUNTY CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

At Conference I stated that I wanted to get the Group Representatives on the County Committee. The County Committee now has five Group Reps which includes two Reps who have been co-opted on. Groups not represented are Groups 3, 5, 7, 8 and 10. If these Groups let me have the name of their Rep I will co-opt them on to the committee as I hope to have all Groups represented.

We are now entering the Parade season and I would like to remind Branches of the dress code as laid down in the rule book. If you're not sure contact County Office for guidance. If you wish the County President to attend please write and invite him. Please also remember that invited guests should be met and escorted to their seats. If you require them to take part, e.g. read a Lesson, please inform them when you invite them and if possible send a copy of the lesson.

There have been a number of queries concerning Standard Bearers wearing the Veterans Badge. This was discussed by the Ceremonial Committee who decided that the rule, as laid down in the Ceremonial Handbook, stays as it is. Standard Bearers must only wear one badge on parade. However, there is a motion on the Agenda at National Conference requesting '*that Parade Marshals and Standard Bearers who are eligible, be allowed to wear their Veterans' Badge on all occasions whilst carrying out their duties.*' I can assure you I fully support the need for the rule to be changed.

Branches requesting that the County Ceremonial Party attend a parade or ceremony should be aware that the Party in full consists of the County Chairman, the Women's Section County Chairman, the County Parade Marshal, the County Standard Bearer and the Women's Section County Standard Bearer or their deputies. The latest version of the form is attached.

*Aussie Walker*

## **MOVE OF KENT COUNTY OFFICE**

As many of you are no doubt aware, County Office is relocating to new premises, about 1½ miles from where we are now, in the very near future. Assuming that everything goes according to plan we are expecting to be in the new office at the beginning of July. Further details, such as the full address and telephone numbers, will be sent to Branch and Club Secretaries as soon as they are known and will also appear in a future edition of County News.

## **COUNTY SECRETARY**

A few instances have arisen where cheques have been signed by the recipients. If payment is made to one signatory then that person cannot sign the cheque.

I have received so many cards recently from Royal Mail informing me that the sender hasn't paid the full postage. In many cases the payment is just 10p under but the County has to pay an additional £1 'handling fee'. Although this doesn't seem much, the total builds up and is a waste of Legion funds. Please ensure you attach the correct postage to your letters.

## **COUNTY WEBSITE**

Many may have noticed that the old County website has disappeared. A new version is now available and can be found by logging on to [www.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/kent](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/kent). The site is in its infancy but is slowly being populated.

## **MANAGEMENT HANDBOOK**

You will all be pleased (and relieved) to hear that the revision of the Management Handbook is currently in progress. The current Handbook as produced in the mid 1990s with the first amendment issued in 1997 and the second and final amendment in 2002. It's been a long time coming but I am informed that the first section to be revised will be that concerning Branches.

## **MS1 FORMS & BRANCH ACCOUNTS**

There are still a few branches with returns outstanding so if you are having problems with these then please contact me as soon as possible. Those branches with returns still outstanding are:

Cranbrook	-	R&P
Minster & Monkton	MS1	-
Sittingbourne & Milton Regis	MS1	-
Woodchurch	MS1	-

## **MS4 APPLICATIONS**

Could I remind all Branches, and Clubs where applicable, that the 1st July is fast approaching when all new members are entitled to up to three months free membership if they sign their applications on or after that date. There are many who, with some justification, feel aggrieved that they are only getting a few months membership for a full year's subscription. Now is the time when new members should be advised that it may be beneficial to them to either wait until after 1st July, or to post-date their applications which you should then send to me towards the end of June.

## **BRANCH DONATIONS TO COUNTY FUNDS**

Ham Street & District Sub Branch

Woodchurch Branch

Shepway and Parkwood Branch (two donations)

Brabourne & Smeeth Branch (two donations)

## **IN MEMORIUM**

Donations have been received in memory of:

Mr Albert John Fuller  
Mr Ian Alexander Christie  
Mrs Mary Murrell

## **AWARDS**

It is the general ruling that Branch awards (e.g. Branch Certificates) should be presented by an Officer of that Branch - usually the Branch President or Chairman. Likewise County awards should be presented by a County Officer and National awards by a National Officer. If there is a compelling reason why a Branch wishes to have a County or National award presented other than by an officer of the appropriate level then this should be submitted to County in writing.

## **LIC BUDGET 2010-2011**

The County Budget Meeting with the Regional Manager and the Regional Publicity and Membership Officer (RPMO) will take place on 3rd June. Any Branch that would like to apply for funding for a Legion in the Community (LIC) event in the forthcoming Legion year should complete the attached form LIC 1 and submit it to me by no later than 26th May.

LIC is the method used by the Legion to inform the general public what the Legion does at County and Branch level and gives us an opportunity to raise awareness about Membership, Welfare and Fundraising as well as publicising Legion Campaigns. It gives us an ideal opportunity to emphasize our support for the Serving and ex-Service Community and provides a base from which we can invite local people to get involved with all that we do.

Funds for LIC events can be awarded on the basis that those attending the event must be proactive in promoting the Legion, not just sitting behind a table waiting for people to come to them, and are dependent on completing four forms before and after the event:

- The initial request is submitted on LIC 1
- The event is registered beforehand using LIC 2
- Reimbursement of previously agreed expenses can be claimed on LIC 3 accompanied by the appropriate receipts
- Feedback on the event is submitted on LIC 4

LIC forms 2 to 4 will be sent to those branches that return LIC 1 to me.

## **POPPY LAUNCH 2010**

As you all aware, next year is the 90th Anniversary of the Legion but the launch date is actually 30th September this year. In view of this the County Poppy Launch, which takes place on 28th October at County Hall in Maidstone, is hoping to get five Legion members who will be aged 90 on that date. If Branches are able to identify any members who are willing and able to be considered to receive the first poppies of the year at this event please send their details to Jane Taylor at County Office or by email at [jtaylor@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:jtaylor@britishlegion.org.uk). Preference will be given to any member actually celebrating his or her 90th birthday on 28th October 2010.

## **YOUTH AFFILIATIONS**

Branches should be aware that they are responsible for liaising with youth organisations that wish to become affiliated to the Legion, not the County Youth Officer (CYO). Branches should complete the Agreement of Affiliation form and submit it to the CYO who is the link between Branches and Head Office for all youth matters.

### **BRANCH WELFARE SEMINAR**

A Welfare Seminar will be held on Saturday 3rd July at the Capel Morris Centre in the RBL Village. The seminar is aimed at all those who have expressed an interest in helping with welfare work but do not wish to be fully trained caseworkers. There have been a number of queries concerning payments from Branch funds for benevolence and those engaged in welfare work. These matters will be discussed and will be of particular relevance to Branch Treasurers. The seminar is also open to all others who may be interested in Welfare work in general. Please see the attached flyer and return the tear off slip to me by 25th June.

### **NATIONAL YOUTH STANDARD BEARER COMPETITION**

The results of the competition held on 25th April at Bulwell, Nottinghamshire are:

1st	Joshua Sayles	North Region
2nd	Kyle Welby	North West Region
3rd	Jamie Spall	East Region
4th	Elliot Paffey	Wales Region
5th	Jake Smith	East Midlands Region

### **NATIONAL DARTS AND SNOOKER COMPETITIONS**

The results of the competitions held on 17th April at Middlewich, Cheshire are:

	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Runner Up</b>
<b>Snooker Singles</b>	Carl Gibson (East Yorkshire)	John Berry (Cheshire)
<b>Snooker Pairs</b>	John Berry & Chris Milner (Cheshire)	Carl Gibson & Michael Denston (East Yorkshire)
<b>Darts Singles</b>	Ray Heppinstall (West Yorkshire)	Percy McCord (Northern Ireland)
<b>Darts Pairs</b>	Andy Parrin & Peter Stockley (Buckinghamshire)	Paul Britten & Peter Bailey (Wiltshire)
<b>Darts Team</b>	Derek Williams, John Thomas Tony Clark & Keith Lockett (Wales)	Tony Davies, Mark Griffiths David Lloyd & Chris Carey (Wales)

### **KENT COUNTY NEWS**

If anyone has any information they wish to share with the rest of the County please send it to me, preferably by e-mail, and I'll do my best to include it in these pages.

*Tony West*  
County Secretary



*Coming Soon...*

**Kent County Chairman's Challenge.**  
**Details to follow on how your Branch could win.**