



(Kilminster Branch)

## NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2008

### Branch Committee Meetings

Among the subjects discussed at the Branch Committee meetings on 4 Feb and 3 Mar were the Devon County Welfare Fund and the "Help for Heroes" Campaign. Since the Welfare Fund was used to provide immediate help to very deserving cases within the County, the Committee decided that a small percentage of the funds raised at our events throughout the year would be donated specifically to the Welfare Fund. In response to our request for advice about the "Help for Heroes" Campaign, Devon HQ provided assurance that the funds raised by that organisation were used particularly to help Service personnel undergoing treatment at the Defence Services Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court; thus it was a very worthwhile charity for members to support.

### Military Covenant Commission

Hugo Swire MP wrote to the Chairman on 14 Mar 08 advising that a Commission had been formed, Chaired by Frederick Forsyth, to determine how best the Government and Society can better fulfil their obligations under the Military Covenant. Please post your views on: [www.militarycovenantcommission.com](http://www.militarycovenantcommission.com)

### Death of Bill Hurford

Bill Hurford, brother of Vera Hoskins, sadly passed away just a few weeks before his 96th birthday. Bill was borne at Ashes Farm, Kilminster and farmed there all his life. He was well known around the Village particularly for slogging sixes out of the cricket field and for his left arm spin bowling when he played for years in the Kilminster team; he enjoyed a few drinks in our two pubs too! After taking up residence at Silverleigh in Axminster, he liked to join our monthly "Get Togethers" in his old haunts. His funeral Service will be held in St Giles' Church on Wednesday 9 April at 1200 hours. As he was one of our Branch members, everyone would be welcome at the Service and for the refreshments in the Village Hall afterwards.

### Harry Price

There have been many enquiries about Harry, one of our Branch Vice Presidents and a long term Committee member, since he was taken into hospital a couple of months ago. Following his operation in Wonford, his recovery was delayed by a number of set backs, but he has now been transferred to Axminster Hospital where visitors are welcome, but only to stay for short periods. Any queries to Susan Moore on 01297 32361 who has been looking after him so well.

## Spring Coffee Morning – Saturday 26 April

The Spring Coffee Morning in the Village Hall will start at 10.30 am and contributions for the cake, plant, book and gift “nearly new” stalls, as well as for the Draw, will be greatly appreciated. Please encourage your neighbours and friends to come along and support our fund raising event for the Poppy Appeal.

## Special Poppy Steam Train

A Heritage steam locomotive will depart Buckfastleigh at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 10 June, driven by Ray Reynolds, Chairman of the Newton Abbot Branch, to follow the River Dart to Totnes and to return by 9.30 pm. There will be a Fish and Chip Supper for the first 120 to book at a total cost of £10 for the trip, but it will be £8 for the rest with an on board buffet from which snacks and drinks can be purchased. Musical entertainment will be provided on board, and a sing song of World War II songs will be arranged on the Totnes platform. 27 of our members really enjoyed the evening last year, and if there is sufficient interest, we might book a coach or arrange car lifts for this event. Please contact the Secretary on 01297 35873 or sign up at the Spring Coffee Morning.

## Annual Outing to Portsmouth

The Annual Outing this year will be to Portsmouth on Monday 30 June to visit the Historic Dockyard which includes HMS Victory, HMS Warrior, the Mary Rose, Royal Navy Museum, a Harbour Boat Trip and many other attractions. A new shopping centre has been developed in Gun Wharf Quays close by, with spectacular views across the Portsmouth harbour, which should attract the ladies! The new Spinnaker Tower soaring 170 metres above the harbour is now open to visitors and is only a 10 minute walk from the Dockyard. A coach will depart the Village Hall at 09.00 hours to arrive at the Historic Dockyard by about 11.30 hours. Departure will be scheduled for 16.30 hours to get back to Kilmington by 19.00 hours. The cost per head will be £20 to include the ticket for all the Dockyard attractions, gratuities etc. Tickets for the Spinnaker Tower can be purchased there by those that wish to visit it. Please book early with the Treasurer on 01297 631091 or at the Spring Coffee Morning.

## Salute to the Armed Forces and Veterans

This event will take place at Plymouth Hoe on Sunday 29 June to include an exciting cavalcade of displays, military bands, aircraft and ships. The day will open with the Annual RAF and Allied Forces Commemoration at 11.30 am during which there will be a flypast, and it will close with a Review of veterans and a grand parade. The event will be a spectacle and the ceremonies quite moving. If there is sufficient interest a coach will be considered. If not, it might be possible to arrange a car lift system. Please sign up at the Spring Coffee Morning. Veteran’s Day itself is on Friday 27 June and there are other celebrations in Plymouth on the Friday and Saturday.

## Festival of Remembrance Royal Albert Hall

Members wishing to apply for tickets at £10 per head for the Festival of Remembrance in the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday 8 November should contact the Secretary early as demand for tickets is great. There is a full dress rehearsal in the afternoon which would enable attendance on a day trip. For those that have never attended, it is a most memorable event and well worth the journey to London.

## National Arboretum

Unfortunately the coach trip to the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire on 19<sup>th</sup> March, for which four of our members had signed up, was cancelled two days before the event due to last minute withdrawals.

## Annual BBQ

The date for the annual BBQ in the New Inn has been set for Friday 25 July at 6.00 pm. Tickets will be on sale at £5.50 per head at the Spring Coffee Morning or from "Shepherds".

## Monthly "Get-Togethers"

The next meetings will take place at 18.00 hours on the following Fridays: 4 Apr – New Inn, 2 May – Old Inn. There was good support for the one on 7 Mar with about 16 in attendance.

29 March 2008  
(B W LAVENDER)

Chairman