



(Kilmington Branch BR246)

NEWSLETTER- APRIL 2010

The Poppy Appeal

Collection totals for the 2009 Poppy Appeal passed the £31M mark, setting another record breaking year. We can be proud of our contribution from Kilmington. However, we must not be complacent because, for example, £72M was spent in the year by the Royal British Legion in providing assistance to more than 160,000 serving and ex-service personnel and their families.. The Legion is also continuing to push the Government and individual MPs to get better conditions for our Armed Forces personnel, and are getting results! Examples are the improved Armed Forces Compensation Scheme payouts and the Personal Recovery Centres being established throughout the Country. The "Honour the Covenant" campaign has had a beneficial effect and with all Party Leaders pledging their support during this election campaign, more benefits should follow.

Death of Committee Member Maurice Andrews

Members were shocked to learn of the death of Maurice Andrews and many joined his widow Margaret and their families at his funeral Service in St Giles' Church on Saturday 20 March, conducted by the Rev'd Alastair McCollum. Maurice was still actively serving on the Branch Committee at the age of 82 when he died, having been a staunch supporter, with Margaret, of the Royal British Legion for many years and Treasurer of the Kilmington Branch for several. The Chairman wrote a letter of condolence on behalf of all Branch members and a Poppy Wreath was among the flowers in Remembrance of him. Maurice served in the Royal Air Force but contracted rheumatic fever in Palestine and had to be repatriated to a military hospital in Cambridge where he spent several months recovering. He was not too impressed with the way that he was treated and decided to return to the furnishing trade for the rest of his working life. Tributes to him were made at the Service by his son-in law and the Vicar, and Branch Secretary Michael O'Flaherty led the Exhortation. We have lost a loyal and very well respected friend.

National Memorial Arboretum

At a meeting of your Committee on 1 Mar 10, it was decided with regret to cancel the planned visit to the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire because of lack of support. Very few members were willing to commit themselves to the two day visit and so hotel bookings and the coach had to be cancelled to avoid charges. However, Committee members still felt that a visit to this National Centre of Remembrance would be very worthwhile and important and thought that a smaller party in self driven cars might be attractive at a mutually convenient date. Those interested are asked to contact the Chairman indicating whether they could offer lifts or whether they wanted to be a passenger.

Spring Coffee Morning – 17 April

Don't forget to support our Spring Coffee morning on Saturday 17 April at 1030 hours in the Village Hall to raise funds for the Poppy Appeal. Your contributions to the cake, plant, gift and book stalls would be most welcome as well as prizes for the raffle. Some presentations will be made and it would be nice if you could be present to show your

appreciation to those members involved. We will miss Maurice Andrews competition which he invariably organised to add to the funds and would be grateful if someone would provide an alternative.

Annual Outing – Wednesday 2 June

Your Committee decided at its meeting on 1 Mar 10 to take up a proposal originally suggested by Maurice Andrews and then researched by Neville Cromey-Hawke to arrange a visit on 2 June to Bristol's historic waterfront which has been transformed into a major leisure destination. A Bristol Packet Amsterdam type boat named Bagheera has been hired which has all weather protection and a beautiful glass top to take us to lunch or for a picnic in the Old City before embarking again on a 90 minute cruise around the City canals and the floating harbour. We would then tour Brunel's SS Great Britain, the world's first great ocean liner rated as one of the UK's finest attractions with its museum which has brilliant accessibility for those who are not so mobile. A 40 seat Swards coach has been booked to depart the Village Hall at 0915 hours to arrive at the Maritime Heritage Centre after a rest stop at 1115 hours where the Bhageera will await us. Departure will be timed for about 1645 hours which should get us back to the Village Hall by 1815 hours. Costs have not been firmed up yet but are likely to be in the region of £20 per head with £7.75 off for those not wishing to tour the SS Great Britain. Please book your places through the Chairman or Secretary and you can pay and book at the Spring Coffee morning when more details will be available

Annual Barbeque

Brian and Denise Jenkins have kindly agreed to host the Annual BBQ again at the New Inn on Friday 23 July at 1800 hours. Tickets have yet to be priced but will be available from "shepherds" or at the Spring Coffee morning.

Beating Retreat – Horse Guards Parade – 9 & 10 June

The Massed Bands & Corps of Drums of the Household Division supported by the Kings Troop of the Royal Horse Artillery and the Swedish Royal Band will present an evening of military music on Wednesday and Thursday 9 & 10 June at 2100 hours. Anyone wanting a spectacular night in London, perhaps as a special treat, can obtain tickets at £10 for a senior citizen from www.ticketmaster.co.uk

Monthly "Get-Togethers"

Good Friday was deemed to be an inappropriate day for the April "Get-Together" so it will be held in the New Inn on Friday 9 April with the next one on Friday 7 May in the Old Inn, both to start at 1800 hours. Please join us for a chat on a "buy your own principle" and you can be assured that you will be warmly welcomed and not feel lonely if you are on your own!

(B W LAVENDER)
Chairman
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1 February 2010