



THE ROYAL BRITISH  
LEGION



(Kilmington Branch)

## NEWSLETTER- DECEMBER 2008

### KILMINGTON BRANCH AGM

The Chairman welcomed members to the 2008 AGM in the New Inn on Monday 3 November and the Branch Chaplain gave the Exhortation remembering in particular Bill Hurford, Joyce O'Flaherty, Mary Warlock, John Speller, Andy McKerrell and all British service personnel killed in action since the last AGM. The Chairman reported on a very successful year of fund raising for the Poppy Appeal to which we contributed some £3,537 to the £30M total raised country wide. He mentioned that the "Honour the Covenant" Campaign had certainly helped to raise awareness in the Government and sympathy from the general public creating an upsurge of support for our Armed Services and Veterans. He also mentioned that there had been some very enjoyable social events. The Secretary reported that recruitment had continued at a good level and the Treasurer presented the audited accounts showing that our account was kept very low by regularly sending donations to the Poppy Appeal. Following the election of Committee members which remained unchanged from the previous year, the Chairman thanked the Committee and all members for their support.

### REMEMBRANCE IN KILMINGTON

The Baptist Chapel was packed on Sunday 9 November for the Royal British Legion Remembrance Sunday Service conducted by the Rev'd Darrell Holmes. The Lessons were read by Flt Lt (ret'd) John Moulds and the Chairman. The Rev'd Lincoln Jones, Branch Chaplain, gave a very moving and quite wonderful Address explaining the important role that artists, poets, musicians, photographers and story tellers had played in ensuring that we remember the sacrifices made and horrors endured, not only in the Great War but in every war up to the present conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. A large crowd, including several veterans wearing their medals, assembled at the War Memorial in spite of the rain which started as the Branch Chaplain read the opening prayers. Most got rather wet while the names of residents killed in the two World Wars were read out and during the Two Minutes Silence. Wreaths were laid by Gp Capt Brian Lavender on behalf of Kilmington residents and the Kilmington Branch, by a Special Constable on behalf of the local police and by Jed and Jessie Holmes on behalf of the children. Many took the opportunity to dry out over refreshments at the Baptist Chapel before 34 members of the Branch went by coach to the Wheelwright Inn at Colyford for lunch. On the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Armistice Day, over 50 Branch and Kilmington residents assembled at the Hitchcock Pavilion, including the new Vicar, the Rev'd Alistair McCollum, while maroons were fired to mark the Two Minutes Silence. Refreshments in the Pavilion, coordinated by Kath Summerfield, were enjoyed afterwards.

## DEVON COUNTY FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE

12 Members of the Branch joined members of the Axminster Branch on a coach to attend the Devon County Festival of Remembrance in the Great Hall of Exeter University on Thursday 6 November. It was an impressive and very moving occasion at which all the Standards of the Devon Branches were paraded, many ex-Service Associations, members of the Regular and Reserve Forces, members of the Emergency Services, the Cadet Forces and War Widows Association were in attendance. The Band of the Royal Marines from Lympstone played impeccably and the Crediton Operatic and Dramatic Society entertained us very well. Vice Admiral Paul Boissier, Deputy Commander in Chief Fleet, gave an excellent speech praising the quality of the men and women serving today in the Armed Forces. Several guests were introduced including some who had been badly injured in recent wars, and there was a surprise appearance of Bill Speakman who won the Victoria Cross in the Korean War. The Service of Remembrance was conducted by Lt Col the Rev'd Tom Hiney, Honorary Chaplain to the Devon County RBL. It was a very memorable evening with all of the atmosphere found at the Festival in the Royal Albert Hall. Strongly recommended for next year if you have never attended!

## POPPY APPEAL

Members of the Branch worked hard to ensure a very successful Poppy Appeal over Remembrancetide this year. £1,204 was raised from the house to house collections, £281 from the static boxes in the Old and New Inns, Kilmington Garage and Cafe, Millers Farm Shop, Hurfords Stores, the Primary School and the Taunton Cross Little Chef and Car Sales Garage. The collection in the Baptist Chapel raised a further £272, bringing the total to £1,758 of which £593 was collected in the Gift Aid envelopes allowing the Legion to claim a further £166 in tax rebate; this emphasises the importance of using the envelopes. Thanks in particular to the collectors: Maurice & Margaret Andrews, Philippa Beckingsale, Bill Barker, Joan Cudmore, Gavin Davie, Colin and Coral Dunmow, Ted and Maureen Dutton, Simon and Gill Heighway, Gerry and Pearl Hurford, Jenny Nickolls, Iris Piper, Janet Robertson, John and Sheila Watts. The Quiz Night in the New Inn on Remembrance Sunday, conducted by Clive Garner and arranged by Brian and Denise Jenkins, raised a further £174 which was sent directly to the Poppy Appeal.

## AWARDS FOR BRANCH POPPY APPEAL COLLECTORS

Five Branch members who have been collecting for the Poppy Appeal for over 15 years have been awarded Royal British Legion Certificates and badges or broaches. The Chairman had great pleasure in presenting them to Bill Barker, Betty Baskett, Philippa Beckingsale, Frank and Iris Piper at the Autumn Coffee morning on 22 November. Their efforts over that lengthy period were applauded by everyone present.

## AUTUMN COFFEE MORNING

Nearly 100 attended the Autumn Coffee morning in the Village Hall this year which raised the magnificent sum of £709 for the Poppy Appeal. The raffle made £220, cakes £149, gifts £53, plants £62, books £28, bird game £25, entrance £99 and Admiral's Jug £74. Many thanks to all who organised and ran the stalls, raffle, game and the entrance. The splendid support at our fund raising events is much appreciated.

## ANNUAL LECTURE

There was a good attendance for the lecture entitled "Beijing Olympics and Prospects for London 2012" given by Lt Col (Ret'd) Guy Lavender in the Village Hall on 17 October. He gave a fascinating account about the organisation and events in China and provided good evidence that the London Olympics will be very well organised and be of great long term benefit to this country. Branch President Gordon Dendle thanked Guy for an excellent talk. £144 was collected in the Admiral's Jug for the Poppy Appeal.

## REMEMBRANCETIDE THOUGHTS

Peter Lockwood, one of our members, recalled the anguish that his mother and family suffered after she received a telegram from the War Office saying that his father, Norman, was missing, believed killed after HMS Charybdis was torpedoed on 23 October 1943; it sank in the Channel off St Malo, France. Several conflicting messages followed before it was finally confirmed that he had been killed, having survived two earlier sinkings. His father was interred in a war grave at St Briec, near St Malo and Peter has asked in his Will to be cremated and his ashes to be scattered on his father's grave. Like his father, Peter joined the Royal Navy and served for 10 years in frigates in various parts of the world.

## SEASON'S GREETINGS

All members of your Committee send their best wishes for a very happy Christmas and New Year. Let's all say a prayer and/or propose a toast to our Armed Forces personnel on active duty as we are enjoying ourselves over the Festive Season. You are reminded that the next "Get Togethers " are on Friday 5 December in the New Inn and Friday 2 January in the Old Inn, both at 6.00 pm.

(B W LAVENDER)  
Chairman  
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