



NEWSLETTER- DECEMBER 2009

Remembrancetide

The Annual Lecture by Commander Stafford Seward OBE RN on 16 Oct provided an early start to Remembrancetide activities attracting large numbers and raising £227 for the Poppy Appeal. The Remembrance Sunday Service in St Giles' Church on 8 Nov, conducted by the Vicar, was well supported, with the Lessons being read by Cdr Seward and Flt Lt (Ret'd) John Mould; the Rev'd Darrell Holmes gave the Address and the collection was donated to the Poppy Appeal. There was a large gathering at the War Memorial for the short Service and Exhortation after which wreaths were laid by the Chairman on behalf of Branch and Village residents, by the Police for the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary and by the Baptist Minister's two children on behalf of young people. 30 Branch members then went for a good lunch at the Wheelwright Inn and that night the New Inn was extremely crowded for the Quiz Night, conducted by Clive Garner, in aid of the Poppy Appeal which raised £245. The 91st Anniversary of Armistice Day was marked on the playing field when over 40 members and Village residents assembled for the Two Minutes Silence heralded by the firing of maroons while the Kilmington Primary School children observed it from their playground. A total of £2037 was raised for the Poppy Appeal, £1243 coming from the house to house collections, £406 from the static boxes and £388 from the Church collection. Thanks to everyone who contributed and in particular to our collectors.

Branch AGM

At the Branch AGM on 9 Nov at the New Inn, the Rev'd Lincoln Jones led the Exhortation remembering in particular those members deceased since the last AGM. Lincoln then announced his retirement as Branch Chaplain and members showed their appreciation for his support, care and dedication over 20 years. Following various reports and passing of the annual accounts, the following Committee elections were made: Chairman – Gp Capt Brian Lavender, Secretary – Michael O'Flaherty, Treasurer – Roger Lovegrove, Members – Merrie Acton, Maurice Andrews, Ted Dutton, Gerald Hurford; two new Committee members, Susan Moore and Claire Dainton were warmly welcomed. Janet Robertson who had stood down because of family commitments was thanked in particular for her welfare and recruiting work.

Autumn Coffee Morning

Gale force winds and heavy rain undoubtedly reduced attendance on 14 Nov but the £691 raised for the Poppy Appeal was up to the usual total thanks to a splendid Poppy stall by Joan Lovegrove which contributed over £200. The Chairman presented RBL Certificates of Appreciation to Maurice & Margaret Andrews and Janet Robertson for their collecting efforts over the past 5 years. He thanked everyone, especially the stall holders and those providing the refreshments and running the draw.

Two 90th Birthdays in November

Alan Harding celebrated his 90th birthday on 4 Nov having served in the 2nd World War with the 4th Gloucesters and the 66th Light Antiaircraft Regiment in Iraq and Su-
ez, and with the 2nd Somerset Light Infantry in Italy, Greece and France. He and his wife Valerie have been strong supporters of the British Legion for many years. The Rev'd Lincoln Jones celebrated his 90th birthday on 20 Nov having served as a Priest all his working life, actively supported by his wife Valiant. He was born near Cardiff and had one sister and two brothers, of whom the eldest Courtney served a full career as an RAF engineer. Lincoln realised that he wanted to become a Minister while at Grammer School and went to Theological college at Llandaff, being ordained in Llandaff Cathedral in 1943. He served in a number of Welsh Parishes before moving across the border to Parishes in Somerset until retirement as Vicar of Bishops Liddiard at the age of 65 years. He moved to Kilmington in 1981 and was Branch Chaplain for 20 years. We congratulate both members on their many achievements and for their loyal support for the Royal British Legion.

Devon County Festival of Remembrance

12 members of the Branch joined those from the Axminster Branch on the coach to the Remembrance Festival at Exeter University on 5 Nov, the theme for which being Afghanistan and how the Legion is helping those injured and the relatives of those who made the ultimate sacrifice. The Band of HM Royal Marines played the appropriate marches as the standards were paraded in. John Pentreath, County Manager introduced the guests which included Devon Service personnel who had served in Afghanistan and widows of some who had been killed. He played a dramatic video of a Rifles engagement with the Taliban during which Lance Corporal John List was shot and seriously injured by a 7.62 round. A 20 year old Royal Navy Medical Assistant Kate Nesbitt on her own initiative ran a zigzag course over open ground under fire and kept John alive for 45 minutes stemming the flow of blood and inserting a drip and morphine until the Taliban were beaten off. John from Holdsworthy was in the audience having undergone several bouts of surgery and Kate from Plymouth was sitting next to him having been decorated with the Military Cross. It was a moving moment when they stood up to acknowledge the applause. Brigadier Gordon Messenger DSO* OBE who commanded 3 Commando Brigade Royal Marines which suffered 35 fatalities during its deployment to Afghanistan in 2008/9 was the Guest Speaker who gave a very impressive talk about the heroes among many of his personnel and the important role that they played in the campaign. Entertainment was provided by the RM Band, the Neath Male Voice Choir and by a very talented pianist and soprano. The solemn part of the evening was the Remembrance Service conducted by our own Venerable Frank Johnston during which the Exhortation was given by the Devon County President, Rear Admiral Ric Cheadle CB DL.

Thanksgiving Service for Frank Paper MBE

Frank Pape, our Life Vice President, died peacefully in his sleep at home aged 101 years, only 5 months after the death of his wife Muriel aged 100 years, and 7 days after attending the Remembrance Sunday Service at the War Memorial. St Giles' Church was full on Thursday 26 Nov for his Thanksgiving Service conducted by the Rev'd Alastair McCollum. The Tribute on his remarkable life was given by his son Colin Pape MBE DL and Readings were given by his grandsons and granddaughter.

Frank served as an equipment officer in the RAF during World War Two from 1941-46 in Bomber Command when he was twice Mentioned in Despatches and awarded the MBE. After a long career as a bank manager he retired to live in Kilmington joining the Kilmington Branch in 1969 which he served diligently as Welfare Officer and President. Many relatives and friends from all walks of life assembled for tea in the Village Hall afterwards where many tales were told!

Monthly Get Togethers

The next monthly "Get Togethers" at 1800 hours on a pay your own principle will be held on Friday 4 Dec in the New Inn and on New Years Day Friday 1 Jan in the Old Inn.

Christmas Greetings

Committee members send their best wishes to everyone for Christmas and New Year. Please remember Service personnel on duty on Christmas Day and propose a toast to them at your family gatherings.

(B W LAVENDER)
Chairman
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27 November 09