



(Kilmington Branch BR246)

## **NEWSLETTER- FEBRUARY 2010**

### Devon County RBL Annual Conference

The Chairman and Secretary represented the Branch at the Conference held in the Honiton RBL Club on 9 Jan10. Following the entry of standards, Rear Admiral Ric Cheadle, County President, led the Exhortation. He then addressed the delegates thanking them, the County Committee and the County Welfare Staff for their work. He explained with regret that ice and snow had prevented the guest speaker, Mr Eddie Dixon, Chairman of the RBL Membership Council and Trustee, from attending. Following reports by the County Secretary, Treasurer, Recruiting Officer and PRO, the retiring County Chairman Brian Cumming gave his farewell Address. He said that all Branches in Devon should be very proud of the £835K raised in the County for the Poppy Appeal and of the additional £36K donated to help the welfare staffs support so many benevolent cases in our area. After the Presentation of Awards and review of the County plan, the election of the new County Chairman took place and Ralph Howard-Williams was declared winner after a very close vote. Ralph served in the Royal Marines for 32 years, retiring as a Major in 1998 and has since held the posts of Deputy Vice Chairman and Vice Chairman of the RBL Devon County Committee. Glowing tributes were made to Brian Cumming who received an RBL gold badge and gift.

### Branch Committee Meetings

Claire Dainton was welcomed to her first Committee meeting on 7 Dec 09 at which your Committee decided to donate £600 to the Poppy Appeal and £200 to the Devon County RBL Welfare Fund. Ted Dutton formally tendered his resignation from the Committee because he was moving with his wife Maureen to be closer to son Captain David Dutton and family. Ted was thanked for his work on the Committee and for the excellent results that they always attained during the Poppy Appeal collections. At the meeting on 1 Feb 10, Susan Moore was welcomed to her first Committee meeting and was voted in to the appointment of Welfare Secretary and briefed on her role. The Treasurer reported that he had written letters of thanks to the Axminster Rotary Club for the £300 donation as a result of the Chairman's talk after their Christmas lunch and to Colin Pape for the £447.89 donated from the church collection at the Service of Thanksgiving for the late Frank Pape. Members approved a proposal to again send £600 to the Poppy Appeal and £200 to the Devon County Welfare Fund. Arrangements for future events were discussed.

### Loyal Supporters Lost

As reported in the Jan10 edition of Postscript, the Branch has sadly lost five stalwart supporters of the Royal British Legion over the past few weeks; Frank Pape MBE at the age of 101, Lily Woodage aged 92, George Grout aged 90, Ann Morley aged 81 and Molly Campbell who was in her mid 80's. We need to replace them with younger members to show our support to the Legion, particularly as our Service personnel are

suffering serious injuries in Afghanistan for which they will need our help for the rest of their lives as well as the dependents of those killed. Please make every effort to encourage your friends and neighbours to join the Branch. The Chairman and Secretary are always ready to visit them and provide any further information.

### New Defence Attache in Sierra Leone

Di Seward has just returned from Sierra Leone having helped her husband Commander Stafford Seward to settle into his new residence in Freetown. Bordered by the Atlantic Ocean, Guinea and Liberia, the nearest airport is Lungi and it is either a ferry or helicopter ride to get to the Capital. Stafford has a nice house with housekeeper and gardener and a large garden complete with snakes! He has met old friends already and has had lunch with the High Commissioner, Ian Hughes, with their wives. Di was treated to a trip on the High Commissioner's boat to get back to the airport for the return journey!

### National Memorial Arboretum

Twelve members have already expressed an interest in visiting the National Arboretum in Staffordshire which is proving to be such an enormous attraction with its wonderful memorials to those fallen in battle over the years. As a result, your Committee has decided to organise a Swards 27 seat coach to depart the Village Hall at 0900 hours on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June to arrive at the Arboretum after a coffee stop in time for lunch. The afternoon would be spent at the Arboretum before departing at about 16.00 hours for the Premier Inn near Lichfield for an overnight stay. After breakfast on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> June the coach would return to the Arboretum for further viewing and to attend a Remembrance Service in the chapel held every day at 11.00 hours. Following lunch the coach would depart at about 14.00 hours which should get everybody back to the Village Hall by 17.30 hours. Entrance to the Arboretum is free, although donations for the upkeep and further development would be appreciated. Cost per head for the coach would be approximately £25 to include gratuities. The hotel cost for sharing a double room with dinner and breakfast for both occupants would be £50.25 a head. Those requiring single occupancy with dinner and breakfast would be charged £80.50 so sharing would be a cheaper option. Please contact the Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer to book your places or find out further details. It is essential that we get your bookings by Monday 1 March to secure the very favourable rates being offered by the Premier Inn.

### Programme for 2010

The following RBL events are already planned for 2010 which you might like to enter in the diary;

Sat	17	April	Spring Coffee Morning in Village Hall at 10.30 hours
Wed	2	June	Visit to National Memorial Arboretum returning Thursday
Tues	8	June	Poppy Steam Train Trip – Buckfastleigh to Totnes and Return
Thurs	11	Nov	Devon County Festival of Remembrance – venue to be arranged
Sat	13	Nov	Festival of Remembrance – Royal Albert Hall (please order early from the Secretary)
Sun	14	Nov	Remembrance Sunday

## Monthly Get-Togethers

To the surprise of many, including the Chairman, the Old Inn was closed when they arrived for the first Get-Together on New Year's Day. Never daunted, they all transferred to the New Inn! The next gatherings at 18.00 hours will be on Friday 5 Feb in the New Inn and Friday 5 Mar in the Old Inn.

Committee members look forward to seeing you there.

(B W LAVENDER)  
Chairman  
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1 February 2010