



THE ROYAL
BRITISH
LEGION



(Kilminster Branch BR246)

NEWSLETTER- JUNE 2009

Branch Annual Outing – Wednesday 17 June

At the time of writing, there was only one seat left on the 38 seat Seward coach departing the Village Hall at 0930 hours. The briefings by the Devon County RBL HQ Staff and Major Don Wellard from the Rifles at Alphington have all been set up for our arrival at 1015 hours with tea/coffee supplied. Departure for Exeter Quay is scheduled for 1215 hours for lunch and shopping under own arrangements. There are plenty of facilities there but you could bring a picnic if you wished. The Stewart Line cruise has been confirmed with departure at 1415 hours arriving Exmouth at approximately 1630 hours; a bar and refreshments will be available on board. The coach will meet us there and should get us back to the Village Hall by about 1800 hours. It should be a very interesting and enjoyable day out and let's hope for good weather for the cruise through the locks and down the River Exe.

Branch General Committee Meeting

At the meeting on 1 June 09 it was explained that Elizabeth McGregor had notified that she was moving from Kilminster in the near future to join her family near Poole and consequently she had resigned as a Committee Member. We thank Elizabeth for her work with the Branch and wish her every happiness in Parkstone where she will probably continue her membership with their Branch. After the Treasurer reviewed the Branch Account situation, it was decided to send £400 to the Poppy appeal and £200 to the RBL Devon County Welfare Fund which provides immediate help to deserving cases in the County. Committee Members were grateful to hear that Brigadier (ret'd) Rodney Giles had collected £60 for Branch Funds as a result of sales at his stall in a fund raising event in the Village Hall where profits were divided equally between Hospiscare and the RBL.

Spring Coffee Morning

Thanks to everyone who helped raise £580 for the Poppy Appeal at the Spring Coffee Morning in the Village Hall on 25 April 09. Members might be interested to know the breakdown of profits: entry £92.75, raffle £175, cakes £145.75, gifts £35.50, plants £62.30, books £13.25, flower card game £20.50 and Admiral's Jug £36. Over 90 were present and the Chairman welcomed in particular Commander Stafford Seward who had just returned from Chad where he had served as Assistant Chief of Staff, Operations at the European Force HQ. He also welcomed Peter and Rita Tobin, now living in Spain, who are members of the Torre Vieja Branch of the Legion; coincidentally, readers may have noticed an article in the last RBL Magazine about their Branch which, like Kilminster, has over 100 members. Merrie Acton (ex-Wren), who was a code breaker at Bletchley Park, was presented with a gift in recognition of her work with the Legion over many years as she handed over responsibility for coordinating plant sales at future coffee mornings to Major (ret'd) Peter Easton.

Memorial Service for "Pat" Hurford

The Branch was represented by the Chairman and several Branch members at a Memorial Service for Pat Hurford, conducted by the Rev'd Alistair McCollum in St Giles' Church on Monday 1 June. Like her late husband Jack, Constance Winifred Hardy Hurford served in the Royal Air Force as a WAAF during the Second World War; as there were too many "Constance's" she was nicknamed Pat which remained throughout her life. Having met Jack early in the war they married shortly afterwards and settled in Kilmington at Ashes Farm where Jack set up a renowned butchers shop, with tremendous support from Pat. She played a very full part in Village life and was an ardent supporter of the Kilmington Branch for over 40 years. For many of these she was a Poppy Appeal collector earning a 25 year certificate in that capacity. Tributes were paid by Hugh, her son in law and by the Vicar, and her many friends and relatives gathered in the Village Hall afterwards for refreshments.

News of Friends/Relatives Serving in the Armed Forces

Your Committee thought that it would help keep our minds on the work of our Armed Forces if we published news about our relatives/friends on active duty. Precedents have already been set up with Captain David Dutton and Commander Stafford Seward; Jenny and Brian Nickolls, for example, have a grandson, 19 year old Sapper Matthew Burge serving with the Royal Engineers, who was posted to Afghanistan on 1 May 09 for a four month tour of duty. We look forward to hearing news from him if his grandparents can persuade him! Please let the Chairman have news of anyone you know who is on active duty.

Annual BBQ

The Annual BBQ will be held in the New Inn on Friday 24 Jul at 1830 hours, by kind permission of Brian and Denise Jenkins. Tickets will be on sale at £5.50 per head, available from "shepherds". This year we will try to seat the party closer together and let's hope that the promised hot summer will materialise.

Annual Lecture – Friday 16 October 09

The Village Hall has been booked for the Annual Lecture being given by Commander Stafford Seward OBE RN entitled "From Southern Arabia to Chad". You can be sure of a fascinating account of his experiences so don't forget to enter the date in your diary.

Membership

Membership of the Branch now stands at 115 but we need to recruit more to show support for our Armed Forces and to help veterans and/or their dependents who are in need of help. Please encourage and identify anyone who might be interested in joining.

Monthly "Get To-gether"

The next Monthly "Get-Togethers on a "buy your own" principle will be held at 1800 hours on Friday 5 Jun in the New Inn and Friday 7 Jul in the Old Inn. Several lady

members attend these days, some unaccompanied, so don't feel shy about turning up and enjoying a good social occasion.

(B W LAVENDER)
Chairman
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