



(Kilmington Branch BR246)

NEWSLETTER-JUNE 2010

PRAISE FROM CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE STAFF

Air Chief Marshal Sir Jock Stirrup recently expressed admiration for the Legion as one of the charities that manages to “bridge the watershed” between in-Service and ex-Service life to provide a continuity of support for people over the rest of their lives. He said that the £20M contribution to help four recovery centres had been fantastic and he was grateful for the Legion’s help in gaining improvements to the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme. The £32M raised during this financial year would undoubtedly provide better care and compensation for injured Service personnel. He thanked all members for their fund raising efforts and said “please don’t stop”.

BRANCH HONORARY CHAPLAIN

The Rev’d Darrell Holmes, Minister of the Kilmington Baptist Church, has accepted an invitation from your Committee to take up the appointment of Honorary Chaplain to our Branch and has become a member of the Royal British Legion. Since the Rev’d Lincoln Jones retired at the last AGM after over 20 years in that role, consultations were held with the Rev’d Alastair McCollum who is also a Branch member and with the Venerable Frank Johnston who was Chaplain to the RBL Devon County. In view of their heavy commitments we are very pleased that Pastor Holmes agreed to the appointment and he has undertaken to do his utmost to safeguard the welfare, interests and memory of those who are serving or who have served in the Armed Forces. Darrell will attend the next Branch Committee meeting on 7 June to introduce himself to the members.

SPRING COFFEE MORNING

Our Spring Coffee Morning in the Village Hall on Saturday 17 April was well supported and proved to be another very successful fund raising occasion enabling £656 to be sent to the Poppy Appeal. Thanks to all members that attended and to those that contributed to the plant, cake, gift and book stalls and the raffle and to all those that helped with the refreshments and the draw. The Chairman presented RBL Certificates for 5 years of Poppy Appeal collecting to Simon and Gill Highway and Gavin Davie, for 10 years to Colin Dunmow, Gerald and Pearl Hurford, and Bill Barker was awarded a Badge of Merit for over 15 years. The Rev’d Lincoln Jones was presented with a special RBL framed Certificate of Appreciation to mark his 20 years of Ministry with the Branch.

BRANCH COMMITTEE MEETING – 10 MAY 10

During a number of reports, your Committee decided to send £600 to the Poppy Appeal and £200 to the Devon County Welfare Fund which provides immediate support for deserving cases in this area. Forthcoming events were discussed and planned.

ANNUAL OUTING TO BRISTOL – 2 JUN 10

At the time of writing there were still a few seats left on the 53 seat coach departing the Village Hall at 09.15 hours. Please contact Michael O'Flaherty on 01297 35873 if interested

EVENING STEAM POPPY TRAIN TRIP – 8 JUN 10

It is not too late to book a seat on the Poppy Train departing Buckfastleigh at 19.30 hours to enjoy the 7 mile journey along the enchanting bank of the River Dart to Totnes and return by 22.00 hours. Please contact Mr Ray Reynolds, the train driver, on 01626 366188 to book your place. There is plenty of parking at Buckfastleigh Station.

DEVON COUNTY BRANCH CHAIRMEN SEMINAR

In the absence of the Chairman, our Secretary Michael O'Flaherty attended the Seminar at Devon County RBL HQ on 15 May, Chaired by Ralph Howard-Williams the County Chairman. Briefings were given by him and John Pentreath, the County Manager, on the situation in Devon where fund raising for the Poppy Appeal had reached record levels. The County was currently handling 1,163 welfare cases being managed by 65 professional case workers supplemented by 120 volunteers. Membership was still a problem as the County was losing 3.5% annually. Next year, the RBL will celebrate its 90th Anniversary and a number of events will be planned. Michael reported that there was a useful exchange of views during the Open Forum.

ANNUAL BBQ – 23 JULY 10

Tickets priced at £5.50 are now available from "shepherds" for the Annual BBQ at the New Inn starting at 18.00 hours. Please book early to secure your place at this very popular event.

CONDUCTED TOUR – NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM

No response has been received by the Chairman to the proposal that some members might like to visit the National Memorial Arboretum by private car. However, the Plymouth Branch has organised a luxury coach on 7 Sep which will pick up by arrangement through South Devon to go to Derby for an overnight stay at the European Inn and then a guided tour on 8 Sep of the Arboretum before returning at 15.00 hours. The cost will be £105 to include dinner and breakfast at the hotel. Please contact Dave Taylor on 01752 282079 if interested.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

19 Jun Armed Forces Day Celebrations – Ballacombe Down
27 Jun Armed Forces Day Celebrations – Exeter and Plymouth
23 Jul Branch Annual BBQ
17 Sep Concert in Exeter Cathedral for Poppy Appeal
28 Oct Poppy Appeal Launch at the Eden Project
11 Nov Devon County Festival of Remembrance in Princess Theatre,
Torquay (Armistice Day)
11 Nov Remembrance Sunday
20 Nov Branch Autumn Coffee Morning

MONTHLY GET TOGETHERS

The next monthly Friday Get Togethers at 18.00 hours on a “buy your own” principle will be on 4 Jun in the New Inn and 2 Jul in the Old Inn. You can be sure of a warm welcome.

(B W LAVENDER)
Chairman
Tel: 01297 34922

28 May 2010