

Kilmington Branch

NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2007

Honour the Covenant!

While members will undoubtedly support The Royal British Legion Campaign which has been well publicised in the media to press the Government to provide better support for our Armed Forces personnel, veterans and their dependents, some will not be familiar with the Military Covenant. It started after Henry VIII's Dissolution of the Monasteries (the monks used to look after the wounded) when a Parish levy was imposed instead for the treatment of soldiers. The Covenant has been affirmed and expanded by monarchs and governments ever since and it basically represents the Nation's moral commitment to its Armed Forces. As Service personnel agree to sacrifice certain civil liberties, obey orders and make personal sacrifices (including the ultimate one), in return the Nation is obliged to help and support them and their dependents ensuring that they are valued and rewarded by commensurate terms and conditions of service. The Legion believes that the Covenant has been broken and is calling on the Government to honour its duty of care in the areas shown on the Campaign leaflet attached. The Chairman has written on behalf of Branch members to Hugo Swire, our Member of Parliament, endorsing the Legion's campaign and a copy of his reply is also attached. Should you wish to add your personal views which would add weight to the Campaign, you can use his letter head as the address.

Branch General Committee Meeting

At its meeting on 10 Sep 07, the Treasurer notified that £1,116 had been collected and donated to the Poppy Appeal this financial year over and above the normal poppy collection. It was agreed to donate £200 to the RBL Devon County Welfare Fund which provides immediate support for those in urgent need, as identified by the case workers. The Chairman reported that Mr Francis Songi, one of our members, was very ill in Dove Court Nursing Home and his daughter notified that he was no longer in a fit state to receive visitors; best wishes were sent on behalf of all members. Future events were discussed with the Branch Chaplain in attendance. "Shepherds" were given new Membership cards for distribution to their "flocks", the cost of the subscription having risen from £10.50 to £11. The Chairman commented that an inflationary rise was not unexpected in that these fees cover all the administration for the Legion, the poppy/wreath production and the employment of disabled ex-service personnel.

Poppy Appeal

Our poppy collectors will be carrying out house to house collections for the Poppy Appeal between Saturday 27 Oct and Saturday 10 Nov, distributing envelopes first to enable the Legion to claim back 28p for every £1 donated by tax payers. Static collection boxes will be placed at the usual businesses and at the school. Please give as generously as you can. A Coffee Morning for the collectors will be held at The Cider Orchard on Wednesday 17 Oct at 1030 hours when the poppy trays etc. can be collected.

Annual Lecture – Friday 26 Oct

Major Giles Timms MC will talk about operations against the Taleban in Afghanistan during his talk in the Village Hall at 1930 hours. This will be an invaluable opportunity to hear the personal views of an Officer who was serving with the 3rd Battalion of the Parachute Regiment. Entrance is free and there will be the opportunity to ask questions after refreshments. The Admiral's Jug will be in position for donations to the Poppy Appeal. Please make every effort to attend what should be a very interesting evening.

Branch AGM – Monday 5 Nov

Your attendance at the Branch AGM at 1000 hours in the New Inn is important this year because Branch Bye Laws which have been drawn up by your Committee will be submitted for approval, as required by RBL Headquarters; please see the copy attached and pass any comments to the Secretary. Maurice Andrews who has been our Treasurer for some years has asked to stand down and there will be an opportunity to thank him for his work on our behalf. Vera Hoskins has also decided that it is time to hand over her task of coordinating the refreshments for Branch events, and we will be able to show our appreciation to her also. Roger Lovegrove has kindly offered to stand for the Treasurer appointment, and Kath Summerfield has agreed to become the refreshment coordinator. The Committee looks forward to seeing you there.

Devon County Festival of Remembrance – Thursday 8 Nov

As the Secretary received the names of only 11 members that wished to attend the colourful and moving event in the Great Hall of Exeter University, the 27 seat coach booked with Swards had to be cancelled. The Chairman has arranged for those booked to be picked up from the Old Inn at 1810 hours by the 57 seat coach from the Axminster Branch.

Remembrance Sunday – 11th Nov

Members are reminded that the Remembrance Sunday Service will be held at 0945 hours in St Giles' Church and that the short Service and Act of Remembrance with maroons, will start at 1055 hours at the War Memorial. Members of the Baptist Chapel have again kindly invited everyone to refreshments after the ceremony. A Quiz Night in aid of the Poppy Appeal will be held in the New Inn at 2000 hours, conducted by Clive Garner, by kind permission of Brian & Denise Jenkins. Please support the occasion if you can.

Remembrance Sunday Lunch

At the time of writing, there were only 2 places left for the carvery lunch with vegetarian option at the Otter Inn at Weston. Please contact the Chairman (34922) to book at £12 per head including lunch, coach and gratuities. While the carvery lunch is substantial, starters/desserts/drinks/coffee can be purchased at additional cost. You are reminded that the coach will depart the Village Hall at 1130 hours calling at the Baptist Church at 1135 hours for pick ups. The Rev'd & Mrs Lincoln Jones have been invited to the lunch as our guests.

Autumn Coffee Morning – Saturday 24 Nov

Don't forget the Autumn Coffee morning in the Village Hall on 24 Nov. If you have any ideas for additional stalls to raise money for the Poppy Appeal, please contact the Secretary.

Monthly Get-Togethers

The Branch "Get Togethers" on the first Friday of each month at 1800 hours continue, and the next one will be on 5 October in the New Inn with the Nov one on 2 Nov at the Old Inn. As the Christmas one is on Friday 7 Dec in the New Inn, the Committee might consider providing some refreshments.

Membership

The current membership of the Branch totals 108. Please encourage friends and neighbours to join our cause.