



# Devon County Newsletter



Autumn 2011

## Diary Dates:

County Festival Of  
Remembrance Exeter  
University  
10 Nov 11

Carol Concert  
St Andrews Plymouth  
10 Dec 11

County Conference  
Plymouth Crownhill  
7 Jan 12

### Bob Nelson receives his Life Membership on his last Parade as County SBLO



On Parade with the 1st Sea Lord

### MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN

Summer is passing and autumn is with us. Yet it seems only a short time ago we were gearing up for the 90th events. Well the main body of 90th events has passed over the summer period and it has been a really busy time for us all. There has been a wide variety of events; fairs, coffee mornings, teas, sponsored walks by 90 year olds, the Great Poppy Party on the Hoe, and the 90th concert in Exeter Cathedral to mention but a few. All the ones I have been to have been a great success and great fun as well. I hope you all enjoyed yours just as much. I take this opportunity to thank you all for your efforts in organising such a myriad of events all over the County. I am a great believer that, if we keep putting the Legion in the public eye, we will reap the reward in time. Well we have certainly been in the public eye in Devon, in spades, this summer so let's hope the reward will be great.

We are now beginning to look forward to the next big event which is, if course, the Poppy Appeal along with remembrance time. This year's Poppy appeal is actually the 90th. We hope to be launching the County appeal with the help of a granddaughter of Earl Haig; she being, by happy chance, the current High Sheriff of Devon. I know that you will all be doing your part to make the Poppy Appeal a success, as you have done over the summer and many times in the past for Legion events. Thank you all for your continued support.

I hope to see many of you at forthcoming events such as the Festival and the  
Annual County Conference

R Howard-Williams

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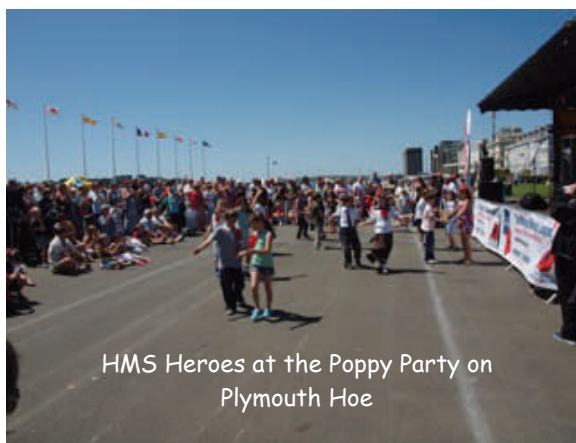
DEVON COUNTY WEB SITE  
<http://rbldevon.co.uk>



An Excellent Parade at  
Plymouth Armed Forces Day



Ray Milford raises £1000 for the  
90th Anniversary



HMS Heroes at the Poppy Party on  
Plymouth Hoe



Over 5000 people enjoyed the sun and  
the music at the Poppy Party



On Saturday 23 July 2011 The Royal British Legion Torquay branch held a 90th birthday party at All Saints Parish Church. A memorable day that raised nearly £1,500 for The Royal British Legion Anniversary Fund.

## DEVON COUNTY FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE

The 2011 Devon County Festival of Remembrance  
will be held in the Great Hall Exeter University  
on the 10 November 2011 at 7pm

Tickets available from County Office

**WELFARE**

**Welfare Cases:** The second half of 2011 has been just as busy as the first, and we are on target for 1160 new cases by the end of the year, roughly the same as last year.

**Caseworker Updating:** We have managed to update 108 Volunteer and Agency caseworkers this year, the majority of whom have also been introduced to CMS (see below). This leaves 59 caseworkers who were not updated this year, have not 'seen' CMS yet, and who will receive their Update Packs in the County Manager's annual letter to Caseworkers in December (unless their qualification has now lapsed). The dates for next year's Update Courses will be published in that letter, as usual.

**Casework Management System (CMS).** Those who have started to use it are finding it most useful, and a real step forward. We now need to **encourage everyone to use CMS**, as soon as possible. By Christmas we will be unable to process cases beyond County Office level unless they are entered onto CMS. We will be conducting CMS clinics at the County Office (and maybe in Plymouth) before long, and will advise all caseworkers of dates shortly.

**Caseworker Training:** The programme for next year's intake of new caseworkers is as follows:

Volunteer Caseworker Induction Cses (Exeter) (10 possible contenders):

Wed 30 Nov

Sat 03 Dec

Volunteer Caseworker Training Course: 18-19 Feb.

Agency Caseworker Training Course: Wed 09 May tbc

**Electronic Payment System (PROACTIS):** Devon County Office is one of several offices selected for the trial of this new payment system. As such our cheque book has been removed and we are now required to make all payments electronically. This has presented us with considerable difficulties, but we hope that they will turn out to be 'teething problems' only.

**Mental Health (MH):** This has been a busy period on the MH front; we have been pleased to offer continued facilities support to Combat Stress, and the Warrior Programme, which brings us into increased contact with veterans who need RBL support. We have also been closely involved in the formation and launch of the SW Veterans Mental Health Partnership Organisation between the HNS and Combat Stress. This will hopefully bring together a more focussed approach onto Veterans in need of MH support in the SW, and represents an encouraging step forward.

**County Welfare Staff:** Mrs Petra Soper is currently on Maternity Leave until 19<sup>th</sup> March when she will return to occupy the position of part time Welfare Officer, vice Mrs Jackie Bulmer who sadly leaves us after 3 years, in early November. We are delighted to be supported on a temporary basis, in Petra's current absence from her 'front of house' desk, by a combination of Mrs Val Hoar and Mrs Mary Smale, both very well known to most of us in the welfare world.

**County Welfare Advisory Committee Meeting:** The next CWAC meeting is scheduled for 1300 hrs Sat 26 Nov, following the County Ctee Mtg.

**The Future for Devon RBL Welfare:** We continue to await further details of HQ RBL's plan for our future structure, and method of operation. In the meantime, as ever, we are operating in the way that we have always done, all out for the benefit of those who have Served, who are in genuine need.

**OTHER MATTERS**

In case we ever doubt the need for the welfare services of RBL (and other Service charities) in the future here are some perhaps startling statistics that relate to our (once 'local', but now 'national') Regiment, The Rifles, detailing their operational toll from Iraq and Afghanistan: 59 x Killed in action (including 3 x TA), 18 of the above married, leaving 28 dependant children, 300 x Serious and Very Serious Injuries: 29 x amputees (3 x triple, 11 x double) all 18-26 yrs, 2 x blind, 2 x long term brain injured and 40-50 with life changing injuries (loss of eye / hearing / head injures, finger loss etc).

The above figures do not of course take into account the 'invisible' mental injuries. There will doubtless be many in that category who have not yet surfaced, and may not 'present' for years to come. The welfare need is therefore ever present, and will remain so well into the future as today's young casualties, and their dependants become older, and (some of) their needs more acute.

**THE ROYAL  
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**County Secretary's Column**

**Legion Appointments**

Branches are reminded that on election, all County and Branch Officers, together with members of Branch and County Committees are automatically Managing Trustees of their County and Branch, however they shall be ineligible to hold office if they have:

- Been found guilty of fraud, dishonesty or deception, unless the conviction is spent.
- Previously been removed from trusteeship of a charity by a court or the Charities Commissioners.
- Previously been disqualified as a Company Director
- Been declared Bankrupt and has not been discharged.

**Branch Returns**

Branches are reminded that Form MS1 should be completed and forwarded to County Office on completion of the Branch AGM. Please do not delay despatch of the form to obtain the signatures of Branch Officers as these can be obtained later by County Office.

Branch Accounts should arrive at County Office by the end of November if possible and no later than 31st December. There is no need to wait until the Branch AGM. Please remember to include copies of bank statements with the accounts.

The continuing hard work and co-operation of Branch Secretaries and Treasurers is much appreciated.

**COUNTY CONFERENCE 2012**

The County Conference 2012 will be held on  
Saturday 7 January 2012 at 1030  
in the Crownhill RBL Club Plymouth.

Refreshment facilities will be available for all  
delegates and members.

**County Committee Meetings**

County Committee Meetings will be held in the County Office on:  
Saturday 26 Nov 11 at 1030 hours.

To allow transparency of County business and to provide Branches an open forum,  
the County Meetings are open to all members and Branches  
are encouraged to send a representative.

