



Devon County Newsletter

Winter 2007

Diary Dates:

Devon County Show
17-19 May 2007

Train Trip
Buckfastleigh
Tue 12 June 2007

County Rally Lymstone
Sun 24 June 2007

Standard Bearer
Competition
Sun 21 October 2007

Devon County Festival
of Remembrance
Thu 8 November 2007

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

It is with regret that we announce the death of
Thomas Roland of the Dawlish Branch.

We are grateful for his devoted service and his efforts on behalf of the Royal British Legion and extend our deepest sympathies to his family.

The National Chairman has recently approved the following awards:

Gold Badges

Ray Pinwell
Chagford Branch

Brian Monaghan
Branscombe Branch

COUNTY WELFARE FUND

The total funds held by Branches in Devon in 2005 amounted to some £750k and following the Charities Commission's request that the Legion reduce their overall funds, the County Committee took the initiative and asked Branches to reduce their funds by contributing to the County Welfare Fund.

This exercise raised £27k in 2006 and formed the main part of the total spend for the County Welfare Fund which last year amounted to £44k. In view of the success of the scheme the County Committee have decided to continue to call for Branches to contribute 10% of their worth. However, it has been recognised that some Branches with limited funds may not be a position to contribute as required, therefore, it has been decided that only Branches with more than £2k in their Branch funds will be asked to contribute. Therefore, Branches with funds above £2k will be expected to contribute 10% of all available funds above the £2k threshold.

Whilst some Branches may still have concerns about donating funds to the County Welfare Fund, there is the assurance that all monies raised locally, will only be used for Devon generated welfare cases. The County Welfare Fund is the ideal outlet for all surplus Branch funds as this money is used immediately, instead of lying dormant in Branch accounts. Branches who have yet to make their contribution for 2007 are asked to do so by 31 March 2007.

COUNTY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday 27 July 2007 - Holsworthy Golf Course

Team and Individual Competitions

For further information contact the County Sports Officer Martin Heslip

07791 074170

Golf_56@hotmail.co.uk

NEW COUNTY COMMITTEES

A new County Committee was elected at the County Conference and a new Management Committee has also been formed:

County Committee

County Chairman: Mr B Cumming MBE
 Vice Chairman: Mr R Howard-Williams
 Deputy Vice Chairman: Mr R Rattenbury
 County Committee: Mr D Cairns
 Mr R Garratt
 Miss Y Gibbins
 Mr H Grout MBE
 Mr T Harvey-May
 Mr J Higgs
 Mr J Inniss
 Mr R Reynolds
 Mr E Rulton
 Mr A Tucker
 Mr J Vanderwolfe
 Mr E Williams MBE
 Mr P Williams
 Co-Opted Members: Mrs S Stevens
 Mrs J Bowden
 Mr B Nelson
 Mr M Heslip
 Mr J Pentreath
 Group Representatives: Mr F Tucker
 Mrs M Jones
 Mr P Barrett
 Mr O Ward
 Mr P York
 Mr R Etheridge
 County Secretary Mr R Jennings MBE

Management Committee

Mr B Cumming MBE	Chairman
Mr R Howard-Williams	Vice Chairman
Mr R Rattenbury	Deputy Vice Chairman
Mrs S Stevens	Women's Section Chairman
Mr E Rulton	Treasurer
Mr J Pentreath	County Field Officer
Mr J Vanderwolfe	Training Officer
Mr E Williams MBE	County Recruiting Officer
Mr P Williams	Public Relations Officer
Mr R Jennings MBE	County Secretary

County Committee Meetings

County Committee Meetings will be held in the Alphington RBL Club on:
 Saturdays: 24 Mar 07, 16 Jun 07, 29 Sep 07 and 1 Dec 07 at 1000 hours.
 To allow transparency of County business and to provide Branches an open forum, the County Meetings are now open to all members and Branches are encouraged to send a representative.

County Field Officer's Notes

WELFARE

Caseworker Annual Updating: Letters were sent to all caseworkers on 20 Dec inviting them to attend one of the following Updating Courses in 2007.

Sat 21 Apr, at Braunton RBL Club.

Sat 09 Jun, at Crownhill RBL Club.

Sat 06 Oct at Wyvern Barracks, Exeter.

Volunteer Welfare Caseworker Training Course: Scheduled for 17-18 Feb at Wyvern Barracks, we now have a capacity of only 20 places. CFO is prioritising vacancies first to those who could operate in Plymouth and Torbay, and will shortly publish the attendance list.

Specialist Welfare Caseworker Training Course: Scheduled for Wed 07 Mar at Alphington RBL Club. We have 15 attendees so far, all of whom already work within the 'welfare industry', and whose 'inclusion' will enhance our service to those who have served who are in need.

FUNDRAISING

Poppy Appeal 2006 As at Fri 19 Jan our total stood at £559,136, so it bodes well for another impressive total. PAOs are reminded to *please submit their Statement of Accounts Part 1, and any street, house to house, and static collection point monies not yet remitted for 2006, to Maureen Simmons at Aylesford as soon as possible.*

Poppy Appeal Organiser Briefings 2007: This year we plan to conduct 3 x PAO Briefings, on a larger scale, in more cordial surroundings, at easily accessible locations, as follows:

- Wed 12 Sep, in North Devon, location tbc.
- Wed 19 Sep, in West Devon Plymouth, location tbc.
- Wed 26 Sep, in 'central' Devon Exeter area location tbc.

So we will be looking for a strong PAO attendance, for an enjoyable and constructive evening (starting at 1900 hrs), with partners (as usual).

Thanks to Standard Bearers for Remembrancetide 2006: Special thanks to Bob Nelson, Mary Parker and all of our Standard Bearers who made such great efforts to support our Launch, Race Day and Festival. Without them we would not have carried off this ambitious and highly successful programme of events.

MISC

Gazebo Bookings: The county's gazebo remains alive and well, and resides at the County Office. If it is needed to support any Branch event then book it early to avoid disappointment.

RBL 85th
Anniversary
Buffet and
Dance
held at the
WOs and Senior
Rates Mess
HMS Drake
on
3 November
2006
Raised £1150

FOOTSTEPS TO FREEDOM

'Chemin de la liberte' was the high altitude escape route for Allied Airmen and French Fighters escaping the Nazis across the Pyrenees Mountains. One of the hardest wartime escape routes is celebrated each year by the Chemin de la Liberte Association who each year retrace the steps of the escapees. 40 places are reserved for 'foreigners' of which the Legion are allocated 15 places to raise money for the Poppy Appeal. This year Ralph Cox of Branscombe Branch has been allocated a place. The route covers 45 miles at high altitude with a total height and loss gain of 20000 ft. Branches and Individuals are asked to consider sponsoring Ralph who will hiking over 12 miles per day over very difficult terrain, camping overnight and carrying equipment and food.

The aim is to raise over £1000 for the Poppy Appeal.
Sponsorship Forms and further details are available from:
The County Secretary or Ralph Cox on 01297 680392

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.

REGIONAL DARTS AND SNOOKER COMPETITIONS

The Regional Darts and Snooker Competitions will be held at the Redruth RBL Club on Saturday 3 March 2007,

County Representatives are required for:

Darts Singles, Darts Pairs and Darts Team of Four,
Snooker Singles and Snooker Doubles.

Further details available from the County Secretary or the Sports Officer.

TORBAY VETERANS DAY

Friday 29 & Saturday 30 Jun 07

Paignton Green

Friday Afternoon: Schools Events Friday Evening: Veterans Dance

Saturday: Stalls, Parade and March Past

Further Details available from:

Sue Evans 01803 208873

Ron Goodwin; 07778 910172

REMEMBRANCE VISITS

Remembrance visits to cemetery's off the beaten track, both home and aboard can be arranged or advice given by:
Dr D Wolfe
01409 281454
derek.wolfe@virgin.net

TEA DANCE ORGANISERS

The suppliers of ANZAC Biscuits will provide a free pack to organisers of Tea Dances

The Pack up will contain;
Guide to Organisers
Posters
Balloons and Bunting
Tea Bags and Biscuits
For further details please contact the County Secretary

THE ROYAL
BRITISH
LEGION



Ivybridge Remembrance Sunday 2006 G.A. Buckler.